

WOMEN'S ROLE IN COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT
(A Case study of Jongang Dada community Forest User Group,
ChilimeVDC, Rasuwa District, Nepal).

A Thesis Submitted to:
Faculty of Humanities and Social Science
Central Department of Rural Development in Partial
fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree
of Master of Arts in Rural Development

By:
Kalyan Bhandari
Exam Year: 2064
Exam Roll No:2734
Regd. No: 6-1-40-507-97
Central Department of Rural Development
Tribhuvan University
Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal
MAY, 2009

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This thesis entitled **WOMEN'S ROLE IN COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT A Case Study of Jongang Danda Community Forest User Group, Chilime VDC, Rasuwa, Nepal** has been prepared by Mr.Kalyan Bhandari under my supervision and guidance. I recommend this report for final examination and approval.

Dr Uma Kanta Silwal

Supervisor

Central Department of Rural Development

Tribhuvan University

APPROVAL CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis entitled **WOMEN'S ROLE IN COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT: A Case Study of Jongang Danda Community Forest User Group, Chilime VDC, Rasuwa, Nepal**, written and submitted by Mr. Kalyan Bhandari, has been examined. It has been declared successful for the fulfillments of academic requirements towards the completion of Master's Degree of Art in Rural Development.

THESIS COMMITTEE

External Examiner
Central Department of Rural Development

Thesis Supervisor
Dr. Uma Kant Silwal
Central Department of Rural Development

Prof. Dr. Pradeep Kumar Khadka
Head of the Department
Central Department of Rural Development
Tribhuvan University
Kirtipur, Kathmandu

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My special thanks goes to Prof. Dr. Pradeep Kumar Khadka Head of Central Department of Rural Development, TU, for his valuable suggestions, consistent, encouragement and generous cooperation and kind administration.

I am much indebted with and would like to express my heartfelt gratitude thanks and appreciation to my honorable advisor and supervisor Dr. Uma kanta Silwal for his valuable and practical suggestions, constant encouragement and generous guidance during this study.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the people of Jongang Community forest User Group for their patient and hospitality during my field study. Likewise I would like to thank to District Forest Office, Langtang National Park, District Development Committee and District Soil Conservation Office staff of Rasuwa district for providing me available publication and suggestion.

I am very grateful to my heartily friends Mr Bikash Lamichane and Rajendra Khadaka who continuously encouraged and assisted me to complete this study. I would like to thank Mr. kaisang Nurpu Tamang chairman of Manekor Society Nepal for his cooperation to complete this study

Last but not the least, from my sprit and heart, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my family member especially my brother in law Mr. Chiranjibi Dahal and my brother Mr. Janak Bhandari for their full support, inspiration during the thesis preparation period.

kalyan bhandari

May, 2009

ABSTRACT

This study entitled “WOMEN’S ROLE IN COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT A Case Study of Jongang Danda Community Forest User Group, Chilime VDC, Rasuwa, Nepal” was based on primary data collected in November, 2008. The main objective of the study is to focus on women’s role in community forest user group management and their social and economic change after FUG formation. The specific objective of the study are to find out socio-economic condition of the women members of FUG, to assess the level of women participation, decision monitoring, evaluation and benefit sharing in the forest management, to find out interrelationship and interaction between their family members and women and to explore the perception of local people towards the women’s role in community forest management and problems.

For the purpose of the study, the researcher had applied both exploratory and descriptive research design. The sources of data were both primary and secondary and the nature of data was both qualitative and quantitative. There are all together 29 households in the community forest user group. Out of them, all 29 households were selected for the study purpose. Census methodology was applied to complete the study. All necessary data were collected through household survey, structured and semi structured interview with female representatives and key informants. Beside this, focus group discussion and participant observation technique were applied to find out different activities being carried out by the community forest user group in their daily life.

The study has revealed that the involvement of women in Community Forest Management is higher than men’s in only forest product collection activities but not in planning and decision making activities. Because of social structure conservative traditionalism in community, lack of confidence in women due to poor education, lack of organizational support and obligatory rules and regulation are the main hindering factors to perform more active women’s role in community forest management. Along with the study has exposed that the involvement of women in Community Forest Management is limited. Executive committee are shown inclusive formally with the female participation like as Nepali proverb “Hatti ko dekhaune dat jasto” But neither female Executive Committee members take part in decision making, monitoring, evaluation and benefit sharing process. Because of main root causes male dominated society. Therefore, first of all male CFUG member must be sensitized about women’s role and importance of involving them in women related programs. The male and female both must come out themselves from their orthodoxies thinking, more training should be conducted to make active to all users for higher participation. In overall, this CF was found in average forest but some major changes should be made to improve women's participation in Community forestry management and development. Likewise CFUG should make obligatory rules for women to participate in forest management activities including in meeting. Frequent awareness program should be organized to strengthen women’s role in forest

management, which could prepare them mentally to participate in forest management activities Training for women e.g. leadership, forest management, community development, institutional development, gender sensitivity, enterprise development, account keeping , forestry related legal training and exposure visit of related field should be organized and intensive follow-up should be done, Village women have heavier work load. So, they should be provided new technologies like improved cook stoves, grain mills etc which save their time and made sufficient for them in social participation. Resource conservation awareness classes should be conducted for male, female and school children of community being focused on creating opportunities from community forest by conservation, preservation and proper utilization of forest resources with proper participation of male and female for sustainable development are major recommendations made by the research here.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE NUMBER
) Letter of Recommendation	I
) Acceptance letter	II
) Acknowledgements	III
) Abstract	IV
) Contents	VI
) List of Table	X
) List of Figure & Map	XI
) Abbreviations	XII

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1-5

1.1 Background	1
1.2 Statement of the problem	2
1.3 Objectives of the study	3
1.4 Conceptual frame work	3
1.5 Rational of the study	5
1.6 Assumption of the study	5
1.7 Organization of the study	5

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

6-16

2.1 Introduction	6
2.2 Forest, people and state: A historical context	6
2.2.1 Community forestry: Evolution in the world	6
2.2.2 Community forestry evolution in Nepal	8
2.3 Community forestry: Policy implication	9
2.3.1 Evolution of community forest legislation in Nepal	10
2.3.2 Main features of present forestry legislation	10
2.3.3 The external support for the community forest	11
2.4 Definition of Gender	12
2.4.1 From WID to GAD	12
2.4.1.1 Global process	12
2.4.2 Women and Development in Nepal	13

2.5 Participation	14
2.6 Women's condition in participation	15
CHAPTER II I	
METHODOLOGY	
	17-18
3.1 Introduction	17
3.2 Rational of the selection of the study area	17
3.3 Research design	17
3.4 Nature and sources of Data	17
3.5 Sampling procedures	17
3.6 Data collection methods	17
(3.6.1) CFUG household survey	18
(3.6.2) Interview	18
(3.6.3) Focus group discussion	18
(3.6.4) Participant observation	18
3.7 Data analysis	18
3.8 Limitation of the study	18
CHAPTER IV	
THE SETTING	
	19-21
4.1 District Background	19
4.2 Land use class	19
4.3 Physical setting of Chilime VDC	19
4.4 Demographic structure	20
4.5 Economy	20
4.6 Natural Resource	20
4.7 Introduction of Jongang Danda CFUG	20
CHAPTER V	
DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION	
	22-37
5. Socio economic profile of JCFUG	22
5.1 Social aspect	22
5.1.1 Cast /ethnic composition	22
5.1.2 Age composition	22
5.1.3 Marital Status	23
5.1.4 Age at marriage	23
5.1.5 Religious composition	24

5.1.6 Family size	24
5.1.7 Family structure	24
5.1.8 Educational structure	25
5.2 Economic Aspect	25
5.2.1 Land holding	25
5.2.2 Live stock raising	26
5.2.3 Occupational composition	27
5.2.4 Source of income	27
5.2.5 Saving and credit activities	28
5.3 Interrelation and Interaction with family	28
5.3.1 Family relation	28
5.3.2 Family support	29
5.4 Forest resource use and management	29
5.4.1 Traditional forest management system	29
5.4.2 Present forest management system	30
5.6.3 Objective of JCFUG management	30
5.4.4 Distribution and collection of forest product	31
5.4.4.1 Fuel wood	31
5.4.4.2 Grass/ Fodder	31
5.4.4.3 Leaf litter	31
5.4.4.4 Timber	31
5.4.4.5 Use of forest resource	31
5.4.5 Punishment and penalties	31
5.4.6 Use of fund	32
5.4.7 Gender participation in forest product collection	32
5.5 Role of women in JCFUG committee	33
5.5.1 Role of women in forest development	34
5.6 The life of village women	36

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION 38-41

6 Summary	38
6.1 Findings	38
6.2 Conclusion	40
6.3 Recommendation	40
Bibliography	42
Appendices	45

Annex-I	
Interview questionnaires	45
Annex- II	
Households census form	48
Annex- III	
Social Map of Jongang Danda CFUG	49

List of Tables

S.N.	Table Number	Title	Page
1	2.2.1	Evolution and Development of CF	7
2	2.3.1	Comparison of community forestry legislation	10
3	4.2	Land use pattern of the district	19
4	4.7	Name list of CFUG in Chilime VDC	21
5	5.1.1	Cast/ethnic composition of respondents	22
6	5.1.2	Age composition of respondents	23
7	5.1.4	Age at marriage of the respondents	23
8	5.1.5	Religious composition of the respondents	24
9	5.1.6	Family size of the respondents	24
10	5.1.7	Family structure of respondents	24
11	5.1.8	Educational level of the respondents	25
12	5.2.1	Land holding status of the respondents	26
13	5.2.2	Livestock among respondents	26
14	5.2.3	Occupational compositions of the respondents	27
15	5.2.4	Income source of the respondents	27
16	5.2.5	Respondents status in saving credit	28
17	5.3.1	Relation of respondent with family after being FUG member	28
18	5.3.2	Family supports to the respondent to participate in CFUG activities	29
19	5.4.5	Punishment and penalties	32
20	5.4.7	Gender participation in JCFUG committee	33
21	5.5	View of respondents on women role in CF management committee	33
22	5.5.1	view of respondent on women role on JCFUG management and development activities	34
23	5.5.1.1	Number of respondent household having forest related training	35
24	5.5.1.2	Respondents view about factors motivating women in forest management	35

List of Figures

Figure 1 Factors hindering and enhancing women's role in forest management	4
Figure 2 Daily time allocation on major activities for a village woman	36
Figure 3 Time spent during normal year by village women for collection of selected forest product	37

List of Maps

Rasuwa District Map	49
---------------------	----

Abbreviations

AAN	Action Aid Nepal
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CF	Community Forest
CFUG	Community Forest User Group
DDC	District Development Committee
DFO	District Forest Office
DoF	Department of Forest
DSCO	District Soil Conservation Office
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GAD	Gender and Development
GoN	Government of Nepal
HH	Household
INGO	International Non Government Organization
JFUG	Jongang Danda Community Forest User Group
LNP	Langtang National Park
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MPFS	Master Plan of Forest Sector
MSN	Manekor Society Nepal
NFE	Non-formal Education
NGO	Non Government Organization
NRMP	Nepal Resource Management Project
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Product
RIMS	Resource Identification and Management Project
TMI	The Mountain Institute
UG	User Group
UMN	United Mission to Nepal
VDC	Village Development Committee
WDO	Women Development Office
WID	Women In Development

CHAPTER-I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study:

Different studies show that women's role in forest management is important. That is why government of Nepal is also involving women in forest management program. In Rasuwa district, many women CFUG committee are formed and women are also involved in mixed (male & female) committees. The study was conducted in the Jongang Danda FUG of Chilime VDC, whose committee is mixed. The study aims to find out women's role in community forest management activities.

Forest plays an important role in sustaining the productivity of land by promoting the organic manure of the animal dung support with the binding materials from the forest. Forest provides grass, tree, and fodder for animals, timber and medicinal plants which are the important source of income for people. In almost of villages of Nepal there is no alternative source of energy for cooking and heating except fire wood. Beside this, forest has an enormous role to play in protecting the hilly topography from natural disaster like floods, land slides and soil erosion.

Nepal was rich in forest resources, a lot of area of Nepal was covered by forest and accordingly there was popular saying "Hariyo Ban Nepal KO Dhan" but this is not being same at present. It is depleted very rapidly in the last few decades; Government of Nepal has designed and implemented the community forestry development program to address the issue since 1978. Before the implementation of this program many acts were implemented (private forest nationalization act 1957, forest act 1961, the forest preservation act 1967) but the effective management could not carried out because of frequent change of forest boundaries, liberal policies of government in setting people by disturbing forest land encroachment and several other socio-political reasons (Kayastha, 1991).

Mainly the decentralization Act 1982, the master plan for forest sector Nepal 1988, the forest Act 1993 and the forest by laws 1995, all together made the basic changes in forest management policies realizing the failure of the past rules and regulation about the forest sector.

The concept of community forest has been evolved through many decades, originated in 1978 as "Panchayat Forest" and "Panchayat Protected Forest" and gradually developed the concept of community forest. The community forest is the major focus in the 25 years "Master plan for forestry sector" which was approved in 1989. It was focused to the users via a phase handing over of the accessible hill forest to the community to the extent that they are able and willing to manage them.

The procedure of handing over a forest to the community consists as following:

Firstly, identification and formation of users group. Secondly, demarcation of forest as community forest. Thirdly, forest inventory. Fourthly, preparation and approval of constitution and operational plan from DFO and finally, handing over the forest to the user group and implementation of the operational plan.

Policymakers have emphasized the importance of women's activities in forestry. The master plan for the forestry sector emphasizes an extension approach aimed at gaining the confidence of wood cutter and other particularly women who actually make the daily management

decision (HMGN, 1994) show an example about women's participation in forest users committees, according to the master plan guideline "at least one third of the members of the user committee should be women." However it was found that a fixed quota system led to passive and inactive participation.

In Nepal women play a key role in protection activities as users of local natural resources. For a centuries women have been used forest products, they are the one who collects fuel wood, fodder, leaf litter and other non timber products but their work is often not recognized and therefore un documented. In Nepal, women perform unpaid household chores for 15 to 18 hours a day "(Pandey 041/042)", such types of heavy workload separate them from other development activities like forest management activities. Deforestation also adds more difficult and time consuming for women to collect fuel wood and other forest product. This also will be the focus of study.

The government policy says to empower women to participate in community forestry planning and implementation process. Nepali socio-cultural practice still seems to be reluctant to let women go ahead. The study also will be contained if the concept really helping for women in social as well economical aspect or adding extra burden them only involving as silent participants.

1.2 Statement of the problem:

Women have been called "invisible labors". Their work is often not counted in formal labor statistics because:

Women work is often home based and with in the "normal sector" such as street vending.

Both men and women may deny those women "work" in some regions, due to tradition.

Much more simply assumed to be done by man, such as farming and forestry, and women's participation is overlooked (FAO, 1989).

After the emergence of the concept of community forestry it is realized that for sustainable development in management of natural resource s, women, participation is necessary.

As women are primary users of forest product and their traditional reliance on forest women are often chief repository of knowledge concerning and management of trees and others plants. Women's knowledge of forest is often found to be qualitatively and also quantitatively different form that of men. This is partly because of women are more likely to make daily trips into forest areas in different seasons for fuel wood and fodder. (Noskins 1981) says foresters have professional and technical knowledge as well as women have experiences of local communities too, which is most necessary condition for any kind of forestry system development.

However, government policy is to improve and encourage women to participate in community forestry program, but laws and policies are not end, they are only the means of achieve the goals. The rules and regulation must be followed and put into practice in order to achieve goals otherwise they will remain as the "showing teeth of elephant" only. In such situation the research questions behind this study are as follows:

-) What are the existing obstacles that hinder women to take active part in the management of CFUG?
-) What opportunities are there to create a niche for women in the participation to and management of CFUG?
-) What are the socio-economic characteristics of the CFUG?
-) What is the feel of man and women participation of forest resource management?
-) Why gender is important in CFUG?
-) What are the changes in women after the formation of CFUG?
-) Are women have possible for financial and other decision making role, management and utilization of forest resources and group fund?
-) Does the involvement of women in CFUG increase or decrease their workload?

1.3 Objectives of the study:

The major objectives of the study are to focus on women's role in Community Forest User Group (CFUG) management and their social and economic change after CFUG formation. However the following are the specific objectives;

-) To find out socio-economic condition of the women members of FUG,
-) To asses the level of women's participation and decision making in the forest management
-) To find out interrelation and interaction between their family member and women, and
-) To explore the perception of local people to wards the women's role in community forest management and problems.

1.4 Conceptual framework:

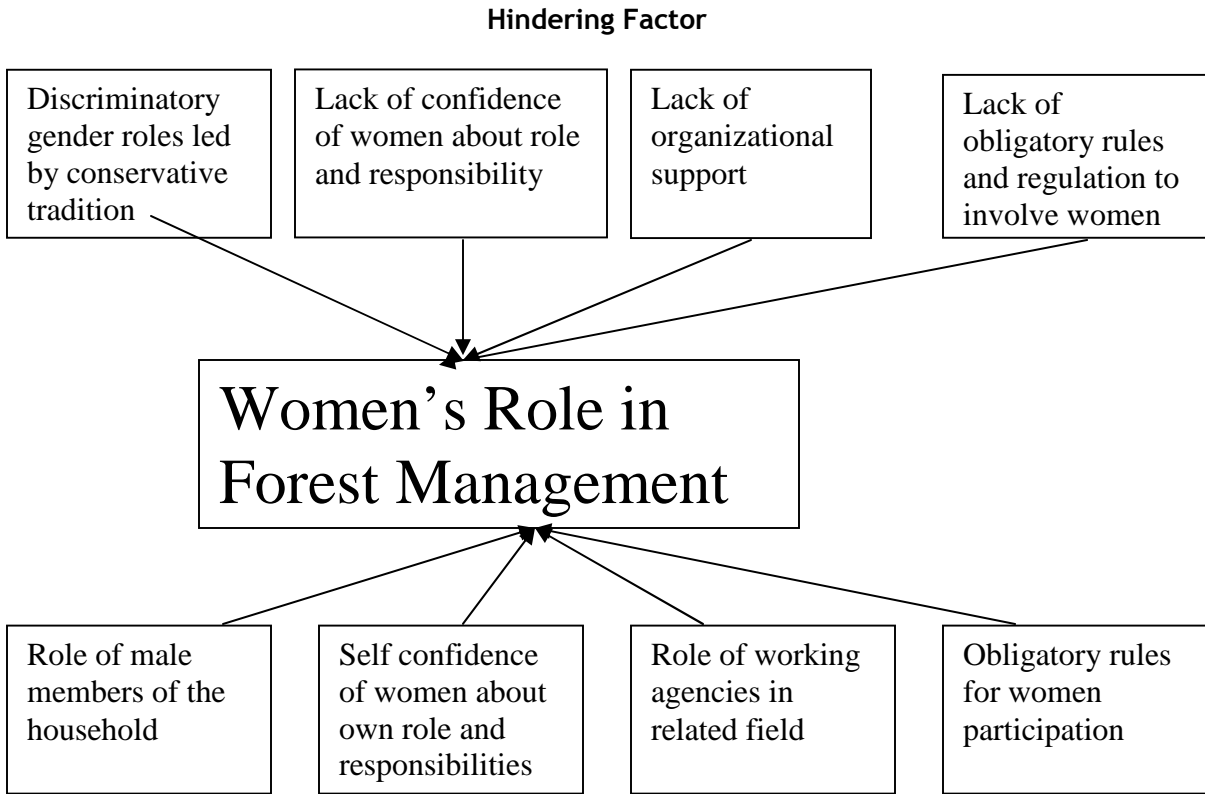
Women capture half of the population of the world. So, there is no doubt about the necessity to balance the role of both i.e. male and female in order to succeed in any development program. Although there are some provision to include women in development activities in Nepal but it is not working in practical life. For example women are included in community forest user's group committee but they are not playing any effective role. They are just fulfilling the blank space. Figure 1, shows the hindering and enhancing factors to women's role in forest management activities. The conceptual frame work points out four major hindering factors as well as four enhancing factors for women participation in forest management.

The conceptual framework underlines the barriers that deter women to take active role in the CFUG as well as highlights the factors that could prove to be beneficial to women in obtaining greater role in the CFUG. Both the hindering and enhancing elements are interlinked in the sense that the obstructions are challenges but could be easily tackled by turning them into enhancing factors. The factors are cyclic where one element affects the other and ultimately yields the result.

Conservative tradition, lack of confidence, lack of organizational support and lack of obligatory rules and regulations are identified as obstacles. As it is, the traditional male dominance in decision making is fairly prevalent all over Nepal. This is further practiced at an organizational level where the policies and rules significantly exclude women's participation. Thus, lack of organizational support, lack of appropriate rules and policies to encourage women and the already societal discrimination all adds to the significant lack of confidence in women themselves to seek active roles in any field; for how can one have a sense of pride, a sense of competence and aptitude to initiate an active role in anything if the surrounding factors and the ambiance are so intimidating and discouraging? However, within these challenges lie the opportunities for us to improve the role of women in CFUG. If all the

obstacles are improved, for instance if there are more males at home who support women to cross the threshold and take active part in the decision making, if development agencies or other agencies keep formulating obligatory inclusive rules for women, then these could potentially be the enhancing factors for motivating women to not only participate but to seek management roles as well in the CFUG.

Figure: 1
Factors hindering and enhancing women’s role in forest management.



In case of JCFUG, positive attitude of male members, self confidence of women about own role and responsibilities, organizational support to involve women and obligatory rules and regulation are the enhancing factor. Because of the positive attitude of the male members i.e. providing time to participate in meeting and other decision making activities, encouraging women to take part in the forest management activities, supporting them in household activities etc. can enhance women’s participation as well as to play active role. Women’s own confidence also one of the enhancing factor but it depends on male member’s attitude towards their participation, organizational support and rules and regulation. So, that positive action of these variables support to make self significant role to enhance women’s role in forest management activities, organizing awareness program, sensitizing male members about women’s role, conducting classes for women about forest conservation education etc. and obligatory rules for women to participate in forest management activities is one of the important enhancing factor. In male dominated society male members would not like women to participate in decision making activities.

Although male are aware and knowledgeable about the importance of women’s role in forest management, they would not like to share responsibilities or decision making power with their

women. Therefore in such situation, obligatory rules and regulation play the role of catalyst in orthodoxial thinking of community people.

1.5 Rational of the study:

The finding of the study will be fruitful to planners and policy makers in the related field. This study will be helpful in program implementation to achieve better result. This study also helps to lunch other women related community development program access their role to uplift the society.

This study argues that in the name of people's participation, whether men or women are equally involved in the forest management activities. Women as primary users of the forest clearly know the problem of the forest. Therefore, they should be involved in the forest management activities. Their involvement is not only collection of individuals but it should be a group with collective behavior and group consciousness regarding management of community forest. Women's role in forest management includes activities carried out in the forest for the purpose of improving the forest condition and future availability of forest product (such as weeding, singling, pruning, thinning and harvesting practices) and women's involvement in decision making and policy making.

1.6 Assumption of the study

The study will be focused on following assumptions;

-) Rasuwa district is the representative sample area of hilly districts where community forestry program has been successfully lunched in Nepal.
-) CFUG is an institution which can play vital role for the members (man and woman) to be developed in social economic aspect.
-) Although, there are some provision to include women in development activities in Nepal but is not working in practical life. The formation and managing their forest has been helped to promote women and men are also positive women's role in forest management but their work load and social customs are hindering them to participate in forest management activities.

1.7 Organization of the study

This study has been organized in six chapters. Chapter one presents an introduction to the subject matter and includes the statements of problem, conceptual frame work and objective of study. Chapter two describes the review of related literatures. Chapter three presents the methodology of data collection and analysis of data. Chapter four provides the general background of the study area of VDC level. Chapter five presents the data analysis and discussion on its and management. Chapter six presents summary, conclusion and recommendations arising from the research.

Chapter II

Review of the literatures

2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents an overview of CF-related literature including the broad concept on historical context of community forestry, CF policy, gender participation and women's status of forest management. Studies on community forestry in the world and in Nepal help to understand how the concept is helping to check the deforestation and environmental degradation as well as to promote the economic condition of rural people. Studies on gender and women's role in community forestry management and their contribution in CF help to clarify the concept and underscore the importance of participation and the role of women in development activities and in forest related activities. Related studies on women's participation help to identify factors which fosters or hinder women's involvement in development program.

2.2 Forest, people and state: A historical context

Forest has been crucial components of human life, habitats, culture and religion flourishing near the forest area and on the banks of rivers. Long ago, the Hindu saints devoutly noted that every thing, which exists in nature, has life in it (Majupuria and Joshi, 1988). In ancient time, forest has a great value for the life of human beings and animals because they were the source of foods, medicine and shelter. Indigenous code of practice has existed throughout the hills for centuries (Regmi, 1992)

2.2.1 Community forestry: Evolution in the world

In the last two decades community forestry in the Asia-Pacific region has become the single most important forestry sector program to be implemented by the national governments, often with technical and investment support from international agencies. Almost every development country of the Asia-Pacific region has launched reforestation programs with varying elements of community forestry included in them. In some countries these reforestation efforts is labeled fairly and squarely as "community forestry" and "social forestry". They have undertaken on the grand scale or pursued in a heroic manner pioneering a innovating and discovering new paradigm to give fresh meaning and substance to these programs. Central to the philosophy behind all or any of these programs is the belief that through the implementation of community forestry programs it is possible to uplift the quality of life of the rural communities particularly the disadvantaged and women.

The legitimating of the concept of community forestry was boosted by the adaptation of forestry for people as the theme for the World Forestry Congress in Jakarta in 1978 (Gilmour and Fisher, 1991). Community forestry initially defined by FAO as "any situation, which intimately involves local people in forestry activities (FAO, 1978)". The area of concern covered were forestry for local community development, forestry for food, forestry for quality of life. The congress extended support to new field of activities i.e. social forestry, community forestry and agro forestry. Agro forestry technologies are usually integrated in social forestry or community forestry program. Similarly, the principal and programs of action issued by the world conference on Agrarian Reforms and Rural Development, 1979 emphasized the need for diversification of rural economic activities, including forestry, for broad - based rural development. Since the emphasis in forestry in the Asia-Pacific region has undergone fundamental changes, this emphasis has encompassed both from the development of forest industries and increased production of industrial wood as well as the needs to meet the basic

forest products need of the rural communities. The expanded coverage of “social” in “community” forestry in the sob region is the direct response to the recent changes in the concept of the role of forests in the development.

In August 1989 an expert consultant, organized under the auspicious aegis FAO/RAPA, unanimously decided to establish an Informal Network Of Forestry Research Managers Asia-Pacific Region (INFORM), with the objectives of promoting regional co-operation and foresting closer working relationships among the forest research institutes of the Asia Pacific region, promoting information, sharing and the exchange of experiences among the forest research institutes for their mutual benefit and collective self reliance and promoting traditional IUFRO activities in the region. The initiative of regional community forestry center (RECOFT) in organizer follow-up seminar on forestry research policies with the title “Research Policy for Community forestry” in cooperation with the food foundation and Winrock international will be at another event contributing positively to community forestry development in the sub region.

In the 1980’s planners emphasized decentralized planning, bottom up development, community participation and indigenous rules and regulations for management natural resources. Community participation in the planning process was recognized an effective and often necessary ingredient of development programs, particularly in relation to managing communal resources such as irrigation water and forest land. This approach is based on the hypothesis that development is most successful when the people who are affected by program are involved in the design and implementation of the program.

Arnold (1991) presented some key events in the emergence and development of CF from the mid - 1970s and late -1980s (table - 2.2.1)

Table: 2.2.1

Evolution and Development of CF (Adapted from Arnold, 1999)

Year	Key events
Mid 1970s	<ul style="list-style-type: none">) Energy crisis drew attention to the dependency of rural people on forest products.) Drought in African and flooding in Asia emphasized impacts of deforestation and degradation of forest land.) FAO and SIDA organized an expert group on forestry and local development: projects in India (social forestry), South Korea (village wood lots), Thailand (Forest village) and Tanzania (village afforestation) were initiated.
Late 1970s	<ul style="list-style-type: none">) FAO forestry for local community development program, new World Bank forest policy and ICRAF were launched.) 1978 World forestry congress committed to “forest for people”.) 1979 FAO world conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.
Early 1980s	<ul style="list-style-type: none">) 1981 UN conference on new and Renewable source of energy.) FAO fuel wood map focused attention on energy needs.) First generation of projects focused on creating new village level resources to meet local subsistence needs through afforestation.
Mid and late 1980s	<ul style="list-style-type: none">) Experiences from projects and research identified the importance of the economic dimension to farmers and communal decisions, and forest and trees as source of food, income, employment and household security.) Second generation of projects emphasized local control and management of existing forest land resources and multiple roles of trees in farming system.) Focus on working through local institutions.

In countries like Nepal, CF initially evolved from the government approach for the reforestation of degraded forest and gradually diverted towards strengthening local institutions to manage resources for the fulfillment of local needs (Gilmour and Fisher 1998). On the other hand, in the countries like Thailand, CF has been developed from the people's movement rather than a government program (Gilmour and Fisher 1998).

2.2.2 Community Forestry: Evolution in Nepal

Nepal was rich in forest resources, a lot of area of Nepal was covered by forest and accordingly there was popular saying "Hariyo Ban Nepal Ko Dhan" but this is not being same at present. It is depleted very rapidly in the last few decades; his majesty's government of Nepal has designed and implemented the community forestry development program to address the issue since 1978. Before the implementation of this program many acts were implemented (private forest nationalization act 1957, forest act 1961, the forest preservation act 1967) but the effective management could not carried out because of frequent change of forest boundaries, liberal policies of government in setting people by disturbing forest land encroachment and several other socio-political reasons (Kayastha, 1991).

Mainly the decentralization Act 1982, the master plan for forest sector Nepal 1988, the forest Act 1993 and the forest by laws 1995, all together made the basic changes in forest management policies realizing the failure of the past rules and regulation about the forest sector.

The concept of community forest has been evolved through many decades, originated in 1978 as "Panchayat Forest" and "Panchayat Protected Forest" and gradually developed the concept of community forest. The community forest is the major focus in the 25 years "Master plan for forestry sector" which was approved in 1989. It was focused to the users via a phase handing over of the accessible hill forest to the community to the extent that they are able and willing to manage them (report MPFS 1989).

The procedure of handing over a forest to the community consists of:

-) Identification and formation of users group
-) Demarcation of forest as community forest
-) Forest inventory
-) Preparation and approval of constitution and operational plan from DFO, and
-) Handing over the forest to the user group and implementation of the operational plan

Before 1957, in the eastern hill regions of Nepal, the land and forest resources were managed under control of Mukhiya, Jimuwa, Talukdar, Thari and Subba etc. who were not only the land revenue collector of government but also maintained the law and order in the local level.

In the past there were strict rules and regulations to manage and conserve the forest, which was governed by state through local representatives. The state exercised little control over forest use before 1957. The government individuals to convert the forest land to agricultural as means of extending state control over territory and increasing state revenue. As a result of limited state regulation, local government may have been unequal, wit local elite benefiting disproportionately, but at least villages considered the forests their responsibility (Wallace 1987).

In 1957, the first forestry related legislative measures was initiated with the promulgation of the private forest Nationalization Act 1957, which abolished private ownership of forests and transferred it to the government. No compensation was given to private forest holders for the loss of ownership. But, however well intentioned it may have been, the act had a negative effect on forest protection disappeared where as previously there had been communal responsibility for managing these resources (Wallace 1987). Thus after 1957, rapid deforestation started due to incorrect policy of government. The rate of forest decline in the past 12 years has been verified as 1.3 % per annum (FRIS, 1993).

The CF concept was developed during the 1970s and the legislation to promote CF was made in 1978. From the beginning, the concept was developed primarily for the prevailing conditions in the hills and less concerned with the forest of the Terai, the legal provision of CF are spelt out in the forest act 2049 and in the forest regulation 2051.

During 1980s, forestry development policies and programs have shifted from a production and plantation focus to rural forestry for development. Social forestry and community forestry are recognized to be effective ways to involve local communities in the sustainable forest management, utilization and contribute to the process of rural development. More emphasis has been developed for greater participation of women through incorporation of gender dimension approach. However, it has to be proud whether the participation of women in community forestry will lead to real or sustainable development or not otherwise, it will lead to an unnecessary extra burden for women who are suffering most from their day to day drudgery and multiple other roles.

Community forest is established as a model of participatory forestry in Nepal. The forest act states that “the district forest officer (DFO) may hand over any part of national forest to the forest user groups in the term of CF. The forest regulation add that the DFO shall have the to take into account the distance between the forest and village and the wishes as well the management capacity of local users who have to manage the forest, while handing over any part of national forest to a FUG as CF”. (Scanner 1998)

Based on above definition, the study views community forestry is forest conservation, management and utilization by the local community which is a group of people who are actively participate to conserve and manage their local forests for their benefit by themselves.

2.3 Community forestry: policy implication

In Nepal, men and women in rural areas have been managing and utilizing the forest on the basis of their inherited knowledge and skills from the remote past to the present. Moreover, women have been considered to be more knowledgeable about the utilization of forest, as their work is more related to the forest, especially non timber forest products. With the adjust of community forestry approaching 1978 the government of Nepal has initiated several forestry programs including community forestry (CFDP, 1980). Despite the fact that a heavy emphasis has been given to CF, very little has been achieved in terms of involving forest users. Among several factors, gender issue is realized to be curtail especially the inclusion of women in forestry. It has contributed to the formulation of new policy by the government to involve one third to the maximum possible number of women in forest users group committees so that women can participate equally in designing and implementing forest resource management plans (Regmi 1992). The policy assumed that women participation in community forest development would automatically happen through the creation of an official mechanism.

2.3.1 Evolution of Community forest Legislation in Nepal

The following table shows the comparative characteristics of the legislation

Table: 2.3.1

Comparison of community forestry legislation

Subject	1978 Rules	1979 Amendment	1987 Amendment	Forest Act 1993 and Regulation 1995
CF area	< 125 ha (PF)	125 ha	No limit	No limit
Benefit share %	40%	75%	100%	100%
To be spent from the benefit	50% per forest	50% per forest	100 % per forest	Surplus fund for any community development
Pricing of product	Not less than royalty	Not less than royalty	Not less than royalty	As per FUG decision
Plan preparation	By DFO	By DFO	By community	By community
Plan approval	Conservator	Conservator	Regional Director	DFO
Boundary	Political	Political	Political	User practice
Management unit	Panchayat	Panchayat	User committee under panchayat	User group (assembly)
Chair person	Elected village leader	Elected village leader	Selected by political body	Selected by users assembly by consensus

Source: Joshi, A.L. 1989, empowering local users in forest management of Nepal, Banko Jankari vol. 7

The present policy is the result of past bitter experiences and the present needs of the people. However, the poor and landless people, who are the majority of the community are still not well off and are not reassured by the new policy. The land less and the poor groups of the community are more dependent on the commons than those in position of wealth and power. The proper formulation of policy will mean the greater involvement of those poor people who are directly linked with the forests (Joshi, 1989).

The revolutionary change in the forest resource management approach has proved that the local people can take responsibilities not only to manage forests which directly benefit them but also the endangered wild animals which have no direct benefit to them (Joshi and Pokhrel, 1999).

2.3.2 Main features of present forestry legislation

-) Any part of the accessible forests can be handed over to the communities who are traditional users of the forests, if any are interested to manage the forest.
-) Any amount of national forests can be handed over to FUGs if they indicate that they are capable of managing the forest.

- J Conservation of national forests to community forest has priority over conservation to any other forest use such as leasehold, protected and production forests.
- J Community Forest boundaries are fixed by traditional use practices rather than administrative boundaries.
- J District Forest Officers are authorized to recognize CFUGs and hand over forests to FUGs.
- J Forest User Groups have to manage the CF as per their constitution and operational plan, which are approved by DFO.
- J Forest User Groups are autonomous and corporate bodies with perpetual succession rights.
- J Forest User Groups can plan long term cash crops, such as medicinal herbs, with out disturbing the main forest crops.
- J Forest User Groups can fix price of forestry products irrespective of the government royalty. FUGs can transport forestry products simply the informing the DFO.
- J Forest User Groups can punish to the members who break the rules of their constitution and operational plan.
- J District Forest Officer can take community forest back from FUGs if they go against the Operational plan.

However, the DFO must give the forest back to newly formed FUG as soon as possible once the problem is resolved.

2.3.3 The external support for the Community Forestry

Community forest program in Nepal is being supported by many projects of various capacities supported by several donors. Some of the major projects Natural Resource Management Sector Assistance Program (NARMSAP) funded by DANIDA, Nepal- United Kingdom (UK) Community Forest project funded by DFID, UK, Nepal Swiss Community forest project funded by the Swiss government, Nepal-Australian Community Resource Management project supported by Australian International Development Enterprises Activity. The working modalities and level of financial support seems very greatly different among projects, which needs uniformity (Shrestha, 1993).

Sharma (1993) suggested that the implementation of community forest programs should be coordinated with other forestry sector programs like National and Leasehold forestry programs. He argued that if the access to National forest is restricted, local people are more motivated to manage community forest as well as to grow trees on private land. Similarly, implementation of leasehold forestry program together with community forest benefited the poor segment of the population with in the community.

2.4 Definition of Gender

The OXFAM gender training manual defines gender as “people are born as female and male, but learnt to be girls and boys grow women and men. They are taught what the appropriate behavior and attitudes, roles and activities are for them, and how they should relate to other people. This learnt behavior is what makes up gender identify and determines gender role.”

Theories of gender sensitive approached to development are outlined in this topic. The ‘Women in Development’ (WID) approach, taken by main stream development institution, is examined, demonstrating how critique stimulated the Gender and Development (GAD) approach.

2.4.1 From WID to GAD

Gender is used to describe relationships between women and men. This recognizes the relationship characteristics are not biologically. Determined, although constructed from a biological destination, the social construction of gender occurs at all levels of society from the state of families. As gender relations, a desired change is also social construction. Yet there are significant material consequences and underlying power relations involved in both present and desired situation.

2.4.1.1 Global Process

The year of 1975 was marked as the international women’s year and the period between 1976 and 1985 was declared as the united nation as the United Nation (UN) decade for women. During this time the number of conferences was held with the objective of improving women’s productivity. A strategy ‘women in development’ (WID) was formulated in order to integrate women into global process of economic political and social growth and change.

The Gender and Development (GAD) approach, a holistic approach emerged as an alternative to WID in 1980s. This approach views women as active participants in development. It helps to analyze critically the existing social, cultural, economic and political structure there by equity for women in development.

WID focuses on women alone, as instrument of development, rather than examining the relations that perpetuate their subordinate position. By focusing on their productive roles, it does not challenge mainstream modernization approaches (Viswanathan, 1997), which utilize inequitable gender roles. (Kabber 1992) considers that the productive focus has been achieved at the expenses of the recognition of women’s others roles.

Critiques of WID have let to the gender and development (GAD) approach women and men in development. Women are considered active agent of development, rather than passive recipients. Whereas WID emphasizes the economic side of development GAD focuses on political power within development (Young 1992). It examines all aspects of life not only productive roles.

The GAD approach overlaps with the empowerment approach, recognizing the role of grass root organization. There is a focus on groups’ gender relations rather than roles. Yet action through the GAD approach still mainly occurs with women. Whilst women recognize their subordinate position, the causes of sub ordination need heightening through awareness rising.

2.4.2 Women and Development in Nepal

For a long time, women have been considered peripheral to the process of development. It was only during the mid-seventies that the international women's year (1975), and the UN Decade of women (1975-1985), helped focus global attention on the situation of women as disadvantaged group. The fact that development had bypassed women and had lost half of its potential collaborators was emphasized. As a result, a large number of national and international agencies concerned with development set up special sections or division to look after this issue.

The status of women in Nepal is analyzed through their roles in various walks of life. It is noteworthy that women in Nepal constitute the backbone of agriculture (Acharya, 1994). Their contribution in household production and income was found to be more or less at the same level with men it turns of labor input. 96% of population in Nepal depends on a subsistence economy of agriculture and animal husbandry. Out of the total population, 51% are male and 49% are female. The life expectancy of men is 55.9 years and that of women is 53.4 years and more than 82% of women are illiterate. Among 81% of economically active men and women engaged in agriculture and related activities in the 1991 census (Acharya, 1994). Although women's activities are not directly involve in cash economy in contrast to that of men. Almost all the house is mentioned by women, rural women spent 11 hours daily in household work and village work, while men spent approximately 8 hours only (Molnar, 1987). Looking at wage earnings and household subsistence production, women contributed 50% to total household income (Aharya and Bennet, 1985).

Most of the newly introduced agriculture and forestry techniques are designed and handled by men so that indigenous knowledge and skill seemed to be almost marginalized and women do not get the benefit of the new technologies through application. As for example, the cultivator by men helps to increase the benefit for men but at the same time it increases the burden of women in weeding a large area. Moreover, the degradation of forest with the sacristy of forest products has increased the burden of women with adverse effect in their life style (FAO, 1991).

In Nepal, as in most other countries in the region, the initial spurt of activities in this context involved collection of data on the situation of women. The status of women project carried out by the center of Economic Development and Administration and supported by USAID is a major contribution in this regard. The Women Development Section of the Ministry of Panchayat had initiated some development programs exclusively for women such as production credit for rural women supported by UNICEF and self-employment for Female Headed Household supported by ILO. Other organizations such as Agriculture Development bank (in its small farmers Development program) (Siddiqi, 1989).

A large number of programs presently propose at least some method of involving women in their activities. But there are many projects which, though directly related to women and their activities in rural areas, had not made any effort to include women during initial phases, for example, integrated parasite control and family planning project supported by JOICEEP, and integrated Cereals project supported by USAID.

A few studies have evaluated women's participation in development programs in Nepal. One such study (IDS 1983) concludes that the programs exclusively for women isolate women even further and do not necessarily work any better than those which integrate women in mainstream development.

2.5 Participation

Participation means taking part in the process with a view to determine or at least influence the out come of the process. People's participation means that the target beneficiaries of a project or program take part in all stage of development process. That is, they participate actively in decision making for planning, in the process of implementation, in sharing benefits of the project and monitoring and evaluation. "Community participation in development is by now an established, even reversed, strategy in development programs around the world. It has clearly dominated and outlasted many other development fads. Yet, as we other fads, the fervor with which it is advocated has impeded critical examination..." (Stone 1989:206)

If development depends on mobilizing people's participation is an essential element with a system, which seeks to bring a better standard of living and quality of life to its people. Participation involves an active partnership between policy makers, planners and officials and the target beneficiaries of programs.

People's participation is essential for achieving better resource management as the effective development depends solely upon the meaningful mobilization of the people. The concerned authority should deliberate the community forest activities needed to integrate there and should consider how the activities can be undertaken with maximum people's participation and strengthen the participation sustaining Community Forest activities. Spontaneous People's participation will give better results in Community Forest activities.

The true participation only occur when sizeable representation is guaranteed to members of all kinds of groups, castes, ethnicity, religion, gender and economic level and for women, men and children of the community.

Participation is not an end in itself. It is a means to achieve long term efficiency and effectiveness, cost sharing, self reliance, grass roots initiative and to build leadership and village level organizational capacities. Behind those objectives, it is the goal of increasing growth equity.

Community participation is a function of attitude of the government and interest of community. Programs based on needs and requirements of all local people should be implemented. Experiences reveal that a blind application of the programs is not appropriate (Budhathoki, 1991).

In Nepal people's participation was thought necessary only in 1976 as outlined in the national forest policy; it is mentioned that people's participation will be sought for protecting forest from fire, theft and abuse. This was the first official publication of the national forest policy; Forest act 1961 was amended. This amendment allowed the government to handover the any parts of national forest as community forest to local community for producing their subsistence of firewood, timber, fodder and other forest products. This amendment was followed by enactment community forestry rules 1978 which authority assist to conserve forest and handover piece of government forest to the local panchayat, a small elected political unit of village. The government has given high priority to people's participation in Community Forest management.

Community forestry has been organized as a potentially powerful tool for dealing with problems of forest resource scarcity and environmental degradation in Nepal and other many more developing countries. However, to date, the potential of community forestry to contribute to the solutions of these problems has not been realized and community forestry programs are often more characterized by rhetoric and lofty philosophy than by substantial

achievements in action (Karki, 1990). The true participation will only occur when sizable representation is guaranteed to members of groups, castes, ethnicity, religion, gender and economic level.

2.6 Women's condition in participation:

The social status of women and their access to resource vary widely depending upon the cultural groups, which they belong to. There are generally two cultural groups the Tibeto-Burman and Indo-Aryan. The former group seems more liberal and women have freedom in various social activities, while the latter are severely restricted in their social mobility. In all cultural groups, however, it was found that women access to modern resources and education, training, employment etc. are limited (Acharya, 1994). Women have primary responsibility for food processing, fuel and fodder collection, domestic chores including cooking and child care.

Forestry programs and other development programs with forestry components in Nepal have experienced with various methods of involving local people in forestry development activities. Since "people" has now come to include women as well, most such programs seek women's participation in different way. Several reports are available from programs where individuals hired as consultants' regular staff have designed or evaluated initiatives for women involvement. There is a series of experimentation and research work on the subject. Some studies produce data to make a case for women's participation in forestry. Other thinks up novel ways to involve women on the assumption that women have to be brought "ought of the house" first. Still others are giving magic figures such as 30 or 50% representation of women among staff and on committee to solve the problem of women participation.

Contribution of women in various households and economic activities is important. The majority of do the forest related activities are fuel wood and fodder collection, grazing and primary processing of forest products. Women are the major beneficiaries to conserve forest products. A comparatively high level of women participation characterizes CFUGs in Nepal. Women in most of the groups are very committed to forest production and management (Stoain and yadav, 1995). They regularly participate in community meetings and involve themselves in decision making. Most male dominated rural society in Nepal have now been increasingly convinced that women are capable of making decision and regarding forest conservation and sustainable use of their resources (Bhattarai, 1997).

Women are the primary managers, source of information and teachers in the use of natural resources. Community training and capacity building, primary focused in women is a necessary prerequisites to local biodiversity conservation program. Very recently, women are beginning to demand their rights to be treated justly as evidenced by the growing participation of women in various conservation programs. It is there essential to incorporate gender into the discussion because it is central to positioning both men and women in FUG that determine access to natural resources and other sources and to the wider economy. Given a strong linkage between gender, poverty, and ecological decline it imperative to examine the role of gender in matters of access to and control over natural resources.

Traditional cultural and moral factors are something barriers for women to get involved. They need of women's participation in forestry having been accepted as a reality in forestry and their situation being understood in its true perspective, the strategy purposed visualizes all men and women concerned with the program promoting the required focus on women (Siddiqui, 1989).

One study of NUKCEFP (1998) concluded that though there are an increasing number of women in the committee and in the general assembly still there is a gap in the flow of information.

Women, poor and discriminated occupational caste people are regarded more as listener and workers; whole committee members rich and men regards as s instructor and leaders.

Kharel, Fisher and Malla (1987) 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 been minimum role in decision making; rural women are illiterate and have a localizes view of life; the society is male dominated where men are not willing to share their power and authority. It is also felt that it will take a long time one can expect any major involvement of women in forestry.

The review of available literature shows the importance of women's participation. Different conceptual and operational definitions of status of women invented as the status of women changed after the involvement of women in different development activities and occupations. However, the status of women would be higher if they become economically independent. Our social norms that believe those men are naturally superior to women and all the decisions. And the decision is considered as the final one. This makes women hesitate to expose with outsiders and since they have more household chores then men, they get very little time to be involve in development activities.

Chapter III

Research methods

3.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the methods adopted in this study. Firstly, a selection criteria of research site is described and secondly, sample procedures and research tools used for the study discussed and finally, data analysis techniques are explained.

3.2 Rational of the selection of the study area

Jongang Danda community forest user group is selected for study area. The forest lies in ward no. 1 of Chilime Village Development committee (VDC), Rasuwa district. This CFUG is situated about 30 kilometers north from district head quarter Dhunche. The total area covered by this FUG is 28.64 hector. The total household of this community forest is 29. It was formed in 2046 B.S. and was handed over as community forest to the local community in 2051 B.S. Now, an international Non Governmental Organization Action Aid Nepal (AAN) and “The Mountain Institute” (TMI) are working through its NGO partner in the field of NTFPs management and capacity strengthening of FUG in the same area.

The reason for selecting this area is that the study is not conducted on women’s role in forest management in that area and in the present security situation; the purposed area is comparative secured.

3.3 Research design:

This study is adopted explorative and descriptive research design. The descriptive research design is used to describe the phenomena. The exploratory research design is helpful to find out the specific objective of the research.

3.4 Nature and sources of data:

Both primary and secondary data are used in this study. Primary data were collected by field work and secondary data are collected through published and non published materials on the related subject.

3.5 Sampling procedure:

Jongang Danda CFUG has 29 households. All members are primary users. Census method is used to complete this study. All 29 respondents are female.

3.6 Data collection techniques:

Various data collection techniques are used to collect information which is given below:

3.6.1 CFUG household survey

For detail information to identify their living standard and dependency on forest, socio-economic condition such as land holding size, occupation, and education etc of the CFUG was done for the total of 29 households.

3.6.2 Interview

Structured and semi structured questionnaires were developed for the interview. Female representatives from each 29 household's and key informants were selected from among the group. Key informants were local leaders, old and experienced people and employee of different organizations.

3.6.3 Focus Group Discussion

A focus group discussion represents different points of view capabilities or knowledge of communities groups (Chambers; 1993). One focus group discussions was conducted with JCFUG women group separately. This method has adopted to verify the information obtain from key informants and respondents. By this method information on people's perception on women's role in the forest management were assessed.

3.6.4 Participant Observation

Participant observation was done in the field for the women and men working area and time, living status i.e. observe their health and sanitation, male's real behavior or women, forest product collection and using activities was observed.

3.7 Data Analysis

For the research study only gathering data is meaningless, to make it meaningful the collected data should be analyzed and interpreted in order to fulfill the set objectives. Analysis make the categorizing, ordering, manipulating, summarizing of data to obtain answer to research questions (Karlnger; 1978). Collected quantitative information is presented in suitable tables. It is categorized and tabulated according to the objectives of the study. Qualitative information is analyzed and documented.

3.7 Limitation of the study

As a student of Rural Development this research is conducted to full fill the requirement of the degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development. As constrained by time and economic factor, small area is selected with particular socio-economic characteristics. The findings of the study may not be generally conclusive in all areas.

CHAPTER IV

THE SETTING

4.1 District Background

Rasuwa district is one of the hilly districts of Nepal. It is in the Bagmati zone, Central Development Region. It lies between 27.2 N. to 27.10 N. latitude and 85.45 E. to 85.88 E. longitudes. The total area of the district is 1519.31 square kilometer (Topographic Map, Finida Project, 1994/98). The district is 118 K.M. far from capital of Nepal, Kathmandu. The Pasang Lhamu highway reaches in the district crossing Nuwakot from Kathmandu. There are 18 VDCs adjoining with Nuwakot in the south, Sindhupalchok in the east, Dhading in the west and Tibbet in the north. Chilime VDC is situated in the north of the district.

Altitude ranges from 314 meter to 6134 meter in the district and a popular mountain “Langtang” lies in the northern site of the district. Total household of the district is 8689 and total population is 43906 with 22552 male and 21354 female (National census, 2058).

Langtang National Park and District forest office are formal government organizations to deal with community forest in the district. Out of 18 VDC, 11 VDCs are in buffer zone area under National Park authority and remaining 7 VDCs are under DFO authority from the perspective of forestry activities. There are total of 119 FUGs in the district. Out of 119FUGs, 63 are under DFO, Rasuwa and 56 FUGs in the buffer zone area of Langtang National Park.

4.2 Land use class

Table No: 4.2

Land use pattern of the district is as follow

Land use class	Area (In square Kilo Meter)
Air port	0.04
Bush / shrub land	63.11
Cultivated land	119.14
Forest land	384.88
Glacier part	90.68
Grass land	175.40
Ice rock	0.53
Sandy area	7.75
Waste/Barren land	635.54
Water bodies	42.24
Total	1519.31

Source: Topographic Map, Finida project, Department of survey, Government of Nepal (1994/98)

4.3 Physical setting of Chilime VDC

Chilime is one of the VDC of Rasuwa district. It is situated in the northern site of the district and 30 kilo meter far from district head quarter, Dhunche. The first success full hydro power named “Chilime hydro power” and made by Nepali citizen that is located in the same VDC. Other one popular pilgrimage place called “Tato-Pani” (hot spring) also falls in the VDC. The boundary of VDC is as follows: Tibbet and Thuman VDC in the north, Gatlang VDC in the south,

Goljung and Bridim VDC in the east and Gatlang VDC in the west. The land is mostly sloppy in the VDC.

4.4 Demographic structure

The total population of Chilime VDC is 1521 with 325 households. In total population, 812 are male and 709 are female (National census, 2058). There are in total 4 types of caste/ethnic groups like Tamang, Ghale, Newar and Lama (Tibetan refugee). Majority of the population is Tamang followed by Ghale, Newar and Lama.

4.5 Economy

The main economy of this area is agriculture. Maize, wheat, barley and millet are the main crops in the VDC, so people depend on monsoon rain for cultivation. Beside agriculture some people are engaged in business, service and wage labor.

4.6 Natural Resource

The main resource of Chilime VDC is forest and water. This is the most important for the local people to survive on their own natural condition. Soil is an important factor for agriculture productivity. Different places have found different types of soil. The farmers of this area classified the land as Khet (irrigated land-few only), Bari (unirrigated land) and Kharbari (uncultivated land). The farmers depend fully upon rainfall to grow crops in Bari and partial in Khet. Kharbari is marginal land, grass grows naturally on it and it is also used for fodder and thatch. In upper area of VDC, the land is less cultivated.

Forest is one of the important natural resources of the study area as elsewhere. Most of the forest resource is assisting livestock with food/fodder. The contribution of forest to the people of Chilime VDC includes fuel wood, timber, building materials etc. The main species of Chilime VDC are Pine, Rhododendron, Uttis and Banjh etc.

4.7 Introduction of Jongang Danda CFUG

The forest is situated in ward no. 1 of Chilime VDC. It is about 2 hours walk from Syafrubesi and adjoining with Chilime hydropower dam site. The forest was handed over to local community in 2051. There are all together 29 Households in the CFUG and all they come from ward no. 1. All users are primary users. There are 13 members in committee with 4 female members. The boundaries of FUG is as follows: Alegode Awadi in the east, Dalang river in the west, Thambuchet village as well as Awadi in the north and Tawara Awadi and trail onward Chyamdol in the south.

Table No. 4.7

Name list of CFUGs in Chilime VDC

S.N.	Name	ward	Area (ha)	No. of HH	Handed over date
1	Neja Pakha CFUG	2	94	23	23/3/2049
2	Phuyaldanda-1 CFUG	8,9	110	28	31/3/2049
3	Branapakha CFUG	6	6	34	12/3/2057
4	Panglelawangang CFUG	6,7	9	54	14/3/2051
5	Jongang Danda CFUG	1	28.64	32	14/3/2051
6	Phuyaldanda-2 CFUG	8,9	5	46	14/6/2051
7	Chepochhasa CFUG	2,3,4	110	72	14/6/2051
8	Domsinggang CFUG	2	31	32	11/3/2058
9	Tato pani CFUG	6	71.6	81	26/7/2052
10	Nadang CFUG	6	18	45	26/7/2052
11	Chudorpakha CFUG	1,2	26.5	38	22/11/2053
12	Nisarwa CFUG	2	33.92	32	22/11/2053
13	Techangje CFUG	4	75	30	31/3/2054
14	Kaltachet CFUG	5,6,7	52.2	89	15/1/2055
15	Mangdang CFUG	4	NA	30	Not handed over

Source: Baseline Survey, The Mountain Institute, Asian Regional Office, Kathmandu (July 2003)

As the above table 4.7 shows, most of the forest area handed over to people during the year of 2049 to 2055. Out of 15 CF, 12 CF were handed over before 2055 and only 2 community forests were handed over during 2057/58 and 1 CF is not handed over yet because it is under process on developing operational plan. In Chilime VDC, there are 15 community forests and 14 of these are handed over to the user group as community forestry, their name, ward no, forest area, number of HH and handed over date is presented in the above table. The largest FUG are phuyaldanda-1 and Chepochhasa which have 110 hector forest area and the smallest CFUG is Phuyaldanda-2 which has only 5 hector forest area. Most of the potential forest land is already handed over to the local users in Chilime VDC.

CHAPTER- V

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

5. Socio-economic profile of the Jongang Danda community forest user group.

This chapter provides information on analysis of educational, caste, age, sex, marital status, age at marriage, family structure, family members, religion, land holding, occupation, income source and saving-credit in detail.

5.1 Social aspect

This section provides information on caste/ethnic group composition, age composition, marital status, age at marriage, religious composition, family size and structure and educational structure of the respondents in detail.

5.1.1 Caste /ethnic composition

Caste is an important factor in community development. People are comparatively more aware in mix caste living together rather than single caste group for development. Different caste living together that provides opportunity to people to be competitive among the community for betterment. People of different caste living together in JCFUG. Majority of population is Tamang following Ghale, Lama and Newar. The table below shows the caste composition in JCFUG.

Table No: 5.1.1

Caste/ethnic composition of Respondents

SN	Caste/Ethnic Group	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Tamang	10	34.48
2	Ghale	6	20.68
3	Lama	8	27.58
4	Newar	5	17.24
Total		29	100.00

Source: Field survey, 2008

Table 5.1.1 shows different caste living together in JCFUG. Most of all are Mongolian and social as well cultural value and tradition is almost of theme are same in the community. The percent of Tamang is highest and Newar is lowest. 34.48% Tamang, 20.68% Ghale, 27.58% Lama and 17.24% Newar are living in this CFUG.

5.1.2 Age composition

Age is important factor in community as well as in society to make decision and express his/her perspective in different subject matter. The total household of JCFUG is 29. The table below shows age composition of respondents in JCFUG. All respondents are female from each household.

Table No: 5.1.2

Age composition of Respondents

SN	Age group	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	20-35	14	48.27
2	36-50	9	31.04
3	51-65	5	17.24
4	<66	1	3.44
Total		29	100.00

Source: Field survey, 2008

People who are between 15 and 60 years of age they are called economically active people. Similarly, age 0-15 years and above 60 are called economically dependent people. Among from 29 female respondents, young - energetic (age 20-35) are highest by 48.27% and economically dependent is lowest by 3.33%. Similarly, age group 36-50 people are 31.04% and people between 51 and 65 are 17.24% in JCFUG. Most of respondents are economically active in the JCFUG.

5.1.3 Marital Status

According to field survey on 2008, all respondents have got married. No one found unmarried among 29 respondents.

5.1.4 Age at Marriage

Marriage is an important part of life cycle. Marriage over 20 years of age is right time for women from social as well as health perspective. Age at marriage of women also represents social as well cultural trend of particular society. The table below shows age at marriage of respondents in JCFUG.

Table No: 5.1.4

Age at marriage of the Respondents:

SN	Age at marriage	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	13-17	10	34.48
2	18-22	14	48.27
3	23-27	3	10.34
4	<27	2	6.9
Total		29	100.00

Source: Field survey, 2008

The 5.1.4 table shows 48% respondents have done marriage in age between 18-22 years. Out of 29 respondents, 34% have done their marriage in the age of 13-17 and 10% respondents have done their marriage in 23-27 of age. Remaining one respondent married in the age over 27. Based on above figure, the JCF social awareness about marriage seems either more conservative or less modern. Finally, it seems that there is still child marriage practice in the community.

5.1.5 Religious composition

Jongang Danda CFUG people have two different types of religious background. Majority of religion is Buddha followed by Kristian. The table below shows the religious composition in JCFUG.

Table No: 5.1.5

Religious composition of Respondent

SN	Religion	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Buddhist	22	75.86
2	Kristian	7	24.14
Total		29	100.00

Source: Field survey, 2008

The 5.1.5 table shows that only two religious background people are living together in JCFUG. Percentage of Buddhist is highest and Kristian percentage is lowest. Out of 29 HH, Buddhists are 75% and Christians are only 25% in JCFUG.

5.1.6 Family Size

Family size means number of family members living together in a household. The table below shows the size of family in JCFUG.

Table No: 5.1.6

Family size of Respondents

SN	Size of family	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	1-4	11	37.93
2	5-8	15	51.72
3	9-12	3	10.34
Total		29	100.00

Source: Field survey, 2008

The table 5.1.6 shows that maximum family number in a family is 9-12 and minimum is 1-4 in JCFUG. 51% HHs have 5-8, 37% HHs have 1-4, and only 10% HHs have 9-12 family members in a household. So, family numbers in a house hold seems either not more or not few, it seems moderate in JCFUG.

5.1.7 Family Structure

Family structure is an identity of community. Family structure presents where the community exists from the sociological perspective. The table below shows the family structure of Jongang Community forest user group.

Table No: 5.1.7

Family Structure of Respondent

SN	Types of family	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Nuclear	21	72.41
2	Joint	6	20.68
3	Extended	2	6.89
Total		29	100

Source: Field survey, 2008

The 5.1.7 table shows that the highest 72% HHs have single family structure and lowest 6% only have extended family structure. Similarly, 20% HHs have joint family structure among the 29 house holds. The table shows that majority of family structure is nuclear and the community is influenced by urban culture.

5.1.8 Educational Structure

Education plays a key role in the development of society and the country. It is an important factor of human life. To know the socio-economic condition of society education is assumed as a key measurement. The Central Bureau of Statistic (CBS) noted that “ability to read and write one’s own name” might have also been interpreted as being literate”. Table below shows the educational level of respondents.

Table No: 5.1.8

Educational level of the Respondents:

SN	Educational level	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Illiterate	20	68.97
2	Literate	9	31.03
Total		29	100.00

Source: Field survey, 2008

The table 5.1.8 shows that 69% respondents are illiterate among 29 female respondents. Out of 29, 31% are literate. Only 2 women or 6% respondents have passed School Leaving Certificate (SLC). Although NFE classes were lunched in the area but all of them were not fruitful because of their irregularity in the classes. During the field visit while talking to the women now days they are little bit aware of importance of education. Now, they have started CHALFAL CHAUTARI and Non Formal Education organized by Manekor Society Nepal, a local NGO with financial and technical backup support from Action Aid Nepal and The Mountain Institute. The above table shows educational level is very low with the respondents in Jongang community forest user group.

5.2 Economic Aspect

This section provides information on land holding status, livestock raising, occupational composition, source of income and saving and credit of the respondents.

5.2.1 Land holding

To know economic condition of society/individual, land is a key indicator for measurement. Mostly rural economy depends on land holding size because Nepal is an agricultural country and more than 90% people depends in agriculture for their livelihoods. The table below shows land holding status of JCFUG users.

Table No: 5.2.1

Land holding status of the Respondent

SN	Land holding (in Ropani)	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Land less (0)	7	24.13
2	1-5	13	44.82
3	6-10	3	10.34
4	11-15	1	3.44
5	16-20	2	6.89
6	<21	3	10.34
Total		29	100

Source: Field survey, 2008

The above table shows more than 21 Ropani land holder is only 10% HHs from JCFUG. Similarly, 6% HHs have 16-20 Ropani, 3% have 11-15 Ropani and 44% HHs have only 1-5 Ropani. Out of 29 HHs, 24% HHs have no any land because they are Tibetan refugee and they are unable to register the land in their name based on present law and regulation of Nepal. The above table shows that majority of people of JCFUG have very low lands as their property.

5.2.2 Livestock Raising (growing)

Livestock raising in the study area has been found supportive for farming system. It is also source of income for village people. The main livestock in JCFUG is cow, ox, Yak, Chauri and goats. The number of livestock raised at the time of field survey is given in the table below.

Table No: 5.2.2

Livestock among the Respondent

SN	Type of livestock	No. of livestock	Average per Respondent
1	Yak/Chauri	13	2.24
2	Cow/Ox	108	3.74
3	Goat/ Sheep	62	2.13
Total		183	6.31

Source: Field survey, 2008

Every household of JCFUG has raised live stock for different purposes. Most of cows and yaks are raised for milk and associated product purpose. Some house hold has raised goat and sheep for the purpose of income by selling them. Grass, fodder and hay are obtained from own private land, buying from other and from community forest. The number of oxen is higher than cow because they use it in ploughing season. Only one yak is found in the area for the purpose of breeding with Chauri. In comparison with other cattle, number of cow and oxen is high because they have pasture land little bit far from village for grazing.

Forest waste like leaf litter and grass not eaten by animals are used as bedding for animals. Animals manure and bedding is used as compost fertilizer in the field at the cultivation time.

5.2.3 Occupational composition

The majority of respondents are engaged in agriculture followed by business and both agriculture and business. Involvement of respondents was seen agricultural work as well as other household work. The following table shows occupational break down of the respondents in JCFUG. Here, business means people involved in trading home made alcohol and engaged in small shop keeping in their home within the territory of hamlet.

Table No: 5.2.3
Occupational composition of the Respondents family:

SN	Occupation		Number of Respondents	Percentage
	Primary	Secondary		
1	Agriculture	Business, labor,	18	62.06
2	Business	Agriculture, livestock rising.	11	37.93

Source: Field survey, 2008

The table 5.2.3 shows that 62% respondents are engaged in agriculture primarily. Out of 29, 38% respondents are engaged in business primarily. Most of respondent having business occupation are Tibetan refugee. They are land less because they are unable to afford the land being refugee according national rules and regulation. So, they have no any option to survive except the business. None of respondent has service as occupation due to lack of education. Most of people have difficult life to survive.

5.2.4 Source of Income

Income is a basic source to survive life. Majority of respondent's income source is small business in JCFUG. The table below shows the income source of respondent's family in JCFUG.

Table No: 5.2.4

Income source of the Respondents family:

SN	Source of income	Number of Respondent	Percentage
1	Business	11	37.94
2	Agriculture	9	31.03
3	Agriculture and foreign employment	1	3.45
4	Agriculture and labor	4	13.8
5	Dependent on parents	1	3.45
Total		29	100.00

Source: Field survey, 2008

The 5.4.4 table shows that, Out of 29 respondents, 37% have business, 31% have agriculture, 13 have agriculture and labor, 3% respondents have agriculture as well foreign employment and again 3% depends on their parents for the source of income. Here, community forest is not seen as an income source from the perspective of respondents because none of income generating activities is initiated in CF land.

5.2.5 Saving and Credit activities

Most of People from JCFUG are involved in saving activities. They are member in different organized groups facilitated by different line agencies in their village. Following table shows the respondent's status in saving and credit activities.

Table No: 5.2.5

Respondent's status in saving and credit:

SN	Activity	Yes/No	N. of respondent	Percentage	Place of saving
1	Saving	Yes	22	75.86	Chilime-1, Thambuchet
2	Saving	No	7	24.14	-- ---
Total				100.00	
3	Credit	No	29	100.00	-- ----

Source: Field survey, 2008

The table 5.2.5 shows that 75% respondents are participating in saving activities and rest 25% have no involvement. Generally, they deposit a certain amount of cash in their group monthly. Most of all respondents do not have information about how much money is accumulated in their individual ledger. They only can say that this much of money they are depositing in the group since tentative x month. There are different 4 groups in their village where they do all saving. None of respondents seems involved in credit activity.

5.3 Interrelation and interaction with family

5.3.1 Family relation

Family is back bone of a human to conduct different activities in society. To see the impact of CF in family level we need to know about family relation of member with his/her family. Four close questions were asked to each respondent to know their family relation in the field study period. The table below shows relation of respondent with their family after being community forest user group member.

Table No: 5.3.1

Relation of respondent with the family after being FUG member

SN	Type of relation	Number of Respondent	Percentage
1	Same as before	25	86.20
2	Better than before	4	13.80
3	Poor than before	0	0
4	Negative	0	0
Total		29	100

Source: Field survey, 2008

Here, the relation with family "same as before" is assumed that there was a normal relation of the respondent with her family before introducing CF in the community. Similarly, the relation "better than before" is assumed as the family member of respondent is helping her from different perspective to be involved in the CF activities. The table 5.3.1 shows that 86%

respondents have their family relation same as before with their family. Similarly, rest 14% respondents have their family relation better than before with their family. No body told that their family relation is poor than before and negative with their family after being FUG member. So, family relation looks not bad in the community after CGUG came in practice among community.

5.3.2 Family support

Family support is most important to be success in any kind of mission for human creature. Without family support, most of people have not got success in their life. Four close questions were asked with all 29 female respondents to know their family support to participate in community forest related activities. Following table shows family support of participants to participate in CFUG activities.

Table No: 5.3.2

Family support to the respondent to participate in CFUG activities:

SN	Type of support	Number of Respondent	Percentage
1	Strong	13	44.82
2	Moderate	9	31.03
3	Not any	7	24.13
Total		29	100

Source: Field survey, 2008

Here, family support as “strong” is assumed that family member is supporting her in household management whenever she participate in different CF related activities. Similarly, “moderate” represents that respondent’s family is supporting her to involve in CF activities not regularly but time to time. The table 5.3.2 shows that out of 29 respondents, 44% are getting strong, 31% are getting moderate and 24% respondent are getting not any support from their family to participate in community forest related activities. Majority of respondents have been getting strong support from their family.

5.4 Forest Resource use and management

5.4.1 Traditional forest management system

Collecting information about past forest management system (before the introduction of community forest), it was national forest and there were the rules and regulation. Talking to the 60 years old man it came to know that the forest was very dense with pinus wallichiana before 50-60 years. Population was increasing gradually in village and also Tibetan refugee came to that village in 2026-27 BS. After refugee arrival, more people came to that village to make hospital and air ports ground for the purpose of make take care of refugee. Form that time, Deforestation started and took speed due to aforementioned population high pressure in the forest area. Slowly, the dense forest was converted in to, open land and was used only for cattle grazing. Right before taking as community forestry there were only few bushes. There were no strict rules and regulation. “Jasko Shakti Usko Bhakti” means “might is right” was there.

It came to know that when District Forest Office (DFO), Rasuwa launched its community forest program in this area in 2050 BS, it launched awareness program on community forest and

handed over the forest as community forest to locals then protection activities gradually improved in the area.

5.4.2 Present forest management system

After collecting the information of past forest management system, the questions were asked about the present forest management system to the women respondents, key informants and other focus group formally and informally. All respondents had positive answer towards the present forest management system. Their saying was the community forest management is very effective having strict rules and regulation which was developed by users with participatory method. All the users are getting equal opportunity to use forest products.

Some of the respondents said that it was like “Jasko Shakti Usko Bhakti” in the past management system. It means who were powerful socially and economically could do any thing. In the past time they had very hard time to collect forest product. During the field visit, it is recorded that present forest management system considered as good by the respondents.

During the field visit, four close questionnaires were asked with the respondents regarding present forest condition. Among 29 respondents, only one respondent said that she didn't know. 28 respondent's view was that the condition of forest under community forest management system is increased and said that forest production also increased. No one said that it has decreased. The can not say respondent ones who were newly married and did not know about the past condition of the forest and its management system.

During the field visit, focus group discussion also conducted with women and key informants also interviewed. Their opinion about the forest product is better than in the past forest management system. All users are the primary users and equally participate in forest management activities. The feeling of ownership is developed in present system.

5.4.3 Objectives of Jongang Danda Community Forest Management

The FUG has long term and short term objectives.

The short term objectives are:

-) Supply the daily needed forest product to users
-) Raise the fund from the forest management and use it for the community development work.
-) Improve the condition of forest
-) Help the people suffering from natural disaster

Long term objectives are:

-) Organizational development of FUG
-) Develop the leadership of women and marginalized people
-) Keep environment balance and biodiversity
-) Improve the economic condition of marginalized people from income generation activities within the forest.

For the proper management and sustainability the forests also is divided in to 2 forest blocks and manage accordingly.

5.4.4 Distribution and collection of forest product

This section provides information on forest product utilization rules and regulation based on JCFUG constitution and operational plan which was prepared by JCF users and was approved by District Forest Office, Rasuwa.

5.4.4.1 Fuel wood

Fuel wood is distributed after the thinning and pruning of forest once a year according to the forest operational plan. Entry for the dry fuel wood is open for over the year. Collected fuel wood is distributed only to the members who participate in the forest development activities. They harvest in the certain area and gather the harvested fuel wood in a place and make Bhari (bundle of about 40 kg). The rate of per bhari is only Rs. 5. But at the time of emergency like marriage, death etc their needs are fulfilled from dead, diseased and fallen trees.

5.4.4.2 Grass/ Fodder

Small grass collection is open over the year. But destruction of small plant is strictly prohibited. There is no any fee for grass collection for the users. Most of women go for grassing. Cutting of fodder is prohibited except the time of forest development activities.

5.4.4.3 Leaf litter

Forest is opened for leaf litter collection over year. Most of women go to forest land to collect leaf litter.

5.4.4.4 Timber

Presently, trees for timber are not available yet from the forest, but the provision of timber collection is mentioned in forest operational plan. According to operational plan, users can take timber from the forest after getting permission from user committee and paying Rs 20 per cubic feet for pine species if there is matured tree in the forest area.

5.4.4.5 Use of forest Resource

Regarding the consumption of fuel wood the users need of fuel wood from the Jongang Danda forest alone have not fulfilled. So they bring the fuel wood from the other community forest land. For some time that they have small family (up to 4 members) the Jongang forest product fuel wood is sufficient. For the cooking food at home the entire user used fuel wood.

Regarding the consumption of grass by animals, respondents view was that for cow in average one Bhari (Average 25 Kg) of grass is needed per day. This is carried usually on the back of women. They fulfilled their need of grass from Jongang Danda FUG, their own land, Kharbari and other forest area. During summer season, they carry their cattle to the pasture land (Kharka) for the purpose of grazing and in winter they feed their cattle with hay, stall feed etc. the leaf litter is used for the animal bedding and to make compost fertilizer.

5.4.5 Punishment and penalties

According to the forest act 2049, section 29, FUG could give penalties to the users in case he/she goes in the contrary of forest operational plan and FUG constitution of JCFUG.

Table: 5.4.5

Penalty rate imposed by JCFUG operational plan to the users by order of occurrence and type of products are as follow:

S.N.	Activities/Products	Unit	Penalties		
			1 st time	2 nd time	3 rd time
1	Firing in forest area	Time	2500	5000	As per committee decision
2	Thieving and cutting tree with out permission	Time	500	1000	As per committee decision
3	Harvesting fodder from high value plant	Per bhari	5	50	As per committee decision
4	Damage of panted small plant	Per plant	50	100	As per committee decision
5	Grazing in restricted time and place	Per cattle	Convince	5	As per committee decision

Source: JCFUG operational plan.

The table 5.4.5 clearly shows that penalties are imposed for going against the rules and regulation of forest product collection and other activities. There are three types of rate. The rate for penalties for the first time is low, second time it is double and third time it is higher and authority is given to the committee according to occurrence and causes and its result.

Respondents said that the rule is helped to protect and develop the condition of forest. They also said that the rules prepared by us but some time some users are not aware of rules. Every one knows that there is the rule but some respondents are unknown about the amount of penalties for breaking the rules.

5.4.6 Use of fund

JCFUG has established a fund from different source of income. From charge of fuel wood collection, penalties, users' membership registration fee and grant from district forest office etc. The fund has mainly spent on forest conservation and development activities. Some respondents and key informants were saying that the fund is miss used by chair person of JCFUG and they are trying to settle it since 3-4 years.

5.4.7 Gender participation in forest product collection

Because of the socio-cultural factors, in our society there are so many work differences between men and women. Thus they have different role in society. Differences between men and women are seen in forest management activities too.

The rule is that one person from each house hold can participate in fuel wood harvesting. By the discussion with focus group and talking with the key informants it was found that

100% households participate in green fuel wood harvesting by men. Similarly, 100% house holds participate in dry fuel wood, grass and leaf litter fetching. Finally, it came to know that mostly women participate in forest product collection.

During the field visit it was found that JCFUG management committee is formed with number of 13 including 4 female. The table below shows the gender composition in JCFUG committee.

Table No: 5.4.7

Gender participation in JCFU committee

SN	Participation	No	Percentage
1	Male	9	69.23
2	Female	4	30.76
Total		13	100.00

Source: JCFUG Operational Plan and Constitution

It shows that number of women in committee is 31% of total committee member. These four female are from among the respondents. Talking to the focus group it was felt that women leadership is important in forest management activities but however the women number is less than provision of government mandatory.

While talking to the respondents view is that women need forest product so it is necessary to involve maximum number of women in committee.

5.5 Role of Woman in JCFUG committee

It was found that the number of men is higher than female in committee. The following table shows the respondents view on women role in executive committee.

Table No: 5.5

View of respondent on women role in CF management committee

SN	Responses	No. of respondent	Percentage
1	Work as male	2	6.89
2	Able to make decision, offensive in wrong decision	3	10.34
3	Able to aware users in forest development and management activities	9	31.04
4	Able to implement rules and regulation to users according to Operational Plan and constitution of CFUG	4	13.8
5	Active than male member	1	3.44
6	Regular participate in meeting	5	17.25
7	Don't know	5	17.25
Total		29	100%

Source: Field survey, 2008

The table 5.5 shows that informant's responses on the women's role in committee, 31% respondent's response is to make aware to other users including to male in forest development and management activities. 11% respondent's view is that they should be able to make decision and defense against the wrong decision. Similarly, 7% view is work as male, 4 % of respondent's view is need to be active than male, 13% respondent view is they should be able to implement rules and regulation as per operational plan and constitution of CFUG and 17% respondent's view is they should participate regularly in executive meeting as well as in general assemble. Other 17% respondent's reply is that they are unknown about the roles and responsibilities of women in committee. In conclusion, it can be said that majority of respondent's focus is that committee women have to spend few more time to make aware to other women and men on forest development and management related activities.

About the selection and role of the committee women most of the respondent know about the committee women selection, the respondents have quite positive answer i.e. the committee women initiate women about the forestry activities so far as she knows. One of the key informant said that committee women are discussing actively and expressing their views in the committee meetings to solve the problems. Other key informant's said that most of female committee member initiate to call executive meeting as well as general assembly and also in forest conservation and development related activities.

5.5.1 Role of women in forest development.

Women can play vital role in forest development activities. We can found different activities done by women in forest development activities. It has the collection of respondents about the role of women in Jongang Danda community forest user group.

Table No: 5.5.1

View of respondent on women role in JCFUG management development activities

SN	Responses	No. of respondent	Percentage
1	Do plantation	7	24.14
2	Forestry activities like thinning, pruning, weeding etc.	5	17.25
3	Conservation and management	13	44.85
4	Regular participate in meeting and express what they want	1	3.45
5	Don't know	3	10.35
Total		29	100

Source: Field survey, 2008

The table 5.5.1 shows that most of the respondents view is that women should conserve and manage. Similarly, 24% respondents said that women should participate in plantation, 17% respondents said that women should participate actively in forestry activities like thinning, pruning, weeding etc and only 4% respondents said that women should participate in regular meeting and express their opinion in the meeting. Finally, 10% respondents said that they don't know what should be the women's role in forest development activities. But no one said about the leading role in any activities.

In JCFUG there is not found sufficient trained manpower to manage the forest properly. Training is the key tool to make people capable in different activities. The following table shows the status of training received by households of JCFUG.

Table No: 5.5.1.1

Number of respondent household having forest related training.

SN	Training received	No. of respondent	Percentage
1	Male	4	13.79
2	Female	9	31.04
3	Both	4	13.79
4	Not having both	12	41.38
Total		29	100

Source: Field survey, 2008

Out of 29 households of JCFUG, 13% male and 32% female had received forest related training. Similarly, 14% household's both men and women had received training and 41% households did not get any opportunity to have forest related training. While talking with respondent about not getting opportunity to participate in the training program, they said that the committee is not very fare on this matter. Usually they send participants by head hunting and their cousin in the training programs.

Table No: 5.5.1.2

Respondents view about factors motivating women in forest management.

SN	Motivating factor	No. of respondent	Percentage
1	External	14	48.27
2	Internal	2	6.89
3	Mix	5	17.24
4	Don't know	8	27.58
Total		29	100

Source: Field survey, 2008

Table 5.5.1.2 provides the respondents' opinion on the motivating factors to women in forest management activities. Four types of responses were expressed i.e. internal, external, mix and can not say. Internal factor denotes self motivated not by others, like own desire, own interest, own problem related to forestry activities etc. external factors denote motivated by others i.e. community people, I/NGO staff, DFO staff, observation of other forest management etc. Mixed factor denotes both internal and external factors and can not say denotes who do not know about which factors or how women motivated in forest management activities. Above table shows 48% respondents said that it is the external factor which motivated women's role in forest management. Only 7% respondent's view was internal and 28% respondents view was that they don't know about motivating factor for women to participate in CFUG activities. Similarly, 18% respondent's view was both internal and external factor can motivate women in forest management activities.

In conclusion, it can be said that the internal motivating factors are very few among the users to participate actively.

5.6 The life of village women

Studies have shown that village women spent a lot of time in farming, household activities, family cares and forest product collection. Women in this village are not exception to that.

Figure: 2

Daily time allocation on major activities for a village woman.

Activities	AM									PM									
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Make fire and put up Kudo	■																		
Sweep and clean	■																	■	
Fetch water	■													■					
Cook meal			■	■															
Feed animal (Kudo, water, fodder)		■		■														■	
Collect grass			■	■			■												
Work in field						■													
Wash dishes																			■

Source: Field survey, 2008 (figure adopted from Chhetri and Rana 1994)

Village women are very busy members in community and they do not have any entertainment in their daily life. They are engaged in their work from 5 AM to 9 PM or 16 hours a day, their rest time is only at night time.

Except aforementioned activities they also have to do family care and go to grains mills, market etc. Being very busy person, it seems that involving women in forest management activities is adding more burdens. But it is necessary to do so because if women are to be involved in development activities. Some village women suggested that modern facilities could make their work easier, such as;

-) Establishment of power driven grain mill in the community
-) Access to improve cook stove/bio-gas
-) Providing education how to save time and importance of time (Time management training)

Figure: 3

Time spent during normal year by village women for collection of selected forest products.

Activities	Month of the year											
	Baisakh	Jestha	Ashadh	Shrawan	Bhadra	Ashwin	Kartik	Mangsir	Paush	Magh	Phalgun	Chaitra
Fuel wood collection												
Grass collection												
Leaf litter collection												

To collect forest product, women are engaged almost 8 month of a year. At that time they spent 4-6 hours a day to collect forest product. The gender involvement in forest products collection was discussed earlier.

CHAPTER- VI

SUMMARY, FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

6. SUMMARY

This study is about women's role in the management of Jongang Danda community forest situated at Chilime VDC, ward no. 1 in Rasuwa district. The committee of JCFUG is formed with participation by both male and female. There are all together 29 households in the JCFUG and are all the primary users. Most of users are Buddhist and others are Kristian. Majority of cast is Tamang followed by Lama, Ghale and Newar in the community.

After the emergence of the concept of community forestry; it is realized that for sustainable development of natural resource, women participation is necessary. On the contrary, it is quite the different in practical life. The main research problem is that women's role in CFUG management is realized neither by the community nor by the policy makers as it is expected. As per the policy, one third of the committee members are presented by women. However, their role and responsibilities are just to fulfill the need of the policy; women have little to do with decision making processes and simply fulfilling the blank space. Therefore, the conservative tradition of community, lack of confidence in women due to poor education, lack of organizational support and obligatory rules and regulation are the main hindering factors to perform more active women's role in community forest management.

Therefore, the major objective of the study is to focus on women's role in community forest user group management and their social and economic change after FUG formation. The specific objective of the study are; to find out socio-economic condition of the women members of FUG, to assess the level of women participation and decision making in the forest management, to find out interrelationship and interaction between their family members and women and to explore the perception of local people towards the women's role in community forest management and problems.

In the literature review, community forestry evolution in the world and in Nepal, policy implication in community forestry, evolutions of community forest legislation in Nepal were reviewed. Similarly, literatures like main features of present forestry legislation, the external support for community forestry, gender and its global process, women and development in Nepal and women's condition of participation in Nepal were reviewed prior to the study.

To complete the study, explorative and descriptive research design is adopted. Both primary and secondary data were used in this study and census methodology was applied to complete the study. All necessary data were collected through household survey, structured and semi structured interview with female representatives and key informants. Beside this, focus group discussion and participant observation technique were applied to find out different activities being carried out by the community forest user group in their daily life.

6.1 FINDINGS.

Major findings of the study are as follow;

Jongang Danda forest was government managed forest before the introduction of community forestry system. Out of 29, 28 (96%) respondents said that the condition of forest is better than before. So, the condition of forest is increased in present system.

Out of 29, 14 (48%) respondents said that external factor motivated women's role in forest management. Similarly, 2 (7%) said internal, 5 (18%) said mix and 8 (27%) respondents said they do not know the motivating factor for involving women in forest management activities. So, it is found that external factors i.e. I/NGO/GO staff and other FUGs highly motivated to involve women in forest management activities.

Out of 29 household, 4 (13%) male and 9 (31%) female have received forest related training in the Jongang Danda community forest user group. So, the number of female seems more than male in participating forest related trainings.

Out of 29 respondents, 20 (69%) of the respondents are illiterate and 9 (31%) are literate in the Jongang Danda community forest user group. So, the data clearly shows that educational status of women is very low in the JCFUG.

Out of 29 HH, 7 (24%) respondents do not have land being refugee, 13 (45%) have 1-5 Ropani, 3 (10%) have 6-10 Ropani, 1 (3%) have 11-15 Ropani, other 2 (7%) have 16-20 Ropani and only 3 (10%) have more than 21 Ropani land. There fore, it is found that majority of FUG people have very low land as their property.

Out of 29 HH, 18 (62%) are engaged in agriculture and 11 (38%) are engaged in business primarily as their occupation. Every household of CFUG have raised live stock like yak, Chauri, Cow, Ox, goat and sheep to fulfill household necessity and for income generation.

Out of 29, 11 (38%) have business, 9 (31%) have agriculture and 4 (14%) have agriculture and labor as their source of income. Similarly, 1 (3%) has foreign employment and another 1 (3%) depends on parents for the source of income. Here, community forest is not seen as an income source from the perspective of respondents.

Out of 29, 22 (76%) respondents are involve in saving activities and non of them seems involved in making credit from their concern community based organizations (CBOs).

Enhancing factor to participate women in community forest management is recognized i.e. awareness raising program for both male and female, obligatory rules, training, suitability of time and place etc.

Out of 29 HH, 100% or every households of Jongang FUG are fuel wood user in conventional cook stoves.

Out of 13 members, there are only 3 (31%) female participation in JFUG committee and sometime they participate in decision making; most of time they participate as listeners in the meeting.

Out of 29, 13 (45%) respondents view is that women should participate in conservation and management of FUG and work actively in forest related activates. Only 1 (3.5%) respondent said that they should be able to participate regularly in general meeting and express their view. Other 12 (42%) responses were for plantation and work in forest related work. Beside this, 3 (10%) said that they don't know about it.

Out of 29 respondents, the view on women's role in forest executive committee, 9 (31%) responses were to make aware to others users in forest development and management activities, 3 (11%) responses was that they should able to make decision and defense against wrong decision, 2 (7%) view is work as male, 4 (13%) view is that they should be able to implement rules and regulation, 5 (17%) view is they should participate regularly in the meetings and other 5 (17%) response is that they are unknown about roles and responsibility in

committee. There fore, it seems that most of respondents have focused to make aware male as well female users on forest management and development activities by committee women member.

Women's involvement is higher than men's in forest product collection activities. 100% household participated by female are involved to collect dry fuel wood, fetching grass and fetching leaf litter where 100% household participated by male only to collect green fuel wood collection. So the involvement of women in forestry work- related activities not in planning and decision making activities.

Out of 29, 25 (86%) respondents have their family relation same as before with their family and rest of 4 (14%) respondents have their family relation better than before with their family. While talking with the respondents, no body told that their family relation is poor than before and negative with their family after being FUG member. So, most of respondents family relation with their family seems normal after being FUG member.

Out of 29 respondents, 14 (45%) have been getting strong, 9 (31%) moderate and rest of 7 (24%) not any support from their family to participate in community forest related activities. It seems that near about fifty percentage women member of FUG have been getting strong support from their family members.

6.2 CONCLUSION

Women can play vital role in the protection and management of forest resources. Realizing this fact, women are involved in forest management activities while forming committee. On the basis of finding of the study it can be concluded that only forming women's committee or involving women in committee is just like plantation with out protection. And male CFUG member could play important role to make women active.

There fore, male CFUG member must be sensitized about women's role and importance of involving them in women related programs. The male and female both must come out themselves from their orthodoxies thinking. The working agencies in related field can play significant role to make forward the women as well as in community in any activities of forest management.

6.3 RECOMMENDATION

Based on findings and conclusion, following recommendation is made to improve women participation in the Jongang Danda Community forest user group.

CFUG should make obligatory rules for women to participate in forest management activities including in meeting.

Frequent awareness program should be organized to strengthen women's role in forest management, which could prepare them mentally to participate in forest management activities.

Training for women e.g. leadership, forest management, community development, institutional development, gender sensitivity, enterprise development, account keeping , forestry related legal training should be organized and intensive follow-up should be done by related GO/NGO/INGOs.

Village women have heavier work load. So, they should be provided new technologies like improved cook stoves, grain mills etc.

Resource conservation classes should be conducted for women, school children and male and female member of community.

Participatory monitoring and evaluation system should be developed to asses their own work by CFUG itself.

Provide strong emphasis on post formation support for FUG's organization development and forestry development program by DFO/NGO/ INGOs.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Acharya, M. and Bennett, (1985), "*The need for gender analysis in community forestry*" A critical analysis of planning and implementation; submitted to state university USA.
- Acharya, M. (1994), *The statistical profile of Nepalese women and policy context*, Kathmandu institute of integrated development studies.
- Acharya, M. (1997), *Gender equality and empowerment of women: a status report* submitted to UNFPA.
- Baral J. C. and Subedi B.R. (2000), *Some community forestry issues in Terai, Nepal: Forest and People Newsletter* No. 42.
- Budhathoki, I.P. (1991), *Importance of community forestry management in remote district*, BANKO JANKARI, Research and information centre 1(4), Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Chambers, R. (1993), *Rural development: putting the last first*; New York: Longman
- Chhetri G. and Rana S. 1995, *A gender analysis of women participation in community forestry project*, NACEFP discussion paper, Nepal Australian Community Forestry Project, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- FAO, (1993), *Women in community forestry*, A field guide for project design and implementation: Rome, Italy.
- FAO, (1978), *Forestry for local community development*, FAO paper NO. 7, Rome, Italy
- FAO, (1989), *A field guide for project design and implementation (women in community forestry)*: Rome, Italy.
- FRIS, (1993), *Forest resource information system*, FORESC/FINIDA, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Gilmour and Fisher (1991), *Village, forest and foresters: The philosophy, process and practice of community forestry in Nepal*, Sahayogi press, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- HMG/N, (1963), *Muluki Ain* (legal code) HMG, Nepal
- HMG/N, (1976), *National forestry plan 1976*, Ministry of forest and soil conservation, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- HMG/N, (1989), *Master plan for the forestry sector*, Nepal: Ministry of forest and soil conservation, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- HMG/N, (1993), *Forest Act 1993: Ministry of forest and soil conservation*, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- HMG/N, (1995), *Forestry by laws*, Ministry of forest and soil conservation, Kathmandu, Nepal.

- Joshi, A.L. and Pokhrel K.P. (1999), *Participatory approach in forest and bio-diversity conservation: A policy evaluation in proceeding of the international seminar, 1999 at IFO Pokhara , Nepal.*
- Joshi A.L 1989, *Empowering local users in forest management of Nepal: Banko Jankari No. 7 (2).*
- Kabeer, N. (1992), *“Feminist perspectives in development”* A critical review in Hinds, H.
- Kayastha, (1991), *Elements of community forestry in Nepal*, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Kharel, Fisher and Malla, (1987), *Women in forestry*, Discussion paper of NACF, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Kinsley S. 1993, *Community forestry as process of community development: United Mission To Nepal’s experience*, Banko Jankari, Vol 4, No. 1 (p 37-41).
- Maryon C. and Needham P. 1998, *Equity, Empowerment and change: Raising project awareness and reflecting on principle for effective practice.* A research paper of Nepal-UK community forestry.
- NUKCEF, (1998), *Institutional potentiality and challenges emerging within forest users group (as perceived by users)*, finding of Dhaulagiri follow up study.
- Ojha, G.P. (1989), *“Women in forestry system; Factors influencing participation”* proceedings of second annual workshop on women in forestry system, IAAS and USAID, Nepal.
- OXFAM 1994, *presentation and discussion of Gender concepts*, A discussion paper.
- OXFAM 1994, *A gender training manual: NACE gender workshop report*, 1996 Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Regmi, 1992, *Women in forestry: study of “Women’s forest committee in Nepalese village”* Research series No. 20, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Scarner G. (1998), *community forestry management in the Terai region of Nepal.*
- Sharma, U.R. (1993), *Community Forestry some conceptual issues: BANKO JANKARI- 4 (1): 9-11*
- Shiva B. (1988), *‘Women in the forest’: women economy and development in India*, STAYING AALIVE, India.
- Shrestha, M. (1993), *community forestry in Nepal: need for uniformity: BANKO JANKARI 4(1): 6-8*
- Siddiqui, N. (1989), *women in forestry, NTFP with a difference (part-2)*, Nepal Australia forestry program, Kathmandu, Nepal, Stri-Shakti 1995, “ Women Development Democracy”: A study of the socio-economic changes in the status of women in Nepal, (1981-1993), Kathmandu, Nepal.

Tamang, D. (1990), *Indigenous forest management system in Nepal*; A review, p report series no. 12, Nepal: HMG Ministry of Agriculture, Nepal.

Winrock International 1987, *Forestry Research paper series* No. 10, Nov. 1987. Winrock International, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Young, K. (1992), '*Gender and development*' N. Visvanathen, A. Duggan, L.

Annex: One

Interview Questionnaires

Name of household head:

Respondent name:

Age:

Sex:

Education:

Occupation:

1. Do you know about the forest management system before the introduction of present system?

a) Yes b) No

2. If yes, please could you tell those systems?

3. What is different between past and present forest management system?

4. In your FUG committee women also involved, do you know the process they were selected?

a) Yes b) No

5. If yes, how do you come to know? And what is the process?

6. Are you satisfied about the selection? If yes/no give reasons.

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)

7. What is your opinion about women's role in the forest management committee?

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)

8. What do you think about your (woman) role in forest management activities?

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)

9. What do you think about the present forest condition?

a. very good () b. good () c. poor ()

10. Have you ever gone to participate CFUG meeting?

a) Yes

b) No

11. If yes, how did you participate in the meeting(s), just like an audience or an active participant?

12. How many times?

a) Usually ()

b) Some time ()

13. If no, why did you not participate?

14. Which level of support you are getting form family to participate in FUG management activities?

a. strong () b. moderate () c. poor () d. not any ()

15. How is your relation with your family after being FUG member?

a. same as before(), b. better than before c. poor than before () d. negative ()

16. What do you use for daily cooking?

a) Fuel wood

b) Kerosene

c) Gas

e) Other

17. If fuel wood is not used give reason for not using.

a)

b)

c)

d)

18. Which factor motivates women to participate in forest management activities?

a) Internal

b) External

c) Mixed

d) Can't say

19. In your family does any one have forest related training?

a)

b)

c)

d)

20. If yes who have?

- a)
- b)

21. If female have not participated in the training, what is the reason?

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)

22. What are your sources of income?

23. Are you involved in any saving credit activities?

a) Yes

b) No

24. If yes, how much you have saved and where is that place for saving and credit.

25. Have you seen any problem in FUG management? If yes, what they are?

26. In your opinion, what are the solutions of above mentioned problems?

Annex: 2

Household census form

Name of the household head:
Respondent's name:
Relation with the household head:
Age:
Occupation:
Marital status:
Age at marriage:
Family structure:
Family members:
Religion:
Caste:
Sex:
VDC and ward:

) **Detail description of the family members of the HH:**

SN	Name	Relationship with the household head	Age	Sex	Education	Occupation	Marital status

) **Land:**

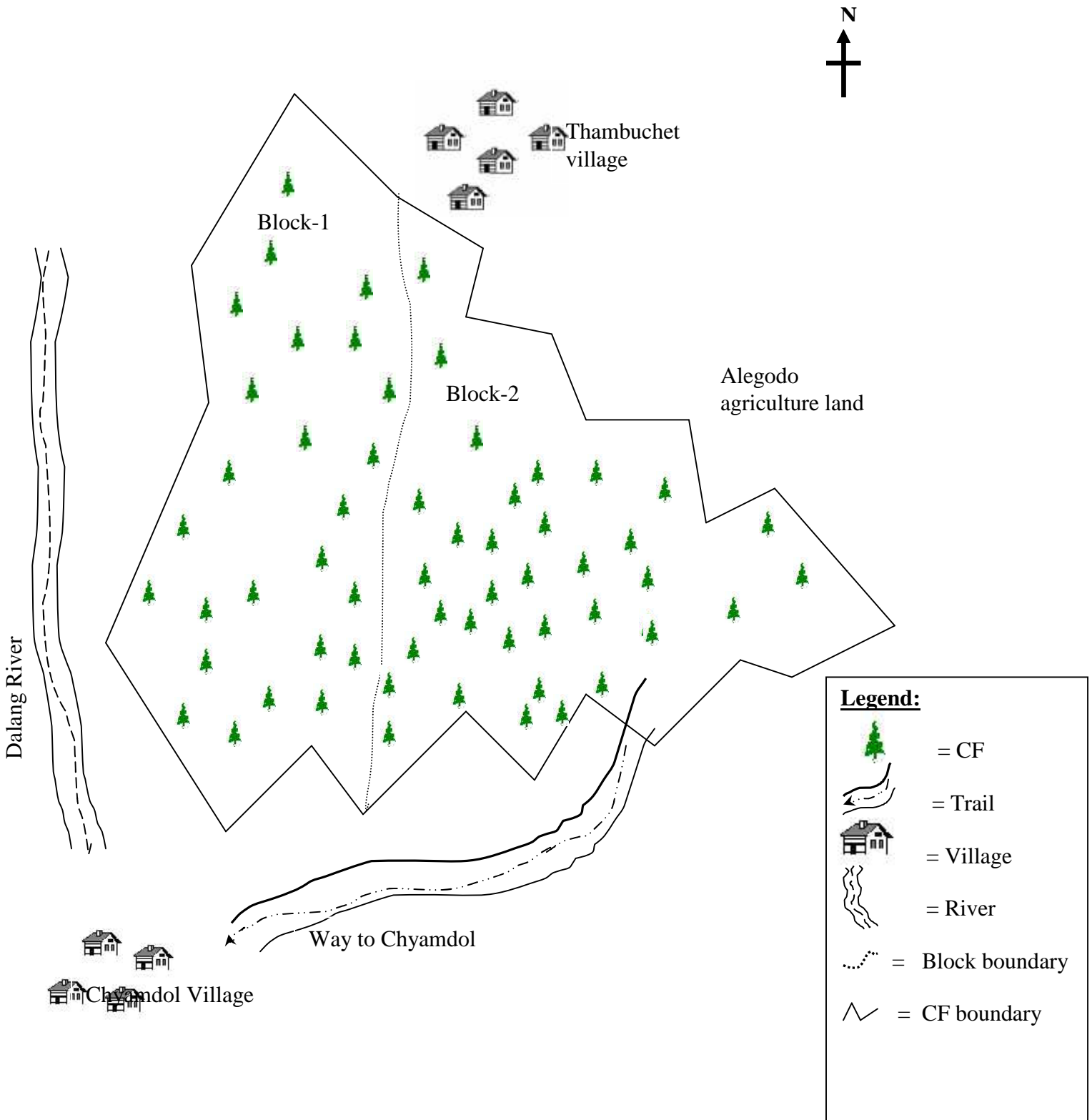
Land type	Area in Ropani

) **Livestock ownership of the household:**

Animals	Numbers
Cow	
Goat/sheep	
Cow/	
Yak	
Chauri	
Total	

Annex 3

Social Map of Jongang Danda CFUG



नक्सा नं. 8

Different VDCs of Rasuwa District



Source : Topographic Map, Pinnada Project, Dept. of Survey, HM G of Nepal (1994/95)

Designed & Produced by : Central Information Unit, LOFINL D