

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The study context

Nepal is one of the few countries in the world where people are to a large extent dependent on forest resources for their sustenance. In Nepal majority of the people directly or indirectly depend upon forest for their survival, as their farming does not provide sufficient means to survive. In fact forest is an integral part of Nepal's population livelihood because it provides most of the basic goods like fuel wood, fodder, timber, and herbal medicines. It is a major revenue earner of the country, which contributes about 15Percent share of GDP (CBS, 2005). It also generates livelihood assets to the local people who are heavily dependent on it. Access to forest resources can help the rural household's diversity in their livelihood's base and reduce their exposure to risk. Forest can thus form an important safety net for the very poor in times of hardship (Arnold, 2001).

A closer look in recent year has revealed that farm; forest and livestock are three highly integrated constituents of hill farming system and they can't be separated from each other. In fact, there are very few forests in the hills of Nepal that are not under heavy pressure from surrounding villages (Gilmour and Fisher, 1991). Community Forestry offers solution to the problem of decreased access to forest resources at local level and hence focuses on improving the socio-economic condition of the rural people. It is a major forest management program implemented by the government of Nepal aiming to address the need of the rural including poor and disadvantaged group. The continued deterioration of Nepal forest led to rethinking of the forest department during the late 1970's leading to the adoption of participatory approach in forest management in the name of Panchayat Forest (PF) and Panchayat Protected Forest (PPF). Further, successive coining of these terms resulted to evolve the CF which is a new policy innovation that aims to provide productive assets for the benefit of the poor and bringing about social changes and establishing efficient property institutions at the local level (Karki and Tiwari, 1998). CF in Nepal has evolved as one of the

most promising forest management practices for sustainable community development. The approach paper of the Tenth Plan (2002-2007) has also emphasized on community and leasehold forestry for the management of about 3.0 million shrub and rangeland forest in order to improve the environmental condition and to create employment opportunity for poor (NPC, 2001). Till 13 Nov. 2005, total of 14,201 Community Forest Users Groups (CFUGs) have been formed covering an area of 1184,821 hector with the involvement of 1,633,408 households (DOF, 2005).

The objectives of the forestry sector's policy in the tenth plan are conservation and sustainable use of the forest resources and poverty reduction. Furthermore, forestry policy emphasizes poverty reduction through participatory approach and by providing income generation and employment opportunities (HMGN, 2000). CF program in Nepal is considered as poverty alleviation and livelihood improving program after its stages of plantation, protection and production in 1970's 1980's and 1990's respectively. It is most accurately and usefully stands as an umbrella term denoting a wide range of activities which link rural people with forests, trees, products and the benefits to be derived from them. It is one of the priority program through which the local users get capabilities and assets and develop their livelihood strategies (Carney, 1998).

The livelihood of people is maintained from sale, distribution and share of the income obtained from the forest products and services as well as the institutional capacity building. It draws upon the management of five different capitals: natural capital, social capital, physical capital, financial capital and human capital. Sustainable livelihood through the use of forest resources depends largely upon the socioeconomic characteristics of the user's group. Participation in management of common property resources is a key to collective action. However, participation is dependent upon socioeconomic condition of FUGs because Nepal's social structure is still based on caste system, gender, wealth etc with prevalent discrimination. Do the elites and wealthier villagers tend to dominate the decision making process? Is it leading to neglect the needs of poorer sections, which are assumed to be DAGs? These are the serious issues to be investigated. Wealthier section of the FUG often has access to private tree resources and their livelihood is not so directly dependent on access to forest products, but Poorer groups with little access to private tree resources,

are obliged to travel to other forest or to buy or barter from others. If these assets are not adequate, the DAGs face particular difficulties as the main source for a key input into their livelihood is closed (Paudel, 2002).

The disadvantaged groups and poor people are not able to open up freely in front of the elite upon whom they depend for work, loans and so on. Different group of users have different wishes from the forest. These types of issues are the current debates and need to be studied thoroughly in CF (Maharjan, no date).

1.2 Statement of the problems

CF management has been practiced in Nepal since 1978. The critical role of CF in particular and forestry in general for fostering social and economic development in Nepal has been realised. The Government of Nepal intends to handover the management responsibility and the use rights of all accessible hill forests to the community forest user groups (CFUGs) to the extent that they are willing and capable of managing them. Empirical studies have concurred that CF can generate funds at the local level which can be spent on projects considered as appropriate by rural communities. Although CF program increases the natural resources in a forest, it has been criticized for not being able to generate assets of real Poor users, especially women (Douglas, 2000).

Community Forestry programme has not been able to fulfill the daily needs of the Poor and DAGs, who have needs and priorities different from the better-off. Most CFUGs are controlled by elite groups, who do not adequately consider the needs of the members of socio-economic deprived sections of community. Due to the elite-dominated social system; the Poor and DAGs can not express their views and needs clearly. Even if they speak out their voices are rarely heard (Bhatta, 2002; Chhetri et. al., 2001; Tiwari, 2002).

Although CF has been successful in terms of their institutional capacity to get people organized and from capital at group level, perhaps the most critical in terms of livelihood and the relatively weak in generation of financial capital for the most dependent Poor, women and Dalits. While trends towards resource degradation have been arrested and in many cases forest cover is reported to be improved the

livelihoods of the local forest dependent communities, particularly the Poor and disadvantaged, have not improved as expected. Community Forestry is criticized for not being able to address the needs of women, low caste and Poorer segments of the societies who are the real users of forest (Hobley et. al., 1996)

The Poor, disadvantaged and socially marginalized groups are very often ignored and excluded from participating in decision-making in most communities (Gilmour and Fisher, 1991; Baral, 1993; Garner, 1997).

The numbers of studies have shown that elite members of the society tend to take all positions of the executive committee and make decision regarding harvest; product distribution and mobilization of fund accrued (Baral and Subedi, 1999). The general members of the group are least involved in the overall process and have virtually no idea what so ever related to harvest and the financial matters of their CF (Nightangle, 2001).

It is argued that the present practice of community forestry in Nepal is less favourable to the Poor than wealthier households. Poor and disadvantage households lost more from switch to CF (Bhattarai and Ojha 1999; Gentle, 2000; Garner, 1997; Richards et, al., 1999). In many cases poor, lower caste and women, who are more dependent on common forests that others for livelihood, have been excluded from the process of community forestry and their interests have been consistently overlooked (Hobely, 1996; Garner, 1997).

Though the social relationship and patterns of interaction have changed over time, time access and control of vulnerable section of the society such as Poor, women and lower caste groups to the institution and resources are still minimal. Even when they attend meetings, assemblies and participate in various activities; their presence is merely physical, without actually voicing their concerns and expectations. It shows that only bringing people together doesn't mean that they are equally benefited from the process (Timisina, 2002). Despite of high dependency of poor and of DAGs on basic requirement of forest products, contribution of CF for their livelihood improvement is limited. (Neupane, 2000; Pokharel and Nurse, 2004; Malla, 2000).

Contribution of CF in reducing poverty is also minimal. Participation of Poor and DAGs in CF is only represented as physical volunteer labors in protection and management of forest not as mental labor in decision making process. Is really CF playing an important role in upliftment of livelihood of Poor and DAGs is questionable? So, this study attempts to assess the contribution of CF in improving livelihood with particular reference to Godawari and Bishankhu areas of Lalitpur district.

1.3 Objectives of the study

The general objective of this research is to assess the contribution of community forestry to improve livelihood of Poor and DAGs.

Specific objectives:

The Specific objectives of this research are as follows:

-) To assess the socioeconomic condition of the Poor and Disadvantaged Group within the Community Forestry User Groups.
-) To measure the perception of Poor and Disadvantaged Group towards Community Forestry.
-) To evaluate the extent of community Forestry's contribution on improving the livelihood.

1.4 Rationale of the study

-) Forest resources are one of the major resources directly affecting the livelihood of rural people in Nepal. Very large numbers of rural households in Nepal are still subsistence users of forest products. Subsistence needs of women; Poor and backward people as well as commercial needs of well-off people are directly linked with and partially fulfilled by forest resources. Access to forest or trees resources can also help rural households diversify their livelihood capitals and reduce their exposure to risk. Forest can thus form an important safety net for the very Poor in times of hardship. Moreover, the dependency of Poor and DAGs is extremely high for the fulfillment of their basic requirements. Considering above facts participation of Poor and disadvantaged group in CF management activities is crucial. Forest resources if managed and utilized properly by involvement of the Poor and DAGs, the

level of their poverty can be reduced to some extent by carrying out income generating activities in CF. Community Forestry is potential for contribution to poverty reduction and the improvement of rural livelihood. In this preamble, the study entitled “Contribution of Community Forestry on livelihood of Poor and Disadvantaged Groups” is proposed to carry out in line with the critical gap expressed above.

1.5 Definition of Terms Used

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

CFUG (Community Forestry Users Group): “The forest act 1993 defines a CFUG as a registered group of concerned forest users desirous of developing and conserving the forest and using the products for collective benefits.”

Livelihood: The dictionary meaning of the term livelihood refers as “living” or “source of revenue” or “socioeconomic condition”. Livelihood comprises the five capitals (i.e. physical, financial, social, natural and human).

Poor: The actual definition of the poor is “A household is considered poor when its income is below a certain level and its members are thereby deprived of the material and other conditions necessary for proper participation in the society in which they live” (Engbersen, 1999). But in this study household addressing the indicators of poor fixed by the CFUG meeting is considered as poor.

DAGs: The actual definition of the DAGs is “A group of people who are religiously, culturally, socially and economically oppressed, who could belong to different language and ethnic groups” (CARE Nepal, 1996). But in this study DAGs refer to ethnic groups like Kami, Damai, Sunar, Sarki, and Pode.

1.6 Limitations of the study

This study has been undertaken for the partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Master Degree in “Sociology”. Due to the limited budget and time, this study covers the information of only two Community Forests of Lalitpur district, so the findings of this study may not be generalized comfortably to all Community Forests of the district in particular and all over the country in general.

1.7 Conceptual framework

Community Forestry is most apparently and usefully recognized as an umbrella, denoting a wide range of activities, which links livelihood of rural people with forest products and benefits gained from them. Conceptually, livelihood comprises five capitals (i.e. financial, social, physical, natural, and human) and when all these diverse fields combine together and will fit smoothly the condition is improved (DFID, 1994). These five capitals have close link with Community Forest in rural society so this conceptual framework will help researcher to find out the objectives of this study.

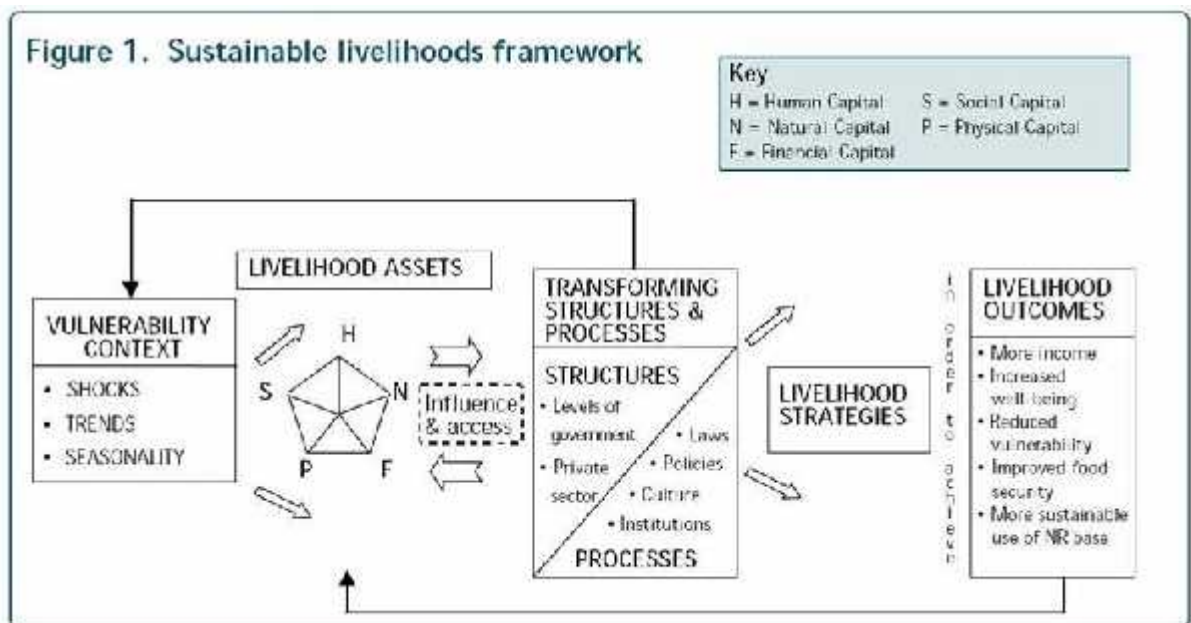


Figure 1 Conceptual framework of the study

The above Figure no 1 shows the five important capitals of the livelihood, influencing and accessing factors to those capitals and the elements indicating condition of the livelihood. In this entire study all those capitals are assessed using different tools which are described below and the conclusion is drawn.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical review

2.1.1 Concept of Community Forestry

The Forest act 1961 defines Community Forest as “That national forest should be understood as the community forest which, as part of the national forest, the District Forest Officer hands over to the user groups for development, protection, utilization and management in accordance with the work plan, with authorization to freely fix the prices of the forest products, and to sell and distribute the forest products for the collective benefits and welfare (Singh, 2004).

Eckholm (1979:39) highlighted that community forestry is “a process of social change that requires the continuous participation of whole communities in planning developmental activities, sharing of products and solving of problems and conflicts”.

Rao (1983) has mentioned that community forestry is a conceptual transformation from traditional rural forestry to a new form with a strong focus on popular participation. Modern community forestry is based on forestry as a resource industry in which local people fully participate. It plays a key role in mitigating the interrelationships among economic, ecological and social factors in rural community development, helping the poor, increasing their income, lessening their burden, protecting forest resources, improving the quality of environment, providing employment opportunities for the people and therefore facilitating harmony between man and nature. As a result, poor farmers who participate in it are both enthusiastic and active. The innovative use of participatory approaches in community forestry is a new way of thinking, which through the process of participation helps farmers recover certain rights that belong to them. Community forestry will only succeed if the local people are convinced and their needs are fulfilled.

CF of Nepal has been acknowledged as the most successful, most innovative and truly community oriented program (Hobley, 1996; Acharya, 1999; Pokharel, 2004).

The goal of CF is to contribute to overall social-economic improvement of the rural people and ensure an equitable and fair distribution of income and other resources. The socio-economic upliftment and conservation of natural resources is achieved if people become aware of their roles and responsibilities. CF is not just a special technology rather a process of socio-economic change that requires a continuous participation of the community in planning, implementing and problem solving (Kayastha, 1991).

2.1.2 Poverty and Poor

Poverty is understood and defined by people in many ways. NPC (1998) had cited the following information regarding the poverty and poor. “The encyclopedia defines poverty as ‘the state or fact of being in want’. It further clarifies that the poor are poor because they lack enough income and resources to live adequately by their accepted living standards of their community. Poverty is a state of economic, and social and psychological deprivation among people or countries lacking ownership, control or access to resource to maintain minimum standard of living (Cited in Ghimere, 2003).

For each country, there is an accepted and endorsed definition of poverty, which is called the official definition. For example; the official definition of absolute poor in Nepal is based on the basis of the price of the minimum daily food requirement of the person (i.e. 2124 calorie worth to NRs. 6100 as per the rate of inflation of 2001) (NPC, 2001). However, when the real identification of the poor has to be done for targeting purpose, the official definition is extremely difficult to be executed because it is neither easy to measure income nor the intake of calorie. For this purpose, various operational definitions are adopted by various organizations for the purpose of poor identification and targeting. Land is also taken as the prized asset and hence, the ownership of land by a household is generally a proxy for the purpose. (NPC, 1998) has estimated that a person would need about 0.06 hectare of perennially irrigated land, which, if farmed with the best of available technology would suffice for his/her basic needs.

2.1.3 Disadvantaged Groups (DAGs)

DAGs includes “socially disadvantaged and minority communities” (Chhetri et al., 1998). More specially, DAGs has been defined as “Those groups of people who are identified to be historically, socially and economically discriminated against and/or who have been denied opportunities and access to resources thereby leading them to further poverty and exploitation” (CARE, Nepal, 1996).

According to this criterion DAG for the mid hill region of Nepal includes ethnic groups like Kami, Damai, Thami, Sarki, Gaine, and Badies. All these castes are recognized as low castes or untouchable castes by tradition. The untouchable castes constitute about 15Percent of the total population of Nepal (CARE, Nepal, 1996). Disadvantaged people in rural areas are more dependent on public or community forests for their basic forest products than wealthier people of the same area (Hobely, 1987). The participation of poor and DAGs is very low and the local elites (high social status, wealthier and educated) are influential in local decision-making processes of CFUG (Glimour and Fisher, 1991). As a result an unequal distribution of CF benefits in favour of local elites is common in many CFUGs (Pokharel et al., 1999).

2.1.4 Concept of Livelihood assets

The dictionary meaning of the term livelihood refers as “living” or “source of revenue” or “socioeconomic condition”. Livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets and activities requires for a means of living (DFID, 1994).

“Livelihood” is a very important term for community forestry. Livelihood comprises the five capitals (i.e. physical, financial, social, natural and human) and when all these diverse fields combine together and will fit smoothly the condition is improved. The capitals of the livelihood are determined by different indicators. These capitals are interlinked to each other and progress of one capital depends upon the other.

“A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources) and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance

its capabilities and assets both now in the future, while not undermining the natural base” (Chambers, 1992).

Community forestry is concerned with improving the livelihood of rural people and therefore, it is one of the main components of rural development (Malla, 2002).

Community forests are a kind of capital. It provides material, energy and people combine to produce other capital stocks- physical, human and financial, from which are derived positive livelihood outcomes such as increased income well being, farm inputs and reduced vulnerability. Contribution that access to the resources make are well being by increasing income of rural poor households (Paudel, 2002).

(Springate-Baginski et. al., 2001) states that some occupational caste people (e.g. Potter, Blacksmith, alcohol distillers etc.) who traditionally depend mostly on firewood for their livelihood have often been discriminated under community forest.

The livelihood of the rural people can be improved if people become aware of the benefit that they can obtain from the forest because it has been the integral part of the human society. The well managed forest provide sufficient amount of forest products and helps to maintain good environment which is useful to keep their good health. Therefore, CF can be considered as the backbone of the livelihood improvement of the forest user groups.

2.1.5 CF policy and plan addressing poverty Issues

Among four development imperatives of forestry sectors policy 2000, one is participation in decision making and sharing of benefits. According to this policy, benefits sharing and the grassroots decision makings are fundamental factors in sustained development of the countries. To minimize excessive concentration of decision making power in the high class, it is necessary to provide decision making power to users who mostly depend on the forest resources. Community forestry policy explains women as the main beneficiaries of CF. Poor and women are mostly depended on the forest resources for their daily works as well as to run their lives. They rely on the common forest resources due to lack of other alternative resources or due to the freely available resources. If such relying groups are empowered and forest

resources are handed over to them they themselves may be able to make decision and manage the resources sustainably and benefited more (HMGN, 2000).

Moreover, Community Forest Guidelines 2001 suggests for a through discussion at tole (hamlet) level in order to encompass the needs and interest of the Poor, women and destitute sections of the community while preparing forest management plan or revising it (DOF, 2005).

The principle of the decentralization policy will be applied to the forestry sector in community forestry with the priority be given to Poorer communities or to the Poorer people in a community and encouraging their participation in decision-making and benefit sharing as essential measures for the conservation and sustainable management of community forests (HMGN, 1988).

The second national workshop on CF (1993), endorsement of MPFS (1988), and the political revolution in 1990 contributed in the promulgation of new Forest Act (1993) and Forest Regulation (1995) which has ensured the decision-making rights of the forest users and emphasized on democratic functioning (Pokharel, 2001).

Similarly, the third national workshop on Community Forestry was held in 1998 that jumped in its aim from mere fulfilling the basic needs to contributing poverty reduction. Setting poverty alleviation through community forestry as a new vision, the workshop identified four pillars-social justice, equity, and gender balance and good governance to achieve the apex goal. The tenth five year plan also emphasizes the inclusion of Poor and marginalized people in the development process as an integral part of poverty reduction strategy and vigorously pursuing good governance both as am means of delivering better development results and ensuring social and economic justice (HMG /MFSC, 2002/03 – 2006/07).

Sustainable forest management, livelihoods and good governance all are termed as “Second generation issues” are the major issues that Community Forestry now addresses. Government has to be improved for two reasons: first, to make sure that the voice of the different groups of people particularly the Poor and excluded are heard;

second, to enhance the economic and social welfare of the people through the sustainable management of forest resources (Pokharel, 2004).

2.1.6 Needs met through CF

In Nepal, forestry along with agriculture and fisheries contributes 60Percent of GDP, a quarter of which is contributed by forestry (MPFS, 1988). Subsistence level of farming is the major occupation of more than 90Percent people in the country; it is intimately correlated with the forestry and livestock raising. Forestry directly contributes to household and individual welfare by providing basic forest products as well as income and employment opportunities. About 18Percent of the total labor force in our country is employed in forestry sector (MPFS, 1988).

During the past 28 years of community forest implementation, about 1.2 million hectares (or 25 percent of existing forests) of national forests has been handed over to the 14,300 local community forest user groups. The user groups cover about 35 percent of the country's total population. The achievements of the community forestry can be seen in terms of better forest condition, better participation and income generation for rural development and institutional building at grass root level.

The central objective of Community Forestry is to increase livelihood opportunities to rural/Poor communities with emphasis to pro-Poor community forestry program exclusively focusing on the Poorest households within the Forest Users Groups (HMG /MFSC, 2002).

A study conducted among 1,788 CFUGs by Community Forest Division in 2004 and extrapolated for the countrywide user groups revealed that 10.9 million cubic feet of timber, 338 million-kilogram firewood and 379 million kg of grasses are produced each year from the community forests. Grasses were consumed locally; timber and firewood are consumed locally as well as sold outside by the user groups. Eight million cubic feet of timber, 335 million kg of firewood and 370 million kg of grasses produced from the community forests are used by local people for their internal consumption. These products are used to support subsistence livelihood needs of local people. The CFUGs earned 383 million rupees from the sale of forest products outside

the groups. Those earnings are used for different purposes like, 12.6 million rupees for pro-poor community forestry including loans to the poor families, and training them in forest based income generation activities, etc. (Kanel and Niraula, 2004).

Many rural people meet their substance needs from the collection of the fuelwood, fodder and other non-wood forest products. Forest has been the source for livelihood of rural people. Without forest resources, they have to migrate to urban areas leading to family and community disintegration. Hence CF has been an effective tool for poverty reduction and income distribution (Shahi, 2000).

CF being the continuous source of income, its activities should be devised for the poverty alleviations. So CF programme is emphasizing to manage the forest in such a way that it will be worth enough to meet the basic needs of the people living nearby forest and falling under the line of poverty. But field level situation is different; the success of Participatory Forest management should not be measured simply in terms of the protection and regeneration of forest resources, but also in terms of whether or not it meets the needs of local people (ICIMOD, 1999).

2.2 Review of the previous studies

The research conducted in Pyuthan district shows that the actual benefits from the CF are not reaching to the Poor and Disadvantaged (DAG) people involved in management of Community Forest and it is widening the gap between the Poor and rich people in the community (Gentle, 2000).

The research conducted in Chitawan district shows that Buffer zone Community Forestry User Groups (BZCFUG) is forming the capital sustainably but the access of the poorest on these capitals is very low. As the BZCF to this group has been recently handed over, it is yet to see its visible effects. The present situation seems not better targeted for the livelihood of the poorest as desired by the principle of community forestry and buffer zone program. (G.P, Ghimere, 2003).

G.C., Sivan, (2004) has reported that CFUGs of Baglung district have been able to uplift the overall livelihood of the target group after implementation of CF program. CF has good contribution on controlling the forest from rules and regulation of grass root level, progressive increase in group fund, formation of different forums for

discussion, construction of physical structures, attainment of various trainings and support for local school and health post were some of the CF works improving natural, financial, social, physical and human capitals of the users.

Cost and benefit patterns are not based on equity; in fact that community forestry is making the rich richer and the Poor even more disadvantaged (Maharjan, 1993).

Most of the study revealed that the timber oriented forest management objectives, passive management of forest; inadequate understanding and consideration of Poor people's livelihood opportunities and lack of equity in product distribution are the major problems that have jeopardized Poor people's livelihood opportunities from CF (Bhatta, 2002).

There may be rich, medium and Poor people within CFUGs. Generally, rich people have high access to resources, which shows that rich people are dominant in society. The action of elite people also reveals that Poor and DAGs were not getting the equal share of benefits from community forestry (Chitamber, 1977).

The significant improvement in the lives of those who are dependent on local forest resources (Women, Poor and Disadvantaged Groups) is yet to be seen across most community forestry users groups. The most popular participatory programme has been unable to reach to the Poor (Chettri et. al., 2001).

Within the CFUG, rich and Poor, Male and Female and so called upper caste and lower caste with differences in power, speak and heard differently. The Poorest are the ones who suffer most because first of all they can't afford to participate. Secondly, if they do, they hardly speak. If they do speak, they are rarely heard and if heard, they hardly get decision made in their favor. If heard, very few decisions are implemented and if implemented only few are benefited (Pokharel and Nurse, 2004).

The political economic reasons of non-representation of the Poor are economically the Poor have to be active all days to sustain themselves and their families for day to day livelihoods (Timisina, 2002).

Due to the emphasis on the protection, rather than sustainable utilization, of the resource, the potential benefits, that could be accrued through an active management of community forest, has remained untapped. The FUG members, especially those from Poorer households, are unable to benefit from community forests, and they are now beginning to loose interest in community forestry programme (Malla 2002).

Nepal has very high level of overall poverty: of a population of 23 million (CBS, 2005), around 40 percent are estimated to live in absolute poverty. Many people are now suggesting that Community Forestry should contribute more to poverty reduction as the national and international development goals.

It will be an urgent task to evaluate or assess the improvement in livelihood of users. It is also a task to evaluate how far community forestry has made the contribution to alleviate poverty of Poor and DAGs, which remains a premise of every government of Nepal. And also not more information is available on “Contribution of CF in livelihood of Poor and DAGs” in Lalitpur district. Therefore, the present investigation will be undertaken to obtain some basic information in respect of experimental case study area.

CHAPTER THREE

STUDY AREA

3.1 District scenario

The study was conducted in two Community Forests of Lalitpur district. Patalae Muldol Community Forest lies in Bishankhu Narayan VDC where as Diyale Danda Community Forest lies in Godawari VDC, both Community Forests lie in Lalitpur District. Lalitpur district lies in the central development region within the latitude of 27022' to 280 50'N and longitude of 85014' to 85026' E. It has an area of 392.84 Sq. Km and is bordered in the east by Kavarepalanchok, west by Kathmandu, north by Bhaktapur & in south by Makawanpur district . The total population of Lalitpur District is 337,785 where there are 1, 72,455 males and 1, 65,330 females. Total no of HH is 68,922 and average HH size is 4.90. The growth rate of population is 2.73 percent per annum (CBS, 2005).



Figure 2 Location of the Study Area

3.2 General information of Diyale Danda CF and Patalae Muldole CF

Diyale Danda CF lies in Godawari VDC ward no-5 of Lalitpur district. The area lies in the middle sub-tropical monsoon climatic zone of middle hills. The total area covered by forest is 115.28 Ha. The forest has been divided into 4 blocks.

Patalae Muldole CF lies in Bishankhu Narayan VDC ward no-8 and 9 of Lalitpur district. The area lies in the middle sub-tropical monsoon climatic zone of middle hills. The total area covered by forest is 29.42 Ha. The forest has been divided into 2 blocks.

Table 1: General information of Diyale Danda CF and Patalae Muldole CF

SN	Description	Diyale Danda CF	Patalae Muldole CF
1	Name of the Forest	Diyale Danda	Patalae Muldole
2	Forest Area	115.28 Ha.	29.42 Ha.
3	Total no of Household	106	65
4	Total Population (Male + Female)	518	319
5	Forest Handover Date	2052 B.S.	2052 B.S.

Source: OP of Diyale Danda CF and Patalae Muldole CF

3.2.1 Location

Diyale Danda CF is located in ward no-5 of Godawari V.D.C of Lalitpur district. It is located about 10 km. eastern from Lagankhel market of Lalitpur district and is accessible by road.

Patalae Muldole CF is located in ward no-8 and 9 of Bishankhu Narayan V.D.C of Lalitpur district. It is located about 10 km east-northern from Lagankhel market of Lalitpur district and is accessible by road.

3.2.2 Historical background

The Diyale Danda CF was used by the local community to fulfill their forest product demand from the ancient times. During the passage of time forest depleted rapidly as the result of which people began to face different type of problems. After the concept of Community Forestry was introduced in Nepal, villagers became aware of it and

they began to protect the forest. Considering the villager's request District Forest Office, Lalitpur handed over the forest to community in 2052 B.S.

The Patalae Muldole CF was used by the local community to fulfill their forest product demand from the ancient times. During the passage of time forest depleted rapidly as the result of which people began to face different type of problems.

3.2.3 Vegetation

Diyale Danda Community Forest is natural forest supplemented by natural regeneration. The dominant species found are Chilaune (*Schima wallichii*) and Kattus (*Castanopsis Indica*). We can find other broad leaves species as well.

Patalae Muldole CF is natural forest supplemented by artificial and natural regeneration. The dominant species found are Salla (*Pinus roxburghii*), Chilaune (*Schima wallichii*) and Kattus (*Castanopsis Indica*). We can find other broad leaves species as well.

3.2.4 Demography

There were 106 numbers of households using the Diyale Community Forest. The total population of the Diyale CFUG was 518 individuals. In this research only 31 households were sampled so among these households 63 percent were women and 37 percent were men. There were 65 numbers of households using the Patalae Muldole Community Forest. The total population of the Patalae Muldole CFUG was 319 individuals. In this research only 20 households were sampled so among these households 65 Percent were women and 35 Percent were men.

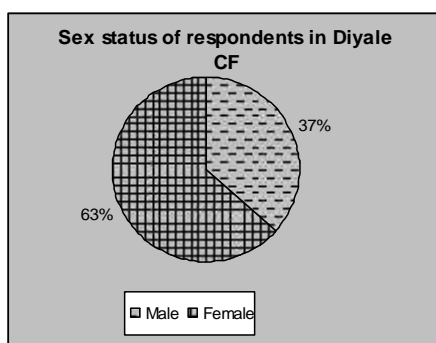


Figure 3 Sex status of respondent in Diyale CF

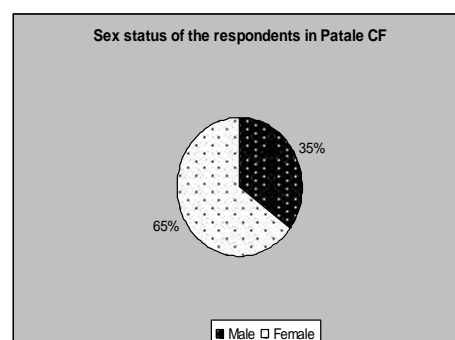


Figure 4 Sex status of respondent in Patalae CF

CHAPTER FOUR

METHODOLOGY

4.1 Study site description and rationale for selecting the study site

This is multiple case studies. Two CFs of Lalitpur district were selected purposively to achieve the research goal. Those two CF were Diyale C.F. and Patalae Danda C.F. Rationale for selecting the study area as follows:

-) Lalitpur district represents the mid-hill of Nepal, where CF program is going on.
-) Selected CFs has heterogeneity in terms of wealth status and caste.
-) Study area also represents ethnic composition of the whole society and species composition of the whole forest of Lalitpur District.

4.2 Heterogeneity analysis

Heterogeneity analysis was conducted among different categories like social, economic and gender status.

4.3 Well being ranking

Though well being ranking was not previously done in selected CFs, so well being ranking was exercised by using different indicators. The major criteria used for well being ranking was found out from meeting of CFUGs.

4.3.1 Indicators for well being ranking

The indicators for well being ranking are as follows:

- A) Types of Job: Permanent, Temporary and daily wages
- B) Education Level: Primary, Secondary, Intermediate and above
- C) Housing Pattern: Cement, Metal, Thatch
- D) Land Holding: < 2 ropani, 2 – 5 ropani, > 5 ropani
- E) Types of Land: Permanent, Non Permanent

4.4 Research design

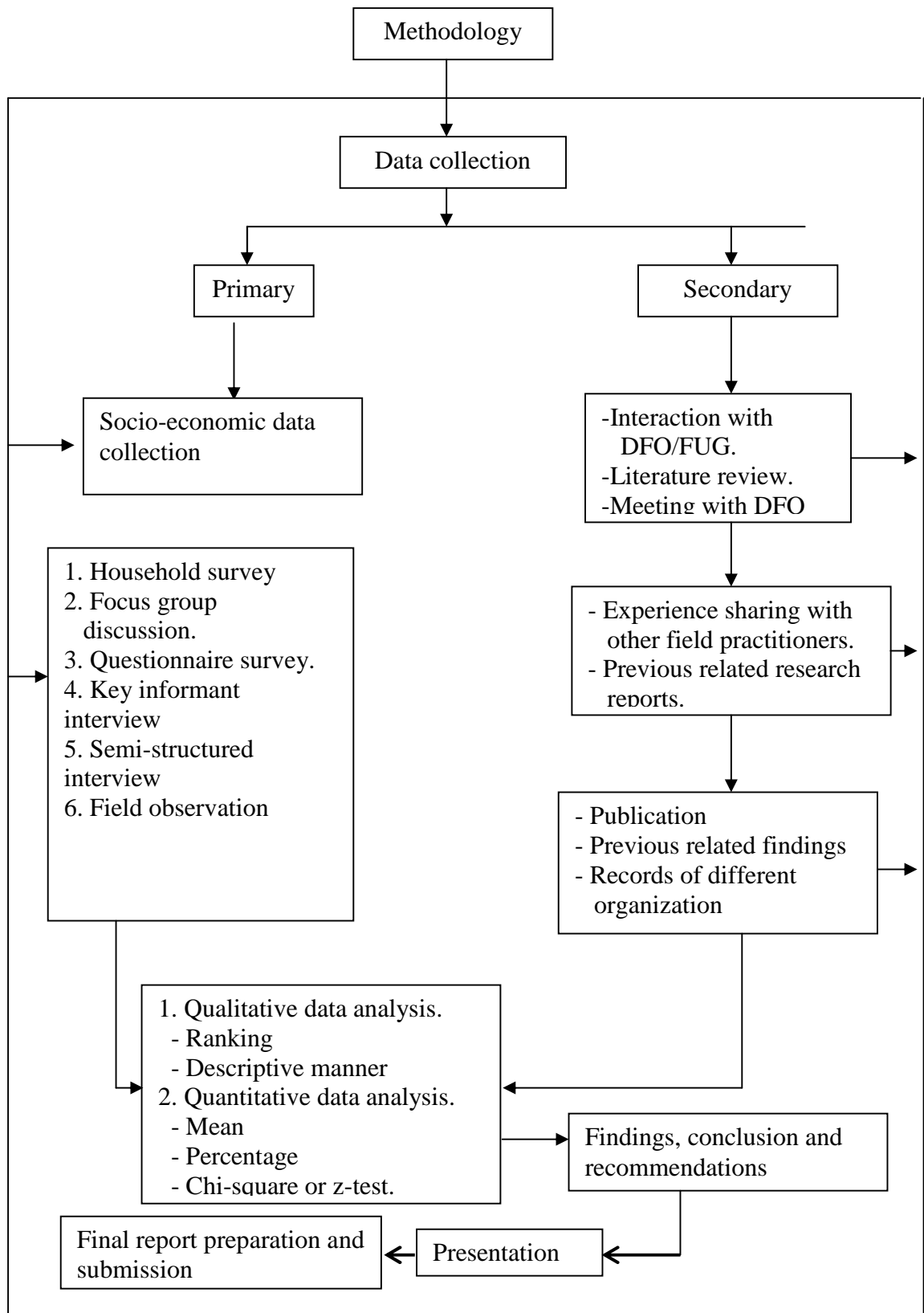


Figure 5 Flow chart of the study

4.5 Nature and sources of data

Qualitative and quantitative data were collected using both the primary and secondary sources relevant to this study.

4.6 Sampling procedure

Two CFs from Lalitpur district were selected for this study. Within those two selected CFs there were 171 households having 837 of total population. Well-being ranking was carried out in both CFUGs to identify relative Non-poor and Poor among users. Similarly, disadvantaged groups (DAGs) were also identified from the records of the constitution. Among 171 households 75 households, belong to the Poor and DAGs and 96 households belong to Non-poor and Non-DAGs. From each category 30 percentages of total households (51 households out of 171) were selected using stratified random sampling.

4.7 Variables and their operationalization

Poor in this study stands for those identified as Poor during well being ranking exercises according to the parameters defined by CFUGs.

Non-Poor in this study stands for those identified as Non-Poor during well being ranking exercises according to the parameters defined by CFUGs.

DAGs refer to ethnic groups like *Kami, Damai, Sunar, Sarki, and Pode* for this study.

Non-DAGs refers to rest of castes not falling under the category on DAGs.

4.8 Data collection technique/instruments

Primary data

Primary data was collected by using several RRA and PRA tools described below in order to collect the most reliable and useful information for the study.

Household survey (HHS): Household survey was conducted using stratified random sampling procedure with sampling intensity 30 percent from each category.

Focus group discussion: Focus group discussion was conducted with the different interest groups (of different socio economic strata, sex and castes) of the CFUGs to collect varieties of information. The discussion was centered on the CFUG composition, representation of the Poor and DAGs, and the effect of CF programs on their livelihood.

Key informant interview: It was done to get additional details from rangers, NGO staff, local school teachers, CFUG committee members and women from mother group with a separate interview guideline to gather information about CFUGs support towards Poor and DAGs, existing socioeconomic condition of Poor and DAGs.

Semi-structured interview: The user group members and committee members were interviewed using designed questions to find out the contribution of CF's in their livelihood.

Field observation: Field observation was done to know the biophysical contribution of forest on livelihood of the respondents. This observation method helped to check and triangulate the information gathered through secondary sources, focus group discussion, interviews and questionnaire survey.

Secondary data

Secondary data was collected from Lalitpur D.F.O, OP and constitution of CFUGs, V.D.C, profile record of the committee and relevant literatures etc. Furthermore, essential information was downloaded from related websites.

4.9 Reliability

All the widely used methods of research were used. However the proximity was given to collect the primary data to make the research effective.

4.10 Methods of data analysis

Gathered data were analyzed using both descriptive statistics such as frequency, mean, percentage and were represented using chart, pie diagrams and tables as well as inferential statistics such as Chi-square test.

4.11 Formula used for data analysis

Chi-square test was carried out to test the significant difference between the actual (observed frequency) and the expected frequency. The formula for calculating Chi-square value is

$$\chi^2 = \frac{(f_o - f_e)^2}{f_e} \sim \chi^2 (d.f.)$$

Where,

χ^2 = Chi-square

f_o = Observed frequency

f_e = Expected frequency

d.f. = Degree of freedom

CHAPTER FIVE

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

5.1 General information of respondents

5.1.1 Academic Status of the respondents

47 Percent of the respondents were from disadvantaged groups under illiterate category from social perspective, majority (52.2 Percent) were poor under primary as well from economic perspective and 34.3 Percent of the respondents were female under illiterate category from gender perspective respectively. This indicates that DAGs, poor and women are deprived of educational opportunities which may be the indicator of poor economic condition of respective groups.

Table 2 Academic status of the respondents

Respondents' Status		Category in Percentage			
		Illiterate	Primary (1 - 5)	Secondary (6 - S.L.C)	College Degree
Social	DAGs	47.0	35.0	15.0	3.0
	Non-DAGs	30.0	40.0	23.3	6.7
Economic	Poor	30.5	52.2	13.0	4.3
	Non-Poor	29.6	33.3	29.6	7.4
Gender	Male	22.2	38.9	27.8	11.1
	Female	34.4	43.8	18.7	3.1

(Source: Field Survey 2008)

5.1.2 Occupation of the respondents

The following table reveals that majority (70 Percent) of the respondents were from disadvantaged groups involved in agriculture as their occupation from social perspective, majority (78.3 Percent) of the respondents were poor with agriculture occupation from economic perspective and majority (78.1 Percent) of the respondents were female with agriculture occupation from gender perspective respectively

indicates their lower economic status in comparison to respondents having business and service occupation.

Table 3: Occupation of the respondents

Respondents status	Category	Category in Percentage		
		Agriculture	Service	Business
Social	DAGs	70.0	10.0	20.0
	Non DAGs	56.7	30.0	13.3
Economic	Poor	78.3	17.4	4.3
	Non-poor	48.1	25.9	25.8
Gender	Male	33.3	38.9	27.8
	Female	78.1	12.5	9.4

Source: Field Survey 2008

5.1.3 Food sufficiency from the production of own land

The majority of DAGS (52.0 Percent) and Poor (56.3 Percent) respondents' can produce small quantity of food from their own land from which they can sustain < 3 months. Similarly (40.0 Percent) of Non-DAGs can produce some quantity of food which is sufficient for only 3 – 6 months. Like wise (12.4 Percent) of Non-Poor and (9.2 Percent) of Non-DAGs have that much area of land which can yields the food which is sufficient for > 12 months i.e. means they have good social and economic status.

Table 4: Food sufficiency from the production of own land

Respondents' status		Category in Percentage			
		< 3 Months	3 - 6 Months	6 – 12 Months	> 12 Months
Social	DAGs	52.0	35.0	10.0	3.0
	Non-DAGs	30.0	40.0	20.8	9.2
Economic	Poor	56.3	30.4	9.0	4.3
	Non-Poor	20.6	42.3	24.7	12.4

Source: Field Survey 2008

5.1.4 Housing pattern of respondents

The following table reveals that majority of the Non-Poor respondents (60.0 Percent) owned Cemented roof which is the indicator of rich economic status of the respondents. Similarly majority of Non-DAGs respondents (55.0 Percent) owned Metal sheet roof, which also indicates the middle economic status of the respondents. Like wise majority of Poor respondents (75.0 Percent) owned Thatched roof, which indicates the poor economic status of the respondents.

Table 5: Housing pattern of the respondents

Respondents' status		Category in Percentage		
		Cemented roof	Metal sheet roof	Thatched roof
Social	DAGs	10.0	40.0	50.0
	Non-DAGs	40.0	55.0	5.0
Economic	Poor	5.0	20.0	75.0
	Non-Poor	60.0	30.0	10.0

Source: Field Survey 2008

5.1.5 Condition of livestock

Majority of DAGs respondents (50.0 Percent) reared goat due to lack of initial big investment on cattle and buffalo. (45.0 Percent) of Non-DAGs respondents kept cattle similarly majority of poor respondents (40.0Percent) kept goat. Likewise majority of Non-Poor respondents (40.0 Percent) kept nothing in their home. Types and percentage of livestock indicate social and economic status of the respondents that belong to each category.

Table 6: Condition of livestock

Respondents' status		Category in Percentage				
		Cattle	Buffalo	Goat	Pig	Nothing
Social	DAGs	5.0	2.0	50.0	35.0	8.0
	Non-DAGs	45.0	25.0	20.0	3.0	7.0
Economic	Poor	15.0	10.0	40.0	30.0	5.0
	Non-Poor	30.0	8.0	15.0	7.0	40.0

Source: Field Survey 2008

5.2 Perception on “Opportunity to become committee members”

About 42 Percent of the respondents, disagreed that each general member has equal opportunity to become elected in the committee members followed by agree (36.70 Percent) and neutral (21.38 Percent). DAGs, poor and females disagreed in the statement in respective respondents’ status categories. Significance of chi-square test shows that responses related to each member has no equal opportunity to become elected in the committee members is significantly dependent upon the respondent’s social, economic and gender category.

Table 7: Perception on “Opportunity to become committee members”

Statement	Respondents' status	Category	Response in Percentage			Mean	Test statistics
			Agree	Neutral	Disagree		
Perception on “Opportunity to become committee members”	Social	DAGs	30.0	20.0	50.0	2.15	d. f.=2
		Non-DAGs	50.0	23.3	26.7	1.77	$\chi^2=2.343^*$
	Economic	Poor	30.1	17.4	52.5	1.96	d. f.=2
		Non-poor	40.7	29.6	29.6	1.89	$\chi^2=1.127^*$
	Gender	Male	38.9	22.2	38.9	1.94	d. f.=2
		Female	30.5	15.8	53.8	1.91	$\chi^2=0.236^*$
Overall average			36.70	21.38	41.92	1.93	

*Significant at 0.05

Source: Field Survey 2008

5.3 Representation of Poor, DAGs and Women in key posts

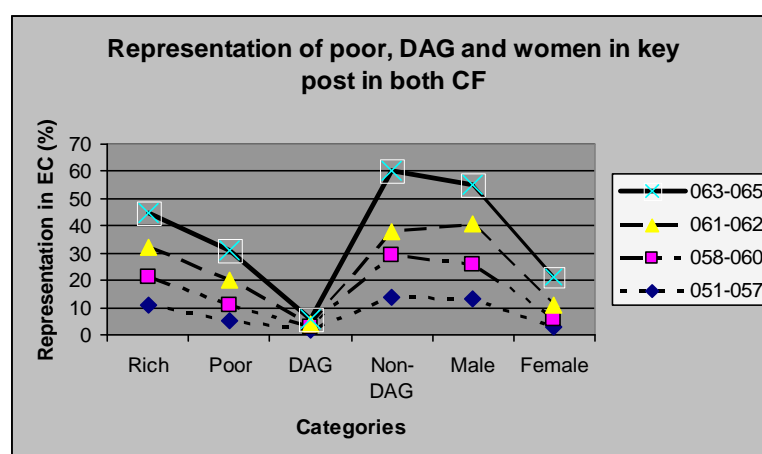


Figure 6 Representation of Poor, DAGs and women in key post in both CF

With the observed data from CFUG’s constitution, it can be summed up that the representation of DAGs users in the executive committee was lower in all years. The representation of poor in executive committee was not adequately indicated in all of

the years. The female representation was lower in all years except there was the highest representation of female in executive committee in 063-065. The representation of DAGs, Poor and female users was observed to be lower as compared to that of Non-DAGs and male ones. This suggests that poor, DAGs and women are not getting opportunities to be represented in key posts of executive committee of CF because of their lower socio-economic status.

5.4 Benefit sharing in the CF

Majority of the respondents (73.6 Percent) stated that the benefit was shared on the equal basis followed by according to decision made by executive committee (13.53 Percent), according to OP (12.37 Percent). Majorities of the respondents from all category stated that the benefit was shared on the equal basis. This suggests that benefit sharing mechanism is not equitable and justifiable in the CFUG. Chi-square test shows that responses showed no significant difference in all of the categories.

Table 8: Benefit sharing in the CF

Statement	Respondents' status	Category	Response in Percentage			Test statistics
			Equal basis	According to OP	According to decision made by EC	
Benefit sharing in CF	Social	DAGs	78	12	14	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=3.01$
		Non-DAGs	69.4	16.3	12.2	
	Economic	Poor	75	11.1	15	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=2.63$ 6
		Non-poor	71.8	12.6	10.3	
	Gender	Male	69.4	12.2	18.4	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=3.25$ 6
		Female	78	10	11.3	
	Overall average			73.6	12.37	13.53

*Significant at 0.05

Source: Field Survey 2008

5.5 Distribution of forest products among CF users

Overall response shows that majority of respondents (55.25 Percent) agreed that the distribution of forest products among community forest users is fair followed by biased (15.38 Percent), and don't know (14.62 Percent). The respondents from Non-DAGs category agreed more on the statement than other categories. Chi-square value showed no significant difference in any of the respondents' status on the statement.

Table 9: Distribution of Forest products among CF users

Statement	Respondents' status	Category	Response in Percentage			Test statistics
			Fair	Biased	Don't know	
Distribution of Forest products among CF users	Social	DAGs	53.8	14.3	20	d. f.=2
		Non-DAGs	62.1	11.9	14	$\chi^2=4.682$
	Economic	Poor	51.1	22.9	11.7	d. f.=2
		Non-poor	50	16	14	$\chi^2=1.56$
	Gender	Male	51.7	14.3	18	d. f.=2
		Female	52.8	12.9	20	$\chi^2=2.855$
	Overall average		55.25	15.38	14.62	

Source: Field Survey 2008

5.6 Perception on “Benefits and opportunities sharing mechanism”

Overall weighted mean (2.09) shows that majority of the respondents were neutral with the statement. Weighted mean in Poor category (2.53) indicates that they disagreed with the statement “Benefits and opportunities sharing mechanism are equitable and justifiable” while Non-Poor respondents (1.93) were neutral with the statement. Similarly DAGs categories of the respondents with weighted mean values of 2.51 disagree on statement but Non-DAGs respondents neutral on statement having weighted mean value of 2.03. Male respondents agreed with the statement having weighted mean values of 1.49 but Female were disagreed with the statement having weighted mean value of 2.61. Significance of chi-square values in social, economic and gender status shows that responses on the statement differed significantly by social, economic and gender status of the respondents.

Table 10: Perception on “Benefits and opportunities sharing mechanism”

Statement	Respondents' status	Category	Response in Percentage			Mean	Test statistics
			Agree	Neutral	Disagree		
Perception on “Benefits and opportunities sharing mechanism”	Social	DAGs	25.0	30.0	45.0	2.51	d. f.=2
		Non-DAGs	33.3	30.0	36.7	2.03	$\chi^2=0.486^*$
	Economic	Poor	17.4	34.8	47.8	2.53	d. f.=2
		Non-poor	40.7	25.9	33.3	1.93	$\chi^2=3.234^*$
	Gender	Male	38.9	27.8	33.3	1.49	d. f.=2
		Female	25.0	40.6	34.4	2.61	$\chi^2=3.631^*$
	Overall average		30.05	31.52	38.42	2.18	

*Significant at 0.05

Source: Field Survey 2008

5.7 Perception on “Special provisions for Poor and DAGs in forest Products”

About 43 Percent of the overall respondents disagreed with the statement followed by agree (37.97 Percent) and neutral (19.05 Percent). Greater percentage of Poor (56.5 Percent), DAGs (50.0Percent) and Male (44.4 Percent) disagreed on the statement “Provisions exist like special incentives for Poor/ DAGs in forest products”. There is a significant difference in responses for the statement Provision exists like special incentives for Poor/ DAGs in some forest products” among the social, economic and gender status of the respondents; hence there is a significant difference in responses among them.

Table 11: Perception on “Special provisions for Poor and DAGs in forest products”

Statement	Respondents' status	Category	Response in Percentage			Mean	Test statistics
			Agree	Neutral	Disagree		
Perception on “Special provision for poor and DAGs in forest products”	Social	DAGs	25.0	25.0	50.0	2.25	d. f.=2
		Non-DAGs	46.7	16.7	36.7	1.90	$\chi^2=2.407^*$
	Economic	Poor	26.1	17.4	56.5	2.30	d. f.=2
		Non-poor	48.1	22.2	29.6	1.81	$\chi^2=3.874^*$
	Gender	Male	44.4	11.1	44.4	1.94	d. f.=2
		Female	37.5	21.9	40.6	2.09	$\chi^2=0.528^*$
	Overall average		37.97	19.05	42.97	2.04	

*Significant at 0.05

Source: Field Survey 2008

5.8 Perception on “Decisions of committee concerned with Poor and DAGs”

About 39 percentage of the respondents from Male category agreed that decisions of the committee are in favor of the most of the users’ especially for Poor and DAGs followed by Non-Poor respondents (33.33 Percent) and Non-DAGs respondents (26.7 Percent) while majority of the Poor, DAGs, Male and Female respondents disagreed on the statement with 56.5 Percent, 50.0 Percent, 38.9Percent and 34.4 Percent of the responses respectively. Weighted means of Male (2.22) and Female (2.22) indicates that both categories were neutral to the statement. Significance of chi-square test reveals that their voices were dependent on social, economic and gender status.

Table 12: Perception on “Decisions of committee concerned with Poor and DAGs”

Statement	Respondents' status	Category	Response in Percentage			Mean	Test statistics	
			Agree	Neutral	Disagree			
Perception on “Decisions of committee concerned with Poor and DAGs”	Social	DAGs	25.0	25.0	50.0	2.25	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=0.053^*$	
		Non-DAGs	26.7	26.7	46.7	2.20		
	Economic	Poor	17.4	26.1	56.5	2.56	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=1.859^*$	
		Non-poor	33.3	25.9	40.7	2.07		
	Gender	Male	38.9	22.2	38.9	2.22	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=0.212^*$	
		Female	37.5	28.1	34.4	2.22		
	Overall average			29.8	25.67	44.53	2.25	

*Significant at 0.05

Source: Field Survey 2008

5.9 Decision making process in CF

Nearly 49 percentage of the respondents stated that the process of decision making generally followed in their CFUG was “passed agenda by committee members” followed by involved all CFUG members (39.47 Percent) and others (11.67 Percent). The greater percentage of Female (57 Percent) , Poor (54.7 Percent) and DAGs (50 Percent) said that agenda in their CFUG was passed by committee while greater percentage of Male (48 Percent), Non-Poor (47.5 Percent) and Non-DAGs(38 Percent) stated that the process of decision making generally followed in their CFUG was passed agenda by involving all CFUG members. Chi-square values showed that responses didn’t vary significantly in any categories.

Table 13: Decision making process in CF

Statement	Respondents' status	Category	Response in Percentage			Test statistics
			Passed agenda by committee members	Involved all FUG members	Others	
Decision making process in CF	Social	DAGs	50	40	10	d. f. =2 $\chi^2=0.359$
		Non- DAGs	48	38	14	
	Economic	Poor	54.7	33.3	12	d. f. =2 $\chi^2=3.391$
		Non-Poor	42.5	47.5	10	
	Gender	Male	41	48	11	d. f. =2 $\chi^2=3.514$
		Female	57	30	13	
Overall average			48.87	39.47	11.67	

Source: Field Survey 2008

5.10 Response on decision made by executive committee

Near about 43 percentage of the respondents stated that decision made by user group committee was OK followed by not so well (30.50 Percent), very Poor (13.10 Percent) and all good (12.62 Percent). Greater percentage of DAGs respondents (41 Percent) said that the decision was not so good while greater percentage of Non-DAGs (56 Percent) said OK. The result was similar in case of economic status of the respondents with 40Percent and 53Percent of responses respectively. They explained that however there was not a negative result for them, FUC had not made decision in favor of them. (38 Percent) of Male and (44 Percent) of Female respondents said that the decision made was OK. Chi-square values showed significant difference in the response social and economic status of respondents.

Table 14: Response on decision made by executive committee

Statement	Respondents' status	Category	Response in Percentage				Test statistics
			All good	OK	Not so good	Very poor	
Response on "Decision made by executive committee"	Social	DAGs	10	37	41	12	d. f.=3 $\chi^2=1.293^*$
		Non- DAGs	12	56	20	12	
	Economic	Poor	12.7	34.7	40	12.6	d. f.=3 $\chi^2=1.691^*$
		Non-poor	15	53	20	12	
	Gender	Male	14	38	34	14	d. f.=3 $\chi^2=2.147$
		Female	12	44	28	16	
Overall average			12.62	43.78	30.5	13.1	

*Significant at 0.05

Source: Field Survey 2008

5.11 Response on process of decision-making in the CF

Most of DAGs (32.7 Percent) were neutral on the statement while (42.0 Percent) of Non- DAGs respondents said that the decision made was democratic. The case was similar in Poor and Non-Poor categories of the respondents with 35.6 Percent and 45.0 Percent respectively. 34.0Percent of the Female respondents said that the decision was participatory. Equal percentage of Male said that the decision was democratic and neutral. Chi-square value showed significant difference in social, economic as well as gender status of the respondents in this statement.

Table 15: Response on process of decision-making in the CF

Statement	Respondents' status	Category	Response in Percentage (Percent)				Test statistics
			Democratic	Participatory	Neutral	Autocratic	
"Response on process of decision making in the CF"	Social	DAGs	24.5	22.4	32.7	20.4	d. f.=3 $\chi^2=1.126^*$
		Non- DAGs	42	30	18	10	
	Economic	Poor	25.4	25.4	35.6	13.6	d. f.=3 $\chi^2=3.973^*$
		Non-poor	45	27.5	15	10	
	Gender	Male	34.7	18.4	34.7	10.2	d. f.=3 $\chi^2=2.87^*$
		Female	32	34	20	14	
	Overall average			33.93	26.28	26	13.03

*Significant at 0.05

Source: Field Survey 2008

5.12 Perception on "Listening/responding voice during decision making process"

Overall average value (61.32 Percent) shows that majority of the respondents disagreed that their voice is responded positively in decision-making followed by agreed (19.48 Percent) and neutral (19.20 Percent).

Majority of DAGs respondents (50.0 Percent) in social status disagreed, 25.0 percent agreed and 25.0 percent remained neutral on the statement while Non-DAGs respondents (50.0 Percent) disagreed, (26.7 Percent) agreed and (23.3 Percent) neutral.

In economic status, majority of Poor respondents (56.5 Percent) disagreed while (44.5 Percent) of the Non-poor respondents agreed on the statement.

Majority of the respondents in gender status indicates that most of the Male (88.9 Percent) Female (78.1 Percent) respondents disagreed on the statement.

Chi-square values show that there was significant difference in the responses within the category of social and economic status of the respondents.

Table 16: Perception on “Listening/responding voice during decision making process”

Statement	Respondents' status	Category	Response in Percentage			Mean	Test statistics	
			Agree	Neutral	Disagree			
Perception on “Listening/responding voice during decision making process”	Social	DAGs	25.0	25.0	50.0	1.75	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=0.027^*$	
		Non-DAGs	26.7	23.3	50.0	1.77		
	Economic	Poor	34.8	8.7	56.5	1.78	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=2.783^*$	
		Non-poor	44.5	37.0	18.4	1.74		
	Gender	Male	5.6	5.6	88.9	1.72	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=0.322$	
		Female	6.3	15.6	78.1	1.78		
	Overall average			19.48	19.20	61.32	1.76	

*Significant at 0.05

Source: Field Survey 2008

5.13 Sources of income in CF

Overall average response indicates that majority of respondents (76.62 percent) noticed that income from picnic spot management is the major source of income followed by entrance fee (13.48 percent) and leaf litter selling (9.93 percent) in CF. The majority of respondents from DAGs, poor and male categories agreed that the picnic spot to be the major source of income.

Table 17: Sources of income in CF

Statement	Respondents' status	Category	Response in Percentage			Mean	Test statistics	
			Picnic Spot	Entrance Fee	Leaf litter Selling			
Sources of income in CF	Social	DAGs	65.0	20.0	15.0	1.50	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=2.221^*$	
		Non-DAGs	83.3	10.0	6.7	1.23		
	Economic	Poor	87.0	4.3	8.7	1.22	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=3.580^*$	
		Non-poor	66.7	22.2	11.1	1.44		
	Gender	Male	88.9	5.6	5.6	1.17	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=2.603^*$	
		Female	68.8	18.8	12.5	1.44		
	Overall average			76.62	13.48	9.93	1.33	

*Significant at 0.05

Source: Field Survey 2008)

5.14 Perception on “Contribution of CF for economic upliftment”

Almost 58.46 percent of the overall respondents disagreed with the statement followed by agree (21.65 Percent) and neutral (19.87 percent). Greater percentage of Female (71.9 percent), Poor (65.2 percent) and Non-DAGs (60.0 percent) disagreed on the statement “There is contribution of CF on economic upliftment”. There is a significant difference in responses for the statement “There is contribution of CF on economic upliftment” among the social, economic and gender status of the respondents; hence there is a significant difference in responses among them.

Table 18: Perception on “Contribution of CF for economic upliftment”

Statement	Respondents' status	Category	Response in Percentage			Test statistics
			Agree	Neutral	Disagree	
Perception on “contribution of CF for economic upliftment”	Social	DAGs	25.0	25.0	50.0	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=0.487^*$
		Non- DAGs	20.0	20.0	60.0	
	Economic	Poor	21.7	13.0	65.2	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=2.201^*$
		Non-Poor	22.2	29.6	48.1	
	Gender	Male	22.2	22.2	55.6	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=3.539^*$
		Female	18.8	9.4	71.9	
Overall average			21.65	19.87	58.46	

*Significant at 0.05

Source: Field Survey 2008

5.15 Aware on income and expenditure of Community Forest

Overall average value (54.95 percent) shows that majority of the respondents were not aware of income and expenditure of CF where as (45.05 Percent) respondents were aware of that. Majority of DAGs respondents (70.0 percent) in social status were not aware of income and expenditure while Non-DAGs respondents (60.0 percent) were found aware. In economic status, majority of Poor respondents (60.9 percent) were aware of income and expenditure while majority of the Non-poor respondents (51.9 percent) were not aware. The majority of the respondents in gender status indicate that most of the Male (55.6 percent) were aware of income and expenditure where as Female (37.5 percent) respondents were not aware of it. Chi-square values show that there was significant difference in the responses within the category of social, economic and gender status of the respondents.

Table 19: Aware on income and expenditure of Community Forest

Statement	Respondents' status	Category	Response in Percentage		Test statistics
			Yes	No	
Aware on income and expenditure of CF	Social	DAGs	30.0	70.0	d. f.=1 $\chi^2=0.487^*$
		Non-DAGs	60.0	40.0	
	Economic	Poor	60.9	39.1	d. f.=1 $\chi^2=0.410^*$
		Non-Poor	48.1	51.9	
	Gender	Male	55.6	44.4	d. f.=1 $\chi^2=1.524^*$
		Female	37.5	62.5	
Overall average			45.05	54.95	

*Significant at 0.05

Source: Field Survey 2008

5.16 Perception on “Transparency of cost and expenditure of CFUG”

The weighted mean values of response in Poor category (2.69), DAGs (2.56) and Female (2.51) state that Poor, DAGs and Female disagreed with the statement while majority of the percentage of Male, Non-Poor and Non-DAGs were neutral with the statement with weighted mean values of 1.94, 1.93 and 1.87 respectively. Chi-square test showed that perception on this statement differed significantly by social as well as economic status of respondents.

Table 20: Perception on “Cost and expenditure of CFUG is transparent”

Statement	Respondents' status	Category	Response in Percentage			Mean	Test statistics
			Agree	Neutral	Disagree		
Perception on “Transparency of cost and expenditure of CFUG”	Social	DAGs	25.0	30.0	45.0	2.56	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=2.412^*$
		Non-DAGs	46.7	20.0	33.3	1.87	
	Economic	Poor	39.1	13.0	47.8	2.69	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=3.227^*$
		Non-poor	37.0	33.3	29.6	1.93	
	Gender	Male	38.9	27.8	33.3	1.94	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=0.334$
		Female	34.4	21.9	43.8	2.51	
Overall average			36.85	24.33	38.8	2.25	

*Significant at 0.05

Source: Field Survey 2008

5.17 Perception on “Utilization of User Groups fund”

About 49 percentage of the Poor respondents were neutral on the statement followed by Female (46.9 percent) and Non-DAGs (43.3 percent) respondents while greater percentage of DAGs (40.0 percent) and Poor (39.1) disagreed with the statement. Most Male (44.4 percent) and Non-Poor (37.0 percent) respondents agreed on the

statement. Chi-square values show that there is a significant difference in each of the categories of the respondents.

Table 21: Perception on “Utilization of User Groups fund”

Statement	Respondents' status	Category	Response in Percentage			Mean	Test statistics
			Agree	Neutral	Disagree		
Perception on “Utilization of Users Group fund”	Social	DAGs	25.0	35.0	40.0	2.15	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=0.574^*$
		Non-DAGs	26.7	43.3	30.0	2.03	
	Economic	Poor	13.0	47.8	39.1	2.26	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=3.732^*$
		Non-poor	37.0	33.3	29.6	1.93	
	Gender	Male	44.4	38.9	16.7	2.11	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=0.544^*$
		Female	28.1	46.9	25.0	2.06	
Overall average			29.03	40.87	30.06	2.09	

*Significant at 0.05

Source: Field Survey 2008

5.18 Perception on “Loan taken from CFUG fund”

Majority of the Poor respondents (95.7 percent) followed by Female (93.7 percent) and Non-DAGs (93.3 percent) respondents didn't take any type of loan from their CFUG fund; while smaller percentage of Male (16.7 percent), DAGs (15.0 Percent) took some loans from CFUG fund. Chi-square values show that there is a significant difference in each of the categories of the respondents.

Table 22: Perception on “Loan taken from CFUG fund”

Statement	Respondents' status	Category	Response in Percentage		Test statistics
			Yes	No	
Perception on “Loan taken from CFUG fund”	Social	DAGs	15.0	85.0	d. f.=1 $\chi^2=0.926^*$
		Non-DAGs	6.7	93.3	
	Economic	Poor	4.3	95.7	d. f.=1 $\chi^2=1.512^*$
		Non-Poor	14.8	85.2	
	Gender	Male	16.7	83.3	d. f.=1 $\chi^2=1.389^*$
		Female	6.3	93.7	
Overall average			10.63	89.37	

*Significant at 0.05

Source: Field Survey 2008

5.19 Perception on “Loan taking process from CFUG fund”

Nearly 38 percentages of the respondents were neutral that the loan taking process from their CFUG fund is quite easy followed by disagreed (37.78 percent) and agreed

(23.90 percent). Most of the respondents from all category disagreed with the statement where as (17.4 percent) of Poor and (21.9 percent) of Female respondents agreed with the statement. Significance of chi-square test shows that the loan taking process from their CFUG fund is significantly dependent upon the respondent's social and economic category.

Table 23: Perception on “Loan taking process from CFUG fund”

Statement	Respondents' status	Category	Response in Percentage			Mean	Test statistics
			Agree	Neutral	Disagree		
Perception on “Loan taking process from CFUG”	Social	DAGs	20.0	35.0	45.0	2.25	d. f.=2
		Non-DAGs	26.7	40.0	33.3	2.07	$\chi^2=0.731^*$
	Economic	Poor	17.4	39.1	43.5	2.26	d. f.=2
		Non-poor	29.6	37.0	33.3	2.04	$\chi^2=1.126^*$
	Gender	Male	27.8	44.4	27.8	2.00	d. f.=2
		Female	21.9	34.4	43.8	2.22	$\chi^2=1.248$
	Overall average		23.90	38.32	37.78	2.14	

*Significant at 0.05

Source: Field Survey 2008

5.20 Responses on organization of any type of training, tours or other special programs for users by CFUG

Overall response shows that majority of respondents (59.25 percent) disagreed that CFUG had organized training, tours and other special programs for their users. 29.05 percent expressed their neutral view on the statement. Nominal (11.7 percent) agreed on the statement which includes training, on tour guide, granting scholarship to poor students etc. Chi-square value shows significant difference in response by social, economical and gender status of the respondents.

Table 24: Responses to organize any type of training, tours or other special programs for users by CFUG

Statement	Respondents' status	Category	Response in Percentage			Test statistics
			Yes	Don't Know	No	
Responses on Organization of any type of training, tour or other special programs for users by CFUG	Social	DAGs	10	30	60	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=2.437^*$
		Non- DAGs	10.1	20.5	69.4	
	Economic	Poor	12.1	37.4	50.5	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=1.75^*$
		Non-poor	12	22.5	65.5	
	Gender	Male	14	26	60	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=0.468^*$
		Female	12	37.9	50.1	
	Overall average			11.7	29.05	59.25

*Significant at 0.05

Source: Field Survey 2008

5.21 Participation in training, tours/seminars/workshop since implementation of CF

Overall response shows that majority of the respondents (51.48 percent) hadn't participated in any training, tours/seminars/workshop since implementation of CF. Only 9.83 percent once, 8.33 Percent twice and 30.47 Percent thrice had attended CF related training, workshops and study tours. Among them, 67.5 percent of Non-poor and 70 percent of male respondents participated greater than twice followed. Most of the DAGs and females participated in the least no. of times. Moreover, chi-square test showed significant difference between male and female respondents.

Table 25: Participation in training, tours/seminars/workshop since implementation of CF

Statement	Respondents' status	Category	Response in Percentage				Test statistics
			Once	Twice	>twice	Never	
Participation in training, tours/seminars/workshop since implementation of CF	Social	DAGs	8.2	8.2	4.1	79.6	d. f.=3 $\chi^2=2.67$
		Non- DAGs	18	14	32	36	
	Economic	Poor	6.8	5.1	5.1	83.1	d. f.=3 $\chi^2=2.68$
		Non-poor	10	10.5	67.5	12.5	
	Gender	Male	14	4	70	12	d. f.=3 $\chi^2=1.794^*$
		Female	2	8.2	4.1	85.7	
	Overall average			9.83	8.33	30.47	51.48

*Significant at 0.05

Source: Field Survey 2008

5.22 Perception on process of nomination for training/tour/workshop

Overall average response shows that (48.82 percent) of the respondents disagreed on the statement followed by agreed (31.70 percent) and neutral (19.47 percent). Also in my field observation DAGs and Poor respondents were found unaware of tour and workshop offer came from different organization to their CF. Weighted mean of DAGs respondents (2.52) and Poor respondents (2.56) indicates that they were disagreed on the statement. Weighted mean in gender shows that Male and Female respondents neutral on the statement “Process of nomination for training/tour/workshop is fair” with average weighted mean score 2.22 and 2.25 respectively. From its test statistics, there is significant difference on the statement among social, economic and gender status.

Table 26: Perception on “Process of nomination for training/tour/workshop”

Statement	Respondents' status	Category	Response in Percentage			Mean	Test statistics
			Agree	Neutral	Disagree		
Perception on “Process of nomination for training/ tour/workshop”	Social	DAGs	25.0	25.0	50.0	2.52	d. f.=2
		Non-DAGs	30.0	20.0	50.0	2.20	$\chi^2=0.244^*$
	Economic	Poor	26.1	13.0	60.9	2.56	d. f.=2
		Non-poor	29.6	29.6	40.7	2.11	$\chi^2=2.615^*$
	Gender	Male	38.9	16.7	44.4	2.22	d. f.=2
		Female	40.6	12.5	46.9	2.25	$\chi^2=2.151^*$
Overall average			31.70	19.47	48.82	2.31	

*Significant at 0.05

Source: Field Survey 2008

5.23 Perception on “Development of skills like speaking, leadership”

The weighted mean values of response in DAGs category (1.50), Non-Poor (1.49) and Male (1.44) state that DAGs, Non-Poor and Male agreed with the statement while majority of the percentage of Female, Poor and Non-DAGs were neutral with the statement that is revealed by weighted mean values of 1.88, 1.87 and 1.77 respectively. Chi-square test showed that perception on this statement differed significantly by social as well as economic status of respondents.

Table 27: Perception on “Development of skills like speaking, leadership”

Statement	Respondents' status	Category	Response in Percentage			Mean	Test statistics
			Agree	Neutral	Disagree		
Perception on “Development of skills like speaking, leadership”	Social	DAGs	45.0	30.0	25.0	1.50	d. f.=2
		Non-DAGs	50.0	33.3	16.7	1.77	$\mathfrak{R}^2=0.521^*$
	Economic	Poor	39.1	34.8	26.1	1.87	d. f.=2
		Non-poor	55.6	29.6	14.8	1.49	$\mathfrak{R}^2=1.590^*$
	Gender	Male	72.2	22.2	5.6	1.44	d. f.=2
		Female	37.5	37.5	25.0	1.88	$\mathfrak{R}^2=3.993$
	Overall average		49.9	31.23	18.87	1.66	

*Significant at 0.05

Source: Field Survey 2008

5.24 Perception on “Trends of birds and animals population”

Majority of the respondents from social, economic and gender status agreed the statement; that population of birds and animals are increased after CF which indicates that the condition of forest is better than before. While some of the respondents from all categories expressed their neutral view regarding the statement.

Table 28: Perception on “Trends of birds and animals population”

Statement	Respondents' status	Category	Response in Percentage	
			Yes	Don't know
Perception on “Trends of birds and animals population”	Social	DAGs	75.0	30.0
		Non-DAGs	83.3	16.7
	Economic	Poor	87.0	13.0
		Non-Poor	74.0	26.0
	Gender	Male	83.3	16.7
		Female	84.4	15.6

Source: Field Survey 2008

5.25 Perception on “Availability of fuelwood, fodder and timber”

Majority of the respondents from social, economic and gender status agreed the statement that fuelwood, fodder and timber are available more than before, which indicates that the condition of forest is better than before. While some of the respondents from all categories expressed their neutral view regarding the statement.

Table 29: Perception on “Availability of fuelwood, fodder and timber”

Statement	Respondents' status	Category	Response in Percentage	
			Yes	Don't know
Perception on “Availability of fuelwood, fodder and timber”	Social	DAGs	85.0	15.0
		Non-DAGs	75.0	25.0
	Economic	Poor	90.0	10.0
		Non-Poor	78.0	12.0
	Gender	Male	77.0	13.0
		Female	80.0	20.0

Source: Field Survey 2008

5.26 Access to fuelwood, fodder, timber and other forest products

Overall average value indicates that the majority of the respondents (84.17 Percent) expressed positive response on “They had good access to fuelwood, fodder, timber and other forest products”. In social status majority of DAGs (75.0 Percent) and Non-DAGs (90.0 percent) expressed their positive views on statement. Similarly the respondents from economic and gender status also expressed positive views on statement. Chi-square values show that there is no significant difference in the responses in social status while there is a significant difference in the responses in economic and gender status.

Table 30: Access to fuelwood, fodder, timber and other forest products

Statement	Respondents' status	Category	Response in Percentage		Test statistics
			Yes	No	
Access to fuelwood, fodder, timber and other forest products	Social	DAGs	75.0	25.0	d. f.=1 $\chi^2=2.009$
		Non-DAGs	90.0	10.0	
	Economic	Poor	95.7	4.3	d. f.=1 $\chi^2=4.303^*$
		Non-Poor	74.1	25.9	
	Gender	Male	88.9	11.1	d. f.=1 $\chi^2=0.500^*$
		Female	81.3	18.8	
Overall average			84.17	15.85	

*Significant at 0.05

Source: Field Survey 2008

5.27 Perception on “Participation in CFUGs general meeting and assembly”

About 42 percentage of the respondents disagreed that their participation was active in CFUG meeting and assembly followed by neutral (32.98 percent) and agree (24.88 Percent). Majorities of the respondents from all category disagreed except (43.8 percent) of Female and (40.0 percent) of DAGs respondents were neutral on the statement. Significance of chi-square test shows that responses related to expressing views on proposed agenda in meeting and assembly is significantly dependent upon the respondent’s social and economic category. Weighted mean of the response shows that more Male, Non-DAGs and Non-Poor respondents disagreed more on the statement than Female, DAGs and Poor respondents.

Table 31: Perception on “Participation in CFUG meeting and assembly”

Statement	Respondents' status	Category	Response in Percentage			Mean	Test statistics
			Agree	Neutral	Disagree		
Perception on “Participation in CFUGs general meeting and assembly”	Social	DAGs	30.0	40.0	30.0	2.00	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=1.996^*$
		Non-DAGs	20.0	30.0	50.0	1.70	
	Economic	Poor	34.8	30.4	34.8	2.00	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=2.751^*$
		Non-poor	14.8	37.0	48.1	1.67	
	Gender	Male	27.8	16.7	55.6	1.72	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=3.883$
		Female	21.9	43.8	34.4	1.88	
	Overall average			24.88	32.98	42.15	1.82

*Significant at 0.05

Source: Field Survey 2008

5.28 Participation of CFUG members in the meeting when constitution was finalized

Overall response shows that only 59.46 Percent of the respondents participated in the meeting when constitution was finalized. Half of the Poor respondents were present while other half was absence. Insignificance of independent chi-square test indicates that responses were independent of the each category of the respondents.

Table 32: Participation of CFUG members in the meeting when constitution was finalized

Statement	Respondents' status	Category	Response in Percentage		Test statistics
			Yes	No	
Participation of CFUG members in the meeting when constitution was finalized	Social	DAGs	62.00	38.00	d. f.=1 $\chi^2=0.123$
		Non- DAGs	67.30	32.70	
	Economic	Poor	50.00	50.00	d. f.=1 $\chi^2=0.484$
		Non-Poor	63.89	26.11	
	Gender	Male	58.33	41.67	d. f.=1 $\chi^2=0.142$
		Female	55.26	44.74	
Overall average			59.46	38.87	

*Significant at 0.05

Source: Field Survey 2008

5.29 Freedom for expressing views and ideas in meeting and assembly

More respondents (48.36 Percent) agreed that they felt free in expressing their views in meeting and assembly followed by neutral (31.12 Percent) and disagreed (20.50 Percent). Majorities (55.6 Percent) of the Male respondents agreed more on the statement followed by Poor (52.2 Percent) and Female (50.0 Percent) while majorities of the Female, Non-Poor and Non-DAGs respondents, 37.5 Percent 33.3 Percent 33.3 Percent respectively, neutral on the statement. Similarly majority of Non-Poor (25.9 Percent) and DAGs (25.0 Percent) respondents disagreed with the statement. Significance of chi-square test shows that response differed significantly in social status of the respondents but there was significant difference in economic and gender status of the respondents.

Table 33: Freedom for expressing views and ideas in meeting and assembly

Statement	Respondents' status	Category	Response in Percentage			Mean	Test statistics
			Agree	Neutral	Disagree		
Freedom for expressing views and ideas in meeting and assembly	Social	DAGs	45.0	30.0	25.0	1.80	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=0.184^*$
		Non-DAGs	46.7	33.3	20.0	1.73	
	Economic	Poor	52.2	30.4	17.4	1.65	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=0.797$
		Non-poor	40.7	33.3	25.9	1.85	
	Gender	Male	55.6	22.2	22.2	1.89	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=2.497$
		Female	50.0	37.5	12.5	1.69	
Overall average			48.36	31.12	20.50	1.77	

*Significant at 0.05

Source: Field Survey 2008

5.30 Perception on “Social harmony”

Overall average value (59.98 Percent) shows that majority of the respondents has agreed that the social harmony is increased after implementation of CF followed by disagreed (20.31 Percent) and neutral (19.68 Percent). Majority of DAGs respondents (50.0 Percent) in social status agreed, agreed (25.0 Percent) and neutral (25.0Percent) on the statement similarly Non-DAGs respondents (60.0 Percent) agreed, disagreed (20.0 Percent) and neutral (20.0 Percent). In economic status, majority of Poor respondents (56.5 Percent) agreed similarly majority of the Non-poor respondents (55.6 Percent) also agreed on the statement. Chi-square values show that there was significant difference in the responses within the category of social, economic and gender status of the respondents.

Table 34: Perception on “Social harmony”

Statement	Respondents' status	Category	Response in Percentage			Mean	Test statistics
			Agree	Neutral	Disagree		
Perception on “Social harmony”	Social	DAGs	50.0	25.0	25.0	1.75	d. f.=2
		Non-DAGs	60.0	20.0	20.0	1.60	$\chi^2=0.487^*$
	Economic	Poor	56.5	21.7	21.7	1.65	d. f.=2
		Non-poor	55.6	22.2	22.2	1.67	$\chi^2=0.005^*$
	Gender	Male	72.2	16.7	11.1	1.56	d. f.=2
		Female	65.6	12.5	21.9	1.72	$\chi^2=0.495^*$
Overall average			59.98	19.68	20.31	1.66	

*Significant at 0.05

Source: Field Survey 2008

5.31 Perception on “Access to different organization”

Overall average value (59.52 Percent) shows that majority of the respondents agreed that their access to different organization has increased after CF where as (21.32 Percent) respondents indicated their disagreement for the statement. Chi-square values show that there was significant difference in the responses within the category of social, economic and gender status of the respondents.

Table 35: Perception on “Access to different organization”

Statement	Respondents' status	Category	Response in Percentage			Mean	Test statistics	
			Agree	Neutral	Disagree			
Perception on “Access to different organization”	Social	DAGs	50.0	25.0	25.0	1.75	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=0.921^*$	
		Non-DAGs	63.3	16.7	20.0	1.57		
	Economic	Poor	65.2	21.7	13.0	1.48	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=2.000^*$	
		Non-poor	51.9	18.5	29.6	1.78		
	Gender	Male	61.1	11.1	27.8	1.89	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=5.068^*$	
		Female	65.6	21.9	12.5	1.50		
	Overall average			59.52	19.15	21.32	1.66	

*Significant at 0.05

Source: Field Survey 2008

5.32 Perception on “Networking of CFUG with other organization”

Overall response shows 41.15 Percent of the respondents agreed that networking of CFUG with other organization is good followed by disagreed (36.13 Percent) and neutral (22.72 Percent). Chi-square value shows significant difference in response by social, economic and gender status of the respondents.

Table 36: Perception on “Networking of CFUG with other organization”

Statement	Respondents' status	Category	Response in Percentage (Percent)			Mean	Test statistics	
			Agree	Neutral	Disagree			
Perception on “Networking of CFUG with other organization”	Social	DAGs	30.0	25.0	45.0	2.15	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=2.343^*$	
		Non-DAGs	50.0	23.3	26.7	1.77		
	Economic	Poor	43.5	17.4	39.1	1.96	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=1.127^*$	
		Non-poor	40.7	29.6	29.6	1.89		
	Gender	Male	38.9	22.2	38.9	1.94	d. f.=2 $\chi^2=0.236^*$	
		Female	43.8	18.8	37.5	1.91		
	Overall average			41.15	22.72	36.13	1.93	

*Significant at 0.05

Source: Field Survey 2008

5.33 Contribution of CF on infrastructure development

Majority of the respondents (54.82 Percent) agreed that there is a contribution of CF on infrastructure development followed by neutral (25.1 Percent) and disagreed (20.08 Percent). CFUGs have invested their income on toilet and school construction, drinking water for household purposes, picnic spot management etc. Majorities of the respondents from all categories agreed. Only (25 Percent) of DAGs from social category and (22.2 Percent) of male from gender category disagreed with the

statement. Significance of chi-square test shows that responses related to contribution of CF on infrastructure development is significantly dependent upon the respondent's social, economic and gender category.

Table 37: Contribution of CF on infrastructure development

Statement	Respondents' status	Category	Response in Percentage			Mean	Test statistics
			Agree	Neutral	Disagree		
Contribution of CF on infrastructure development	Social	DAGs	45.0	30.0	25.0	1.80	d. f.=2
		Non-DAGs	56.7	23.3	20.0	1.63	$\chi^2=0.656^*$
	Economic	Poor	60.9	17.4	21.7	1.61	d. f.=2
		Non-poor	44.4	33.3	22.2	1.78	$\chi^2=1.860^*$
	Gender	Male	50.0	27.8	22.2	1.83	d. f.=2
		Female	71.9	18.8	9.4	1.63	$\chi^2=0.770^*$
	Overall average		54.82	25.1	20.08	1.71	

*Significant at 0.05

Source: Field Survey 2008

CHAPTER SIX

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Conclusion

1. Majorities of Female respondents belong to the Non-DAG category with primary level of education and adopting agriculture as occupation.
2. There is supremacy of Non-DAG, Male and Rich members in key posts of executive committee of both CFs.
3. Decisions regarding CF management were made mostly by the committee members in consultation with other general members which they perceived as fair and democratic way of making important decisions of CF.
4. Users don't actively participate in meetings and assemblies of CF and their voices are heard but not considered for decision making though they have freedom to express their views and ideas. Each member has no equal opportunity to be elected in executive committee.
5. Benefits and opportunities sharing mechanism is based on equal basis but is perceived as an inequitable and unjustifiable because of not addressing the necessity of the users according to their professions.
6. Users are not aware of detailed sources of income and expenditure so they perceive it as non transparent. Users are not satisfied with group fund mobilization. Due to this, they perceive loan taking process from CF is not easy.
7. Decisions made by the committee are not in favor of Poor and DAGs as no special programs for their socio-economic upliftment have been designed and implemented.
8. Nomination process for seminar, training, tours and workshops is not fair. Consequently, Poor, DAGs and Females have been deprived of opportunities to attend such programs since the establishment of CF.
9. Users perceive that social harmony as well as bio-diversity has been increased after the implementation of CF.
10. Networking of CFUGs with other organization is good. So their access to different organization has also been increased.

6.2 Recommendation

1. The equi-proportional representatives of Poor, DAG and Female groups should be necessarily involved during the planning and decision making of the group.
2. Fund should be properly utilized by defining clear guidelines without marginalizing the Poor, Women and DAGs users.
3. Ensuring that no member in community has become deprived of basic forest needs thereby affecting in his livelihood.
4. Provision of more benefits to Poor, Women and DAGs must be made considering their differing needs owing to difference in socio-economic status.
5. To raise awareness, empowerment and livelihood of Poor, DAGs and Women different training and tours should be launched focusing their involvement.
6. Awareness should be carried and enhanced to let them know about the inclusion issues, rights they have in CF as the main stakeholder of the CF.
7. Different types of income generating activities should be done by CF or enhance poor, DAGs and women users by providing technical or monetary support to them.
8. Training need assessment (TNA) should be conducted before providing training to the users.
9. After providing training, the initial financial support should be given to Poor and DAGs to use the acquired skill and knowledge to initiate income generation activities.
10. The leadership quality of the committee members should be improved by providing appropriate training for them.
11. Users should be made aware of sources of income and expenditures from CFUG fund should be made transparent to all the users.
12. As networking with other organization is good, it should be enhanced through inter-organizational co-operation for the benefits of deprived members of the CFUG.

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ANNEX - 1

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

A) General Information about Respondents:

1. Respondents No.....
2. Name of CF.....
3. Name of respondent.....
4. VDC..... Ward No.....
5. Sex: Male { } Female { }
6. Caste: DAGs { } Non-DAGs { }
7. Age: 20 – 40 { } 40 – 60 { } >60 { }
8. Education: Illiterate { } 1 – 5 { } 6 – S.L.C { } >12 { }
9. Occupation: Agriculture { } Service { } Business { }
10. Well – Being: Poor { } Non-Poor { }

B) Economic Status of the Respondents:

1. Types of Respondents House according to Roof
Cemented Roof { } Metal Sheet Roof { } Thatched Roof { }
2. Number of Livestock
Cattle { } Buffalo { } Goat { } Pig { } Nothing { }
3. Food sufficiency from the production of own Land
< 3 Months { } 3 – 6 Months { } 6 – 12 Months { } > 12 Months { }

C) Have you been elected in executive committee?

1. Yes { } No { }

D) If not, are you or any HH members interested in serving in such a position?

1. Yes { } No { }

E) What is the process of decision making generally followed in your CFUG?

1. { } Passed agenda by committee members
2. { } Involved all CFUG members
3. { } Passed agenda by influential persons
4. { } Others

F) What do you think about the decision that has been made by the user group committee?

1. { } All good 2. { } Ok 3. { } No so good 4. { } Very poor

G) What do you think the decision is?

1. { } Democratic 2. { } Participatory 3. { } Neutral 4. { } Autocratic

H) Does the user committee listen to you while taking the decisions?

1. { } Yes 2. { } Only sometimes 3. { } No

I) How often have you attended the general assembly for your UG?

1. { } Always 2. { } Sometimes 3. { } Never

J) The distribution of forest products among CF users is:

1. { } Fair 2. { } Biased 3. { } Highly biased

K) How is the benefit shared?

1. { } Equal basis 2. { } According to OP

3. { } Decided by Influential/elite person

L) Are you satisfied with the forest products distribution system?

1. Yes { } 2. No { }

M) Has your CFUG provided loan to users from CFUG fund?

1. Yes { } 2. No { }

N) If, yes have you taken any loan?

1. Yes { } 2. No { }

O) If you don't then, what do you think to get the Loan?

1. { } Easy 2. { } Difficult 3. { } Impossible

P) Are you informed of income and expenditure of your CFUG fund?

1. Yes { } 2. No { }

Q) Did CFUG organize any type of training, tours or other special programs for their users?

1. Yes { } 2. No { } 3. Don't Know { }

R) How many times have you participated in training/tour/ seminar/ workshop since implementation of CF?

1. { } Once 2. { } Twice 3. { } > Twice 4. Never { }

S) Do you think birds and animals in your CF are increased after implementation of CF?

1. Yes { } 2. No { } 3. Don't Know { }

T) Do you think fuelwood/fodder/timber is available more than before?

1. Yes { } 2. No { } 3. Don't Know { }

U) Did majority of CFUG member participate in the meeting when constitution was finalized?

1. Yes { } 2. No { }

V) What are the sources of income in your CF?

1. { } Picnic spot 2. { } Entrance fee 3. { } Leaf litter selling

W) Please indicate your agreement or Neutral or disagreement on the following statement:

SN	Statement	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
1.	Each member has an equal opportunity to be elected in the committee members			
2.	Benefits and opportunities sharing mechanism is equitable and justifiable			
3.	Special provisions exist for Poor and DAGs in forest products			
4.	Decisions of committee are in favour of Poor and DAGs			
5.	Your voice is listened/responded positively in decision making process			
6.	There is contribution of CF on economic upliftment			
7.	Cost and expenditure of CFUG is transparent			
8.	User Groups fund is properly utilized			
9.	Loan taking process from your CFUG fund is quite easy			
10.	Process of nomination for training/tour/workshop is fair			
11.	Skills like speaking, leadership and co-operativeness is developed			
12.	Your participation is active in CFUG meeting and assembly			
13.	Freedom for expressing views and ideas in meeting and assembly			
14.	Social harmony is increased after implementation of CF			
15.	Access to different organization has increased			
16.	Networking of CFUG with other organization is good			
17.	Contribution of CF on infrastructure development			