

**Women's Participation in Community Forest  
Management  
(A Case Study of Gauradevi Community Forest of Gundu  
VDC, Bhaktapur)**

**A Project Report**

**Submitted to  
Central Department of Rural Development,  
In Partial Fulfillment of the requirement for the Master's  
Degree of Arts in Rural Development**

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## RECOMMENDATION LETTER

It is a great pleasure that I recommend for the approval of the thesis entitled "**Women's Participation in Community Forest Management (A Case Study of Gauradevi Community Forest of Gundu VDC, Bhaktapur)**" prepared by **Mr. Shree Krishna Shrestha** under my supervision for his partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master's of Arts in Rural Development. Therefore, this thesis report is recommended for its evaluation.

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## **APPROVAL LETTER**

This is to certify that the thesis submitted by **Mr. Shree Krishna Shrestha** entitled "**Women's Participation in Community Forest Management (A Case Study of Gauradevi Community Forest of Gundu VDC, Bhaktapur)**" has been approved by this department in the prescribed format as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master's of Arts in Rural Development.

**Approved by:**

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(Head of Department)

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(External Examiner)

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*This research was conducted in ward no. 1, 2 and 3 of Gundu VDC of Bhaktapur district. Here, the researcher had conducted the research on Women's Participation In Community Forest Management: A case study of Gauradevi community forest of Gundu VDC, Bhaktapur. It was a case study conducted on small area but this research contributes valuable information on issue of participation and management in community forest development at district and national level.*

*The overall objectives of the study was to know the women's participation in community forest user group's activities. However, the objectives were to explore the women's activities of GCFUG, to identify the view of local people towards women's role in CFM, to identify the constraints of women's participation in CF.*

*The study was descriptive as well as exploratory in nature. Samples were taken by the simple random sampling procedure. Total 40 respondents were taken randomly. The data were obtained from questionnaire, household survey and focus group discussion. Both primary and secondary data were used for the research.*

*All the respondents had positive view for protecting community forest. People of GCFUG was conscious about the forest conservation and they were satisfied with current forest management forest product such as firewood, grass, leaf litter, timber etc. distributed by systematic method.*

*After handed over the forest to local people by the government, people of the study area were conscious about the activities related to CF. The data shows that 83.58% (56/67) of the females were found involved in general meeting and 66.67% (6/9) of the female in executive committee. This shows that the female percentage was high than male in decision making process. In case of education, only 37.5% (15/40) respondents were illiterate.*

*The greater percentage of women population was engaged in agriculture, firewood collection. Men and women participation level was different in different*

*activities. Average livestock in the study area was 10.025 per household. For livestock, people depend upon private land and community forest.*

*Women play key role in community forest management activities and it was equally important for the effective management of CF. Women should be empowered to increase the active participation of women in decision making as well as level of CF and community development activities. About 100% respondents opined that the forest condition was better than 10 years ago.*

*Various obstacles were seen during forest management but now it was solved by discussion between forest user groups. For forest management, they focus on transparency, controlling illegal cutting of trees and other forest products, responsibility bearing, providing effective training about proper use of forest and so on.*

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## ABBREVIATIONS

CF	:	Community Forest
CFM	:	Community Forest Management
DFO	:	District Forest Office
EC	:	Executive Committee
FAO	:	Food and Agricultural Organization
FUG	:	Forest User Groups
G.C.	:	Gharti Chettri
GCFUG	:	Gundu Community Forest User Group
GOs	:	Government Organization
INGOs	:	International Non Government Organization
NGOs	:	Non Government Organization
NTFPs	:	Non Timber Forest Products
MPFS	:	Master Plan for the Forestry Sector
VDC	:	Village Development Committee