

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the brief introduction at the study, which chapter includes the background, statement of the problems, objective of the study, rationale of the study, limitation of the study, conceptual framework of the study.

1.1 Background

People's involvement in any activities is generally known as participation. It is not a new concept in the field of development. The word 'participation' and 'participatory' appeared for the first time in the development jargon during the late 1950s (Rahnema, 1997). However, in practice, the approach of participation arrived later in the field of development with the slogan of "putting the last first" (Chamber, 1983) due to the failure of earlier development approaches i.e., top down or trickle down approach of development.

In the context of Nepal, the approach of people's participation in the field of development was introduced in the late 1970s, mostly in the area of natural resource management such as forest, irrigation, rangeland and other development activities. Along with the participation of people, women's participation also appeared spontaneously in the fields.

The management, protection and utilization of forest by the local villagers or community are known as community forest (Gilmour and Fisher, 1991, Chhetri, 1994). "Community Forestry (CF) program being implemented in Nepal is essentially a strategy adopted to bring about socio-economic and environmental change and development in rural societies through interventions in regard to the management of forests" (Chhetri, 1994). Over time, this program appeared as one of the best examples of people's participation or people's participatory development activities in the sector of forest management in Nepal.

Forest is biotic and versatile renewable natural resources. It is the main source of fire-wood, timber, liters and animal fodder and plays a vital role in the rural livelihood. These resources are indispensable to about 90 percent of the rural population is directly involved in managing forest as part of there everyday life. Therefore, forest is an important natural

resource that is highly essential for all living creatures in the world. Forest is defined as “a vegetation unit, which possesses characteristics in physiognomy and structure sufficiently pronounced to permit of its differentiation from other such unit” (Champion and Seth, 1968). The former H.G. Champion is regarded as a Father of Forestry.

Among the principal vegetation units, forest is the most conspicuous one and its presence indicates the optimal growth condition of the areas. In scientific terms, forest has been defined as an aggregation of trees affecting each other and associated plants and animals and interacting with soil and climate (Morosow, 1928). Forests have wide range of values. Forests play a key role in ecological balance in the environment development. Forests are also linked with our culture and civilizations i.e. they have religious values. Pristine forests act as a major attraction for tourists. Rural people are very dependent on many non-timber forests products (NTFPs) for their subsistence needs. Forests are the habitats of wildlife. They play an important in enhancing the quality of environment by influencing the life supporting systems. Life supporting system refers to atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere and biosphere. Forests contribute in protection of wildlife, help on balancing the gaseous(CO_2 , O_2) cycles of atmosphere, tend to increase local precipitation and water holding capacity of soil, maintain the soil fertility, regulate the earth's temperature regimes and the hydrological cycles, control of soil erosion, landslides, siltation of watershed and reduce the flood havoc. Forest also has the aesthetic value and act as a natural laboratory for study and scientific investigation. Many people around the world come to Nepal to get benefit from highly rich biodiversity and provide an excellent opportunity to explore diverse flora and fauna in a very short distance.

Nepal's rural communities are fully dependent upon local forests for their socio-economic activities. As the national economy is predominately characterized by a large rural people on forest resources (Hobley, 1996). Rural Nepal's economy is largely based on renewable natural resources. Forestry plays a central role in the economic and social life of the rural people contributing 40% of the livestock nutrition equivalent to 5-6 million tons of dry matter/year (LSMP, 1993)

1.2 Statement of the problem

The forest sector plays a great role for the protection and balance of environment in Nepal. There is decline in the area under natural forest cover in Nepal by 5.7% from

1964/65 to 1978/79 and 3.4% from 1978/79 to 1985/86 (MPFS, 1988, Chettri and Pandey, 1992). This shows that the forest resources have been exploited rapidly. The main cause leading to deforestation is the over-growing population and pressure. In the past, the management pattern of government forest was mostly protective and restrictive type. But the government has realized that without the active participation and cooperation of local people, the conservation and utilization policy will not be effective and sustainable. Therefore to cope with this problem, community forestry was introduced.

The management and conservation of forest by the community has come along way, as a result of policy shift from state control of forest to management by forest user groups (FUGs) comprising of local residence. Significant outcomes have been achieved through their changes in policy and roles (Kanel, 2001). The forest is the main source of energy in rural area where 90% of population is concentrated. The village people especially, the poor don't have any alternating source of energy. Kerosene is available but it is costly, also they can't able to afford the biogas plant. So, fuel-wood is only the option of cooking and heating in context of Nepal.

Male dominant social structure can be found in Nepal. More than 81% population is involved in agriculture (Census, 1991). Women's involvement in agriculture is higher than male. Agriculture and forest is closely related to this condition, participation of female in forest management is unavoidable. According to the field experience of Nepal-Australia community forest project, women's are an important group of forest user and managers. They frequently use the forest more than man to collect fuel-wood, fodder and gather fallen leaves for animal bedding and cut grass for animals. Besides these, they use forest for fuel-wood. Thus they have a vital role in forest resources management and utilization including decision-making process. However most of the women are not directly involve in decision-making and their involvement is found satisfactory. In this respect, women in executive committee are kept to fulfill the government norms. Thus, they are not actively involved in major decision-making meetings. This demonstrates that the present male biased model of development has basically neglected women's work, knowledge and potential capacities in sustaining resources (Kayastha 1991, Dahal 1994, Kharel 1993, and Gurung and Baskota, 1990).

Community forest conservation model tries to make participate in the local people still now the primary forest user group (women's) is not participated properly in the

management, development, benefit sharing and decision making in common forestry. Thus this study tries to find the condition of women's participation in CFUG in the context of particular group in Bhaktapur district. Most especially this study concentrates on the following research problem:

- What is the socioeconomic status of Gauradevi community forest user group (GCFUG)?
- What is the condition of women as men's participation in GCFUG forest activities?
- What is the view of local people about women's role in community forest management?
- Are there any changes in attitude, knowledge and skill of users after community forestry program?
- What is the affecting cause (factor) of women's participation in GCFUG?

1.3 Rationale of the study (significance)

The community forest program has received the highest priority in the forestry of Nepal (HMGN, 1988). Community forestry policy in Nepal combines an environmental objective to protect against land degradation and deforestation with economic and social objectives to improve people's livelihood as a means of poverty reduction, to meet the people's basic need for fuel wood, timber, fodder and other forest products on a sustainable basis and to contribute to food production through an effective interaction between forestry and farming practice (MPFS, 1998).

Most of the people of rural areas of Nepal are closely related to the supply of forest products. Women's involvement in any development activities in Nepal is very poor. Most of the women are engaged in household work which is still uncounted in economic activities. Women's participation in social and development activities are equally important but there is a wide gap between men and women in every aspect of life. Therefore, this study aims to explore the participation of women in community forest and contribution of forest to improve their socio-economic status. Therefore, they should

be involved in the forest management activities. Women's role in forest management includes activities carried out in the forest for the purpose of improving the forest conditions and future availability of forest products.

This study might be useful for the policy maker and development workers of various sectors in the hill ecological region of the country. It might be useful to make new policies to solve the non-participation and low participation problem of female in particular.

1.4 Objectives of the study

To study women's participation in community forest user group's activities is the general activities of this research. Apart from this objective, the following specific objectives, which highlight different community forestry activities, have been considered in this research:

- ✳ To explore the women's participation in different activities of community forest.
- ✳ To identify the view of local people towards women's role in community forest management.
- ✳ To study the impacts of Community Forest.
- ✳ To identify the constraints of women's participation in Community Forest.

1.5 Limitation of the study

The present analysis is concentrated only in one forest user group of Gundu Village Development Committee of Bhaktapur district. So, the findings of the study may not give the whole picture of the community forestry in the country because of socio-economic variation, which may differ the causes of any socio-economic problem and their solution. The notion of generalization by deriving conclusions from a single case study is obviously misleading but it will be useful for the same ecological, socio-economic and biological area of the nation.

1.6 Conceptual framework

“Critical observers of development” have been identified some “killer assumptions” about people centered development. One of such assumptions lies hidden in the manipulated interpretation as people's participation as “participation development” as against the interpretation as “peoples participation in development”. The former implies top down

participation with people’s minimal involvement grafted into the conventionally predetermined framework of the development interventions. While the later means, “bottom up participation” with people’s active participation in the entire process of development. The first model tends to ignore the realities of the poor such as dependence, submission, limited access to resource as anything relevant to justify restructuring the experts-endorsed strategies; the second model enters these very realities into strategies that are yet to be made through their immersed involvement in development initiatives. The practical ingredients of participation in any development intervention are “participation in decision making, participation in implementation, participation in benefit sharing and participation in evaluation” (Maskey, 1998).

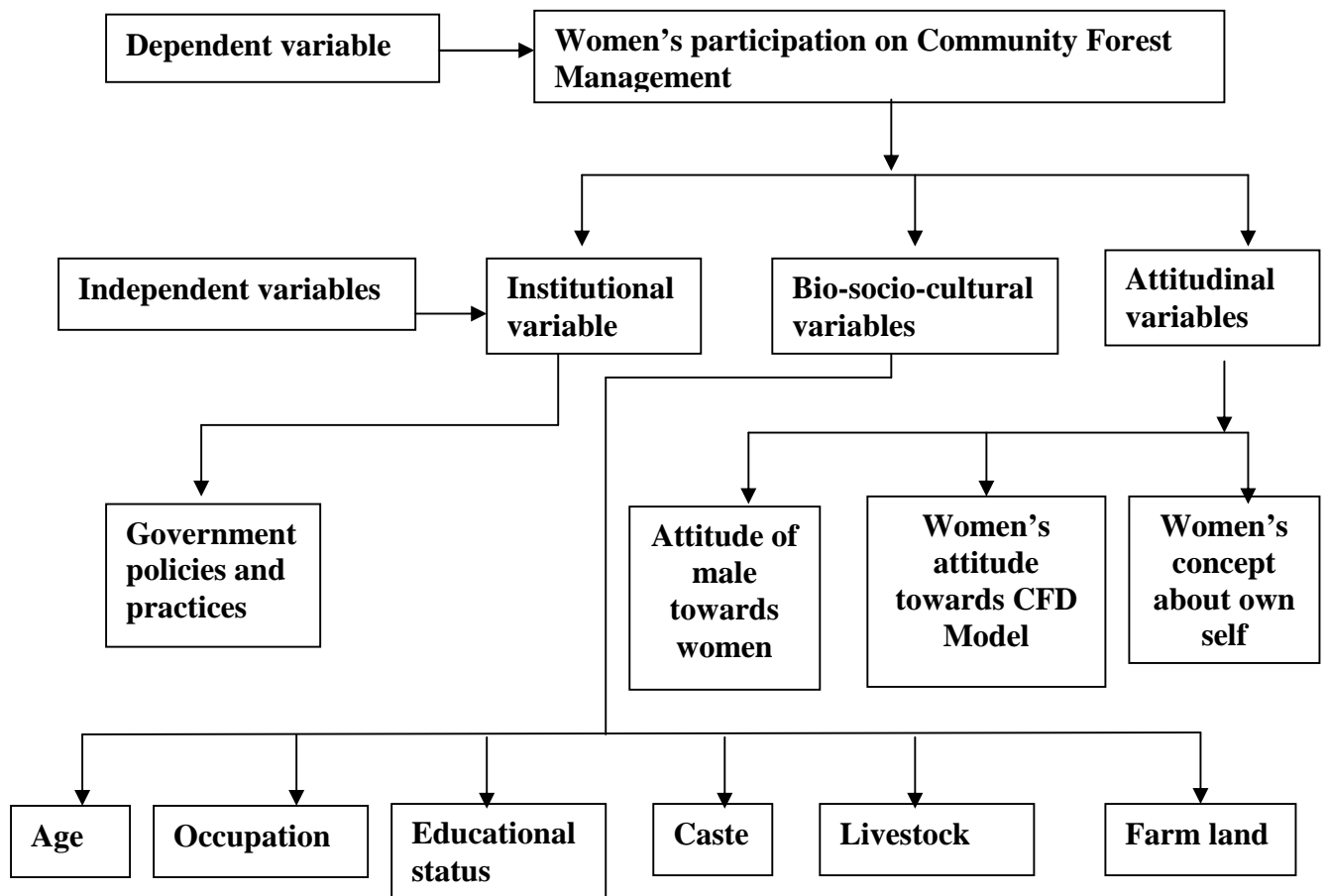


Figure 1. Conceptual Framework Adopted for the study

1.7 Organization of the study

The present study consists of seven chapters including introduction, literature review, research methodology, overview of VDC, forest use and management system, summary, conclusion and recommendation respectively.

The first chapter is an introduction chapter of the study. This chapter deals with the general introduction of the study, statement of the problem, objectives, significations of the study, limitation of the study, conceptual framework and organization of the study.

The second chapter presents a review of literature which is also divided into two sections. The first section deals with the general management of the forest resources in Nepal and the second section focuses on literature dealing with women's participation in CF.

The third chapter presents the methodology applied by the researcher to carry out this research. This chapter is also divided into three sections. First section presents the rationale for the selection of the study site, the second section describes about the sampling procedure, nature and source of data, tools and techniques applied for collection of data and the third chapter deals with the presentation and analysis of the data applied by the researcher.

The fourth chapter describes the ecological setting of the Gauradevi VDC of Bhaktapur district. This chapter deals about the setting of study area, the climate, flora and fauna and natural resources found in the study area.

It also presents the socio-economic profile of the villagers of Gauradevi community. This chapter gives an account of demographic character, settlement pattern, socio-cultural and economic activities of the villagers. The fifth chapter deals about the general overview of CF management and women's participation in CF.

Also the fifth chapter discusses the forest use and management system including historical system of forest management, present system of management, distribution system of forest resource, involvement in forest resource, gender participation in general meeting, women's role in general meeting, problems for women participation in community forest

management system and views of local people towards women's role in community forest management.

Summary, conclusion and recommendation are presented in the chapter six.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Evolution of community Forest

It is universally accepted that local communities have historically played an instrumental role in forest management as an indispensable common property (Uprety, 2000). Management of common forest resources was well developed in England by the middle Ages with clearly defined use and ownership right and such rights already dated from time immemorial (Recham 1986 cited in Baniya, 2006). Thus, far from “Community Forestry” being a modern concept, it is in fact a very old one; another case of “old wine in a new bottle” (Gilmour et. al., 1991).

As the population pressure increase, people started to exploit the forest for their subsistence. It begins to raise many environmental crises. However, till 1970s expressions, such as “Environmental Degradation” and “Eco-conservation” were generally unknown. But realizing the importance of forest and awareness of its rapid deforestation raised the concept of social forestry. The national commission on agriculture, India first coined the term “social forestry” in 1976 (Singh, 1993).

FAO (1980) has defined community forest as any situation which intimately involves local people in a forestry activities excluding large industrial forestry that contributes to community development throughout employment and wages but include forest services which encourage and assist forestry activity at the community level. The legitimating of the concept was also boosted by the adaptation of “forestry for people” as the theme for the eight-world forestry congress in Jakarta in 1978. By the 1980s, the concept of community forestry had become major program within the forestry policy of many developing countries.

Nepal is the world leader in the field of community forestry. By the mid-1970s, Nepal began establishing itself as one of the first nation in Asia to recognize the limitation of unilaterally managing published through government agencies and the need for

community involvement in forest management. In 1978, the Nepalese government introduced Panchayat forest and Panchayat protected forest rules in a response to the failure of the forest. The established of new democratic government in 1990 supported the devolving of management rights and responsibilities to Forest Users Groups. Over the past decade, the formal transfer of rights to hamlet based FUGs have accelerated.

2.2 Concept of Community Forest

The concept of community as social forestry came after the release of landmark FAO publication “Forestry for local community development” (FAO, 1978). FAO has defined community forest as “any situation with intimately involves local people on forestry activities”. By the 1980s, the concept of community forestry had become major programme within the forestry policy of many developing countries.

2.3 Overview of the Forestry Policy, Act and Regulation

The current community forestry policy is a result of an evolution forestry policy over along period of time. After many years of policy exercise, the government recognized forest as also “social property” of property of society against the prior recognition as “national property” (Shrestha, 1997). The greatest focus was to forest sector when a twenty-year master plan was developed (HMG/n, 1998). The restoration of democracy in 1990 which gave impetus to the empowerment of local communities with the enactment of Forest Act 1993 followed by Forest Regulations 1995, and is supportive and conducive for community forestry development in the country.

2.4 Implementation status of community forest in Nepal

Nepal's forestry sector was administrated under the feudal system for a long period. Rana rulers used *Tarai* forest as their own property. The democratic movement of 1950 removed Rana rulers from power and prevented the misuse of forest by nationalizing all forests in 1957. Forests were considered to be the property of Rana rulers before the nationalization. When the party-less *Panchayat* system was introduced in 1961, people gradually lost all benefits because they had been deprived of their right to benefit from and manage the forests. During the 1970s, the issue of forest land degradation was highlighted and poor hill farmers were blamed for forest degradation. Until 1970, the main role of the forest department was to exploit *Tarai* forest for commercial purpose largely to supply timber to British India for railway slippers. In 77, the first amendment of

Forest Act of 1961 was passed in Nepal. The Act divided forest into six categories: *Panchayat Forest, Panchayat Protected Forest, Religious Forest, Leased Forest, Private Forest, and Government Forest*. A village *Panchayat* could own 125 ha. Of degraded forest designated as *Panchayat Forest (PF)* for plantation and protection. Similarly, 500 hectares, of existing forest area could be designated as *Panchayat Protected Forest (PPF)*. The benefit was to be shared between the *Panchayat* and Department of Forest at a ratio of 1:3. Until 1987, 36376 ha. of forest land was transferred to the *Panchayat* (New Era, 1983).

More than one million hectares of national forests have been handed over to 13,125 community forest user groups (CFUGs) constituting about one and half million households. The size of the community forest varies from 0.08 hectares to 3997 hectares. Average size of a community forest is 81 hectares. Distribution of community forest over to 14 percent of the total households involved in community forest in Terai/Inner terai while 68 percent of the total community forest area has been provided to 68.5 percent of the total household involved in community forest in the Middle Hills. In the High Mountains, 19.5 percent of total community forest area has been handed over to 17.5 percent of total households involved in community forest. The CFUGs are not only provided with well-stocked forest but also with degraded forests. Out of the total area of community forest handed over to CFUGs, 74 percent were in good condition, 18 percent were degraded and the remaining 8 percent are not specified during the handed over process. Community forests have been grouped into four categories based on type of vegetation dominating community forest. Out of the total community forest area, 83 percent in natural forest, 14 percent is shrub land, 3 percent is plantation and 0.2 percent is grassland. Out of the total number of 13,125 CFUGs, about five percent are CFUGs having only women as members. Women only CFUGs are well managed as compared to CFUGs or mixed CFUGs (CFD, 2004).

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

Office. Assistant Rangers are supposed to apply rules, schedule and other institutional arrangement made for forest production management and utilization (Kanel and Niraula, 2004).

Box 1: Historical time line of the forest management policy in Nepal

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

1995	Forest Regulations	Procedural guidelines for implementation of the Forest Act 1993.
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Source: ICIMOD, 1999

According to new forest policy of 1990, any patch of the forest can be handed over to local community for its management; conservation and utilization in which land is still owned by government and trees are owned by community. The community has full authority to control over resources and to decide conservation, management and utilization plan. Community has to prepare a simple operation plan in collaboration with DFOs where major decision are made by users themselves expect some technical knowledge are borrowed from forest technicians. All the revenues and benefits derived from the community forest go to the community fund. Community can decide income and expenditure for the various rural development purposes without any approval of local authorities.

Some of the important features of community forestry policy are as follows;

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

Community forestry is considerable a successful mode of forest management in the hills of Nepal. However, the implementation of community forestry in the Terai region has been slower than in the hills. There has been widespread scepticism in the forest

administration and among international donors about whether community forestry is also feasible in the Terai region. In contrast to the extensive body of knowledge on community forestry in the hills, however, little is known about the potential of community forestry in the Terai (Chakraborty *et. al.*, 1997).

2.5 Women's participation in community forest management

Involvement of women is crucial for the success of community forestry. Women are the major collectors of forest products such as fuel wood, leaf-litter, grass etc. They cook and do most of domestic works. Therefore, it is those who suffer the social and economic consequences of deforestation, most directly having to spend more and more time and walk longer distances in search of this essential forest product (Kayastha, 1991).

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

Regmi (1989) concluded in his study women's involvement in forest committee could definitely help the government to solve deforestation problem in Nepal. These studies have also recommended women's active participation in community forestry program so that the community can protect and development the local forest resources.

Women's participation will help forest first and women second. Women will give forestry interest, time, effort, even money in some cases before forestry give to them products of household consumption and commercial use, income and consequent improvement in position, status and decision-making power. Women's participation in forestry needs to be understood in this light and take up a major concern of all forestry personnel (Siddiqui, 1989).

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Gauradevi community Forest User Group has been selected for the study. The Gauradevi community forest user group lies in ward no. 1, 2 and 3 of Gundu Village Development Community of Bhaktapur district. The researcher of this study is the inhabitant of the same village development committee. Being the local inhabitant is very much familiar as well as aware of local situation.

3.1 Research design

This study has adopted both descriptive and exploratory techniques. The descriptive research design has been used to describe and mention historical practice and related studies. The exploratory research design has been used to find the solution of the specific problem of the study area. This study tries to explore new information about the affecting factor in women participation in the study universe.

3.2 Nature and sources of data

The study will be based on primary as well as secondary data. In primary data collection, the structural questionnaire was used during the field visit. Users, user's leaders and concerned line, agency staff were interviewed. The questions were pre-tested. The secondary data were collected from the Forest User Group. Office, Forest department, Central Bureau of Statistics office and unpublished books, journals and thesis.

3.3 Study universe

The Gauradevi Community Forest Users Group has 95 households and total population is about 700.

3.4 Sampling procedure

Of the total 95 households of Gauradevi Community Forest User group, 40 respondents have been selected.

3.5 Data collection tools and techniques

Various data collection technique is used to collect the primary data. For the selection of respondents, simple random technique is used. In the field observation, data were collected through structural questionnaire. Most of the information for the sample will be collected by face-to-face interview (focus group discussion), key informant's interview and field observation.

3.6 Data processing, analysis and presentation

The collected data has been processed analyzed to make them meaningful so as to meet the objectives of the study. The collected primary data will be classified, tabulated and interpreted according to the requirement. Simple statistical methods will be used for analyzing the quantitative data and the qualitative data will be described, explained and logically analyzed.

CHAPTER FOUR

OVERVIEW OF GAURADEVI OF COMMUNITY FOREST

4.1 Overview of study area

Bhaktapur locally known as Khowpa, literally the ‘City of Devotees’, is renowned for its elegant art, fabulous culture, colourful festivals, traditional dances and the typical Newar lifestyle. This Nepal’s cultural capital spread over an area of 119 sq. km. at 1,401 meters above sea level is surrounded over by hills with green forest. The study area is in Gundu VDC which also lies in Bhaktapur district. Bhaktapur district is situated in Bagmati zone. Bhaktapur district is in an elevation of 1372 meter to 2166 meters. The climate is cool temperate and mild temperate (district profile of Nepal): there are 16 village development communities and 2 municipalities. It is adjoining to Kathmandu district in the west and north, Kavrepalanchowk in the east and south, and Lalitpur in the south and west cornerwise. Bhaktapur is one of the hilly districts of Nepal.

Gauradevi Community Forest is located at the Gundu VDC of the Bhaktapur District under Suryabinayak Range post. This is one of the community forests in this district where female are highly mobilized than male. About 95 households are registered and 700 numbers of the people are getting direct benefited from this forest sources. Out of 95 members from 95 households, 61 members are female and 34 members are male. In the board member of community forest, out of nine, six members are female. This indicates those females are actively participated.

Gauradevi community forest lies in ward no. 1, 2 and 3 of Gundu VDC. This community forest was handled over to the local community in the year of 2056 BS. In fact this areas of the forest was the dense forest of the Chilaune, Utis, Katush, Laligurans, Salla, Kafal and other medicinal plants and trees before four and five decade. Due to the lack of awareness and the ignorance of the people, deforestation and land capture by the people was high for their livelihood. By the time of 2040 B.S. rarely some trees can be seen, most of the areas were covered with bushes and shrubs. At the same time, DFO organized the afforestation programme with the provision of some guards. But, actually these programme were not so successful in the target level due to public awareness and their

participation. The emergence of the awareness about conservation and protection arose to the people and were active since the year of 2050 B.S.

The name “Gauradevi” was kept under the goddess Bandevi i.e. the god of jungle. People celebrate the god believing that it protect from natural disaster and other natural calamities. So every year the people celebrate this goddess. This god is located in the middle of the Gauradevi community forest.

This CF is located at the backside of Suryabinayak temple which is about 1400m. The area covered by this CF is about 10 hector and located in ward no 3 of Gundu VDC. It covers the area from east Manthali CF to west Gundu road and north Balkumari CF to south Rikhadol Kholsa Ratomate Danda.

Main features of the Gauradevi community forest

-) Maximum women participated community forest
-) Wide women participation in decision making
-) Reward with money for the excellent community forest protection and management by DFO in the year 2058/2059 and 2060/2061
-) Organizing different public awareness programme, training in regular interval of time
-) Cooperation with VDC and other community forest
-) Providing trees to the poor people for the construction of house
-) Participating in quiz contest and essay contest and winning second prize in both competition
-) Forest management training like cutting and thinning trees, bushes; way to control community forest from fire etc.
-) Self guarding according to their name-wise inside community forest

These features were collected from primary as well as secondary data. In the field visit data were collected through the structural questionnaire to the user group, focus group discussion and the interactive works with the local people.

The compositional characteristics of the caste of this area varied widely Bhramin, Chettri, Newars, G.C., Giri etc. are the permanent local people of this VDC. Among this population, the GCFUGs belongs to the ward no. 1, 2 and 3 has the member of 95 households of his family type of the FUGs is both the nuclear and joint family.

CHAPTER FIVE DATA ANALYSIS

5.1 Socio-economic Characteristics

5.1.1 Distribution of respondents by caste

GCFUGS belongs to the ward no. 1, 2 and 3 and has member of 95 households consisting of Bhramin, Chettri, Newar, G.C. Among total respondents, 25% respondents found Khatri, 17.5% respondents from Wagle and so on. The family type of the FUGs is both the nuclear and joint family. About 55% of the family is nuclear and 45% of family is joint type in the composition of the family. The population chart of 40 members is carried for interview as far as possible to make the research work scientific one.

Table 5.1: Percentage distribution of caste

Caste type	Number of respondents	Percentage
Khatri	10	25
Wagle	7	17.5
Shrestha	5	12.5
Kasula	5	12.5
Sapkota	4	10
G.C.	4	10
Deuja	3	7
Karki	1	2.5
Giri	1	2.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field survey. 2007

5.1.2 Distribution of respondents by education status

Education plays a key role in the development of society and the country and it is quite essential for human life. To know the status of whole population of this community forest, education plays an important role.

Table 5.3 shows about 37.5% respondents were illiterate and 47.5% were under SLC. Among different caste present in the community forest, educational level is high in Wagle

(100%), followed by Karki (100%), Giri (100%), Sapkota (75%), and so on from table no. 5.2. Only two people were found educational level above bachelor. This educational status shows there was no 100% literate.

Table 5.2 Educational status of FUGs

Caste type	Educational level					
	Illiterate	Literate			Total	Literate Percentage among caste
		Under SLC	SLC & Intermediate	Bachelor & above		
Khatri	5	4	-	1	10	50
Sapkota	1	2	1	-	4	75
Shrestha	3	1	1	-	5	40
Deuja	1	1	1	-	3	66.67
Kasula	2	3	-	-	5	60
G.C.	3	-	1	-	4	25
Wagle	-	5	1	1	7	100
Karki	-	1	-	-	1	100
Giri	-	1	-	-	1	100
Total	15	18	5	2	40	-

Source: Field survey, 2007

5.3 Educational status by sex-wise of FUGs

Educational status	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
Illiterate	1	14	15(37.5%)
Under SLC	8	11	19(47.5%)
SLC and Intermediate	3	1	4(10%)
Bachelor and above	2	0	2(5%)
Total	14	26	40

Source: Field survey 2007

5.1.3 Distribution of respondents by occupation

Comparatively most of the male are engaged in services and business while females are engaged totally agriculture as well as housewife. The occupation is taken in individual level to know the male and female participation in household work for this study. Students are also considered because their role is also vital in rural household economy and are involved in agriculture, forest product collection and other household works.

Table 5.4 shows that in GCFUG, 82.5% respondents are engaged in agriculture, 10% business, 5% service and 2.5% student.

Table 5.4 Occupation of the GCFUG

Occupation	No. of respondents	Percentage
Agriculture	33	82.5
Service	2	5
Business	4	10
Student	1	2.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field survey, 2007

5.1.4 Livestock Holding

Livestock are essential component of rural livelihoods and agriculture in rural areas depends on livestock. Livestock play an important role in rural people economy.

Table 5.5 Livestock among the GCFUG respondents

Types of Livestock	Number	Average per household	Percentage
Cow	38	0.95	9.47
Oxen	5	0.125	1.25
Buffalo	20	0.5	4.98
Goat	98	2.45	24.44
Hen	240	6	59.85
Total	401	10.025	100.00

Source: Field survey, 2007

Above table 5.5 shows that goat, hen and cow are major livestock among cattle tamed. Except poultry farming all other cattle are stall-feeding with grass, hay and fodder. Grass, fodder and hay are obtained from their own private land or from community forest. Before forming community forest, people use haphazardly in community forest as a result deforestation was increased enormously. But after handed over the forest to community as community forest, animals are prohibited for grazing, cutting plants and trees and afforestation was done in bare land. As a result, the bare land also converted into green and landslide was also controlled.

In the study area, total hens are 240, goat 98, cow 38 and so on. Total livestock are 401. Average livestock rising in study area is 10.025 per household.

5.1.5 Land holding

The GCFUG have occupied mainly two types of land that is Khet and Bari. There is great relationship between land holding, livestock and community forest. Greater the landholding, higher the necessity of bio- fertilizer; for this livestock should also be high.

Table 5.6 Land holding

Type of land	No of household	Area in ropani	Average per respondents
Khet	40	131	3.275
Bari and Pakhabari	40	115	2.875
Total	-	246	6.15

Source: Field survey, 2007

The average land holding of GCFUG per household is 6.15 ropani including 3.275 ropani Khet and 2.875 ropani Bari and pakhabari. Here, Khet represents irrigated land and Bari as well as Pakhabari represents unirrigated land. It is observed during the field visit most of the household have Utis, Bakena, Kurilo, Bamboo, Lapsi, Amala, Orange, Guava, Haluwabet, Bimiro etc trees in their private bari and pakhabari. These trees were planted in order to supplement fodder, fuel wood and to earn money by selling.

5.1.6 Food Sufficiency

The main occupation of the villagers is agriculture. However, they can not produce sufficient food grains from the small piece of land and lack of irrigation facility. The following table shows the food production of the community.

Table no. 5.7 Food sufficiency of households according to their own agricultural production

Food sufficiency	Total respondents	percentage
Less than 3 months	2	5
4-6 months	21	52.5
7-9 months	9	22.5
10-12 months	5	12.5
12+ above months	3	7.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2007.

Table 5.7 shows that majority of the villagers did not produce sufficient grains to meet their annual food need whereas very few households were producing sufficient food grains to last them through out the year. Due to the lack of annual food sufficiency most of the villagers are involved in other activities i.e. wage labor, business, private and government service to fulfill their need of food grains.

Nowadays, due to awareness by different institution people started cash crops farming like mushroom, potato, ginger, garlic, varieties of vegetable and fruits, paddy. Besides this farming, they cultivated unseasonable vegetables. As a result, although they have little land, per year income was increased. So life standard was improved compare to last few decades. These cash crops were reached up to different market of Kathmandu Valley. GFUG also do labor for additional income source but mostly they will share their farm works with their friends and neighbors known as “Parma”. Their activities of agriculture, livestock farming and community forest management is totally dependent to each other directly or indirectly each of the sector fulfill side by side. As rural life required all the equipment needed for livestock management and agricultural practices are grant of

community forest. Firewood, fodder, compost manure for fertilizer is daily needs of rural people in domestic life. These materials are only supplied through the community forest.

5.2 Women's participation in community forest management

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

Since it is run mostly by female, all the management and development of this community forest is wholly dependent on users especially women. Only few male were involved in this community forest. The community forest of before 10 years and current was completely different. This community forest is vital source of income generating manipulating to the consumers ideas as for success of the development of the whole sector of this area in steady manner. The fund generated there from the consumers and different rewards from the national and international sector again added more hallmarks to this community forest. Besides establishment of this community forest people have to go to the jungle in illegal way for the collection of the firewood, fodder and other forest products even for the “**Ratomato**” but these people have to encounter guards and they have to pay fine according to instruments use. Till some years, consumers are not getting benefits from non-timber products because of very new forest but from two years they are getting timber products. They use this timber for the construction of house.

5.2.1 Present system of forest management compared to 10 years ago

The information about the present forest management to system, question was asked to the respondents. It was found all respondents have positive answer. Their view towards community forest management was effective due to participation of community people. All the users are getting benefit from this community forest.

Table 5.8 Perception of respondents on the forest condition

Forest condition	Respondents	Percentage
Decreased	0	0
Increased	40	100
As it is	0	0
Total	40	100

Source: Field survey, 2007

Above table shows 100% respondents opined that the forest conditions were good and increased than 10 years ago. The forest had changed into dense forest. No one said that it was decreased and as it is about present condition of forest and forest management. According to them, this positive view was due to forest was handed over to local community, good community relations and good performance of executive.

5.2.2 Necessary steps to be taken for effective management of the community forest than present condition

Although present condition of forest management was satisfactory, for better management of the forest product, respondents gives various opinion. Following are the necessary steps to be taken for effective management of community forest than present condition:

-) Transparency
-) Controlling illegal cutting of trees and other forest products
-) Responsibility bearing by each and every executive committee and general members of this community forest
-) Planting trees in bare land
-) Providing effective training about proper use of forest, thinning method, plantation of grasses which can be used for earning money etc. by District Forest Office to the members of community forest

5.3 Women's Participation in CF Activities

5.3.1. Women's Participation in Executive Committee

In GCFUG, the executive committee members were selection through the consensus of the user members. The present executive committee called the general assembly for the

formation of next executive committee. The name for executive members is nominated by the user groups themselves in general assembly and then attendance user groups agree to that nominated person. Then, that person is selected for the executive committee member.

The formation of executive committee is an important aspect in CF because major decisions regarding to forest management is generally done by it. Therefore, women access and participation in CF also clearly assert their presentation in CF executive committee. The involvement of women and men in the executive committee of CF from the first formation to the present is presented in the table no 5.9.

Table 5.9 Sex wise women’s participation in executive committee of (2056-2065)

Year	SEX				Total
	Male	%	Female	%	
2056	5	55.55	4	44.45	9
2058	4	44.45	5	55.55	9
2062	3	33.33	6	66.67	9
2064	3	33.33	6	66.67	9

Source: Field Survey, 2006

Table 5.9 clear that women participation in CF executive committee was relatively higher than the CF policy. The policy clearly mentioned that 33% women must be present in CF executive committee. However, the participation of women is seen in increasing ratio. In the first formation of CF, there were four women (44.45%) in the executive committee whereas 66.67% women are found to be participating in the present committee.

5.3.2. Women Participation in the general Meeting

Participation in the general meeting is one of the major factors which lead to the decision making. The major decisions about CF management are done in this meeting. General meeting of user group held one time per year. This is compulsory provision to attend the general meeting of GFUG for the user households. Following table represents the situation of GCFUG meeting attends.

The members of the user group say that there is high participation of the women in meeting of CF executive committee as well as general assembly although they busy schedule in their household activities. The president of the executive committee informed during the interview that women members normally came after starting the meeting and left it before ending due to their household chores. In the group discussion, the researcher asked the question about the attendance of women in the meeting regularly. One of the participant told that those who had work in their house can participate in the meeting after finishing her work.

Table 5.10 Male and female attendance in general assembly (2062-2064)

Year	Sex	No of attendance	%	Total
2062	Male	20	30.77	65
	Female	45	69.23	
2063	Male	12	18.75	64
	Female	52	81.25	
2064	Male	11	16.42	67
	Female	56	83.58	

Source: GCFUG record, 2007.

The above table 5.10 shows the attendance of males and females in GCFUGs general assemblies during last three years. It clears that the participation of women in general assembly is increasing in 2062 than 2064 due to the access to resources, benefit from the forest and feeling of own forest.

Besides these they have view that there should be participation of male in executive committee and general meeting for back supporting.

5.3.3 Role of women in general meeting

Self motivated participation is considered the real participation. They are the key agent in the management of CF. According to the field survey, among 56 meeting attend women only 20 participants were involve in my research. Among them, 50 percent of women use to attend meeting like audience, 25 percent member giving suggestions, 15 percent attend meeting taking part in discussion and 10 percent attend meeting sharing in decision-making. Compulsory provision of meeting attends and absence of male member in family

makes the high attendance of women in meeting but the attendance of women is like audience is high.

Table 5.11 Role of women in GCFUG general meeting

Role of women in general meeting	Number of respondents by meeting attend	Percentage
Like audience	10	50
Giving suggestion	5	25
Discussion	3	15
Decision making	2	10
Total	20	100

Source: Field survey, 2007

5.3.4 Problems for women's participation in community forest management activities

Various factors, which negatively influence to women's participation in community forest management and other local development activities in the study area, are given below:

a) Household Chore: In the study area, higher involvement of women in child rearing, feeding household members, livestock and agricultural work makes the women busier. Respondents of the study area were considered that regular HH chore as a main problem of women. So, lack of time is major obstacles for women's participation. However, high number of women's was participated in collecting firewood, floodor than community forest management which becomes one of the problems of this community forest.

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

c) Lack of Knowledge about Rules of Community Forest: According to the respondents, inadequate knowledge and skills about the CF is next problem of women.

Due to the lack of knowledge about the rules of CF women couldn't share in discussion and decision makes process properly. Because of the lack of these knowledge women were became passive in CFM activities.

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

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

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

Above mentioned any single causes are not responsible for the low participation of women in community forest management activities. The combinations of all of the causes are main problems for women participation. According to the sampled respondents, following view is given about obstacles for women's participation which is listed in the table 5.12.

Table 5.12 Distribution of respondents by view about obstacles for women’s participation

S. No.	Obstacles	No. of respondents
1	Household chore	20/20
2	Illiteracy	5/20
3	Lack of knowledge about rules of CF	7/20
4	Male dominated culture	2/20
5	Self humiliation	1/20
6	Poor economic condition	2/20
Total		20

Source: Field survey, 2007

5.4 Views of local people about women’s role toward community forest

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

5.4.1. Positive Views about Women

Positive views of local people about the role of women as following:

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

Women of study area are positive about community forest program. Unless they are busier in their household work but they are helping to manage the forest. Women's actively participation in general meeting of CF and they follow and respect rules, they help for forest guard for forestry rearing. They have no experience to take part in discussion in decision-making but they are trying to keep their views in CF general

meeting. If they have training, awareness programs and support and encourage of male they can play active role in forest management and other development activities. They must be included in development activities without gender bias.

5.4.2 Negative Views about Women

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

-) Women do not want to participate in CF meeting
-) Women have no idea and ability to manage forest
-) Women don't care about public concerns
-) Women have not wide concept, to manage public concerns without bias
-) Problem of criticizing each other

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

CHAPTER SIX

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter summarizes the major finding of the study and draws conclusion about the role of women in the management of forest and provides some recommendation that help women more active in forest management.

6.1 Summary

The study "women's participation in community forest management" was conducted in Gauradevi community forest of Gundu VDC of Bhaktapur district aiming to assess the status of women's participation in CFM in the study area. Among the total 95 households 40 households were surveyed.

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

-) There was various caste groups who were the users of CF. Bhramin, Chettri, Newar etc. were main inhabitant as well as participant in this community forest.
-) Agriculture was the main occupation of the people in the study area. But agricultural production was not sufficient for their livelihood. So, people of the area were involved themselves in subsidiary occupation in various types of services as well as business. 82.5% respondents were engaged in agriculture, 10% business, 5% service and 2.5% student.
-) About 37.5% respondents were illiterate and 47.5% were under SLC.
-) The average land holding of GCFUG per household was 6.15 ropani including 3.275 ropani Khet and 2.875 ropani Bari and Pakhabari.
-) 100% respondents opined that the forest conditions were good and increased than 10 years ago.
-) The FUG had distributed over the area of 10 hectare for the purpose of protection, development and utilization of CF.
-) Women participation in general assemblies and regular meetings of FUG was satisfactory. In the study area, women's participation in CFM was also high. Men's involve only in operational plan preparation, guiding and decision making.

-) The FUG consists of 64.21% women members and 66.67% women in executive committee. Also women had occupied the vital portfolios.
-) Participation of women in general assembly was increasing in 2062 than 2064 due to the access to resources, benefit from the forest and feeling of own forest.
-) Women EC member's participation was less passive than male in the vital discussion and in taking decision.
-) 50% of women use to attend meeting like audience, 25% member giving suggestions, 15% taking part in discussion and 10% sharing in decision-making.
-) Both women & men found involved in forest products collection and transportation. However, the degree of women's involvement was again higher in the actual field.
-) In every year the proportion of women's involvement in general assembly, as a member was found higher.
-) Majority of the members of the study area were involved in forest resource management for the fulfillment of day to day requirement of forest products.
-) Maximum work load was the major problem of women to involve in CF management. Likewise, lack of knowledge, self-humiliation and illiteracy among women was other problems.

6.2 Conclusion

We should appreciate that CF had contributed to capacity building of women and under-privileged people of the community. This had made them increasingly involved, at least, in various meetings and decision making sites. However, the leadership in decision-making in CFUG was more in the hands of men than women. But this study indicates women were actively taking part in various CF activities. Nevertheless, just being the executive member and physical presence in assembly might not suggest increment in women's role in decision-making process.

This community forest especially focused to preserve, conserve and manage the forest resources. This directly or indirectly benefits the people who were using this community forest. From the field survey it was seen that there was no any place to claim the disorder in the protection of the forest by the user group and their views towards the community forest management aspects, their understanding level was seemed to be improved which

triggers the change in the status by awaking them. Number of participation as a member was also increased per year which shows the positive impact of this community forest. The aim of this study was to find and analyze the socio-economic activities of the FUGs and the level of participation in decision making of the women and to investigate the changing condition established by the community forestry programme. There it was seemed to be more affective towards them.

The economic activities of the users were particularly agricultural related areas and home based works. The raw materials for the agriculture, cooking purposes were the sources from the field and the forest. Those who have no land should totally depend upon the forest. The direct benefits were the easier and regular access of the forest resources for their livelihood and it concern with the user while the indirect refers to the protection of the flora and fauna; prevention of environmental degradation, the challenging task of the human today. The sufficient flow of the water resources, regular rainfall, purity of the atmospheric air, minimization of the landslide, flood and famine were invisible advantages of the forest. These benefits directly link with the whole population both the user group, non user group and to all the visitors.

The problems observed in this community forest like different types of disputes, transparency in the mobilization of the funds, criticizing each other etc. were very minor compared to the progressive side which can be solved by discussion between the users. Besides these, the government should help by providing training about management of community forest, providing plants for bare land and also awarding as best community forest according to their forest management and their activities. So, the government should be aware about the clear views for green revolution through CF and elaborate the participation of women in all other community forest user group.

The forest products collection was the major task of women in the community. According to research findings both male and female were responsible for different activities of CF even though female involvement was higher then male in particular activities.

The formation of executive committee was an important aspect because major decisions regarding to forest management was generally done by it. Therefore, women access and participation in CF also clearly assert their presentation in CF executive committee. In the

case of Gauradevi CF, women participation in the executive committee and general assembly was found high as compared with man and their participation was also found effective. Male were the helping hand for this community forest for its management and development.

6.3 Recommendations

Drawbacks encountered during implementation need to be removed and emphasis should be given for good governance to make community forest programme more effective and result oriented. Different disputes, lack of transparency and negligence seen should be eradicated through the effective discussion with the related group. The forest resources can be mobilized for generating income source by implementing proper plan and policy. Strategic procedures such as compulsory involvement of all poor and disadvantage groups, different caste and ethnic group in planning and decision making need to be design and promote ensure their proper representation.

Besides these there some more recommendations which will be fruitful for the GCFUG and development associates who are involving in the rural women's field.

-) Training for women e.g. leadership, forest management, community development, income generating activities should be organized by GOs, NGOs and INGOs.
-) Advisory committee should be formed within FUG committee. Both men and women especially old, intellectual people should be included.
-) There is a need to create awareness among community members to motivate women to participate actively in the meetings and to play a decisive role in the decision-making process.
-) Awareness program should be organized to strengthen women's role in forest management, which could prepare them mentally for forest management.
-) Plantation of fast growing plants, medicinal plants should be launched in barren land. Also this type of forest containing biodiversity is useful for picnic spot and observation of flora and fauna by students and researchers.
-) Effective distribution of forest product, fodder should be done. Planning such as fodder collection, cutting bushes, planting trees should be done for each year for effective management.

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APPENDIX -I
QUESTIONNAIRE

Serial No. : _____ District: Bhaktapur VDC: Gundu
Date of interview: _____ Ward no: _____

1. Information of Respondents

1.1 Name

1.2 Sex: a. Male b. Female

1.3 Age

a. Below 15 b. 15-30 c. 30-45 d. Above 45

1.4 Occupation

a. Agriculture b. Service c. Business d. Others (specify)

1.5 Education

a. Literate b. Illiterate

1.5.1 Qualification

i. Under SLC ii. SLC iii. Intermediate iv. Bachelor and above

2. Family Description

2.1 Relation with head of household:

2.2 No. of families:a. males b. females

2.3 Family type: a. Nucleated b. Joint

3. Economic information

3.1 Land Ownership

S.No.	Land Type	Area in Ropani
1	Khet(Irrigated land)	
2	Bari (non-irrigated land)	

3.2 Livestock own by household:

Cow	Buffalo	Goat	Poultry	Others

- 3.3 Do you have private forest?
If yes, How much area it covers (Ropani)
- 3.4 How do you fulfill fodder for livestock?
a. Community forest b. Private forest c. Farm sources
- 3.4 Production of Agriculture crops
a. Rice b. Wheat c. Maize d. Cash crops e. Others
- 3.5 Food sufficiency in month
a) Below 3 months b)3-6 months c)6-9 months d)9-12 months e)Above 1 year
3.5.1 How much do you earn from the production in one year?
i) Below 1000 ii) 1000-2000 iii) 2000-3000 iv) Above 3000
4. What do you use for cooking?
a. Fire wood b. Kerosene c. Biogas d. Gas e. Others
5. How much firewood do you use per day? _____
6. Who collect the forest products?
a. Male b. Female c. Children d. Others
7. Do you think that CF could be used for income generating purpose?
If yes, why?
8. Where has been used of CFUGs income?
a) Infrastructure development b) reducing poverty c) public awareness d) not used
9. Do you know how many times the meetings of forest user group held?
a. Week b. Month c. Year
10. Have you been informed in the meeting of FUG and FU committees?
a. Yes b. No

11. How did you participate in FUGs?
 a. Moral support b. Giving suggestions c. Discussions d. Decision-making

12. Being a member of the FUG whether you have made some contributions to develop and manage forest?

12.1 If yes, what methods of management do you adopt?

- a. Nursery preparation b. Seedling plantation c. Thinning d. Cleaning
 e. Taking care of forest f. Others

12.2 If No, why?

13. At what respect does the District Forest Officer help?

- a. Reforestation b. Aforestation c. Seedling distribution
 d. Promote agro forestry e. Fencing f. Fine for illegal rules and regulation
 g. Provision of training of forest efficient management

14. Are you satisfied with activity of FUG committee of CF?

If yes, how?

15. What are the things you get from forest?

Firewood	Timber	Fodder	Medicinal Plant	Other's specify

16. What are the major income sources of GCFUGs?

- a. Selling timber product b. Selling non-timber product

17. How this community forest helping to women, minorities and disadvantaged Group?

- a. Providing timber b. Providing non timber forest product

18. What is the present condition of this community forest as compared to 10 years ago?

- i) Better ii) Worse

If better a) forest was handed over to local community

- b) Good community relations

c) Good performance of executive

d) Others

19. In your opinion what are the necessary steps that need to be taken for effective Management of the forest products?

20. What are the problems for community forest management?



21. What are the solutions for community forest management?



22. Do you have anything else that you would like share with us?



APPENDIX- II

INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR KEY INFORMANTS

Composition of FUG committee

1. How was people's community forestry formed?
2. Who decide about it?
3. Who were present during the executive committee formation?
4. How was women's representation during the time when the committee was formed?
5. What were the reactions of women about it?
6. Were there any problems encountered during the initial period of community forestry and during the formation of community forest committee?
7. How was women's participation on the committee?
8. Did the persons involved in community forestry program have the prior experience of community forest?
9. If not, what were the difficulties faced during the initial period and how were they solved?
10. What was the role government in the formation of community forest?
11. How CF executive committee members selected?
12. What criteria were followed during the selection?
13. Were the members selected for the executive committee performs their work regularly?
14. What were the problems encountered during the selection of the committee members?
15. How were they solved?
16. What is the composition of community forest committee by ward, location, sex, caste, age, literacy?
17. What are the constraints of the present structure of the committee?
18. Which species of plant would you prefer most in future community plantation?
19. What is your idea for the success of community forest plantation program?
20. How rural poor are benefited from the program?
21. Are you satisfied with the activity of user's group committee of community forest?

22. Any other comment that I had forget to ask and you want to say to me.

Aims of the committee

- 1) What is the role of the community forest committee regarding the protection and development of community forest resources?
- 2) What are the specific activities?
- 3) How are they implemented?
- 4) Does the community forest committee have a management plan?
- 5) What are the rules and regulations of the committee regarding the use of community forest and forest products?
- 6) Can the committee take any decisions without consulting others? How?
- 7) What are the activities accomplished by the community forest committee?
- 8) What are its future activities?
- 9) Are there any difficulties in enforcing community forest executive committee's rules and regulations? How were solved?
- 10) Are the work, reports and decision made by committee transparent to other members besides executive members?