

## Chapter - One

# INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Nepal is a mountainous country situated between two large countries, India and China. The beauty of the natural resources always highlights its attraction. Because of the good climates and beauties most of the people like to live here. Population pressure and poverty are said to be the main causes of natural resource degradation and conflict in Nepal. Natural resource management practices in Nepal are rapidly changing, along side social and political changes, advances in technology, increased information flow and market liberalization (Upreti, 2000:95). These changes are posing new challenges to existing, policies, plans, institutional arrangements and legal provisions related to natural resources and are becoming a source of conflict. Natural resource conflicts are caused by contradictions and inconsistencies in the application of formal legal norms and value.

Although different GOs, I/NGOs and other agencies invest much effort time and money in natural resource management, natural resource conflict is increasing. Land, water, pasture, forest are the most important natural resources for survival of the rural people of Nepal. Therefore, the main focus of this research is conflict over these four natural resources: land, forest, pasture and water.

Clashes of interest, disagreements, public protests, and physical assets are the causative factors of resource conflict. Resource conflict is an active stage of disagreement between the people in resource utilization practices. Such conflict occurs at different levels (between individual, between individuals and a group and between groups) for different reasons (Upreti, 2002:17). Feelings of suspicion, injustice, anger and mistrust help to inflame conflict. This research

explores the causes of this natural resources conflict and tries to explain how such conflicts can be managed in rural sector of Nepal.

Nepal is a rich country of poor people because it has high costed natural resource but lack of the skillful manpower depends on the use of the natural resources. Land, water forest, pasture are main backbone of economy of Nepal. But there has been happened natural resource conflict in the state.

The historical context is a strong determining factor in the present governance of natural resources and management of associated conflicts. Prior to 1734, when present-day Nepal was a fragmented group of petty states, people were encouraged to cultivate as much forest and pasture land as possible. In turn, they had to pay a certain portion of the returns to the state. In this way, the state had begun to regulate the available natural resources. This led to the establishment of control mechanism: various departments and regional offices, policies, acts, rules and regulations were established to systematically control the use of available natural resources (Upreti, 2002:45). Up until 1950, the state granted tax-free land to officials, religious organization and individual favorites of the kings or rulers. Traditionally, land was considered as the property of the state and this land is called Raikar. Only the state had the right to alienate land through sale, mortgage or bequest. Thus the state granted state-owned raikar lands to individuals in various forms.

Almost one third of Nepal's agricultural and forestlands had been granted to individuals by 1950, and the remainder belonged to the Ranas themselves. Local functionaries, all favorites of Rana, implemented the land- grant policy in the villages and were able to ensure the greatest benefit to them. They obtained a great deal of land from the state through Jagir and Birta grants, and rented these lands to peasant farmers under tenancy arrangements. In this way, local functionaries turned into landlords introduced the Kut (contract) system in which only those tenants who were able to pay high rents could get a contract. After 1951, the government nationalized all the forest in Nepal to release land from Birta holders, especially from Rana families (Upreti, 2001:76).

## 1.2 Identification of the Problem

Population pressure and poverty are the root causes of natural resource related conflicts in Nepal. Land, forest and pasture resources are over-exploited because of heavy dependence of the ever-growing population in the natural resource base. Mineral and water resources however are under- utilized owing to a lack of financial resources and infrastructure. Increasing natural resource degradation and its negative impacts on environment and society is creating several conflicts. Due to a government and donor focus on economic development there has been little attempt to effectively integrate poor people's concerns and conservation objectives in these economic objectives. These problems are directly linked with governance accountability and transparently as well as a historical power skewed socio-cultural legally.

There are several factors causing conflict in natural resources. Conflict may arise if the new NRM policy of the government contradicts with local cultural practice. The economic motive of people to acquire more from the existing natural resources on a competitive basis also leads to conflict is also growing due to the contradiction between environmental and economic interests. Changes in historical use patterns in natural resources can bring conflict into a community.

Similarly, contradictions of legal arrangements and customary practices have promoted several conflicts, natural resource conflicts produce both positive and negative consequences and after existing social relations. They induce change in resource management and utilization, policy process, livelihood strategies, land and agriculture gender relations, power structure and livelihood and collective behavior. In most cases the combined effect of some or many of such factors can escalate or resolve a conflict. Moreover, the intensity and effect of these factors different differs between communities and within a community depending on when the effect is felt.

### 1.3 Significance of the Study

Any kind of conflict in the society has contained outcome either positive or negative. The development of human society is the result of conflict on the one hand and all kinds of destructions also are the result of the conflict on the other hand. Therefore, it is necessary to identify the basic norms of resource conflict. So that, we could able to find out the ways, either solving or minimizing the negative outcome of resource conflict in the society. Moreover, identification of the influence of conflict and that the conflicting groups in the society was very helpful to prepare a suitable plans, projects and programs for the development of the society or a particular group or class. On the other hand, the study could be also helpful to find out the influence of resource conflict on rural development in context Nepal.

It is hoped that this study will also contribute to the management of the resource conflict of rural perspective. Except for reports of official notifications, not enough research has been undertaken on resource conflict. So it is believed that the study acquaint the readers with these problems of topical interest. This academic research project may be balanced analysis with a practical and empirical approach attempting to provide recommendations in resolving the problem of resource conflict in rural areas. Therefore, it is expected that this study may be the first research as it and will contribute to provide management of information and further study to the policy makers, politicians, security officials, academic, researchers, students, teachers, members of the civil society and I/NGOS. Thus, this research report is an important and significant study.

### 1.4 Objectives of the Study

The major objective of the study is to find out the causes and impacts of resources conflict in the study area. The specific objectives are as follows: -

1. To analyze the different causes and impacts of natural resource related conflict.
2. To find out the practices used in the study area to resolve resource- related conflicts.
3. To explore the measures for improvement in the management of resource related conflicts.

### 1.5 Limitation of the study

Resource conflict has become a global problem. This study has been conducted with limited objective to complete the master's degree in the related subject. So the research has not been covered the entire conflicting activities of the either Nepal or world except for a relevant references to some parts of other countries and all parts of Nepal. The study would be confined large to Balukha VDC of Okhaldhunga District in eastern region of Nepal. Focusing on the impact of resource conflict on rural development and its resolution practice

### 1.6 Organization of the Study

The completion of the research entitled The Practice of Resolving Natural Resource Conflicts: A Case Study of Okhaldhunga District, in eastern Nepal is a multidimensional work. The researcher has completed the study by identifying the problem forming a basic hypothesis and initiating a scheme of chapters, formulating the source of study, data collection and analysis. The study has outlined the revision of the initial scheme of chapters. It is divided into five chapters. 1<sup>st</sup> chapter followed by four other chapters. Chapter 2 deals with conceptual framework of the study. In this chapter, the researcher has collected many literatures and has presented the literature as the condition of the study.

Chapter 3 deals with methodology of the study. In this chapter, the researcher has presented the study method data collection sources, presentation techniques of the study. And chapter 4 deals with the

geographical structure of the study area, various causes, consequences, and controlling measures of resource related conflict.

At last, researcher has tried mentioned the summary, conclusion and recommendation of the study. Here are some views of researcher for the resource conflict resolution.

## Chapter – Two

# LITERATURE REVIEW

In general, little literature is available in the theoretical framework of present conflict on natural resource but not much on subject under this study. Two types of literature are available regarding conflict one type is the postulation of conflict theories by the various ancient thinkers. Another type is the literature that belongs to the study of Nepalese society regarding the application of conflict theory. A general review of the both types of literatures is given below:

### **2.1 Theoretical Review**

Conflict theory includes the sociological theories that tend to explain social life or human life through conflict. A lot of efforts have been made by many thinkers to explain social behavior in the context of conflict. Various ancient philosophers, thinkers and others laid the foundations of conflict theory although sociological conflict theory is of recent origin. The ancient conflict thinkers like Cautilya, Polybious, Khaldun, Machiavell as a foundation of the development on state and society. Now, review of different theories, propounded by different thinkers is made hereunder.

#### **2.1.1 Theory of Polibious**

Polybious has the credit of explaining the conflict first time. He explained an explanation of human society on the basis conflict. According to him human society destroyed in the past due to conflict. Those who were remained out of the destruction realized an organized unit of government and thus monarchy was introduced. After that when the king neglects his duty to establish peace the aristocrats also neglect their duty, democracy is introduced as a result of conflict.

### **2.1.2 Theory of the Darwin**

Darwin (1809-1882) made on empirical research of conflict on the basis of biological concept and postulated his assumptions. Herbert Spencer gave sociological form to those assumptions. The fundamental concepts mentioned by Darwin regarding conflict are based upon the fact of struggle for existence.

### **2.1.3 Hegal's Ideology**

Hegal's Ideology regarding conflict is directly oriented to idea or thinking. According to his every thinking, the world surely the opposite or contradictory element towards the people.

### **2.1.4 Theory of Karl Marx**

Karl- Marx (1818-1883) postulated the theory of dialectical materialism regarding conflict. He also postulated the theory of historical materialism along with the theory of surplus value in the context of capitalism. Marx regards the existence of exploiter-exploited classes in the society and says that class struggle is compulsory and continuous process. Marxism is criticized for system and economic factors but the existence of struggle or conflict between the interests of the individuals in the sociology can't be rejected.

### **2.1.5 Theory of Herbert Spencer (1820-1902)**

He applied physical evolution theory to society and biological evolution theory to society and Postulated the social evolution theory. Thus Spencer has the credit of giving sociological form to the evolutionary theory of Darwin.



### **2.1.6 Theory of Gumplovics**

According to Gumplovics, state and combination of multilateral factors. The sovereignty is with the victor group however this group is minority. This minority group exploits the majority group of the state and the conflict continuous. The political parties increase conflict more and more.

### **2.1.7 Theory of Ratzenhofer (1842-1904)**

According to him the main factor or cause of conflict in human society is personal interest. There are some innate instincts in the living beings: bearing, offspring's, self - defense and enjoying seeing one's own welfare and prosperity who there is any hindrance or disturbance in his welfare, he forget feeling of cooperation and starts to conflict.

### **2.1.8 Cyclical theory of Pareto (1884-1923)**

According to him classifying the social groups into two classes: elite and non-elite and explaining the conflict between those classes he postulated the clinical theory of social change in the context of circulation of elite.

### **2.1.9 Theory of Oppenheimer (1864-1943)**

Franz Oppenheimer convenes Society as an organism with an ascertainable normal state. The state is one organized and dominated by justice. According to him the main cause of conflict in society is lack of equal distribution of justice. There are two factors. a) Economic factor arises conflict when the fulfillments of economic necessity of a group or individual is hampered by another group or individual Like wise, conflict due to political factor arises when the ambition of conquering or

ruling the others occur to one's mind. So, above-mentioned concepts are considered as appropriate theoretical framework to explain the tendencies and processes of conflict in society. The explanations and theories are postulate by various thinkers. Each of the theories interprets and explains them of the conflicts in own way. However, we can note some general postulates or understanding assumptions out of the whole theories as follows

- a) Conflict is rooted in social structure; nature of social change is inherent. The new formation of political and social structure and old structure struggle to exist with each other. Functionalism is also a cause of social structure.
- b) Conflict may be temporarily suppressed, regulated controlled but never can be abolished

## **2.2 Review of Related Studies**

Sharma in his analytical work insurgency or ethnic conflict presents a comprehensive analysis of the problems in the Northeastern state of India (Sharma, 2000).

Mishra, in his book on Security in South Asia, has illustrated the security perspective and internal conflict of India with her neighboring countries Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri-Lanka and cross border terrorism. Mishra has also highlighted the historical issues related to Indo-Nepal peace treaty, Indo-Nepal relation, trade transit, trans-border crime, the internal political situation, intra and inter-party rival of Nepal including the revolutionary activities of then chairman of UPF Baburam Bhattarai (Mishra, 2000).

Shrestha provides a field experience which outlines: the topographical situation of Rolpa, Maoist activities, government responses, peace talks,

employment opportunity for rural and deprived ethnic communities, development and unified security programs (Shrestha, 2003).

According to Maharjan, on his article "The Maoist Insurgency: Crisis of Governability in Nepal", Maoists, in the course of their insurgency, have used light weapons as guns (mostly looted from the police), hammer, Khukuri (the traditional Nepali knife), gelatin, grenades. Mostly they have killed villagers and other common people suspected to be informants of the police and some said to be bourgeoisie. The method that the Maoists have taken has been one of cruelty.

Shrestha gives various types of internal conflicts are prevalent among which the Maoist insurgency has been one of the burning issues of the day. The specific identification and the causative factors of insurgency cannot be figured out as other pure sciences. But as per the manifesto and demands of various political organizations, the CPN (Maoist), reports and publications of NGOs, civil societies, government institutions, the media including international donor communities, the problems of insurgency can be identified as historical, political, social legal, socio-ethnic, cultural, religious, economic, gender, discrimination, injustice, inequality, poverty, unemployment, underemployment, administration, nepotism, corruption and failure of the rule of law and government (Shrestha,2003).

Uppreti describes there may not be wanted peace in the war's country because a small anti group always forward to make violence, peace abstraction, deprivation of human rights. Their wants are always determined by economic and other benefits

Sociologists, anthropologists, geographers, conflict experts and communication theories, political scientists, international relations analysis and system theorists on the other hand examine conflict at the

level of groups, collectivities, social institutions, social classes, political movements, religious and ethnic entities, coalitions and cultural systems. This analysis focuses on knowledge of collective behavior from social structures and institutions.

Tiwari gives background information on the death toll, government policy, insurgents, strength, popular support and a background of the communist background of the communist movement. The author notes the emerging political crisis in Nepal (Tiwari, 1999).

Tarpot, a correspondent of the Press Trust of India (PTI), on insurgency movement in North-Eastern India has described the insurgency problem of the seven states in the Northeastern region of India, Assam, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura. This book traces the origin and cause of lingering insurgency even after stiff counter insurgency operations. He has mentioned that there are at list 18 underground organizations operating in the region but only five or six of them are active (Tarpot, 1997).

Shrestha writes an article "Why are Maoist wanting peace talk with king?" which gives- "Now king and Royal army are the main obstacle of the peace talk because they are playing an anti-role to break the peace talk through the outside of certain." It is declared that the ruling authority is captured by the king himself" Maoist say (Shrestha, 2061).

"Inter story of Beni Attack" is an article written by Bindu Dungal that gives the interview of abductive CDO, picture of corpses of Maoists in the Royal army compound, photography of deadbody of Laxmi Karki by the Skybomb. This is a good example of conflict figure.

The article of Paudel- "Preparation of Maoist of Counter attack" which has mention that the slogan of Maoist 'one head, one house' for the people's war which is manifested openly in the society. (Paudel, 2001).

Dungel has written an article "Double violence policy in the betel queue of corpses" which gives that the number of human death has increased. The Maoists happen it 3 times more by the government than. This number is about 3.19 heads by Maoist and 8.50 heads by government per day" (Dungel, 2060).

Bhattarai writes an article entitled "Negotiation in thoughtful crisis" and says that they can't wait more than that. If there was not agreement among the political parties and the same condition of the ruling party, there was not the alternative expect the return jungle" (Bhattarai, 2060).

An article entitled "Preparation of Tunnel war and dreadful counter attract" of Magar in which he says that the Maoist was requesting to make tunnel for the protection of air attract. Some where they have completed the tunnel and preparation of blast production, war weapons, and bullet." (Magar, 2061).

The united Nations, High commissioners for Human Rights, centre for Human Rights, Geneva published professional training series No. 5, on Human Rights and Law Enforcement, a training manual describing the community approach of police management during armed conflict. Similarly, the international committee of the Red Cross has published a book on to serve and to protect, Human Rights and Humanitarian law of or police and security forces and a Hand Book of International Humanitarian low and Human Rights law for the use of the armed forces and police.

Regarding the activities of the CPN (Maoist) in Nepal, there are a number of news, reports, cover-stories, articles, party pamphlets and literatures, reports views of national and international personalities human rights activities, government personal and Maoist leaders that have been published and provided sources for this study. INSEC yearbook 1999, Appendix-3 highlights Maoist activities and government responses (Maowadi Kriyakalap ra Sarkari Byawahar) and describes the background of the people's war after the restoration of multiparty. Areas covered are the birth of the CPN (Maoist), its declaratory initiation and expansion. There are incisive details on the first, second and third plan of the Maoist people's war. Similarly, INSEC yearbook 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 have given various inferences related to the Maoist insurgency.

Various Internet sites have widely covered the Maoist issue since the beginning of the insurgency on the several aspects including the second issue of the workers, the organ of the CPN (Maoist), interview with Baburam Bhattarai by Nepali newspaper (TI, 1995). These documents have covered numerous aspects of conflict.

An article, 'contours of cease fire draft' by DBS Jeyaraj gives conflict resolution through peace talks and negotiations between the government and the LTTE in Sri-Lanka failed. The road to peace in Sri-Lanka moved significantly forward on 7th February 2002 with the arrival of Norwegian deputy foreign affairs minister Vidar Helgesel to colombu. A draft memoremundum of understanding outlining conditions and rules for the cease-fire, was ultimately signed by Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesighe and LTTE leader Velupilli Prabhakaran (Himal, 2002).

An article "Ideology and agency in Nepal's Maoist Movement" writes- one of the most reported aspects of the Maoist 'People's war' in Nepal has been its high levels of female participation, with some observers estimating that up to 40 per cent of all combatant and civilian political

supporters are women. Striking photos of young gun-toting guerrilla women are prominently displaced on the "official" communist party of Nepal (Maoist) website and distributed from New York to London to Peru in materials produced by the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement (RIM). These images are apparently intended to serve as evidence of the movement egalitarianism and "empowering" effects for Nepali women.

The war in the west' is an article which describes "when the dogs bark at the right we know that either the Maoists or the army have come to the village", says one villagers, with an embarrassed smile". But even if we hear some one calling we do go out we stay in our houses 7 keep quiet" (Himal, 2003).

The government, political parties and the civil society regarding the issues of Maoist problems and recommendation for its solution have constituted several commissions such as Dhami, Deuba, and Khanal.

There are number of NGOs, including human rights organizations and the civil society working for a peaceful solution to the Maoist insurgency. This there was also carried out by one of the national NGOs, south Asian partnership a number of books and reports relating to Maoist activities, such as: Janayudha ra Shanti, Bichar ra Samadhan, Shanti ra Shushansan, Shantiko Knoji includes 28 articles of various writers and its second edition of various writers and its second edition of 20 articles including the article of this researcher on good governance and community participation in insurgency management. The publication of SAP, Nepal are based on an in depth study of the realities that have positive and negative effects of the problems as well as the weaknesses and strengths of both parties i.e. the government and the CPN (Maoists) SAP- Nepal's findings are based on various interactions with academic and professionals.

In context of Nepal, regarding the application of conflict some scholars have tried to study and analysis the man scholars and their concerning in the history of social development there is rolling of conflict for co-ordination and co-ordination for conflict. In to the family management, there are gender conflict post conflict, conflict for power and resources. For example conflict between Sasu and Buhari.

Conflict in the Himalayas is also held in Nepal different countries people come to climb on the Mt- Everest. They are highly different in their culture, activities and language. So their behave may not consist among them. Then there is a conflict creation by using gun, bomb, bullet (Dixit, 1998:9).

In the context of Nepalese society conflicts that arises frustration of specific demands with in the relationship and from estimates of gains of the participants and are directed at the presumed frustrating objects.

Conflict in society is also influenced by the social context (organization and structure of society), patterns of interaction, mode like violence, disagreement, period of time and degree of incompatibility their goals and power structure (Upreti 2002:16) Both of Nepal violence, firing sound of gun are developing as the institutional way in Nepal. Rural area is affected by Maoist problems where as urban the government of armies controls area. But there is not permanent effect of both aspects. Developing social and political structure can solve this kind of conflict.

Conflict is a manifestation of opposing opinions principles and practices in forms of misunderstand disagreement. In the local level people (Magar, 2002:2) it is a process where a neutral third party communicates separately with conflicting parties to reduce tension and agree on a process to resolve the conflict.



Antagonism caused by clash of culture social, economic and or political interest between individuals and groups (Stein, 1999:20)

Restriction of the collection of firewood, fodder and grazing of domestic animals that were free before the establishment of protected areas, have frustrated the local people particularly when wild animal is damaging crops, as there is no compensation scheme in cash for either crop and livestock loss or injury or death by the national parks. These activities created problems of park and surrounding people conflict (Subedi, 1998, Weber, 1993, Regmi, 1998)

Present situation of the resources stock and rate of depletion. The decrease in forest will lead it increase in storage that ultimately increase the conflict more and also jeopardize the human culture as well as the wildlife.

The study of the above literatures of different thinkers, Philosophers we can find the causes of conflicts its impact on the society. There are social political natural resource economic cultural, and so on causes of conflict which arise the frustrations between the people of society

## Chapter – Three

# RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Based on the nature of the research various methods have been applied to conduct it. This study used primary as well as secondary data as required achieving the research objectives. Basically primary data has been generated and used to analyze the perceptions and practices at the study area whereas secondary data has been used to analyze macro level practices. The data collection as well as data processing method in the study has been applied as follow: -

### **3.1 Methods of data Collection**

#### **3.1.1 Literature review**

It includes collection and review of publications about conflict and rural development. The sources of literature were papers, journals, magazines, thesis, books, and reports. Which are published during 1980 till to now from Nepal and outside, which are related to resource and others conflict, were reviewed.

#### **3.1.2 Secondary data collection**

It includes the collection of data from some of the districts, governmental organization, I/NGOS, community based organizations and other resources by their publication and other informative dissemination.

#### **3.1.3 Primary data collection Techniques and Tools**

For primary data collection, following techniques and tools were used:

##### **3.1.3.1. Focused group discussion**

In order to collect different viewpoints regarding resource related conflict, the different level for groups from various locations representing different strata of population was identified for this discussion. The researcher developed a set of subjective questions and checklist for this discussion.

### **3.1.3.2. Direct Observation**

The researcher directly observed Balukhu VDC of Okhaldhunga district and discusses informally with the persons who are responsible for resource conflict and who are victims. Particularly, efforts of the researcher remains to meet VDC level representatives in the village and to discuss about present and past operational condition of resource conflict

### **3.1.3.3 Indepth Interview**

In depth interview were conducted in the study area with 40 people from the VDC under study. The focus of the interview was on their understanding, involvement, and general causes and impacts of resource conflict in the community. For this, 40 individuals were selected from Okhaldhunga based on accidental, quota, and purposive sampling to collect the data from 40 sample respondents.

## **3.2 Rationale for Sampling**

To carry out the research by a single researcher with in a limited time frame is a challenging task. Another challenge was to find out an appropriate sampling method and sample size. However, a representative sample size is selected based on the population size, total area, and geographical regions of wards of VDC.

## **3.3 Universes and Sample Size**

Considering the limitations of the study, the total sample and for primary data collection would have to be limited to 40 respondents from the VDC under study.

**Table-3.1**

**Distribution and composition of sample VDC**

| VDC    | Wards | Selected wards | Sample population per wards by gender |         | Sample population per wards by education | Total respondents | Remarks |
|--------|-------|----------------|---------------------------------------|---------|--|-------------------|---------|
| Jugada | Nine  | 6,7,8,9 & 1    | 4Male                                 | 4Female | 4 SLC and 4 less than                    | 40                |         |

**3.4 Analysis of Data**

Data analysis is carried out focusing mainly on these aspects namely:-

- i. Aggregate tables to show the qualitative interpretation of the responses of different categories of the respondents.
- ii. Simple use of statistical calculation and interpretations of qualitative and quantitative responses and
- iii. It was carried out to show the different perceptions towards certain practices and understanding. Basically it has been analyzed based on sample and majority to generalize. However, arguments and suggestions of minorities incorporate in form of mini cases.

## Chapter - Four

# DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

### 4.1 Description of Study Area.

The case study site is situated in Balukha VDC of Okhaldhunga District. First, all conflicts were recorded in a reconnaissance survey in order to select specific cases for in-depth study. The total population of the study site is 5138 with 803 households and an average family size of 5.08. The major caste and ethnic groups are Brahmin, chhetri, damai, kami, Rai, Magar, Tamang and others. Although the Brahmin caste is majority of the population it dominates almost all-social and developmental activity.

The socio political history of this area over the past 200 years has had a great effect on the present management of natural resources especially land and forests. Two hundred years ago a Brahmin family came from western Nepal and settled in the study site. Gradually this family enlarged and expanded to a larger area currently. It has since grown to 50 households and expanded its influence authorities. They were educated and resourceful, compared to the general public. They accumulated a large promotion of the land and controlled most of the forests. In short, the descendants of the Brahmin families dominate the study sites.

Now the size of the landholdings wealth and education are major factors explaining social variation in the study area. Land is the single most important resource for survival, and a symbol of social prestige. The land distribution patterns in the study site show that less than 10 percent of people own more than 60 percent of the cultivated land. About 40per cent of middle level people own 30per cent of land and the remaining 50 per cent of the population own less than 10 percent

Power relations and social organization at the research site changed dramatically after 1990. The powerful elite and landlords were marginalized and the earlier respect and obedience disappeared. With the collapse of the traditional power structure there was a drastic shift from a rigid ferdal social

organization to a more fluid power relationship based on political ideology. Administratively, Nepal is divided into 75 districts. The districts have been regrouped into five development regions to promote development of the country. Okhaldhunga is one of the district of Sagarmatha zone located in the eastern development region. The total area of this district is 1074 square kilometres. The district is bounded by Khotang in the east, Ramechhap district in the west, and Sinduli and Udaypur in the southern boarder and solukhumbu in the north respectively. The average altitude of this district ranges between 500m to 4500m from the sea-level. Okhaldhunga is the headquarters of the district which is connected to Shiddhicharan path. Geographically, Okhaldhunga district can be divided into two sub divisions viz, high mountain region and mid mountain region.

The major cropping pattern includes paddy, maize and millet. Paddy is winter and summer seasonal crops. The summer paddy is planted in July and harvested in November. Maize is planted in May and harvested in August which is followed by paddy. The other cropping pattern includes planting winter paddy in March and harvesting in August and again paddy is cultivated. In sloppy and barren land maize is cultivated in April and harvested in August followed by millet in August and harvested in November. In some places upland paddy (Ghaiya dhan) is cultivated along with maize. This paddy is cultivated in April and harvested in August. Wheat is cultivated in flat lands in January and harvested in May. Different kinds of Daals are also harvested and cultivated. The shaded portion of the given table shows crops production pattern of the study area.

**Table No. 4.1**  
**Cropping Pattern in Balakhu- 9**

| Month | Maize | Paddy | Millet | Wheat | <i>Chiuri</i><br>Ghee |
|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-----------------------|
| Jan.  |       |       |        |       |                       |
| Feb.  |       |       |        |       |                       |
| Mar.  |       |       |        |       |                       |
| Apr.  |       |       |        |       |                       |
| May   |       |       |        |       |                       |
| June  |       |       |        |       |                       |
| July  |       |       |        |       |                       |
| Aug.  |       |       |        |       |                       |
| Sep.  |       |       |        |       |                       |
| Oct.  |       |       |        |       |                       |
| Nov.  |       |       |        |       |                       |
| Dec.  |       |       |        |       |                       |

*Source: Field Survey, 2008*

There are different types of vegetation according to topographical, climatic and altitudinal variation. The general forest types include hardwood, mixed and coniferous forests. The major vegetation found along the warm temperature regions include sal (*Shorea robusta*), pine (*Pinus Roxburgil*), Chilaune (*Schima Wallichii*), Katus (*Dastanopsis indica*), Banjh (*Qurcus lanata*), Phalant (*Q. Lamellosa*), Gurans (*Rhododendron Campanulatum*).

The socio-economic setting of the study area is reflected under following subjects taken into consideration as:

The total population of Okhaldhunga district according to population census, 2001 is 156702. The total number of households is 30121 and household size equal to 5.2

The total population of Balakhu VDC according to the population census, 2001 is 5138. The total number of households is 803 with an average household size equal to 5.6. Ward No. 9 of the VDC, Balakhu is predominated by Rai community. The number of Rai is about 300 and number of households is 40 out of 55 households of Balakhu VDC-9. They are depended by the seasonal cropping system 'Chiuri' and other.

Rai have a unique socio-cultural setting. They speak own language. They are settled in a quite sparse area. They reside in very remote areas. They live in very small houses. Houses are small and narrow with hardly one or more small ventilation. The huts are wooden framed and roofs are thatched and supported by bamboo or wooden framed. The inner roof is fully filled with smoky dusts due to lack of windows or ventilation. The upper floor is used for storing food grains. They have a grinding stone and a wooden bed on the floor attached to the hut.

The eldest controls over the family member. Sons after getting married get separated however poor the family may be. The ownership of the property is transferred by birth.

From the migration point of view, Rai hardly shift their place of residence

Males wear a shirt, a wrist coat, Langauti and White cap whereas women use general cholo and sari with patuka.

The foods in case of Rais are of low quality. The food products are hardly enough for 3-4 months a year. Millet, Maize, Phapar, Gahat and Kaguni are major food grain. Chiuri is their food and the seed is used to



expel ghee. It is the best economic source and products of Chiuri is easily sold in local market.

The Rai celebrate, Bhumipuja, preparing delicious types of food like on the day when they first attempt to cook their nwagi. They also celebrate their Kul Debata Puja and a new product crops. Fruits are offered to their ancestors on that very day. They also celebrate Hindu festivals like Dashain and Tihar. Rai believe in super natural system spirits, and ghosts. They prepare Jand and Raksi to offer their ancestors on their festivals. Jand is their favorite breakfast and raksi is their favorite drink as tea. They also prefer to take raksi on bed time.

Agriculture is the main occupation among them Even, the agricultural production is hardly enough to maintain the level of subsistence for 3-4 months of a year. So, the economy of the Rai in Balakhu VDC-9 is characterized by subsistent economy. Their agrarian economy is very poor because of several constraints, lack of low lands, irrigation facilities, technical knowledge of fertilizers, agricultural implements and extension activities. The majority of Rai households have small patches of uplands where only millet, corn etc. can be grown. Slash and burn cultivation (Khoriya Khande) is still practiced to some extent. This is due to insufficiency of agricultural productions and subsidiary economy. Rai have recently started to settle permanently in selected areas. Khoriya has become an important part of their farming systems as they have shifted from dependency on forest products to the cultivation of land. For the Rais who don't hold agricultural land for crop production, Khoriya is the only reliable means of food production.

Among Rai there is considerable relationship between the people and the forest. Forest resources are one of the alternatives to meet the food shortage. The food stuffs like maize and Kaguni account for 3-4 months of a year, afterwards they have to depend on hunting gathering and

collecting forest production, which have retained as subsidiary economic activity. The main forest products (Flora) including roots and tubers collected by Rai like githa, bhyakur, karkalo, sisnoo, niuro, tama, bharlang, mushroom, chiuri, mango, phandir etc. and fauna including wild pigs, fish, ghoral, rabbit, insects like wasps, hornets, birds like Dhukur, Halesa, Titra, Kalis, etc. But these practices are disappearing due to response of deforestation. Chiuri has a significant role among Rai and they have intimacy with Chiuri since their forefather. Because, there is a saying that Rai used to stay in places where there as availability of Chiuri trees. But, it amounts to small portion to their income. The other subsidiary sources of income practised by Rai are livestock raising, horticulture, handicrafts, bee keeping, honey, gathering from the forest bamboo works, domestic fermentation etc. The man cattle being reared by them are goats, oxen, cows buffalos etc. But the livestock raising is not well developed because of lack of veterinary services, improved breeding stock, growing citrus fruits like mango is being carried out by some of Rai but it is handicapped by factors like lack of manure, insecticides, pesticide, irrigation facilities, skilled manpower etc. Bee keeping has gradually declined due to deforestation and due to decreasing of Chiuri trees. In the agricultural black season, they make their livelihood by wage labouring within the periphery or outside the area mainly in construction fields and providing their labours to the higher ranking people in slack seasons and consequently ,they indulge in debt from generation over generation to meet the basic level of subsistence. They face food deficit from February to June when they have to go to money lenders. They also take loan for festivals, paying land tax, buying goats and domestic supplies, previously, there was the system of adding zero to the loan amount. By this way, they were severely exploited by the money lenders and consequently the fertile lands were snatched by the lenders and barren lands on mountains were left for them. As a result, they are pushed or forced to live in the rocky

slope area which might be the cause of calling them as Chepangs. They have got no idea of taking institutional loan due to lack of idea, fear of outsiders, insufficient collateral etc.

The educational status among Rai is very low in the study area. The quality of education and increase in enrolment of students in school are relatively low as compared to investment made in education among them. These discrepancies are seen mainly due to economic disparity, more number of children in households, so that they have to look after the younger ones, lack of food stuffs, low enrolment of children in schools because of lack of higher caste, less attendance in the class, dropping out from the school, problems in languages schools far from their household settings because there are low number of schools in rural areas and they are established in the vicinity of household settings of higher caste people.

The overall health status of Rai is very low due to lack of nutrition, awareness and lack of extension of primary health care services and prevalence of traditional conventional attitudes and thinking.

The primary health service centres have not been able to provide health services effectively consequently, the traditional modes of treatment are still widely accepted. The faith healing is being carried out through either Rai or non-Rai with the faith healers, payment is not immediate, as the whole process is based on faith on God. Therefore, loans and promises to pay back later is widely accepted. High role of children bearing is still seen among Rai due to lack of awareness and unavailability of family planning which is followed by high mother mortality rate during birth. The child mortality is very common.

## 4.2 Data Analysis

### 4.2.1 Ages and Sex Composition of the Respondents

As any age or sex groups use the natural resources so this study tries to find out the problems related to the natural resource in the study area. The following table shows the data about the age and sex composition of the respondents.

**Table No 4.1**  
**Age and sex composition of Balakhu VDC**

| Age (Year)   | Sex  |        | Total | Percentage |
|--------------|------|--------|-------|------------|
|              | Male | Female |       |            |
| Below 15     | 3    | 1      | 4     | 10         |
| 16-29        | 5    | 5      | 10    | 25         |
| 30-44        | 6    | 6      | 12    | 30         |
| 45 and above | 6    | 8      | 14    | 35         |
| Total        | 20   | 20     | 40    | 100        |

*Source: Field survey, 2008*

Table no 4.1 indicates that out of total 40 respondents, each male and female are equal i.e. 20. Talking about the age factor of the respondents 35 per cent are in age group of 45 and above following by 30 percent age group i. e 30-44, 25 percent belongs to 16-29 age groups while the least are seen in the age group below 15 years which is 10 percent only.

### 4.2.2 Household (H/H) Size

The average household size of Nepal is 5.4 (Census: 2001), which shows higher in the remote and backward areas. The house size of the study area is as follow:

**Table no. 4.2**  
**Household Size**

| S.N   | Family Size | Total No | Percentage |
|-------|-------------|----------|------------|
| 1     | 5and Below  | 6        | 15         |
| 2     | 6-8         | 21       | 52.5       |
| 3     | Above 8     | 13       | 32.5       |
| Total |             | 40       | 100        |

Source: Field survey, 2008

The table above clearly shows that only 5 house households out of 40 households have less than 6 family members in their family while 21 households have 6-8 members. Again, 13 respondents said that they have 9 members in their family.

The data in the table clearly indicates that through the concept of small or nuclear family is getting priority all over the world. The people in the study area are still following the joint family system in large number. This may be because of the illiteracy.

#### **4.2.3 Occupation of the respondents**

Each and everybody has following certain way to survive is known as occupation. The occupational status of the respondents is seen in the table below:

**Table No. 4.3**  
**Occupations of the Respondents**

| S.N.  | Occupation         | Total No | Percentage |
|-------|--------------------|----------|------------|
| 1     | Agriculture        | 24       | 60         |
| 2     | Business           | 3        | 7.5        |
| 3     | Government service | 6        | 15         |
| 4     | Private service    | 3        | 7.5        |
| 5     | Others             | 4        | 10         |
| Total |                    | 40       | 100        |

*Source: Field survey, 2008*

The table no 4.3 explains the occupational status of the study area where most of the people i.e. 24 are following agriculture as main occupation while least 3 are following each business and private service. 6 people have government service while the rest 4 are following other occupation to survive.

It clarifies that people here have agriculture as the primary occupation. 60 percent people in the area are involved in agriculture fostered.

#### **4.2.4 Cattle Possession**

In any agrarian society like ours people do have various numbers of cattle for agricultural purposes. The cattle possession in the area is found as following:

**Table No. 4.4**  
**Cattle Possession**

| SN    | No of Cattle | No of Families | Percentage |
|-------|--------------|----------------|------------|
| 1     | Up to 2      | 8              | 20         |
| 2     | 3-4          | 15             | 37.5       |
| 3     | 5-6          | 9              | 22.5       |
| 4     | More than 7  | 4              | 10         |
| 5     | No cattle    | 4              | 10         |
| Total |              | 40             | 100        |

*Source: Field survey, 2008*

Table above shows the data about cattle possession in the study area, where most of the people i.e. 37.5 percent have 3-4 cattle following by 22.5 percent people having 5-6 number of cattle, 20% people passes up to 2 cattle, similarly, 10% have more than 7 cattle. The rest 10 % locals don't have any cattle.

The data in the table proves that 90% locals have cattle of different numbers. Which indicates high dependency of people on cattle for different purposes?

#### **4.2.5 Awareness of natural resource related conflict.**

Different kinds of natural resources related conflicts are found in the communities. Some people are aware about that while others don't care. So the following table tries to indicate the awareness about natural resources.

**Table no. 4.5**  
**Awareness about conflicts**

| S.N.  | Awareness      | No. of People | Percentage |
|-------|----------------|---------------|------------|
| 1     | Aware totality | 25            | 62.5       |
| 2     | Partial aware  | 11            | 27.5       |
| 3     | Unaware        | 4             | 10         |
| Total |                | 40            | 100        |

Source: Field survey, 2008

Data in the table indicates that 62.5 percent people are total aware about different kinds of conflict that are occurred due to natural resources use while the 27.5 percent are partially aware and the rests 10 percent are not aware.

#### **4.2.6 Major Resource related conflict in the study area**

Natural resources are decreasing day by day as the optimum exploitation by the rapidly growing population of people. So different kinds of natural resource related the people face conflicts, the study area is not an exception. The experience conflict situation is as given below.

**Table no 4.6**  
**Natural resource Related Conflicts**

| SN    | Conflict         | No of people | Percentage |
|-------|------------------|--------------|------------|
| 1     | Faced People     | 34           | 85         |
| 2     | Not faced people | 6            | 15         |
| Total |                  | 40           | 100        |

Source: Field survey, 2008

The table indicates that about 85 percent people of the study area have faced different kinds natural resources related conflicts. This may be because of the increasing population and decreasing natural resources.

#### **4.2.7 The type of natural resource related conflicts**

**Table no. 4.7**

**Type of Natural resource related conflict**

| SN    | Type                     | No of victims | Percentage |
|-------|--------------------------|---------------|------------|
| 1     | Land related conflict    | 13            | 38.24      |
| 2     | Forest related conflict  | 9             | 26.47      |
| 3     | Pasture Related conflict | 8             | 23.53      |
| 4     | Water Related conflict   | 4             | 11.76      |
| Total |                          | 34            | 100        |

*Source: Field survey, 2008*

The table no 4.7 indicates out of total 34 people who are directly affected by the conflict by the land related conflict, 38.24 are affected by the land related conflicts while only 11.76 percent are affected by the water related conflicts. 26.47 percent and 23.53 percent locals are affected by forest and pasture land related conflicts respectively. It indicates that land in the most precious natural resources in the area. As already said more than 60 percent are directly involved in the agriculture.

### **4.3. Major Resource Related Conflict in study Area**

#### **4.3.1 Land related conflicts**

Land related conflicts were the most serious in terms of their intensity and social effects. Boundary demarcation, changes of the ownership, looting of and damage to crops, tenancy rights, the alignment of new canals, roads, pates or drinking water systems on particular lands, land encroachment, mortgages, guthi land use, partition and gifting of land are the main land related conflicts documented in the study area. Napi system has also created conflict here. Most of the resource conflicts are related land use practices.



### **4.3.2 Water-related conflict**

Major conflicts over water reported in the study area included source disputes, sharing of water for different purposes like drinking water, irrigation, power generation and conflict over the payment of compensation for destruction by water related projects. Most of the water related conflicts are created in the system of irrigation, canal and khane paniko palo(Term of drinking water).

### **4.3.3 Forest related conflict**

The most common forest related conflicts documented in the study area were concerned with Ownership, identification of users, access to forest products, illegal use of non-timber forests products and hunting and poaching of wild animal product from forests, encroachment of forests, collection of fire wood, use of forest trees, political impacts on forest user groups, FUG (poor group and low caste people are excluded FUGs) are concerned the most common forest related conflicts documented in the study area.

### **4.3.4 Pasture-related conflicts**

The most common pasture related conflicts are concerned with grazing of animals cutting grass, ownership of land, identification for users, access and, distribution to pasture land, encroachment of pasture land etc.

## **4.4 Important causes of Resource Conflict**

Based on the documentation of common conflict in the study area, some cases are studied to examine the causes of conflict and the measures taken to resolve them. This study is based on the case study of Balakhu VDC and tries to find out the causes of resource conflict in this area. Some causative cases of resource conflicts are given below:

#### **4.4.1 Conflict between village elites and local people over forest and grazing land**

Village elites want to get ownership of the resources. They made the public forest and pasture land in their ownership at the time of napi (measurement programme), 2045 BS. Now a day they start to sell to local people but local people reject to buy the public forest and pasture land that makes resource conflict between elites and local people. The control of a community managed forest and pastureland is also main cause of this conflict. The local elite and powerbrokers have started to terrace the forest and pasture land. They encroach on the forest and pasture land, undermining the symbolic and economic value the local community has traditionally attached to it. Though the local people respect the status of the invaders, they strongly opposed this invasion and have made every effort to reclaim the invaded land. However, the invaders were not ready to compromise, and the conflict becomes more intense population growth and poverty increase the rapid encroachment of the pastureland and forest to make them cultivated land. They start to destroy the jungle and pastureland to change into agriculture land. The protectors do not allow doing so. So the conflict is started between protectors and users.

#### **4.4.2 Conflict between two village and two communities over a spring water source.**

The sharing of a source of drinking water lay at the core of a conflict between two villagers and villagers. The households of both villages are of similar socio- economic condition and the same Brahmin/Chhetri caste group. The existing users were not ready to share the water source with the people of the next village, arguing that there would not be enough water left for them to irrigate their fields. The potential users wanted to share the water source, because they suffering from a severe lack of drinking water. Several protest, oppositions, and complaints are filed with the local administration but these

authorities are not eager to resolve the conflict. They avoided taking sides and therefore the conflict continues.

#### **4.4.3 Conflict between landlords and tenants**

Tenants have been cultivating the land for 20 to 30 years ago. They want to protect their tenant's right over the land. But landlords don't like to do so. Landlords reject it. That's way the tenants are strongly organized, they have discussed their problems with other people in the village, and they are able to win the support of all tenants and villagers but landlords reject it. So the conflict over land use system is rapidly growing.

#### **4.4.4 Conflict between developers and local people**

GOs, I/NGOs fund to the local development programme in the villages. World bank, Asian development bank, different local NGOs, VDCs, Dices etc always want to fund to local people for drinking water, road, building construction, irrigation, electricity etc. But elite's people for their facilitations have always taken these programmes. Poor, ethnic, low caste people are always exploited in development. So they like to protect their rights to catch the development opportunities. So the conflict rises in resource using development projects.

#### **4.4.5 Conflict between head-led and tail-end farmers in an irrigation system**

Ghattekholra is a main source of irrigation in Balakhu VDC. Head –led people always use sufficient water in their canals but tail-end people do not get the chance to use water in their canals. Almost all the tail end farming fields seem dry by lacking irrigation. When the water scarcity occurs farmers have to share the water on a national basis, but head-led people reject it. So the conflict arises between head led people and tail-end people.

#### **4.4.6 Conflict in grass and wooden things**

All the villagers are not innocent. They want to steal the grass, timber, firewood etc from grass field or private forest of neighboring people. They are also stealing such kind materials from the protected forest. When the victims find the thieves, they punish them hardly. So the conflict between thieves and victims arise in the different case

#### **4.5 Major Factors affecting conflict Over Natural Resources**

The issues discussed in section 6 indicate that legislation policies and strategies as well as changing power structures and social relations together with political changes have provided fertile ground for natural resource conflict. Competition over access and control the ineffective jurisdictional roles of the government agencies and political and commercial interests have encourages the growth of conflict. The major portion of the natural resources related conflict cases were in one way or another related to the appropriation use and control of natural resources. Numerous land and conflicts were created due mainly to the unsystematic and incomplete land registration and record keeping process. The major factors in natural resource conflict are discussed under three sub headings.

##### **4.5.1 Power structures social relations and conflict**

The power relationships in a community are one of the main determinants of natural resource conflict. The outcome of a conflict situation can be determined by the efforts of a few actors contrary to the interests of the majority (Ghimire1992) when power is mobilized in conflict resolution the result is mostly win -lose. The case studies clearly indicate that the use of power has often created an unfavorable situation full of resentment and fear. The social and legal confrontation over the control of natural resources is

determined by the relative strengths of the parties involved. Nevertheless interdependence between conflicting parties is community level natural resource conflicts. In the case of the landlord tenant conflict described above a variety of economic and political changes over a 39-year period had led to a fundamental transformation in power relationships. Local landlords would be less likely to negotiate with ordinary villagers if social relations remained unaltered. The protesters struggle for the forest and pasture land undoubtedly changed group relationships.

All of these cases also indicate the accommodative interdependent and tolerant behavior of the disputants although the disputants were entangled in conflict their social relationships were not brought to an end: working relations were maintained. Despite widespread conflict a certain sense of accommodation and social harmony as still prevalent in the village. However the generally tolerant and accommodative behavior of community members gave the powerful elite room to exploit them. Corruption is becoming an increasingly important factor in the resolution of conflict in Nepal. The use of bribes and the mobilization of *aphno manche* networks to win conflict cases is clearly indicated in four of the some cases discussed above. Some exclusionary social institutions in the study area were fostering unequal social relationships and the partitioning of specific cultural economic and political processes in relation to particular social groups. The empirical evidence indicates a strong connection between government staff and powerful people and between the local elite and politicians. The farmer managed irrigation system forest pastureland the ADB funded irrigation development project and the Guthi land conflict cases indicate that such relations strongly influence the nature of negotiated outcomes. Poor people have less access to government bureaucracy and power borders are advantaged in that situation. Some groups' benefit in a conflict situation from using political relations Aphno Manche networks economic power bribery geographical proximity and knowledge networks.

The presence or absence of rules and their effective execution are major issues in natural resources conflict. The natural resources traditionally used for one particular purpose are now allocated to different purposes according to new regulations. The state is inducing changes in traditions use patterns through various acts. For example the water sources act 1992 the forest act 1993 the land reform act 1964 and the local self-governance act 1999 contradict several traditional resource management practices. As indicated in the case studies there changes affect or alter access and control patterns as well as ownership rights.

#### **4.5.2 External development interventions and conflicts**

External natural resource management interventions have introduced severed conflicts in the study area. Several erupted simply because of technocratic top down development interventions. Most of these were designed to fulfill the verses interests of a circle of technocrat's bureaucrats and politicians as observed in the ADB funded irrigation project case, the most commonly reported conflicts arising from development interventions in the study area were related to the misuse of money and materials abuses of authority. External development projects funded by donors and government departments had created several conflicts mainly due to their ignorance of local dynamics citing the land measurement and registration programme of the government Kaplan 1995 argues that when outsider organizations enter a village setting the incidence of conflict increases enormously. Various research findings have also independently demonstrated that conflict increases enormously. Various research findings have also independently demonstrated that conflict increases as a consequence of interventions by external

#### **4.5.3 Contractions between law and local people interest**

Local people want to do work as their traditional system but government law don not accept it. The contradiction law and local people interest are always different. So the conflict always arises between them.

#### **4.5.4 Resource Conflict Management Practices**

##### **A. Informal practices for conflict management**

In the study area people use to practice the informal conflict management system. They always use to apply the different informal methods to solve the problem of conflict.

##### **i. Dharma bhakaune (Sacred test)**

It is common method of conflict management. During the process the negotiators perform activities such as taking contending parties to the local temples and asking them to undergo a test, and asking conflicting parties to take an oath of innocence while touching sacred materials such as Shaligram, Copper, Peepal, Dubo, Books or Children.

##### **ii. Jhakri rakhne (exploration by Shamans)**

This method is based on belief that shamans have received supernatural powers from a god to control particular problems and is applied most commonly to cases of witch allegation. In this method the shaman treats culprits mostly sitting fire to hair, pouring hot water onto the body, severally beating etc. This was the crudest method of conflict resolution in the study area.

##### **iii. Sagun garne (reconciliation)**

This exchange function is performed after discussing the matter in a meeting attended by villagers, negotiators and the conflicting parties. When a settlement is reached they start sugan garne. The conflicting is declared to have been settled when both parties have accepted a gift, and this is followed by small celebration where all people drink jad. It is most common among matwalis.

#### **IV Jarimana and kshatipurti bharaune (fine and compensation)**

The negotiators hear the opinions of both parties and also seek the opinion of the villagers. Based on the hearing, they decide the level kshatipurti and jarimana. This practice involves a reimbursement of lose by those deemed guilty, and some extra punishment in the form a fine.

#### **V. Mafi magne (public apology)**

As in other local methods, negotiators invite villagers and disputants to discuss the conflict issue and decide to make a public apology. This is some times also combined with and additional fine or other punishment. This is also used in formal conflict resolution processes.

#### **B. Formal conflict management practices**

Organizations that adopt formal conflict management practices fall into two main categories. The first includes the court system and the second includes the VDC, the government's natural resources- related offices, the police, and the district administration office. These all work within the government's regulatory framework. The district administration office and the police have a mandatory responsibility to address all types of category of organization: only those conflict cases, which could not be solved there, went to court.



## Chapter- Five

# SUMMURY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 5.1. Summary

The broader socio-political system, power dynamics, and local politics affect conflict over natural resources tremendously. All in all, there appears to be little evidence of effectiveness in the existing linear top-down approach of government-instituted organization to resolve natural resources conflicts. In the current system only powerful people and the elite are benefiting. The existing conflict management system in Nepal is not responsive enough to address growing conflict, and deserves prompt action aimed at reformation. We can use formal and informal techniques to resolve the current problems of resource conflict. Pani kadne, Maphi dine, Jariwana tiraune, Jhankri rakhne, Sagun garne are the informal practices of conflicts resolution in Nepal by tradition. But court system, reconciliation, mediation of CDOs VDCs, DDCs, mediation of different organization help to resolve the conflict in formal systems.

### 5.2 Conclusion

Nepal is a rich country of poor people because it has high costed natural resource but lack of the skillful manpower depends on the use of the natural resources. Land, water forest, pasture are main backbone of economy of Nepal. But there have been happened natural resource conflict happening in the state. The historical context is a strong determining factor in the present governance of natural resources and management of associated conflicts. In this way, the state had begun to regulate the available natural resources. This led to the establishment of control mechanism: various departments and regional offices, policies, acts, rules and regulations were established to systematically control the use of available natural resources. Traditionally, land was considered as the property of the state and this land is called Raikar. Only the state had the right to alienate land through sale, mortgage or bequest. Thus

the state granted state-owned raikar lands to individuals in various forms. Almost one third of Nepal's agricultural and forestlands had granted to individuals by 1950, and the remainder belonged to the Ranas themselves. Local functionaries, all favorites of Rana, implemented the land- grant policy in the villages and were able to ensure the greatest benefit to them. They obtained a great deal of land from the state through Jagir and Birta grants, and rented these lands to peasant farmers under tenancy arrangements. In this way, local functionaries turned into landlords introduced the Kut system in which only those tenants who were able to pay high rents could get a contract. Competition over access and control the ineffective jurisdictional roles of the government agencies and political and commercial interests have encourages the growth of conflict. The major portion of the natural resources related conflict cases were in one way or another related to the appropriation use and control of natural resources. Numerous land and conflicts were created due mainly to the unsystematic and incomplete land registration and record keeping process.

## **5.3 Recommendations**

### **5.3.1 Recommendation for Planning and policy making**

Nepal is always suffered from various conflicts. From the study of history, we find that the rulers of the state had suppressed the people's rights and this system is present even now. Natural resource conflict is also such kind of conflict that has been suffering in all over the country. The state has not made the proper provision to control that conflict. There is not the policy to reward and punish the user. So the Study would like to recommend to the government to make proper law and policy to control the kinds of conflict

### **5.3.2 Recommendation for further study**

This study is prepared in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the master's Degree in rural development. So, the researcher is also confined to study the limited aspects and select few respondents. At the same time the researcher selected few aspects of natural resources related conflict and its causes and effects in Nepali society. Therefore, management of resource conflict is needed to build up peaceful society. Land, forest, pasture and water resource related conflict have been commonly happened in our context. So this study generalizes the resource related in the same place and in the area under study and in the country as a whole. And the methodologies are used by researcher can be adapted in eliciting the study. It is wished that study will help the other researchers who want to study related to resource conflict anywhere.

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**Annex-1**  
**Questionnaire Set –1**  
**Household Survey Schedule**

The respondents are requested to give authentic information, as the answers will be kept confidential and used only in aggregate and for academic purpose.

Survey Schedule Number:

District:

Village Development Committee:

Ward Number:

1. Full name of the respondent:
2. Age:
3. Sex:                      Male ( )                      Female ( )
4. Literacy:                      Literate ( )                      Illiterate ( )
5. Education Level :    Below SLC ( )                      SLC ( )                      Above SLC ( )
6. Household size:    Total ( )                      Male ( )                      Female ( )
7. Ethnicity/Caste: Higher caste ( ) Mongols ( ) Untouchables ( )
8. Main occupation :
9. Total annual income: Rs. ( )
10. Subsidiary occupation :
11. Total annual income: Rs. ( )
12. Number of economically active person: ( )
13. How many cattle and buffaloes do you have?

| Livestock | Young | Adult | Total |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| Buffalo   |       |       |       |
| Cow       |       |       |       |
| Goat      |       |       |       |
| Others... |       |       |       |

14. Landholding (in ropani?)

15. Forest land?
16. Pasture land?
17. Other natural resources?
18. Do you know natural resource related conflict? Yes/ /No
19. Have you faced the natural resource related conflict in your community?  
Ye/No
20. How many times in a year do you face such kind of conflict?
21. What are the major causes of these conflicts?
  
22. Which resource related conflict is happening more times?
  
23. If you feel such conflict, give the reasons of its occurrence.
  - a) Disparity in allocation of resources
  - b)
  - c)
  - d)
24. If you feel such conflict, write the negative impacts of such conflict.
  - a) Break the neighborhood relation
  - b) .....
  - c) .....
  - d) .....
  - e) .....
  - f) .....
  
25. In your opinion, how can we resolve such kinds of conflict from the society?

| Types of conflict          | Methods Used to resolve   |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| a.<br>b.<br>c.<br>d.<br>e. | a.<br>b.<br>c.<br>d.<br>e |

26. Any others Views

.....  
 .....  
 .....



## Questionnaire set -2

### Check List for

### Natural Resource related conflict

#### 1. Resource conflict

Forest related conflict

Land related conflict

Pasture related conflict

Water related conflict

Others, if any (Specify):-...

#### 2. Organizational aspect

Who manages forest?

- Committee members?

- User groups

- Others, if any (Specify):-

How forests conflict is managed

- Perception of need and ownership

- Decision

- Consensus

-Others, if any (Specify):-

Who manages pasture related conflict

- Committee members

- User groups

- Others, if any (Specify):-

How it is managed

- Perception of need and ownership

- Decision

- Consensus

-Others, if any (Specify):-

Other resources.....

3. Managing practice

a. Dharma bhakaune (sacred test)

b. Jhakri rakhne (exploration by shamans)

c. Sagun garne (Reconciliation)

d. Others

4. Causes of natural resource related conflict

a. Poverty

b. Imbalance allocation

c. Pressure of elites

d. Others if any,