

**PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY
FOREST MANAGEMENT**

**A Case Study of Shree Ashwara Community Forest- Tulsipur-11
Ashwara, Dang**

**A Thesis Submitted to
Central Development of Rural Development Tribhuvan University,
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For the Master of Arts in Rural Development**

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RECOMMENDATION LETTER

This thesis entitled "**People's Participation in Community Forest Management: A Case Study of Shree Ashwara Community Forest- Tulsipur-11 Ashwara, Dang** " has been prepared by Dhani Ram Roka under my supervision in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Master of Arts in Rural Development at Tribhuvan University.

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This Thesis entitled "**People's Participation in Community Forest Management: A Case Study of Shree Ashwara Community Forest-Tulsipur-11 Ashwara, Dang** " has been accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development.

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ABSTRACT

The Community Forestry Programme in Nepal officially started in the late 1970s. Since then concerning movement has been evolving to involve local communities in the management and utilization of forests. The policy of the government was originally intended to meet the basic forest products required by the communities through active participation in forest development and management. Later, it was expanded to include the mobilization and empowerment of the members of CFUGs in the development of their local communities. Under community forest program 1.6 million hectares of forestland have been handed over to community, up to 14,000 user groups, representing 1.2 million households in 2007.

It was observed that the trend of forest degradation has decreased since the handing over of national forests to local communities, but a number of unintended social anomalies have also cropped up. Such anomalies essentially constitute of the inequality and unfairness in the local and national level and in terms of long-term sustainability of forest resources.

The status of women's participation in implementation process was high while the rate of participation of ordinary women in monitoring and evaluation process and participation in general assemblies was not found satisfactory. Usually, social activities conducted by CFUG were found to have benefited equally to both sexes. Women member of the CFUG had not got opportunity to participate in training and study tours.

This study attempts to identify various issues of community forestry, especially focusing on women's participation in community forestry. It calls for rethinking the CFP in order to face the present days challenges of linking CF with affecting factors in people's participation, livelihood promotion, good governance and sustainable forest management. It also lays out strategies for reforms in CF.

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ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

CF	:	Community Forest
CFM	:	Community Forest Management
CFMS	:	Community Forest Management System
CFDP	:	Community Forest Development Program
CFP	:	Community Forest Program
CFMP	:	Community Forest Management Program
CFUG	:	Community Forest User Group
DFO	:	District Forest Officer
EC	:	Executive Committee
FUC	:	Forest User Community
FUGC	:	Forest User Group Committee
FUGs	:	Forest User Groups
HHs	:	Households
HMG/N	:	His Majesty Government of Nepal
GOs	:	Government Organizations
NGOs	:	Non-Government Organizations
INGOs	:	International Non-Government Organizations
OP	:	Operational Plan
PF	:	Panchayat Forest
PPF	:	Panchayat Protected Forest