

# **CHALLENGES OF GOOD GOVERNANCE IN NEPAL**

*(With Reference to Assessment of Himalayan Buffer Zone Community Forestry Users Group, Chaurikharka-1, Solukhumbu)*

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**By**

**Bhagirath Khatiwada**

**Regd. No. 6-1-2-367-98**

**Central Department of Rural Development**

**Tribhuvan University**

**Kirtipur, Kathmandu**

**Nepal**

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## ABSTRACT

Good governance in Nepal requires the citizens to forge a single national identity, an identity sustained by a democratic partnership among the state, the market, the civil society and the citizens. The greatest strength lies in their capacity to enlist the confidence of ordinary citizens to shape the society and its vision. Without strengthening the national integrity system and proper separation and devolution of power, transparent, just and responsive governance cannot be realized.

The primary objective of the study is to explore the challenges of good governance in Nepal with an assessment of Himalayan Buffer Zone Community Forestry Users Group (HBZCFUG) at Chaurikharka-1, in Solukhumbu district. The vectors of good governance – state, market and the civil society have been deeply analyzed. The research has also explored the four folds of good governance in the CFUG namely transparency, accountability, participation and predictability depicting their impacts and roles for development.

Community Forests of Nepal, which has become renowned, has certain underlying challenges of good governance, and this study has tried its best to search a remedy to redeem any such hardships.

All together, 80 respondents were taken including the 16 key informants to obtain primary data for accomplishing the task. As a research methodology, Stratified Sampling Method was applied. Apart from this, household survey, field observation, key informant interview, focus group discussion, PRA and RRA, etc.were also conducted. The universe was purposively selected and the respondents were randomly selected.

The overall situation of good governance in the CFUG is not satisfactory. The satisfaction level of good governance in the HBZCFUG is only about 38%.The major challenges of good governance in the CFUG are (a) poor representation of poor, marginalized people and women, (b) lack of accountability among leaders of the CFUG, (c) improper and ineffective mobilization of resources, (d) lack of transparency among the leaders of the CFUG, (e) lack of predictability and (f) lack of active participation of the local people. Thus, it is recommended to improve the transparency, accountability and predictability of the leaders to strengthen good governance in the CFUG. Apart from this, active people's participation especially of women, poor, disadvantaged and the marginalized section is to be created through incentives and motivation.

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## ACRONYMS

ADB	:	Asian Development Bank
AI	:	Advocacy Institute
AIC	:	Agricultural Input Corporation
AusAID	:	Australian Agency for International Development.
B.S.	:	Bikram Sambat
BMZ	:	German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
CARE	:	Cooperation and Relief Everywhere
CBC	:	Commonwealth Business Council
CF	:	Community Forests.
CFUGs	:	Community Forestry User Groups
CIDA	:	Canadian International Development Agency
CSOs	:	Civil Society Organizations
DANIDA	:	Danish International Development
DDC	:	District Development Committee
DFID	:	Department for International Development
EC	:	European Commission
EC	:	Executive Committee
EROPA	:	Eastern Regional Organization of Public Administration
EU	:	European Union
FDI	:	Foreign Direct Investment
FH	:	Freedom House
FTPs	:	Forest Timber Products
GTZ	:	German Technical Co-operation Agency
HBZCFUG	:	Himalayan Buffer Zone Community Forestry User Group
HDR	:	Human Development Report
HH	:	Household
HMG	:	His Majesty's Government of Nepal
IMF	:	International Monetary Fund
JICA	:	Japanese International co-operation Agency
LBMB	:	Law Books Management Board

LSGA	:	Local Self-governance Act.
MOFSC	:	Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation
MPFS	:	Master Plan for Forestry Products
NDF	:	Nepal Development Forum
NGOs	:	Non-Government Organization.
NPC	:	National Planning Commission.
NTFPS	:	Non-Timber Forest Products
PF	:	Panchayat Forest
PPF	:	Panchayat Protected Forest
PRSP	:	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
RH	:	Random House
SAFP	:	Sagarmatha Agro Forest Project
SAGUN	:	Strengthened Actions for Governance in Utilization of Natural Resources
SAPNEPAL	:	South Asian Partnership, Nepal
SDC	:	Swiss Agency for International Development and Cooperation
SIDA	:	Swedish International Development Agency
SNP	:	Sagarmatha National Park
SNV	:	Netherlands Development Agency
TE	:	The Economist
UN	:	United Nations
UNDP	:	United Nations Development Program
UNESCAP	:	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific.
USAID	:	United States Agency for International Development
USOM	:	United States Operations Mission
VDC	:	Village Development Committee
WB	:	World Bank
WGS	:	World Governance Survey
WR	:	World Resources
WWF	:	World Wild Fund for Nature