

**IMPACT OF COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM
ON POOR HOUSEHOLD USERS**

**(A CASE STUDY OF DUDHKOSHI COMMUNITY FORESTRY USER
GROUP, BIRENDRANAGAR, CHITWAN, NEPAL)**

A Thesis

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Master's Degree of Arts in Economics**

By

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RECOMMENDATION LETTER

This Thesis entitled "**Impact of Community Forestry Program on Poor Household Users: A Case Study of Dudhkoshi Community Forestry User Group, Birendranagar, Chitwan, Nepal**" has been prepared by **Sita Sapkota** under my supervision. I hereby recommend this thesis for approval by the thesis committee.

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ACRONYMS

CF	=	Community Forestry
CFP	=	Community Forestry Programme
CFUG	=	Community Forestry User Group
DDC	=	District Development Committee
DEO	=	District Education Office
DFO	=	District Forest Office
DKCF	=	Dudhkoshi Community Forest
FAO	=	Food and Agriculture Organization
FUG	=	Forest user Group
GOs	=	Government Organizations
Ha	=	Hector
HHs	=	Households
HMG/N	=	His Majesty Government of Nepal
HS	=	Higher Secondary
IGAs	=	Income Generating Activities
INGOs	=	International Non Government Organizations
LFP	=	Livelihoods Forestry Program
MPFS	=	Master Plan of Forest Sector
NGOs	=	Non Government Organizations
NO	=	Number
NPC	=	National Planning Commission
Pry	=	Primary
Rs	=	Rupees
Sec	=	Secondary
VDC	=	Village Development Committee

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Forest resource is one of the major resources directly affecting the survival rural people in Nepal. Forest has much positive value some of which can be estimated in material term and some has indirect value. Forest is providing various timber and non timber product which is inevitable from the substance farming system of the country. Fruits, fuel - wood, timber, food materials, grazing space, leaf litter etc. are provided by forest which has high market value. Forests are especially important to the livelihoods of the landless and the poorest, who depend on the fuel - wood, fodder and other non timber products for their daily survival. Forest is the source of raw materials and forest based industries such as play-wood, paper, furniture, medicine etc.

The conservation and development of the natural resource like forest is impossible from the government effort alone. Regarding that fact, the concept of community forestry development programme was introduced in Nepal, since 1978/79 in the name of "Panchayati, Conservation Forestry". After the experience of about a decade there was made a contemporary change in it and was again started from the beginning of 1990 as according to the aim of 'Master Plan' for the forestry in 1988. Since the community forestry development programme is being implemented with the collaboration of the local people.

The community forestry development programme is a success storm in our country. It is considered as a successful example of the

public oriented development programme. Under this programme 14,227 user group have been formed till 2006/07 with 11,85,563 hectores of land has been handed over to user group in this programme and 16,35,667 households are involved (Economic Survey, 2006/07).

If the development is for the people, the people should participate in it. The people should have the participation of the planning implementation, benefit distribution, evaluation and monitoring of any development process. Thus, this public oriented programme is in support of right of self-selection of the source, means and opportunity for the development. The community forest development programme is running in our country. At the present community forestry is a successful example of the public oriented development programme.

Community forestry is the control, management and use of forests resources by the villages for their own benefit and for the benefit of the society as a whole. A community forest is the section of forest that is handed over to a group of user households for the group benefit. The villagers can either use products or sell them with out damaging the forest. The income derived from the sale of forest product will go the users group fund. Decision about the forest resources with in the community forest has been made by user committee forest development gives only technical and financial support.

The community forestry program is the largest program among six major programs of forest protection implemented in Nepal. Different International Non-government organization (INGO) and Non-governmental organization (NGO) have great interest in such conservation programme. They directly take part and are also involved in

funding the community forest program. They see this program as a tool in the improvement of environment as well as upgrade of existing livelihood of local people. In this respect, they use community forestry as a tool for community development. During last 24 years, the experience has shown positive indication in the improvement of environment and community development (Shrestha, 1999).

The local people have conducted various type of income generating activities with the help of community forestry programme. It has made a positive impact to uplift the life standard of the women, the poor and the backward groups. The users group have established fund by the income from the forest product, grant and penalty. They are conducting various social activities as road construction, helping the school and clean drinking water supply in the local level. 'Malati Mahila Community Forestry' in Saptari district can be taken as a successful example of the impact of the community forestry to strengthen the economic status in the local level in which they have established a milk chilling centre through livestock rearing with the help of community forestry. The community forestry has increased a progress in the livestock rearing which has resulted in increasment of livestock production like milk, cheese, meat etc and compost manure. It has increased the income of the local people. Similarly, in some districts like Humla, Jumla, Kalikot and so on, people have conducted the economic activities at the local level by the collection and selling of the herbs which they get from community forestry (Kalpabricha-2003).

This research aims to understand the impact of community forestry programme on poor households users using the forest resource.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Dudhkoshi community forest is situated in Brendranagar VDC. But the users of this community forestry from ward no. 7 and 8 of Birendranagar VDC and ward no. 1 and 2 of Khairahani VDC. Birendranagar and Khairahani are the remote villages of Chitwan district. More than 75% CFUG members depend on agriculture. Economic status of the people is not so high. People of Dudhkoshi community forest user group fulfill their many basic needs from community forest such as; fuel - wood for cooking and heating, fodder for Livestock, timber for house, shed and furniture construction etc. Forest is one of the most important natural resources for the people living in rural people. It is indispensable organ of rural people that is needed from birth to death.

Dudhkoshi community forest is performing different activities to increase the economic standard of the people. It has also helped in many developmental activities of community such as road construction, support the school, Gobar gas and many activities. This CF programme conducts the different types of training and social security. The main objective of this Dudhkoshi CF is also to reduce the poverty. And, this programme tries to focus to the poor base households to uplift their living standard and reducing the inequality of wealth. This CF programme supports poor users in many activities. In many programmes, in reality, higher class user groups are taking

more benefit than the lower class user groups. The main problem is policy gap between rich and poor user group. So inequality of wealth has not been reduced effectively. Now our concentration is to find out economic impact of community forestry programme in household income of poor people. However, the following points are the main problems of this study.

- 1) What is the socio-economic condition of poor households?
- 2) What types of income generating activities are conducted for poor households by the CF programme?
- 3) What is the condition of benefit sharing process of CFP?
- 4) Are the poor equally benefited by CFP?
- 5) What is the status of poor in decision making process of the FUG?
- 6) Do they express their view or not? Do their voices consider in decision making or not?

This study attempts to solve these problems.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to assess the economic impact of community forestry program in household income of poor people. However, the specific objectives are:

- 1) To analyze the socio-economic characteristics of the poor households.

- 2) To find out the role of community forestry in income generating of poor households.
- 3) To evaluate the participation of poor households in decision making and benefit sharing.

1.4 Limitation of the Study

Every study does have its limitations. This study is also not exception. It has following limitations.

- 1) This present study focuses only Dudhkoshi community forest of Birendranagar VDC in Chitwan district. Therefore, the conclusion and result made by the study may not be equally applicable to other community forest groups of Nepal.
- 2) Lack of good record keeping system in CFUG made problems during the collection of the information.
- 3) Simple statistical tools are used to analyze the data obtained. Hence, the findings of this study may not be generally conclusive.

1.5 Organization of the Study

This study is divided into six main chapters. The first chapter covers background, statement of the problems, objectives of the study, limitations of the study and organization of the study. The second chapter presents the literature review. It covers concept of community forestry, income generating activities of CF and community forestry and poverty interface. The third chapter deals with methodology of the study. Fourth chapter describes the study area. It includes the

description of Chitwan district, Birendranagar and Khairahani VDCs, the Dudhkoshi community forestry and socio-economic status of its user group. The fifth chapter deals with data analysis. It includes socio-economic status of poor, income generating activities of poor and participation of poor in decision making and benefit sharing. And lastly, the sixth chapter deals with conclusion which consists of summary, major findings and Recommendation.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

There are many scholars and researchers who have devoted their time to study forestry issues of Nepal. Their efforts to find out the forestry problems and solutions are considered valuable contributions. However, here only some literatures of scholars and researchers have been reviewed in order to know about the existing status of community forestry in Nepal. In this chapter the literature review is classified into three categories.

2.1 Concept of Community Forestry

The control of forests to be managed by local people was further strengthened by the provision of the Decentralization Act 1982. The community forests were passed to the users group as Panchayat Forest and Panchayat Protected Forest. Truly speaking, the National Forestry Act 1976 played a key role in introducing community forestry and moreover the decentralization act 1982 become the next pillar for the development of community forestry. The Master Plan for the forestry development was formulated in 1987-1988. This plan touched all the forestry related issues and activities and emphasized on community forestry. Now community forestry has been the main forestry sector policy of government of Nepal. According to community forestry development program, community forestry is the forest protected, managed and utilized by local user groups. Community forestry program is the process by which government, through the department of forest, makes community forestry a reality for rural communities. The poor and

land-less should also be included in the community forestry plan implementation, development, production and protection of forest resources (Bista, 1991).

In Nepal, the community forest policy combines with environmental objectives of preventing land degradation and deforestation with social and economic objectives. The latter objectives are to meet the people's basic needs for fire wood, fodder, timber and other forest products on a sustainable basis and also to contribute to food production through effective interaction between forestry and farming practices (HMGN, 1988). Therefore all the accessible forest area in the middle hills of Nepal has been handed over by district forest office to the local communities themselves (Aryal, 2000).

The CF programme is considered as a key element of the forest sector policy. The main vision of the community and private forestry programme is to develop and manage resources through the active participation of individual people and communities to meet their basic needs and generate income for forest and community development.

Community forestry programme began in Nepal as a problem solving strategy in the late 1970s. The problems to be addressed were of two major types. First, deforestation and deteriorating condition of the forest in the country were believed to be critical and community forestry programme was identified as a strategy to combat such problems. Community plantations and handing over the authority for the protection and management of local forests to the communities (Called Forest Users Groups) have been the means of achieving this goal. Second, people were alienated from forestry due to the private Forest Nationalization of 1957

and it was realized that this could pose problems for any conservation efforts in the country (Chhetri, 1999).

Tropical forests and other wood lands are fundamental to the economic and social Livelihoods of millions of rural people. Forests supply energy need and it provides fodder for Livestock which in turn produce for agriculture. Rural people also use forests for water supply materials, for house construction and for products like bamboo and medicinal herbs. For poor rural people trees can be of direct and immediate use, a source of cash when required a form of saving or a longer term asset. So, the forest and its products are critical to the livelihoods of millions (Oakely, 1991).

Community forest is for the benefit of local people, the primary user of the forest specially these who are dependent on forest products to meet substance needs. The majority of rural people in Nepal depend on forest to support their agricultural and livestock system. Forest provide fuel - wood for cooking and heating, timber for building, furniture, fodder and bedding for livestock and leaf litter for compost and a range of other non-timber products. After the implementation of community forestry these products are equally distributed to all the members and people have started getting different training opportunities as well as they come in contact with different NGOs and INGO. This contact helps them in planning for poverty alleviation, through income generation (Gautam, 2001).

2.2 Poverty and Community Forestry Interface

Nepal's forest are essential for the well being of rural community who depend on them for supplies of fuel - wood, fodder, poles, timber

and many other products. They also provide essential raw materials for national development and help to maintain a sound environment.

A better quality of life for the rural people, especially for the lower income groups will result from the increased availability of firewood for cooking and heating more feed for livestock, which in terms will provide more milk, meat, hide and dung for food production, more timber for shelter (MPFS,1989).

Poverty is a serious challenge of Nepal. The majority of the population lives in the villages and the big segment of them is poor. Poverty cannot be alleviated from external efforts of programmes imposed from above. Participation of the poor themselves is very important in every programme, with aims, at poverty alleviation. As such the poor need to be made capable, empowered and then mobilization. For this it is very necessary to ensure maximum access of the poor to social, economic and natural resources and services. It is also equally essential to create opportunities for the poor and enable them to participate in decision-making policy and programmes formulation and implementation of development programme (Roy, 1999).

Many rural people meet their subsistence needs from the collection of the fuel - wood, fodder and other non-wood forest products. Forest have been the source for livelihood of rural people. Without forest resources, they have to migrate to urban areas leading to family and community disintegration. Hence community forest has been an effective tool for poverty reduction and income distribution (Shasi 2000).

It is possible from community forestry to reduce poverty by securing resources for the poor, increasing the availability of resources

and providing potential for income generating activities. Community forestry contributes to improve people's livelihoods. It has contributed significantly in building social capital (Pokhrel, 2001).

The community forest contributes to the rural livelihoods by increasing income level, meeting the basic needs for forest products which leads to improved living conditions of the rural people. Still there are some problems observed in community forestry implementation process. These are mainly related to the economic position of the poor and social differentiation in society. In Nepal, the key issue today is how to support CFUGs to the poor users for their Livelihood and improvement of forest condition (Pokhrel, 2001).

The original envision of community forestry was to protect soil erosion, prevent environmental degradation and provide basic needs of forestry products to the rural people. In the present context community forestry management is a complex situation often meeting conflicting objectives and dynamic process than traditional forest management system. As recently been reported, landowners and wealthier households are interested in long-term of intermediate produces while landless and poor families are interested for cash income products gaining experiences and learning process will greatly help to develop the system. However, effective learning to shift protection -oriented forest management approach of the CFUGs to active approach have not been seen in the past. To maximize the benefits and to make successful community forestry program there is an urgent need to shift for active forest management. To address the livelihoods issues in community forestry, there is a need of leasing part of CF area to poorer section of community

so that forest area will be used more productivity and poorer will get more benefits from CF (Acharya, 2001)

The Livelihoods and Forestry Programme (LFP) has the goal of reducing the vulnerability of poor rural people and improving their livelihoods. Its purpose is to enhance the assets of rural communities through the promotion of more equitable, efficient, and sustainable use of forest resources. At the community level, LFP helps poor and excluded groups to achieve more equitable access to resources and opportunities. This is in line with the objective of social inclusion envisaged in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and 10th five - year plan of the government and Country Assistance Plan of Department for International Development to support achieving this objective (LFP, 2005).

Studies conducted by independent consultants on behalf of LFP suggest that in average the decision making process in user groups is less representative and less participatory than hoped for. Executive committees (Samiti) are dominated by non- poor, high caste men. Though FUG categorisation study suggests that the average women's representations in samiti is more than 30% in LFP working areas, there are very few evidences that these representatives representative represent their constituencies. Participation of poor and women representatives in samiti meeting is consistently low and ineffective (LFP, 2005).

2.3. Incomes Generation Through Community Forest

Community forestry programme can able to change the socio-economic status of the people. Kayastha argued that forests create ample job opportunities for employment and income. A good number of village

people are employed in logging timber, forest industries and afforestation activities. A lot of people in the villages become self employed by making bullock carts, agricultural implements, tools and furniture from timber. Some people even specialize in manufacturing wooden handicrafts and earn good income by selling them. Similarly, a lot of poor families in the village collect fuel - wood from the forests and sell them in the nearby markets and towns. It brings significant income for them in the village (Kayastha,1991).

The community forest fulfilled the different types of forest product needs. He noticed that the community forest was saving the time of people, if there was no community forest the households had to spend more time for collecting fuel - wood and fodder. They use this saving time for other income generating work. He recommended in his study that the more awareness programs are necessary to increase the use of improved stove, Kerosene stove,bio-gas etc. to decrease the pressure on community forest for fuel - wood.(Karki,2007).

The handing over of the forest to communities for management and use has increased the opportunities for organized income generation. FUGs have started to incorporate income generation activities (IGAs) in their operational plans. There are many examples such as inter cropping of cash crops, cultivation of non-timber forest products and medicinal herbs. Selling, red clay, seedling, firewood, poles timbers organizing tours for tourists in community forests, membership fees and penalty are other source of income from community forest (Pokharel et al. 1999).

The incidence of financial capital formation through income from community forestry is widely reported in literature. Community forest has

been a source of income and employment opportunities for rural communities (Pokharel 1998, cited by Neupane, 2003). Recent experiences in Nepal suggest that CF can yield more than subsistence needs and those FUG's can generate income from a variety of sources including the sale of forest products, fees, fines and donations. The income generated from community forest can and does play an important role in providing local employment and in developing local markets (Mall, 1993, Jackson and Ingles 1994).

The community forests annually generate about US \$ 12 million from the sale of forest products. However CFUGs have experienced difficulties in investing their fund in right kind of activities. They are now sending 36 percent of their expenditures in community development activities such as school, road, and health post and other development activities (Kanel and Niraula, 2004). The benefits from those activities are minimal to the poor. About three percent is spent on pro- poor programs. Additional spending on the livelihood improvement of poor, disadvantaged group and women are big challenges in community forestry.

The community forestry is a viable strategy for the department of forest to manage the forest resources of the middle hills of Nepal. The users have been found happy about product distribution practices prevalent in their group. The Users make an equitable contribution towards protection, management and equitable distribution of forest product. Giri has mentioned that equity in decision making and distribution of FUG funds are more complex process. However, those fund to all cases in his study have maintained relatively well in this regard (Giri, 2001).

CHAPTER - III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

To accomplish the research objectives, different methodologies have been used.

3.1 Selection of the Study Area

The Dudhkoshi forest user group has been selected for the study area. The community forest lies in the Biredranagar VDC of Chitwan district. The research site is better familiar with the researcher and because it is nearness from the village. So, it is possible to collect reliable information easily. Another reason is this CFUG identifies the poor and it is conducting income generating activities to them.

3.2 Sampling Procedure

There are 1170 CFUG members in the Dudhkoshi Community Forest. Among them, 528 households are the house of the poor (already identified by CFUG committee), which are taken as a unit of the study. However there are various socio-cultural backgrounds. Among 528 households 32 households are selected for in-depth study through lottery method. Some knowledgeable persons who are not selected as respondents are also taken as respondents by purposively.

3.3 Source of Data

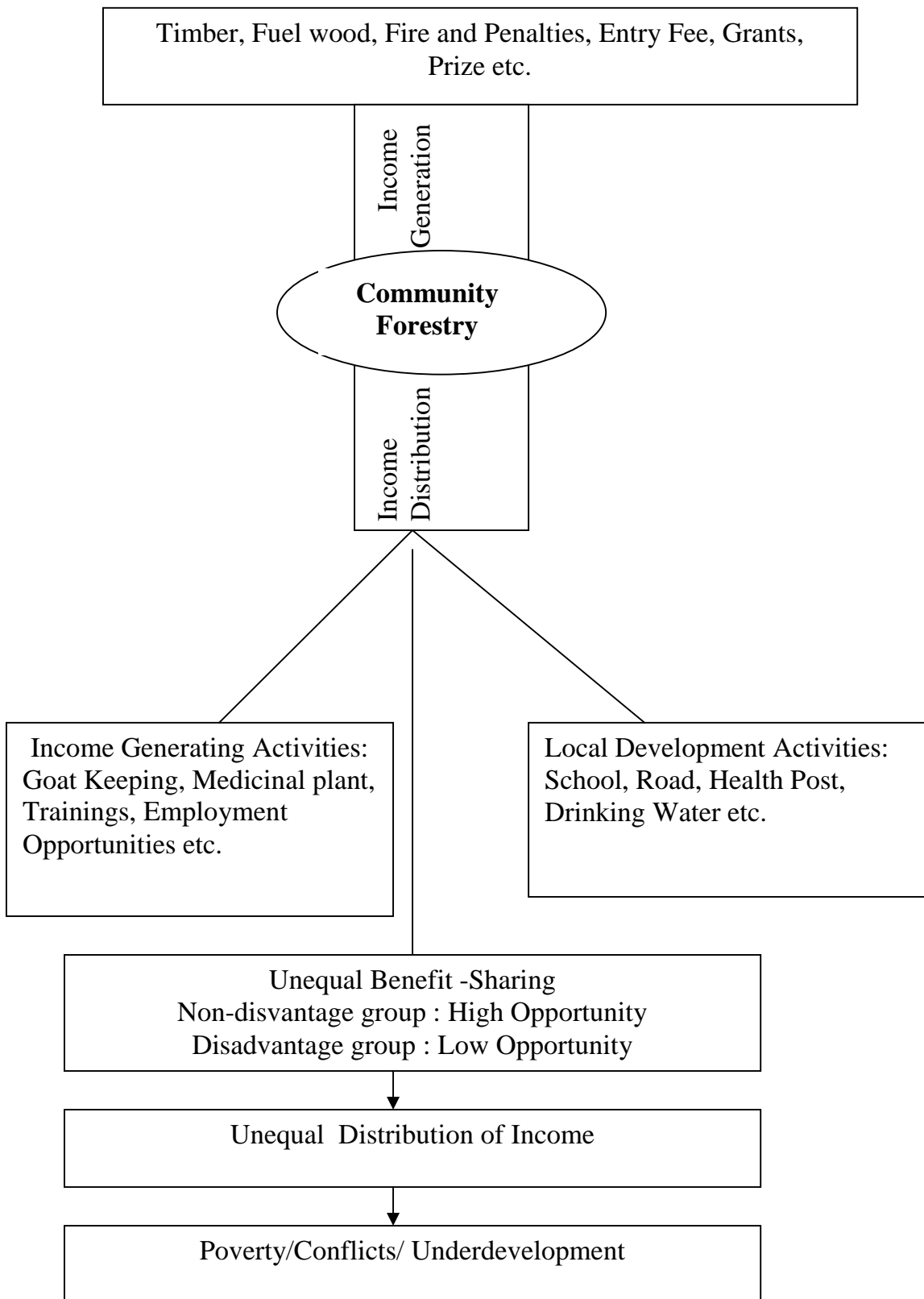
For the purpose of the study, both primary and secondary data are used in this research. These are qualitative as well as quantitative for the purpose of the study. The primary data are collected from households'

interview. The secondary data are collected from published and unpublished documents of various GOs and NGOs, such as; CFUG, DFO, DEO, DDC, other government offices in the district as well as central offices.

3.4 Data Analysis

The data collected from primary and secondary sources are tabulated and presented in the forms of tables, pie-chart, bar diagrams etc. The descriptive analysis is based on statistical tools such as; average, mean and percentage which are given in this research. My research design is based on the conceptual framework of research. (See on Page. 18)

3.5. Conceptual Framework of Research



CHAPTER IV

DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA

4.1 Chitwan District Profile

4.1.1 Location and Size

Chitwan district lies in central development region and at Narayani zone. The total area covered by the district is 2238.39 sq. km. It is located at 27°21' 45"-27°52' 30' of north latitude and 83°54' 45' – 84° 48' 15' of east longitude. The district lies south of Kathmandu, the capital and is surrounded by Dhading, Makawanpur and Parsa districts in the east, Gorkha, Tanahun and Nawalparasi districts in the north and India in the south.

The total population of Chitwan district is 4,68,699 with an annual growth rate of 2.84 percent. Among them 2,31,857 (49.47%) male and 2,36,842 (50.53%) are female. Total number of the households in the district is 92,851 (DFO, Chitwan, 2007). Such high growth rate (2.84%) produces pressure on the remaining forest of the district as a source of potential agricultural land and urban land. The district is constituted of two municipalities and 36 VDCs. The district is mainly inhabited by Bramhin, Kshetri, Newar, Darai, Tharu, Gurung, Magar, Tamang, Chepang, Thakuri, Sanyashi, Rai, Kumal, Dami, Kami, Sarki etc. Literacy rate in the district is 71.1 percent of which male is 79.3 percent and female is 63 percent (NPC, 2001).

4.1.2 Topography

Topographically, the district is surrounded by mid hill and the Churiya hills forming a big valley. The Churiya hills forming the southern boundary of the 'Chitwan Valley' rise abruptly out of the plain. The Southern slopes are steep, badly eroded and rough, as compared to the northern slopes. The valley is more or less flat and slightly sloping towards south-west. The elevation of the district ranges from 141 m to 1945 m above sea level.

4.1.3 Rocks/Soil/Rivers

The Churiya hills in the southern border of the district are composed of coarsely bedded sand, stones, crystalline, rocks, clays and conglomerate. The soils in the valley are mainly sandy loam. The main rivers found in the district are Karra, Rapti, Manohari and Lothar. These are all perennial in nature and flow from north to south. Another big river is Narayani which flows west separating Chitwan district from Nawalparasi and goes to India to mix with the Gandak river.

4.1.4 Climate

The district is dominated by a subtropical type of climate generally favourable for luxuriant growth of vegetation. The rainy season lasts from June to August with slight rain in February. Average maximum temperature recorded for the district is 37.9°C and average minimum temperature is 7°C (DDC, 2064).

4.1.5 Land use Pattern

The total land area covered by the district is 2,18,000 hector. Forest covers 58.94 percent of the total area which is 1,28,500 hector. Among the total area covered by forest, 10.17 percent areas, which is 13,066.57 hector, is handed over to the community as community forestry.

4.1.6 Types and Area of Forest

Table 1 Classification of Forest Area

S.N.	Area covered	Area (hector)	Percentage
1	Royal Chitwan National Park	69005	53.70
2.	Middle Part Area	13492	10.50
3.	Forest under DFO	44936	34.96
	Total	128500	100

Source: DFO, 2007

Classification of Forest Under DFO

- 1) Handed over to community = 33
- Area = 13,066. 57 hector.
- Total households = 17,335
- Formed group = 60
- Largest forest area = 1088 ha. (Amritdhara CF)

Smallest forest area = 24 ha. (Jamuna CF)

2) Leasehold Forest

No. of group 235

Area 1183.26 hector

No. of Total member 1741

3) Private Forest:

No. of group 203

Area 151.46 hector

Source: DFO, 2007

4.2 Birendranagar VDC

Birendranagar VDC is located around 21 km north-east from Bharatpur, the district head quarters. The VDC borders Bhandara and Korak VDCs on the east, Chainpur VDC on the west, Siddi VDC on the north-east, and Khairahani and Bhandara VDCs on the South. Birendranagar VDC is linked with the main East-west highway near Parsa bazaar. The population of Birendranagar VDC is 13,270 (NPC, 2001). The VDC is mainly inhabited by Bramhan, Tamang, Magar, Kshetri, Gurung, Kami etc. Recently there are 4 community forests in this VDC. The CF covers 3193.89 hector of the total area. Area of this VDC is about 34sq km and is further divided into 9 words.

4.3 Khairahani VDC

Khairahari VDC is located around 16 km north-east from Bharatpur, the district headquarter. The VDC borders Bhandara VDC on the east, Chaimpur and Birendranagar VDCs on the North, Ratnanagar

Municipality on the west, Bachhyauli on the west -south and Kumaroj and Kathar on the south. The population of Kharahani VDC is 18, 965 (NPC, 2001). In this VDC 41.93 percent population are Tharus and others are mainly Brahmin, Kshetri, Newar, Tamang, Muslim etc. Its area is about 17 sq km. and is further divided into 9 words.

4.4 Dudhkoshi Community Forest

4.4.1 Introduction

This Dudhkoshi Community Forest lies at 5 km far from Simaltandi, a place of east-west highway. This is the famous CFUG in Chitwan district, which was formed in year 2053/04/29 and has been handed over to the local people in year 2057/06/27. Most part of this forest lies in the Birendranagar VDC at ward no. 8. But the users of this CFUG are from ward no. 7 and 8 of Birendranagar VDC and ward no. 1 and 2 of Khairahari VDC. The area covered by this forest is 686.45 hectares. It categorizes into six blocks. The total households of this CFUG are 1170. The number of users had been gradually increasing over the years. At the time of handing over the forest, the total number of users/households was 881.

4.4.2 Social Work and Community Forestry

This Dudhkoshi CF programme has gravelled the 5300m road from Campa to Simaltandi with the financial support of users. Similarly, it helps the four government schools in their area. From two years ago this CF programme is providing the scholarship to the qualified students of primary level, lower secondary level, secondary level and higher secondary level. So far this purpose they spent Rs. 7000-8000 per year. In the same way this programme provides Rs. 5000 per household if they want to construct the Gobar gas. These programmes are running from two years ago. So that about 19-20 households are benefited per year. To make good life status, CFUG provides one goat per households freely (See Annex -2). Also this CF programme gives the different types of training and social security.

4.4.3 Poor Programme

Before targeting the poorest, it is clearly necessary to identify them. So for this we have to three categories: rich class, middle class and poor class. So that for poor students it provides the scholarship and dress (See Annex -2). For this it has been spent Rs. 10,000-13,000 per year. In this way, for poor households this CF programme helps Rs. 2,000 to construct the toilet. From this 20-21 households are benefited per year. Similarly others different programmes related to poor are running.

4.5 Socio-economic Status of Study Area (CFUG)

Socio-economic condition of the study area is given in CFUG level. This socio-economic parameters are used ethnic composition, educational status, occupational status and land holding size etc.

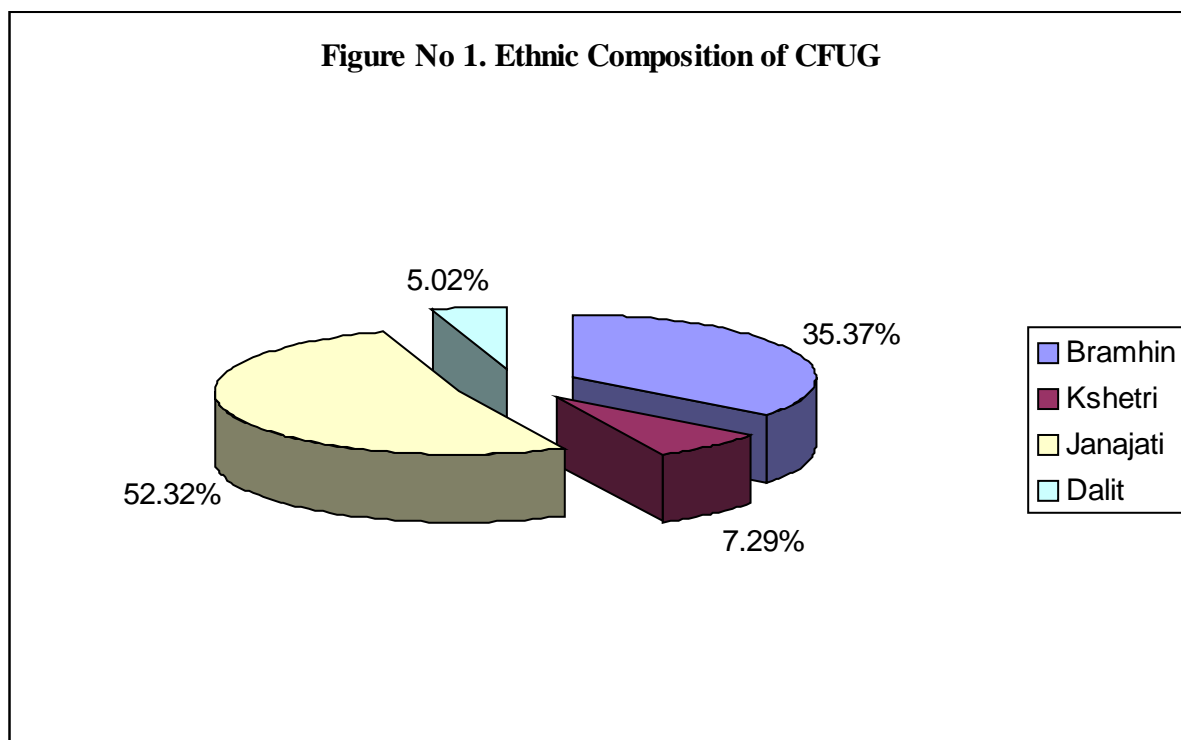
4.5.1 Ethnic Composition of CFUG

The caste and ethnicity play important roles for socio- economic development. The ethnic groups found in the CFUG are classified into Bramhin, Kshetri, Janajati and Dalit.

Table 2 Ethnic Composition of CFUG

Ethnic Group	No. of HHs	Percentage
Bramhmin	359	35.37
Kshetri	74	7.29
Janajati	531	52.32
Dalit	51	5.02
Total	1015	100

Source: CFUG, Constitution, 2063



The above table 2 and figure no. 1 show that major percent of total households are Janajates, in the study area. After Janajates, Barmhin castes are second highest and Kshetri and Dalit have minor percentage in the study area of Dudhakoshi CFUG.

4.5.2 Educational Status of CFUG

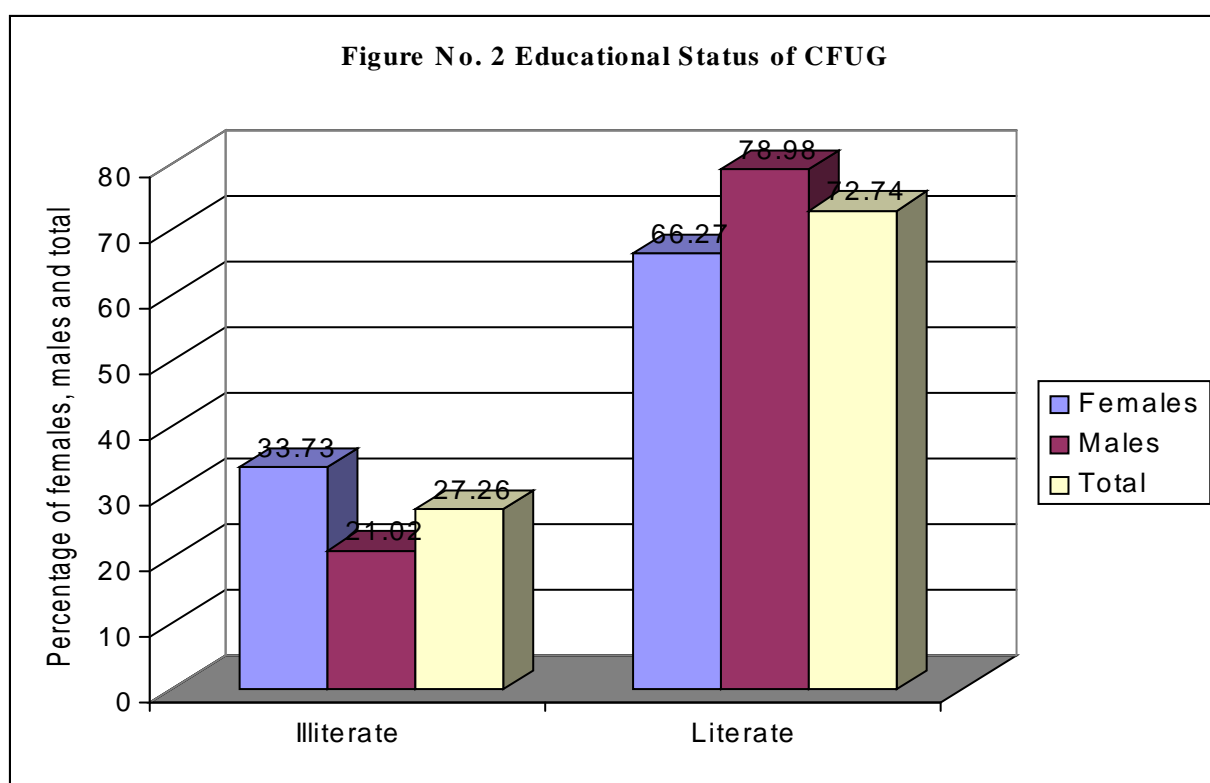
Education is considered as a human capital and important infrastructure of the development as well. It plays a crucial role in all sectors of the society. If all persons of households are educated then their participation for any development activities are more effective. The data has been classified into literate and illiterate. Literate are those people who can read and write and illiterate are those people who cannot read and write.

Table 3 Educational Status of CFUG

Level	No.of females	Percentage	No of males	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Illiterate	1045	33.73	677	21.02	1722	27.26
Literate	2053	66.27	2543	78.98	4596	72.74
Total	3098	100	3220	100	6318	100

Source: CFUG, Constitution, 2063

The above table 3 shows that out of 6318 population, 27.26 percent are illiterate and 72.74 percent persons are literate.



From the above table 3 and figure no 2, comparing male and female, the large percent of females are founded illiterate.

4.5.3. Occupational Composition of CFUG.

Agriculture is the main occupation of the people living in Birendranager and Khairahani VDC and as well as in Dudhkoshi community forestry user group. Although agriculture the main occupation of people of CFUG, They adopt different occupations. The table below shows the occupational composition of CFUG.

Table 4 Occupational Composition of CFUG.

Description	No.of HHs	Percentage
Agriculture	785	77.34
Business	45	4.43
Services	71	6.96
Foreign employment	102	10.05
Others	12	1.18
Total	1015	100

Source : CFUG, Constitution, 2063

The above table 4 shows that most of the households (77.34 percent) are involved in agriculture. And other households are engaging in non-agricultural occupation such as business, services, foreign employment and others.

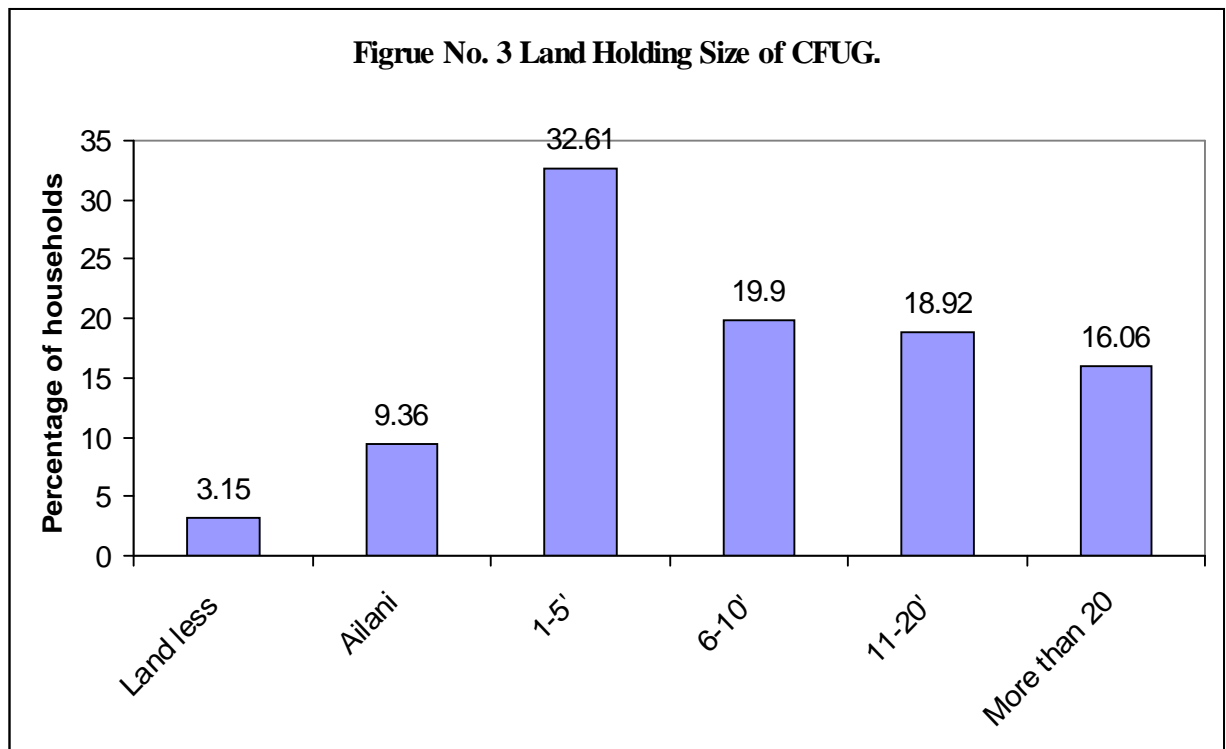
4.5.4 Land Holding Size of CFUG

The possession of land shows both social prestige and source of wealth. The following table shows the average land holding pattern of CFUG.

Table 5 Land Holding Size of CFUG.

Land size (in kattha)	No. of HHs	Percentage
Land less	32	3.15
Ailani	95	9.36
1-5	331	32.61
6-10	202	19.90
11-20	192	18.92
More than 20	163	16.06
Total	1015	100

Source : CFUG, Constitution, 2063



The above table 5 and figure No. 3 show that the number of households in between 1 to 5 kattha land holders are larger and than after the HHs who have the land in between 6 to 10, 11 to 20 and more than 20 Kattha are followed respectively. There are 3.15 percent households are landless and 9.36 percent HHs are lived in Ailani.

CHAPTER V

PARTICIPATION OF UNDERPRIVILEGED COMMUNITIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF DUDHKOSHI COMMUNITY FORSTEY

5.1 The Socio- economic Status of Sampled Households.

The Dudhkoshi CFUG is selected for the case study. There are 528 identified poor HHs. Out of them 32 HHs are selected as sample for this study.

5.1.1 Ethnic Composition of Sampled Poor Households.

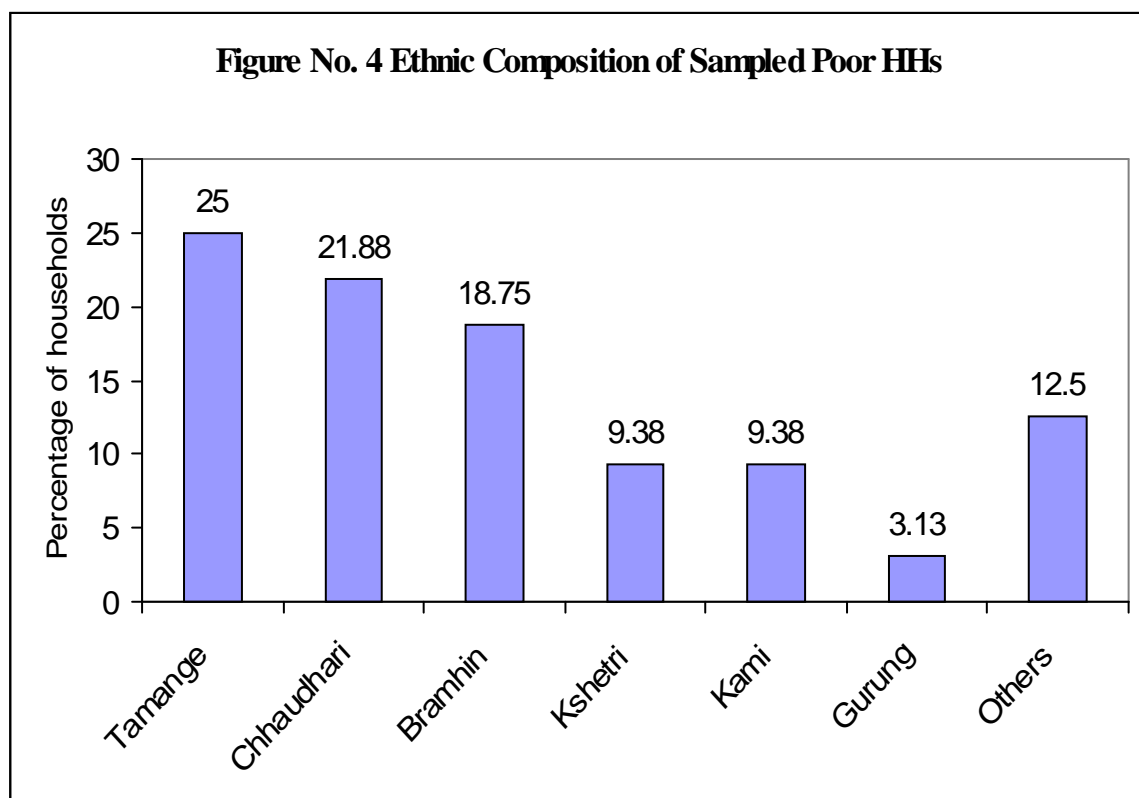
Various ethnic groups use forest by different purposes and need. The ethnic groups are classified into Gurung, Bramhin, Kshetri, Tamang, Kami, Chhaudhari, and others (Rana, Budhathki, Thapa, Pun) caste groups. The ethnic composition of identified poor users is presented in the following table.

Table 6 Ethnic Composition of Sampled Poor HHs

Caste/ Ethnic Group	No.of HHs	Perceptnage
Tamang	8	25.00
Chhaudhari	7	21.88
Bramhin	6	18.75
Kshetri	3	9.38
Kami	3	9.38
Gurung	1	3.13
Others	4	12.50
Total	32	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The above table 6 shows that the major percent of total households are Tamang in the study area. After Tamang caste, the percentage of Chhaudhari, Bramhin castes are second highest.



5.1.2 Family Size of Ethnic Groups

The family size affects the economic, health, social and educational conditions of the family. From table below we can see the family size of various ethnic groups.

Table 7 The Family Sizes of Ethnic Groups.

Caste/Ethnic Group	No.of HHs	Total no. of family members	Average family size
Tamang	8	38	4.75
Chhaudhari	7	37	5.29
Bramhin	6	25	4.17
Kshetri	3	11	3.67
Kami	3	20	6.67
Gurung	1	4	4.00
Others	4	20	5.00
Total	32	155	4.84

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The above table 7 shows that the average size of Kami has large number, Chhaudhari and others castes (such as; Rana, Budhathoki, Thapa, Pun) have middle number and Tamang, Bramhin, Gurung and Kshetri have smaller family size comparatively.

5.1.3 Educational Status of Sampled Poor Households

Level of education helps in creating awareness about forest management as well as better performance. Education is also related to economic status and class structure of society. Education plays a crucial role in all sectors of the society. If all persons of households are educated

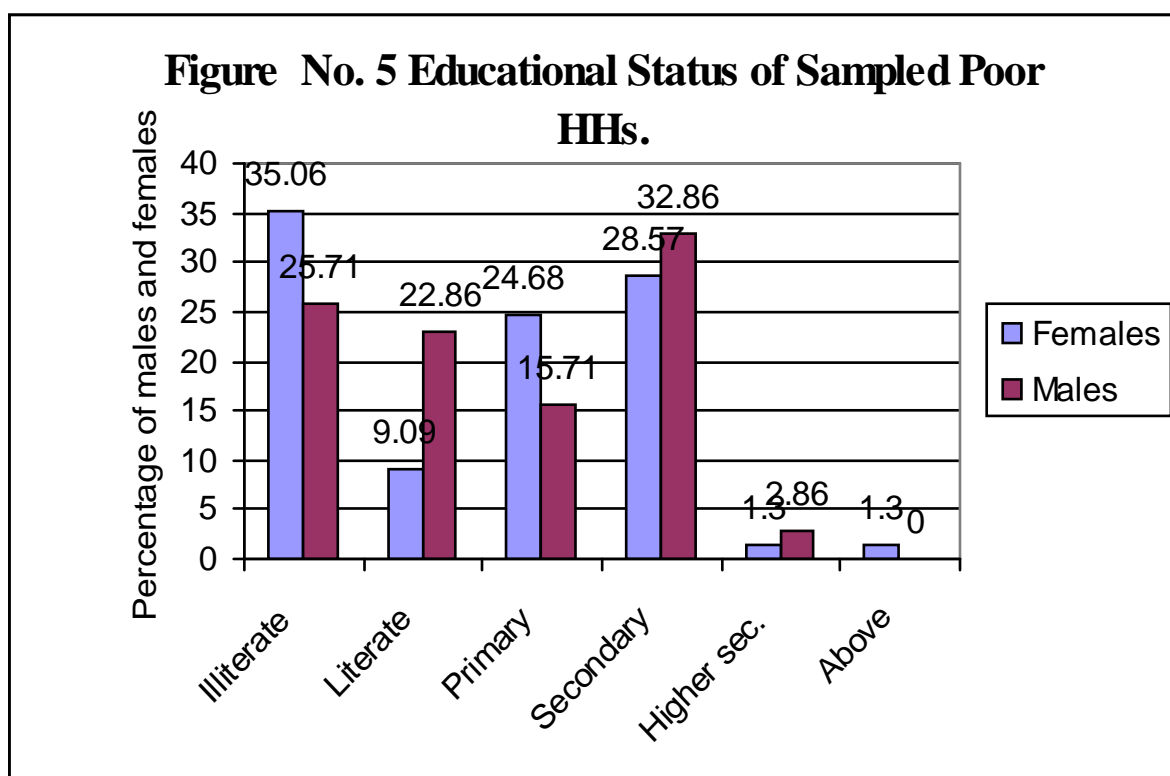
then their participation for any development activities are more effective. It can be said that if all persons of households are educated then the society is more conscious about the problem of the community, needs of the community and became able to provide more appropriate solution. In this study the data for educational status has been classified into illiterate, literate (either formal or non formal education), primary, secondary, higher secondary and above categories. Illiterate are those who can not read and write. Literate represent those persons who can read or write either from formal or non formal education. Primary education means the academic education up to class five. Secondary is known as the academic education up to S.L.C. Higher Secondary education is that the academic education up to intermediate level. And above education is that the academic education above intermediate level. Educational status of individual is 6 and above is presented in the following table.

Table 8 Educational Status of Sampled Poor HHs.

Level	No. of females	Percentage	No. of males	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Illiterate	27	35.06	18	25.71	45	30.61
Literate	7	9.09	16	22.86	23	15.65
Primary	19	24.68	11	15.71	30	20.41
Secondary	22	28.57	23	32.86	45	30.61
Higher sec.	1	1.30	2	2.86	3	2.04
Above	1	1.30	0	0	1	0.68
Total	77	100	70	100	147	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The above table 8 shows that out of 147 people, 30.61 percent persons are illiterate and 15.65 percent persons can a little read and write. And only a few persons are higher educated.



Comparing male and female, the large percent of females are found illiterate and only few percent of females can a little read and write.

5.1.4 Occupational Composition of Sampled Poor Households

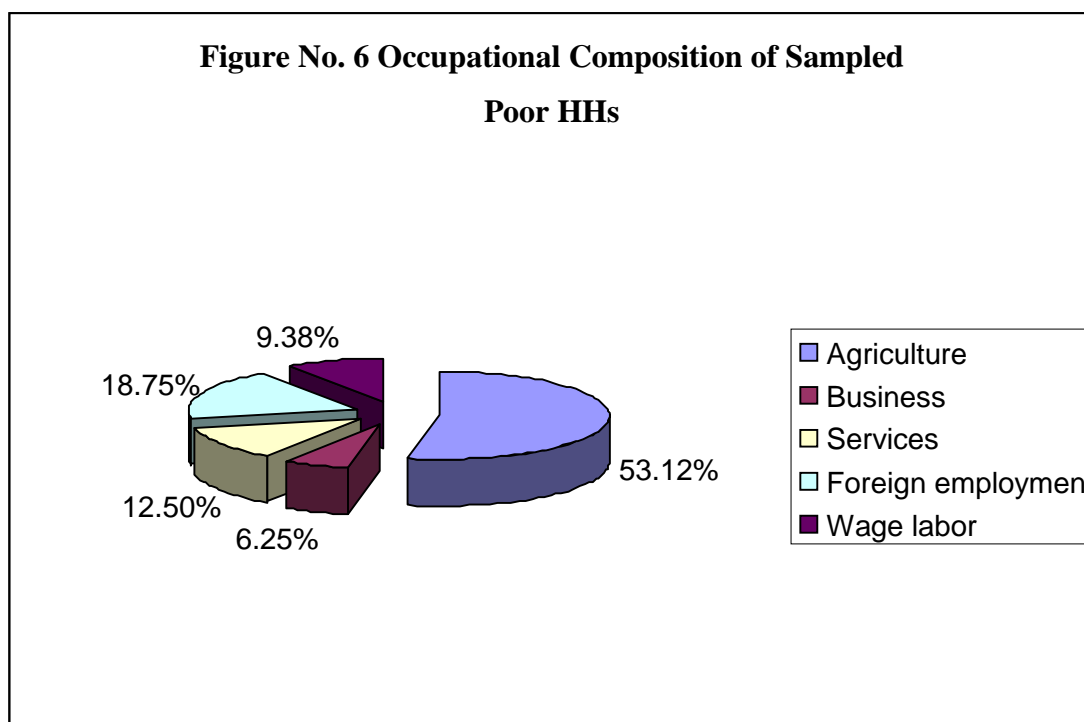
Agriculture is the main occupation of the people living in Birendranagar and Khairahani VDCs so as well as in Dudhkoshi community forestry user group. Although agriculture is the main occupation of people of CFUG, they adopt different occupations. The following table shows the occupational composition of sampled poor households.

Table 9 Occupational Composition of Sampled Poor HHs

Description	No.of HHs	Percentage
Agriculture	17	53.13
Business	2	6.25
Services	4	12.5
Foreign employment	6	18.75
Wage labor	3	9.38
Total	32	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The above table 9 shows that the most of the sampled households (53.13%) involved in agriculture and others HHs are engaging in non agricultural occupation such as business, services, foreign employment and wage labor etc.



5.1.5 Distribution of Livestock Holding in Sampled Poor Households

Livestock is one of the important asset of Nepalese people for getting milk, meat, ghee, egg etc. Livestock is also a means of liquid assets which can be easily converted into cash during crisis. Crop production is supplemented by livestock by providing manure and using by products. Livestock holding also is directly related to forest product requirements such as pasture, grass and fodder besides timber products for the construction of sheds. So, the respondents are asked to provide the number of different animals they held. The following table shows the average number of livestock holding of sampled poor households in the CFUG.

Table 10 Distribution of livestock Holding

Types of animals	Average no. of per HH's livestock	Percentage of average
Cow/Ox	0.28	7.25
Buffalo	0.50	12.95
Goat (He/She)	1.53	39.64
Chicken	0.86	22.28
Duck	0.69	17.88
Total	3.86	100

Source : Field Survey, 2008

Above table 10 shows that out of all livestock, the highest number of livestock raised is goat, where average number of goat is 1.53 and average percentage is 39.64%. After it, the second highest percentage of livestock is chicken which is 22.28 percent. After then the percentage of ducks, buffaloes, and cow/ox are followed respectively.

5.1.6. Land Holding Size of Sampled Poor Households

The possession of land shows both social prestige and source of wealth. The following table shows the average land holding pattern of sampled poor households.

Table 11 (a) Land Holding Size of Sampled Poor HHs

Land size (in Kattha)	No. of HHs	Percentage
Land less	3	9.38
Ailani	5	15.63
Less than 3	9	28.13
3-6	4	12.5
6-9	5	15.63
9-12	6	18.75
Total	32	100

Source : Field Survey, 2008

The people who hold less than 10 Kattha land in the study area are not able to produce sufficient food for the whole year. They can not produce sufficient food grains from the small piece of land which lacks irrigation facility. It indicates that majority of the population / HHs fall under the food deficiency. The households who are not able to get sufficient food for the whole year are involved in wage labour.

Table 11 (b) Land Holding Size By Castes

Caste/Ethnic Group	Tamang	Chhaudhari	Bramhin	Kshetri	Kami	Gurung	Others
Average land size (in Kattha)	2.13	4.21	6.17	8.33	3.33	10.00	2.63

Source : Field Survey, 2008

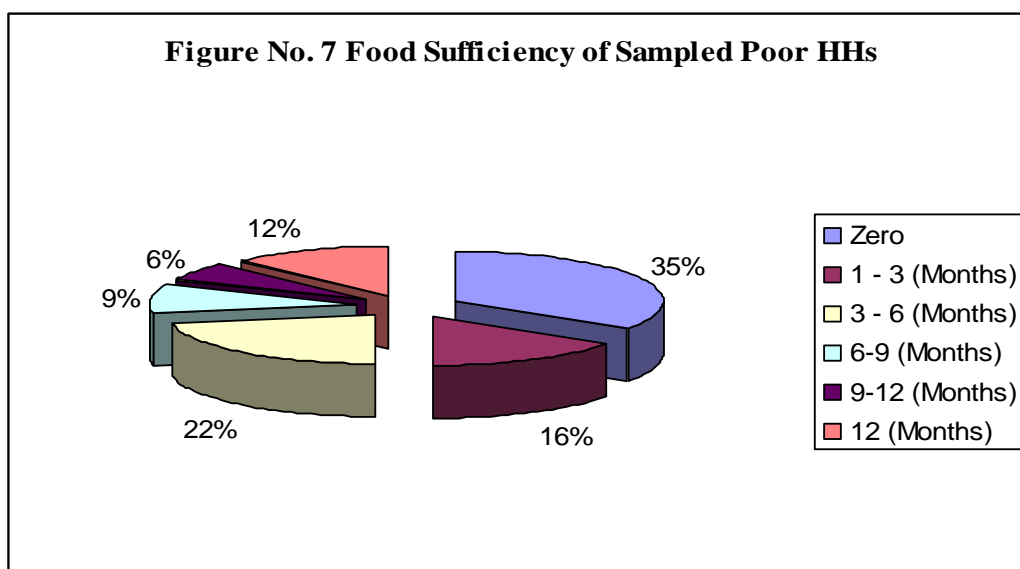
The above table 11 (b) shows that average land size of Gurung has larger and Kshetri and Bramhin have middle and Chhaudhari, Kami, Others castes (such as; Rana, Budhathoki, Thapa, Pun) and Tamang have smaller comparatively.

Table 12 Food Sufficiency of Sampled Poor HHs

Months	No. of HHs	Percentage
Zero	11	34.38
1 - 3 (Months)	5	15.63
3 - 6 (Months)	7	21.88
6-9 (Months)	3	9.38
9-12 (Months)	2	6.25
12 (Months)	4	12.50
Total	32	100

Source : Field Survey, 2008

Figure No. 7 Food Sufficiency of Sampled Poor HHs



The above table 12 and figure no. 7 show that most (34.38%) of the people/households have not their own food production. And the majority of the households fall under the food deficiency. Only 12.50 percent households produce sufficient food for their annual requirement and 87.5 percent households bear the food deficiency. The households who can not produce sufficient foods do wage labour for their subsistence.

5.2. Income Generation Through Community Forest

Majority of rural people in Nepal depend on forests to support their agricultural and livestock system. Forests provide fuelwood for cooking and heating, timber for buildings, implements and furniture, fodder and leaf liter for livestock and for compost and a range of other non-timber products. Forest also plays a crucial role in the maintenance and conservation of watersheds as well as environment.

Income/Benefits from Dudhkoshi Community Forest

5.2.1. Source of Energy

In the study area, the most of households are used fuel-wood as source of energy. Among them some people use Gobar gas, cylinder gas, kerosene and the electricity. But Gobar gas, cylinder gas and electricity are used only by rich people and the main source of energy of poor households is only fuel-wood. Among sampled poor households, 3.15 percent of people use Gobar gas, 6.25 percent of people use cylinder gas and 90.6 percent of people use fuel- wood.

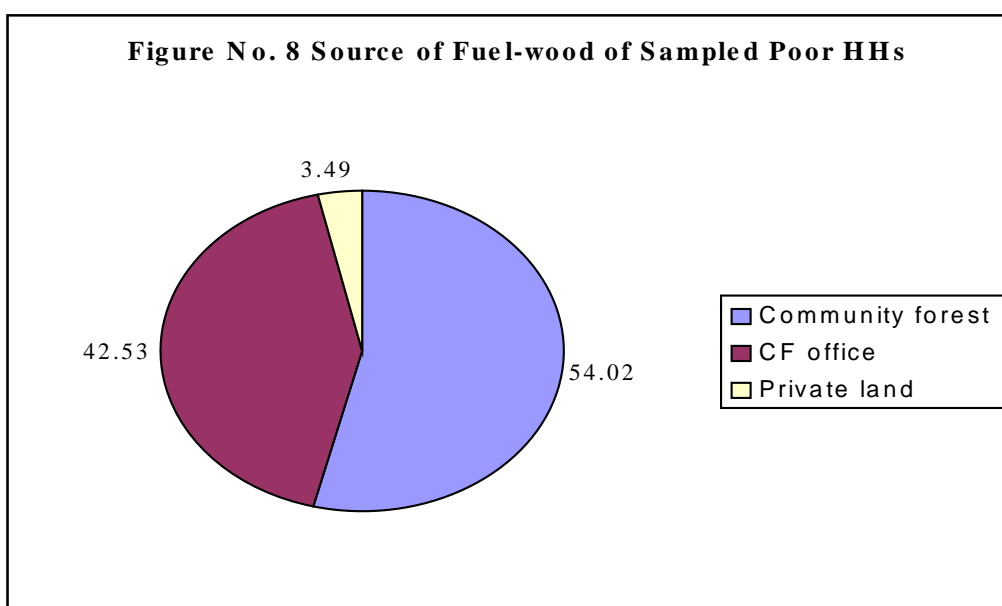
Table 13 Source of Fuel-wood of Sampled Poor HHs

Source	Fuel-wood (in bharies)	Percentage	Amount (in Rs.)
Community forest	2,444	54.02	1,22,200
CF office	1,924	42.53	96,200
Private land	156	3.49	7,800
Total	4,524	100	2,26,200

Source : Field Survey, 2008

Note: 1 bhari = 25 kg

Market price per bhari = Rs 50



According to above table 13 and figure no. 8, it is clear that 96.51 percent households depend upon CF and rest of them 3.49 percent depend upon private source. They get 54.02 percent fuel-wood with out cost while opening the forest. They save Rs, 1,22,200 per year as income due to the cause of CF programme. Similarly 42.53 percent fuel-wood is bought from the CF office, which is half in price than in the market. Cause of which Rs 48,100 is saved as income. In this way the total amount Rs 1,70,300 is saved as income per year.

5.2.2. Source of Fodder for Livestock

Dudhkoshi CF is being opened for the collection of fodder in all the time. The need of fodder is not met from CF only. Private land are also used for fulfilling such needs in the study area.

During Jesh to Aswin 30% sample households depend completely on CF for fodder their livestock and collect 4-5 bharies per week. And during winter season (Kartik to Baisakh) they (30 percent sampled poor households) depend on CF as well as private land for fodder to feed their livestock. During that period they collect 1-2 bharies per households from CF for fodder every week. But this cannot meet the total demand during that period. In this time they depend on private land and straw.

Table 14 Source of Fodder of Sampled Poor HHs

Source	Fodder (in bharies)	Percentage	Amount (in Rs)
Community forest	897	33.01	8,970
Private land	1,820	66.99	18,200
Total	2,717	100	27,170

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Note : 1 bhari = 20 kg

Market price per bhari = Rs 10

In the local market per bhari fodder costs Rs 10 . From the above table 14, it is clear that the sampled poor households save Rs 8,970 per year in fodder due to community forestry programme.

5.2.3. Income Through Wage Labour

The Dudhkoshi community forest uses many workers for clearing the forest, weeding, plantation and thinning (See Annex-2). So that about 150-200 people are employed about 6-9 months in a year. For this, they give the priority to the poor households. So that poor people are benefited from this CF programme.

Among the sampled poor households, the main source of income of 15.63 percent households is employing in CF. In this way by cutting, weeding, thinning and carrying in CF these households are getting average income Rs 17,800 per year.

5.3 Participants of the Poor in Community Forestry

People's participant is considered essential for sustainable development and improved management of local resources in rural areas. Community forestry is seen as a control, management and use of forest resources by villagers. It seems to increase the level of awareness of local people and their active involvement in all aspects of forestry activities. Community forestry is for the benefit of local people. The primary users of forest product especially those who are dependent on forest product to meet sustained need.

5.3.1 Participation of Poor in Decision Making

In Dudhkoshi community forest, five of the committee members are poor. Which is 41.67 percent of the total members .The poor committee members come from different ethnic groups/castes. The involvement of the poor in every meeting proved to be good in decision making. At the time of regular meeting, decision is made generally by the entire member's interaction.

From the investigation, it is found that the poor participation in forest activities is good .They are aware that if they show indifference to CF management activities their interest and concerns may not be well represented. They show enthusiam to participate in the CF management programme. They know about the importance of programme and problems of CF programme and are active in making it effective.

5.3.2 Participation of the Poor in Benefit Sharing

Benefit sharing is an important component of participation of local people. In the absece of it people's participation can not be authentic and successful in the participation process. If there is no equal sharing, people can be easily frustrated with the programme i.e. CF programme.At the same time disparty will increase between the advantages groups and the under privilege group. People can realize the community forests as their own only if they share equal benefits.

In the course of research work, the member of the study area and CFUG are asked whether they had shared the benefits from the CF equally or not and whether they are satisfied about the present condition of the CF or not. And researcher also asked them whether they participated in the benefit sharing or not. Amazingly, almost all the respondent said that they are equally benefited from the community

forest. Among them the poor respondent are found highly benefited or happy by this CF. And entire respondent said that they participated in every action of the CF work. The forest is freed for the members by informing them all, and at the time they can collect fuel-wood freely. If this is not enough, they can buy fuel - wood from CF office which is half in price than in market. In this way almost the demands of fuel-wood can be fulfilled by the CF. For the collection of fodder and leaf litter, all the user group members are allowed to bring whatever they want and can get. There is no any restriction and rules. If some households do not have livestock they have not compulsion to collect leaf litter and fodder. These products can be collected at any time. CF was handed over to the local people since 2057-06-27 BS but began to gain profit from last few years only. The villagers informed the researcher that it still requires few more years to take full advantages from the CF. Thus, they all have full faith in community forestry. The CF can provide tangible and intangible benefits for the user. CF system generates higher rates of participation from the intended beneficiaries. In the case of women such tangible benefits as the case in collecting fuel-wood, fodder and leaf litter will motive them to involve in forest user committee. In case of user committee members, some tangible benefits as well as intangible benefits as personal satisfaction through the encroachment of knowledge, linkage with government offices and facilitated agencies like I/NGOs etc officials and exposure out side the village, reinforce their participation in community forestry development work.

In the study area people have realized that the government need not always be involved in development activities and that the local people can also do these tasks as well as the government.

The most important products coming from CF are leaf litter, fuel - wood, fodder etc. However, in the study area, poor users are totally dependent on the forest products in CF to maintain their livelihood. They have no alternatives sources for forest products. They are fully dependent on the community forest for the fulfillment of their basic needs.

There are some provisions for the poor members in community forestry programme. For the poor households this CF programme helps Rs 2,000 to construct the toilet. From this 20-21 households are benefited per year. In sampled poor households, 9.38 percent households are benefited by this programme. In the same way, to make the good life status of poor, this programme provides one goat per households freely. This programme provides the scholarships and dress for poor students. This CF programme also provides the different types trainings for poor users and social security. Similarly others different programme related to poor are running.

The benefits from community forest management are of two types: direct and indirect benefits. Every body is aware of various benefits that s/he obtains from the forest. But the user generally understands only the direct advantages from the forest. The villagers are not always informed about direct and indirect benefits obtained through conservation, proper utilization and management of the community forest.

Main Direct and Indirect Benefits From the Forest are as Follows:

Direct benefit	Indirect benefit
Fodder for livestock	Saving time
Fuel - wood for cooking and heating	Conservation of water sources by forest.
Timber for building construction.	Maintenance of environment

Medicinal plant for medicine.	Protection of Bio-diversity.
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5.3.3 Constraints of the Poor Participation in CF Programme

There are some factors which are considered as constrains for the active participation of poor in CF programme. The factors are described below.

Poverty:

Poverty of the people in the study area is the main constraint in the active participation of the poor in CF. In the study area all the people are not rich, Poor are dominated by the rich. If there is any conflict between the classes (higher class, middle class and lower class), people's participation in CF programme can not be moved forward smoothly.

Education:

The educated people are devotedly involved in conserving the forest because they are aware about the importance of the forest. They know what will happen if the forest is destroyed. But it is not that the uneducated people do not know anything about the CF management. They do also have good knowledge about the programme. The uneducated people also play an important role. So, they should not be neglected. In the study area, the condition of the poor education is very miserable. They have not any knowledge about community forest programme, forest related laws and by laws and its importance etc. What they only know is that they are getting benefits by this programme. So, they are blind supporters about the CF development programme made by higher class or educated people. Most of the poor are found uneducated even now in the study area. They do not know the wrong and wright about the external development activities. The development programme plans and policies are made by educated and rich people and these are

followed by the poor people. They think that decision made by educated are always be good. So they support their decisions without any question. They hesitate to express their views frankly and openly. If they express their thoughts frankly and forward their views against the programme, they are considered to be characterless by the society. Consequently, the poorest feel that their partaking in the meeting will be purposeless. Then they quit the meeting and do another work. However, illiterate of the Dudhkoshi are spontaneously participating in the forestry programme due to scarcity of the forest product.

Culture

The traditional culture of the study area demands that the male should be respected by females. Therefore, females CFUG members from the poor don't get the chance to be involved in decision making process even if they participate in such meeting. They don't express their opinions and their opinions are not given consideration by the upper class and male members. However, there is female committee which operates CF effectively without the support of the male.

Self-Consciousness

Attitude, education, awareness and interest play an important role in developing self-consciousness in a person. Most of the respondents are much aware and have interest and positive attitude in CF work. Education factor is highly affecting in active participants in decision making. In the study area, most of the members are illiterate. They are self-conscious but they don't have any technical knowledge about CF.

CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSION

6.1 Summary:

Community Forestry Programme is the most priority programme in the sector of forestry in Nepal. The Programme is Launched in Nepal since 1978 A..D. The research unit " Dudhkshi Community Forest" has been handed over to user group in year 2057B.S.

The objectives of this study are to analyze the socio- economic characteristic of poor households, to find out the role of CF in income generating of poor households and to evaluate the participation of poor households in decision making and benefit sharing.

The forest user group is heterogeneous interm of ethnicity and religion. Major percent of total households are Janajates and Brahmins are the second highest in the study area.

There are 1170 HHs in the study area. Among them, 528 HHs are poor, which is already identified by the CFUG committee. For the depth study, 32 households are sampled out of 528 identified poor households where 8 households are Tamang,7 households are Chhaudhari, 6 households are Bramhin, 3 households are Kshetri, 3 households are Kami and 5 households are other cast groups.

Among sampled poor HHs, 69.39 percent people are literate. Among them, only few percent people are higher educated. But in CFUG member about 73 percent people are literate. Among them most

people are higher educated. Therefore it proves that the literacy rate of poor CFUG members is very lower in comparison to whole CFUG member's. Poverty and lack of awareness are the main factors of this.

The main occupation of the poor CFUG member is agriculture. Due to lack of sufficient land and the irrigation facility, the poor CFUG members can not produce sufficient food for their households. So, all the poor CFUG members are engaged in wage labor and foreign employment for their primary occupation. Most of the poor CFUG members fall under food deficiency. The people who hold less than 10 kattha of land are not able to produce food for the whole year. Among sampled poor HHs, 9.38 percent HHs are landless and 15.63 percent HHs live in Ailani. Among sampled poor HHs 34.38 percent HHs can not produce food from their own and. So, food deficiency is the main problem of poor people in the study area.

Averages no. of family size of sampled poor households have 4.84. Among them, the average no. of family size of Kami is the highest, which is 6.67.

Among the studied people, 9 households do not have any animals. These 9 households have neither place to tamp nor food for them. Among the sampled households average number of per HH's livestock have 0.77 and the highest number of livestock is goat.

Most of the poor users depend on forest products. From the fodder for livestock, fuel - wood for heating and cooking and other product they

can save some amount of their income per year. Similarly some poor users getting average income Rs 17,800 by cultting, wedding, thining and carrying in CF per year.

The participation of poor in benefit sharing is good. Almost all the users are satisfied with benefit sharing process. Among them poor are found highly benefited. There is women committee in Dudhkoshi CF. In the committee there are 41.61 percent women from poor households. The general meeting of the CF is held twice a year and committee metting is conducted once a month. In committee meeting, all the poor actively participate. They put their views, demands and decisions are made in consensus basis. But in general meeting of CFUG, all the poor are found uneducated even now in the study area. They have not any knowledge about community forest programme, forest related laws and by laws and its importance etc. What they only know is that they are getting benefits by this programme. So, they are blind supports about the CF development programme made by higher class or educated people. CFUG members from the poor don't get the chance to be involved in decision making process even if they participate in such meeting. They don't express their opinions and their opinions are not given in consideration by the higher class and educated members.

6.2. Major Findings

Followings are the major findings of the present study. The findings have been organized according to the research objectives of the study.

1. The educational level of poor users is very lower in comparison to whole CFUG members.
2. Most of the poor people can not produce food from their own land. 9.38% of households are landless and 15.63% of households live in Ailani.
3. The main income source of poor people are only wage labor and from animals . So some poor people go to foreign countries.
4. Among the users, the highest percent of poor people are from Tamang and Chaudhari and then Brahmin castes are the second highest. And then other castes are followed.
5. The CFUG has taken the main objective to improve the people's livelihoods by reducing poverty. So, CFUG identified poor HHs and some amount allocated for poor programme.
6. CFUG provided some employment opportunities to poor users. By cutting, wedding, thinning and carrying in CF, some poor HHs getting income per year.
7. Most of the poor users depend on forest products. They are receiving different facilities such as fodder for livestock, fuel - wood for

cooking and heating and other forest products with low cost. From these products, they can save their income per year.

8. For needy and poor users, CFUG provide scholarship and dress to students and provide Rs 2,000 per poor households to construct the toilet.
9. The CFUG provide timber with low cost to all users for their house, shed, and furnitures construction and it provides one goat per HHs freely and it also provides Rs 5,000 per households if they want to construct Gobar gas.
10. The CFUG is also found to be played a very crucial role for local development. The community is spending its fund in road gravelling support to school, different types training and social security.
11. All the users are satisfied with benefit sharing process. Among users, poor are found highly benefited.
12. The co-operation and co-ordinate among the committee members have been better. There is women committee. Among them, 41.67% females from poor households. The participation of poor in decision making is good. In committee meeting all the poor actively participate. They put their views, demands and decisions are made in consensus basis. But in whole members, some poor users taking negligence for the forestry programme.
13. In CFUG members, from some poor don't get chance to be involved in decision making process even if they participate in such meeting.

Because of the lack of education, they don't express their opinions and their opinions are not given consideration by the higher class and educated members.

14. Some times there is arisen some conflicts in some points but it can be sloved by matual understanding.
15. Most of the poor users do not have any knowledge about community forest programme, forest related laws and bylaws and its importance etc. What they only know is that they are getting benefits by this programme. So, they are blind support about CF development programme made by higher class and educated people.

6.3. Recommendation

The study comes up with the followings suggestions. These suggestions are based on the main findings of the work.

1. Most of the poor are unknown about the forest related laws and bylaws. So, it is better to provide them such type of education.
2. In the study area, the poor are not aware of education. It is due to the fact that guardians of the students are uneducated and they force their children to quit the school and enforce them in labor work. So, it will be better if adult education is operated.
3. The CFUG is found to be given less priority for direct income generation activities of poor. Therefore, the CFUG should increase such types of activities.

4. The fund distribution of CFUG for poverty reduction is found insufficient. Therefore, the community should increase the size of fund in poverty reduction programme.
5. Knowledge and skill derived from training should be transferred with each other among the users.
6. Interaction programme between executing body and the user people should be held regularly.
7. The voice of poor users should also be involved in every CF programme.
8. User group has no sufficient technical knowledge of the forest management. Thus, more training should be conducted in this field.

Finally targeting poor as its main beneficiaries the community forestry programme has a significant impact on poverty alleviation.

11. Do you participate in the general meeting of committee?

i. If you participate, do you raise your arguments? Do others listen to your arguments? and How much your arguments use to be implemented?

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12. Have you any comment and suggestion about CF?

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Questionnaire for the CFUG Committee Members

1. Are you the member of committee?
2. If yes, how are the forests products sold and distributed? and Is there equal price for all members in such sale and distribution?
3. Is there any special program for poor?
4. Is there any charge for the membership of CF?
5. If there is, is it equal for all?
6. Are you previously informed about the agendas of the committee meeting?
7. Do you participate in the meeting of committee?
If you participate, do you raise your arguments? Do others listen to your arguments? How much your arguments use to be implemented?
8. What are the major economic activities of Dhudhkoshi CF?

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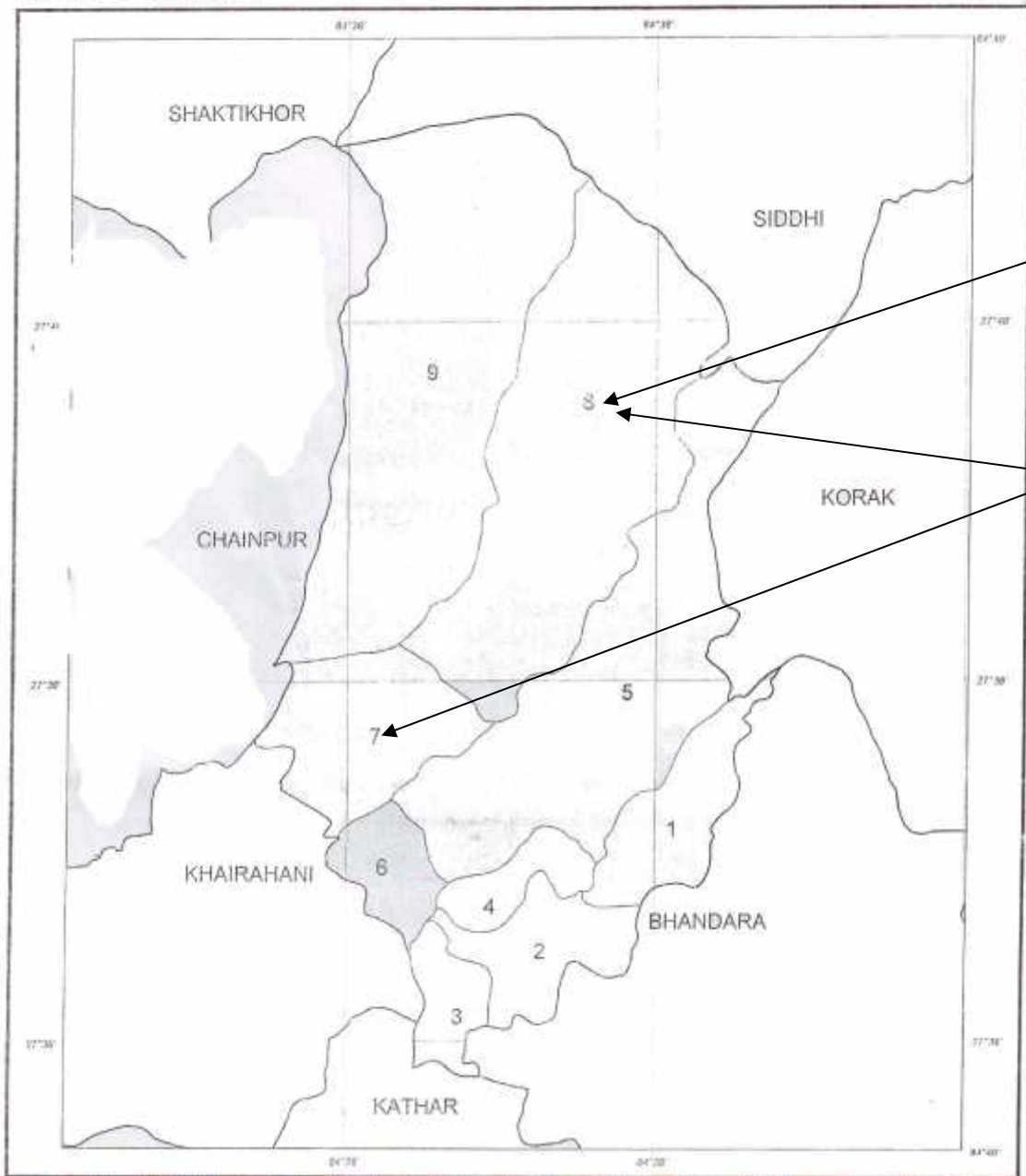
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BIRENDRANAGAR VDC

DISTRICT : CHITAWAN

VDC Code : 35007



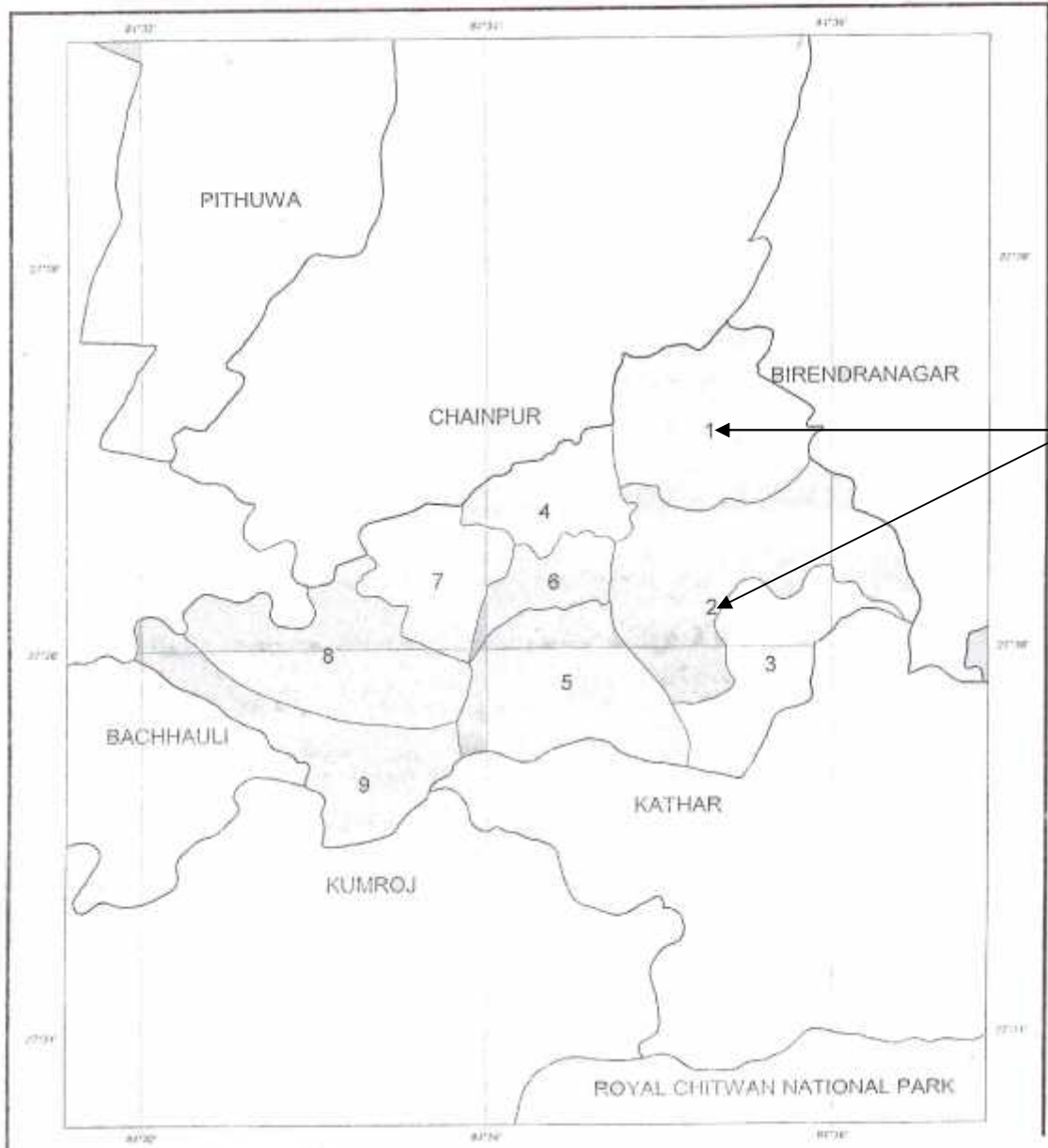
Dudhkoshi Forest A

Dudhkoshi Forest Users Group

KHAIRAHANI VDC

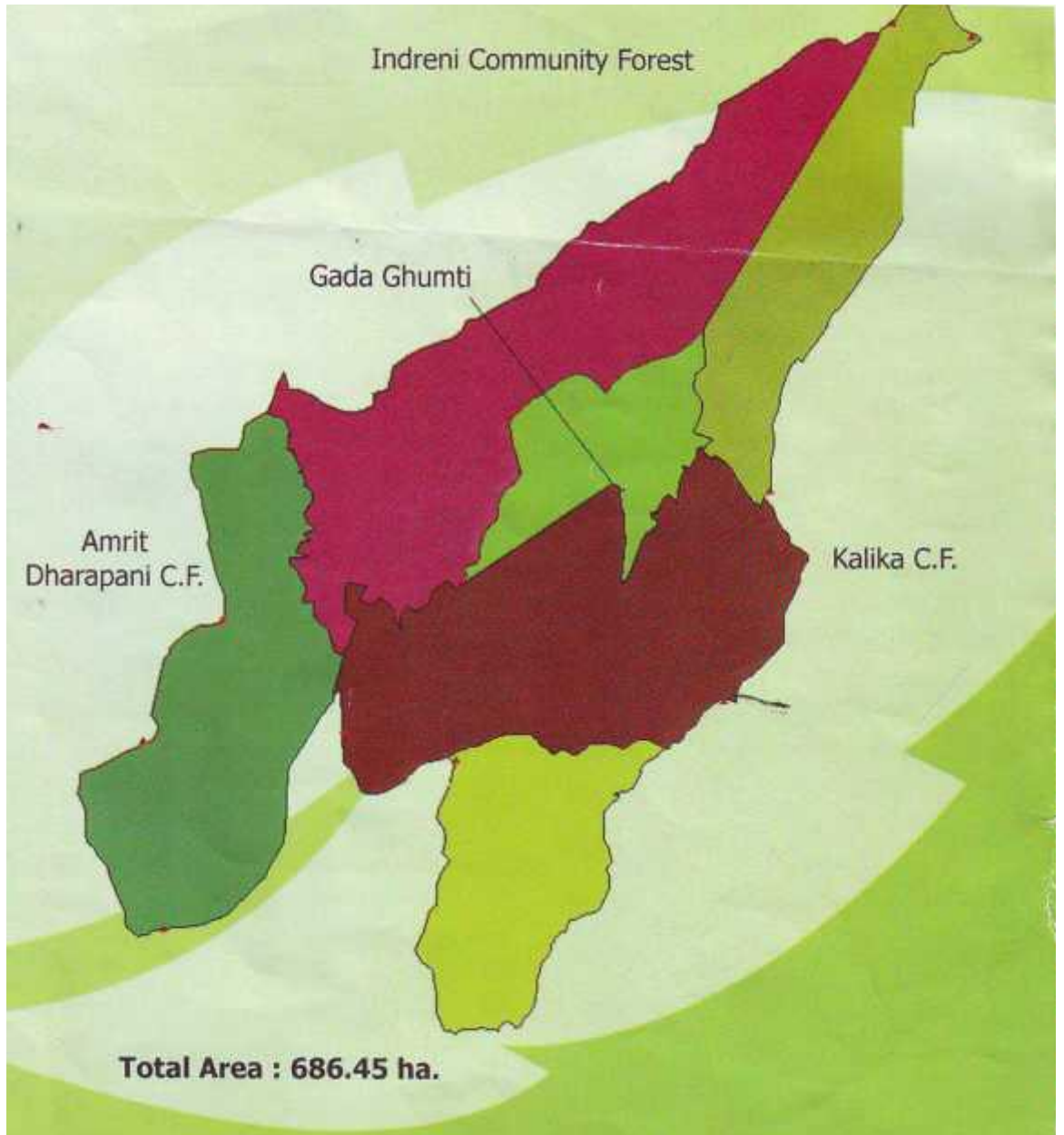
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VDC Code : 35021



Dudhkoshi F
Users Group

Dudhkoshi Community Forest User Group Birendra Nagar, Chitwan, Nepal





Income Generating Activities as Goat Exchange Programme Among Forest User Group



Distribution of Dress to Poor Students



Income Generating Activities Through Wage Labour to Poor People



Income Generating Activities Through Wage Labour to Poor People