

**A STUDY ON THE PARTICIPATION OF DALITS IN
COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT IN DANG DISTRICT
(A Case Study of Gairakhali Hariyali Community Forestry Users
Groups in Tulsipur Municipality)**

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

It is certified that Tulasa oli has completed the thesis entitled, "**A STUDY ON THE PARTICIPATION OF DALITS IN COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT IN DANG DISTRICT: A Case Study of Gairakhali Hariyali Community Forestry User Groups in Tulsipur Municipality**" under my guidance and supervision. Hence, I have recommended this report for final approval and acceptance.

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This thesis entitled "**A STUDY ON THE PARTICIPATION OF DALITS IN COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT IN DANG DISTRICT: A Case Study of Gairakhali Hariyali Community Forestry User Groups in Tulsipur Municipality**" submitted by Tulasa Oli has been accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development by the evaluation committee.

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ABSTRACT

This study entitled, *"A Study on the Participation of Dalits in Community Forest Management in Dang District: A Case Study of Gairakhali Hariyali Community Forestry User Groups in Tulsipur Municipality"* was based on primary data collected in June, 2006. The main objective of the study was to find out the participation of Dalits in CF management. The other specific objectives included To analyse the socio-economic characteristic of the Dalits household population of the CFUG members, to evaluate the participation of Dalits in CF management process, to analyse the status of Dalits in decision making and benefit sharing process. and to identify the problems of Dalits in active participation in CF program.

For the purpose of the study, the researcher had applied the techniques of social science research methodology. The study was held on both exploratory and descriptive research design. The sources of data were both primary and secondary and the natures of data were both qualitative and quantitative. There were 797 households of the CFUG members in the community forestry. Out of which 124 households were from Dalits. Among total Dalit households, 40 households with 196 population were taken on a simple random basis for the study. 40 Dalit respondents of the CFUG members and key informants were the respondents of the study.

The Dalit households has the sex ratio 96.00 percent and overall age dependency ratio of 141.27 percent and most of them were unmarried. The educational status of Dalits HHs population was very low. Females were more illiterate than males. Agriculture was the major occupation of Dalit HHs population and Dalit CFUG members of the CF. of the total 97.50 percent of them were having food deficiency. Only 2.50 percent HHs produced sufficient food. Wage labour was found as a primary source of income of Dalit HHs of CFUGs.

The effective participation of Dalits CFUG members in decisions making process was not satisfactory because of illiteracy, low level of awareness, lack of leadership development, poverty, untouchability and discriminatory practices of social elites. Most of Dalits were participating irregularly, knowingly or unknowingly and had passive or supportive role in decision making process.

But their participation in benefit sharing process was satisfactory. Most of the Dalits had access to forest products of daily needs, but they were unable to grab an opportunities from CF fund. Moreover, they had no access to income generating activities and training which is most important to up-lift their socio-economic status.

Therefore, amendment of operational plan of the CF by broader discussion, focusing on tilting opportunities from community forest for Dalits (like for income generating activities, providing capacity building training etc.) and creating an inclusive environment for intermixing between Dalits and non-Dalits are major recommendations made by the research study.

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ABBREVIATION/ACRONYMS

AGDP	:	Agriculture Gross Domestic Production
BS	:	Bikram Sambat
CBO	:	Community Based Organization
CF	:	Community Forest
CFUG	:	Community Forest User Group
CFM	:	Community Forest Management
DFO	:	District Forest Office
FAO	:	Food and Agriculture Organizations
FUG	:	Forest User Group
FUGC	:	Forest User Group Committee
NGOs	:	Non- Governmental Organizations
HH	:	Households
HMG/N	:	His Majesty's Government
IGA	:	Income Generating Activities
INGOs	:	International Non-Governmental Organizations
NHDR	:	Nepal Human Development Report
NTFPs	:	Non-Timber Forest Products
OP	:	Operational Plan
PFs	:	Panchayat Forests
PPFs	:	Panchayat Protected Forests
TAL	:	Terai Arc Landscape
TFPs	:	Timber Forest Products
WB	:	World Bank