

CHAPTER I

-INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Forest is the important natural resources for raising socio-economic status of the local people. Forest resources are one of the major resources which directly fulfill forest related substitutions needs of woman, poor and backward people. Forest has been providing inputs for agriculture livestock and supply medicinal herbs, timber and non timber forest products. Forest also support to conserve watersheds, improve the conditions of the soil, provides recreation for tourists through forest based eco-tourism and national parks and wildlife reserves. Similarly, forest provides a habitat for flora and fauna. Furthermore it has been providing raw materials for forest related industries (Upreti, 1999: cited in Mahato).– Language

Community forestry is an effective and successful strategy of rural development to enhance the status of rural people. In other words "The situation where rural people develop and manage forests as common property to support their forms and household economics". (Nepal-Australia CF Project, 1996)

Community forest means national forest handed to an user's group for its development, conservation and utilization for collective benefit (Forest act,1993)

The forest in Nepal is known as the wealth of the country which proves the popularly used proverb “Hariyo Ban Nepalko Dhan”. Forest alone contributes 10 % to total national AGDP. Livestock get 40 % of the total fodder from forest foliage (Banko Jankari, 2005) and fuel wood contributes 76 % of the total energy resource which comes from forests. Much of the agriculture production systems are directly and indirectly based on forest resources (NPC 1998). Forest has not only the economic values but also the aesthetic values, service values, beauty values, option values etc. Similarly, protective, regulatory and productive functions of the forest are invaluable for the organisms and environment.

In the context of Nepal, forest coverage was more than 45 % of the total area of the country in 1964, this is being reduced to 29 % by 1998(NPC, 1998:290). The population of Nepal has grown during last decade at the rate of 2.2 %per year whereas forest has degraded at an annual rate of 1.7%per year (Banko Jankari, May 2005).

Over the last decade, community forest in Nepal has developed dramatically. New forest registration and accompanying bylaws are in place, the process of handing over community forest continues to be refined and increasingly large areas are being brought under community management. In course of processing work in community management of common resources, Nepal has been confronting many different types of conflicts and trying to seek appropriate ways of solving them in some extent.

Conflict is inevitable and unavoidable phenomenon in society. It is generated by the opposed interests that inevitably inhere in the social structure of society. Conflict has always been a part of human life. It takes place when two or more parties find their interests incompatible, hostile action or take action, which damages the other parties' ability to pursue their interests. In other word, it appears due to differences in opinion, lack or scarcity of essential resources ambition or the wish to impose ones will among others and so on.

It is said that “society is impossible without conflict but society is worse than without control of conflict”. (Paul,1996:cited in Shrestha, 2000). While potential or imminent conflicts are many in any society and organization, all well governed societies provide institutions for resolving them well before they inflict much damage.

In the positive sense conflict is the base for further development. It maintains the check and balance in the organization and it is ever-present process in human life. Moreover, conflicts should be modified from destructive to productive or constructive at a right time and at a right place.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Despite of innumerable success histories of community forest over the last decade, it has been confronting various types of obstacles till now. The process of handing over community forest continues to be refined & increasingly large areas are being brought under community protection, management and utilization, under the forest act 1993 and forest regulation 1995. In this course of action, Nepal has been facing numerous types of problems through the various causes of different sectors.

Several research reports, case studies and literatures ([Shrestha, K.B., 1995](#)) showed that there are many obstacles in the community forest. One of the most widespread obstacles is conflict at various levels in the recent years. Furthermore, country itself is suffering from conflicts; consequently community forestry has been roaming in the suffocation. Similarly, study site of this research is not far from this infection.

During the natural resource management process, several conflicts have erupted at different levels and intensities. On the other hand, communities that marginalized both socially and economically are helpless against the conflicts over what appears to be. For example, lack of access, equitable distribution of community forest resources, prejudices based on class, caste, gender, power and others are conflicts regarding duties and responsibilities, lack of good governance within executive committee, policy conflicts, and intervention of GOs are most of the time encountered in community forest.

Conflict disrupts not only the constructive development activities but also hinders the social fabric and harmony, even it may collapse or dysfunctional of the community structure. Community forest faces increasing population pressure and rapid depletion of forest resources, consequently future could well be an era of conflicts. We need to recognize this danger now and must move urgently to mainstream of conflict management in policy, laws, procedures, operational guidelines, institutional arrangements and human resource development at national and community level. This should help Nepal to retain its leadership role in community forestry sector: to establish the model of good governance &

democracy and also help to user in sustainable and equitable management of forest resources in the country.

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The general objective of the study is to study the conflicts and their management methods in community forestry. The specific objectives of the study are;

1. To find out existing conflicts of community forests.
2. To explore the causes and consequences of conflicts of community forests.
3. To compare the level of conflicts.
4. To assess the methods for conflict management.

1.4 RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

This study has showed the mechanism/[reasons as to](#) how the conflicts arise and breakdown the social harmony and fabric in the communities. Therefore this study helps to flourish out the process how and why conflicts occur from different sociological and anthropological perspectives and how the conflicts [are](#) diffused or managed for the welfare of the society. On the other hand, this study also helps to explore -the ways through which [the](#) users [groups](#) can resolve the conflicts so [the](#) that other users' [groups](#) or facilitators could learn from it. Furthermore comparative study of four community forests provide the strengths and weaknesses of actors involved in the conflicts and generate guidelines for their improvements.

No research has been conducted in this burning issue at the study area. In this context, the study findings keep special significance to the local level as well as [at the](#) national level for the smooth functioning of community forests all over the country. - Similarly it will provide additional information to formulate policies, plans, rules and regulations to the concerned agencies and people. This study will be equally significant for the researchers to [do more](#) research [studies on-](#) [the](#) natural resource management process.

1.5 CONPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Framework shows that different actors are involved in the community forest management and some of them are directly or indirectly involving in the conflict issues of community forestry. In the different level conflicts may occurred e.g.

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Between organizations, with group, between group and individual, between individual and within individual. Various causes are responsible to those forestry conflicts e.g. Clash of interests, unclear policies/ laws, scarcity of resources, power imbalance, cultural difference, politics and lack of value/attitude. In the process of resolution various methods were useful such as education, consensus, compromise, -sacrifice, coordination, -intervention and negotiation. Regarding their effects conflicts have basically positive and negative effects for example emergence of new ideas and alliances, Increment of cohesion, keeping member alert and violence/bloodshed, bitterness, tension are the positive and negative effects of forestry conflicts respectively. Finally negative effects could disrupt and collapse the organization.

1.8 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

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Almost all the studies have some sorts of limitations and this study is not an exception on this fact. So, this study has some limitations which are mentioned below.

First of all being an academic study for the purpose of partial fulfillment of the requirement of master degree it could not cover all the aspects of conflict situation and management process in details.

Secondly, this study is limited on the four Community forests of Tehrathum district: those are Malengeni, Hukkafore, Patlechaur and Juke Saplang community forests so, the findings of the research might not be similar with any other of forest of -the country. Because management practices and socio-economic, cultural and demographic characteristics may differ to other community forests.

1.9 DEFINITION OF KEY CONCEPTS

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This study has used various key concepts and variables to maintain the standard and for a successful completion of the study. In the context of the study their meanings are the followings.

Committee: executive committee of forest user's group

Community forest: national forest handed over to an users' group for its development, conservation and utilization for collection benefits (forest act 1993)

Community Forestry: The situation where rural people developed and manage forests as common property to support their farms and household economics.

Community: The population of a village or an area or any group of people, having some common interest (such as residence, kinship or religions affiliation) (Nepal-Australia CF project 1996)

Conflicts: differences of benefits, ideas or interests between two or more people which are causing a problem.

Constitution: constitution of user group

Development: A process of social, economic and technological change that provides the opportunity for economic betterment, greater human dignity, security, Justice and Equity. (Nepal-Australia Community Forest Project, 1996)

Forest: An area fully of partially covered by trees.

Key informants: people who have particular knowledge about a subject or area.

Members: members of forest users' group and executive committee

Negotiation: Dialogue between field workers and users leading to an agreement as to how a given forest should be managed in a sustainable manner.

Operational plan: A plan relating to forest prepares with the objectives of developing and conserving them, using, selling and distributing their products while maintaining the environmental balance. In other words it is a document for working strategically to managing a community forest.

Sustainability: Any process or activity that can continue without any outside assistance and input after initial establishment, assistance and support.

User's group: A group of forest user's of a particular forest area. Members of FUG assume rights and responsibility for using and managing their local forest according to an operational plan developed by the FUG and approved by the DFO.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter reviews available literatures related to the forestry, conflicts and their management methods. Some of the literatures relating to the theories and empirical concepts are given below.

2.1 THEORETICAL LITERATURES

The number of community forest is rapidly increasing day by day since the establishment of the community forest act 1995 and forest regulations 1995. It is realized that the conservation of forest included conservation of soil, water, wood, vegetation, floral and fauna, and those are the essential elements of the ecosystem.

Forest is an important natural resource for the support of livelihoods of people in Nepal. Community forestry is a strategy, project and philosophy as well in the development perspective. Participation of the local people has become the main determination for the success/failure of a community forestry project (MPC:2000).

Because of continuous deforestation, food and energy crisis has become a political issue for which more and more countries are realizing the value of forest in terms of producing environment and stabilizing ecology. The role of forest has been developed and implemented embracing participatory approach in Nepal. One of such programmes aimed at developing rural communities is known as social forestry which has been identified as an important factor of rural economy development (Kayastha, 1991)

The country has diverse environmental resources forest water, climate, biodiversity etc. among all forest is one of the most precious resources to uplift the living standard of rural people. The forest, a major resource base of Nepal, covers an area of 42,682 square kilometers or 29% of the total land and shrub area covers of Nepal. On the other hand forest degradation is one of the major environmental

issues in the country. The forest has decreased in both are coverage and density over previous decades landslides, soil erosion, floods, encroachment of forest by cultivated land people for settlement, among other have been responsible for the (MOPE, 2001)

2.1.1 LEGISLATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT IN NEPAL

Until 1951, the politics for forest development in Nepal adopted by Rana Rulers identified forests located in strategies places for protection and maintenance as security zones for defense. Forest resources more used as one of the main sources of government revenue. But the land tax policy for agricultural land in the Terai during this time (MOPE, 2001). Nepal began to enact acts and legislation related to forestry sector in 1957. The main policies and legislation are as follows: (ICIMOD, 2001)

-) National forestry plan, 1976
-) National conservation strategy, 1988
-) Master plan for the forestry sector, 1989-2010
-) Forestry sector policy, 1989
-) Nepal environment policy and action plan, 1993
-) Policy document environment assessment in the road sector of Nepal 2000
-) Private forest nationalization act 1951
-) Private protection act 1967
-) National parks and Wildlife conservation act, 1973
-) Soil conservation and watershed act, 1982
-) Forest Regulation act, 1995
-) EIA guidelines for the forestry sector, 1995
-) Environment protection act 1996

-) Butter zone Regulation policy 1996
-) Plant protection act, 1997
-) Environment protection Regulation.

One of the main government efforts is the community forest programmer, initiated in 1978, emphasis sustainable management and development of forest through involving communities as forest user groups. The programme has been very important with regard to forest development. By 1999 the government had handed over total of about 0.7 million hectare of state owned forests to over 10532 community forestry user groups for development, conservation, management and sustainable use. A total of six million people are directly Benefited from being members of the users group CMOPE, 2000

2.1.2 COMMUNITY FORESTRY FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT AND A MEANS OF SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

Community forestry programme has been fulfilling the economic as well as environment requirements. Maximum participation of local people CF programme has being popular and become a successful strategy of community development.

The polices led by the government, should manage major forest tracts and the rest activities should be left to the local communities ensuring the forest property to the community. The establishment of New policy of CF is the example of effective forestation where as in the previous decades, forest were decline but nowadays the covered area of the forests are being increased and the forest are being able to supply fuel wood, fodder, timber and economic/environment balance of the life of common people (Bajracharya 1999).

The community forest is a vehicle for economic development based upon local initiatives, innovation and entrepreneurship. They can help employment opportunities increase public awareness and support for forest management

activities. CF is the way to get success of development and it is the strategy to late the people in the mainstream of national activities (David 2000).

The establishment of CF is the process to provide the opportunities for communities to build and strengthen their governance skill and capacity. Forest users increase greenery, wildlife, fresh air and water with enhancing the forest condition, furthermore it becomes an attraction for which tourist and recreationist which will in turn benefit the local economy (Ojha, 2001).

2.2 EMPIRICAL LITERATURE

Conflict is an active stage of disagreement between people with opposing opinions, principles and practices manifested in different forms i.e. grievance, conflict or dispute (walker and Daniels, 1997 cited in Mahato, 2005).

Numerous scholars define conflict differently, which are presented in table 1.

Table2.1: Definitions of Conflicts

<i>Authors</i>	<i>Definitions</i>
Coser (1956)	Social conflict is a struggle between opponents over values and claims to scarce status, power and resources.
Deutsch (1973)	A conflict exists whenever incompatible activities occur.....one party is interfering, disrupting or in some other way making another party's actions less effective.
Wall (1985)	Conflict is a process in which two or more parties attempt to frustrate the other's goal attainment...the factors underlying conflict are three fold: interdependent, differences in goals and differences in perceptions.
Turner (1986)	Conflict means contest, competition and tension from manifest clashes between social factors.
Conrad (1990)	Conflicts are communicative interactions among people who are interdependent and who perceive that their interests are incompatible inconsistent or intention.
Katz and layer	Conflict is a situation state between at least two interdependent parties, which is characterized by perceived differences that the

(1993)	parties evaluate as negative.
Shrestha (1995)	Conflict generally occurs when people have different views for perceptions on an issue when someone's interest is not considered or fulfilled while making a decision or when other's interest in encroached.
Folger, poole and Stuman (1997)	Conflict is the interaction of interdependent people who perceive incompatible goals and interference from each other in achieving those goals.
Walker and Daniels (1997)	Conflict is a perceived divergent of interests or disagreement in opinions, practices, principles manifested in different forms (grievance, conflict and dispute).
FAO(2000)	Natural resource conflicts are disagreement and disputes over access to, and control & use of natural resources.

Source: Conflict Management of Community Forestry in Nepal (2004), Mahato, Grievance is an initial stage of conflict in which individuals or a group is perceived to be unjust and provides grounds for resentment or conflict. This condition potentially erupts or complaints. When this stage turns in to conflict antagonism is caused by a clash of cultural, political, social or economic interests between individuals and groups. At the final stage of conflict, people make the matter public and opting for confrontation (Mahato, 2001)

For forest resource management, conflict can be defined as a social process that represents an antagonistic perception, feeling, principle and belief between two or more groups/parties that lead to an argument to achieve tangible and intangible goods services from the forests.

Two main schools of thought exist concerning conflicts; one school of thought views conflict as 'pathological and dysfunctional'. In this perspective, conflict generally carries negative connotation and is interpreted as something irrational that needs to be suppressed because it is opposite to peace and cooperation (Warners and Jones 1998, cited in Upreti 2001:16). Another school of thought considers conflicts can be a functional means for social change and acknowledges its prevalence.

2.2.1 TYPES AND SOURCES OF CONFLICTS

According to Stoner and Freeman (1989), there are six types of conflicts in an organizational life. These are;

1. Conflicts within individuals
2. Conflicts among individuals in the same organization
3. Conflicts among individuals and groups
4. Conflicts among groups in the same organization
5. Conflicts among organization in the economic sphere and
6. Conflicts among individual in different organization.

According to Follet (1980), Conflicts can be analysed from two basic perspectives;

1. Internal to an individual
2. External to an individual i.e. individual vs. individual, group vs. group, organization vs. organization or any other combination of these.

The e-mail conference (1996) has found conflicts on the six sources. These sources are;

1. Conflicts over access
2. Conflicts due to changes in resource quality and availability
3. Conflicts regarding authority over resources
4. Conflicts that are value based
5. Conflicts associated with lack of communication

H.N Mathur (1995) had outlined five types of conflict in a study on joint forest management (JFM) in India. These are territorial, institutional, serial, technologies and at policy level. Mathur had argued that conflict at various levels require different approaches and interventions and conflicts at the same level may be solved in different ways depending on the socio-economic pattern involved in the conflict may be the effective mechanism for management, particularly where strong traditions of community organization prevail. If open discussion fails to resolve the conflicts, local leadership can be asked to intervene. In some cases external agencies may be required to intervene. The voice of all the parties should be given adequate attention. (Shrestha, 2000)

Sharma (2000) has analysed eight previous studies involving twenty forest user groups in Nepal. six sources of conflicts are access to resources, change in resource quality and availability, over resources, differing perception of values, information transfer and availability and legal/ policy issues.

Conflicts arise in CF for a various reasons.

1. Disputes may occur between two or more separate communities, each with legitimate interests, over conflicting claims to a forest resources.
2. Choices about the management of a communally held resource may give rise to different among the members of a community.
3. Commercial interest to exploit forest resources may diverged from those of the local community.

Disputes can arise at any time in community forestry from planning process to benefit sharing and this process is universal and never ends. disputes are seen within the individual members other forest user groups and with other institution. (Mahato, 2004)

Shrestha N. (2000) had studied the Charnawati FUG of Dang district in this he stated that "five broad categories of conflicts were found during the study in Charnawati FUG, there were conflicts in land tenure, conflicts regarding fund user, conflicts as policy level, conflicts as benefits sharing and conflicts within FUG committee for leadership and "for resolving the conflicts they had adopted the various methods on the basis of nature of conflicts. Some of the majors are as followings. negotiation, mediation, intervention and rewritten of operational plan.

Shrestha, K.B (1995) had categories conflicts of CF in his paper entitled "community forestry in Nepal: and overview of conflicts into three on the basis of conflicting parties.

- a) Conflicts within a forest user's group: in this category conflicts could arise due to identification of user's, Benefit sharing, participation, leadership, presence of different interest groups, land tenure.

- b) Conflict between forest user groups: in this categories he had presented that conflicts arises due to location of forest and nature of forest.
- c) Conflicts between FUG and other institutions: In this category main reasons for arising conflicts are discussion from the objectives of community forest and low confidence.

In nutshell various research have completed in the widespread and burning topic "conflicts of community forest", hence concise form the various studies is presented below on the basis of actors stake and efforts for management.

2.2.2 CONFLICT CASES OF COMMUNITY FORESTRY IN NEPAL

Community forestry is an essential strategy for community development. It has been handing over to the community people to protect, manage and utilize under the forest act 2049 and forest regulation 2051. Numerous research report and case studies illustrate that many of the community forest user groups are affected by different types of problems. Among them, conflict is the most burning obstacle for the sustainable forest management.

The findings of previous case studies in the form of actors and stake oriented approach that are developed by FAO (1996) though not all cases followed that approach. In this approach, there are three dimensions of resources conflicts.

1. Dimension of actors
2. Dimension of resources
3. Dimension of interaction or stakes

The following table illustrates the conflict among and between different stake holders.

Table 2.2: Conflict Cases and Method Of Management of CF In Nepal

<i>Researcher</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Stake(conflict about)</i>	<i>Effort to management</i>
Tumbahamphe and K. C. 1995	Within buchhung FUG, Baglung (people from two VDCs)	Boundary, competition for scarce resources	Community meeting and mediation
Kharel and Regmi, 1995	People of different wards and people of different VDCs, Kavre	Stakeholder inclusion, resource use and forest boundary	Active persuasion and investigation by ranger
Shrestha , R.K. 1995	FUGs and RNA in Okhaldhnga	Forest boundary and land ownership	Village leaders (Mukhia mediated)
Singh and streak, 1995	DFO and Jalbire women FUG, Gorkha	Deviation from operational plan	Fact finding and proceed through government officials
Shreshtha K.B.	Intra FUG, Dang DFO and FUG, Dhankuta Between FUG, Kaski	Leadership, deviation of OP, access to forest resources	Suggested for training, communication and effective implementation of CF policy
Siktel, 1995	People of some FUG of different VDCS, between FUGs, FUG and DFO staff	Stakeholder inclusion and traditional use right participation, benefit sharing, resource use	Self initiation for negotiation, transparency is maintained
Kharel, 1997	Intra member of Raniban FUG, Between two FUG,	Resource use and management, boundary and	Suggested both local customary practice and

	Members between FUG, Between FUG and FUG and member between two VDCs of two FUGs	traditional use right, dualism in membership, implementation of OP., benefit sharing and participation	intervention by third party (Ranger), empowerment of weaker parties
Paudel, 1997	Within uses of Mulban CF between users and nonusers in Lahachowk VDC	Preparing and implementing calendar of operation benefit sharing, membership, resource use, elite domination	Collaborative decision, motivation, arbitration
Thakur, 2000	Within user group (Handikhola FUG, Hansapur)	Power, membership, resource use, ethnocentric, blocking of forest	Not available

Source: Conflict Management of Community Forestry in Nepal (2004),mahato.

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

3.1 RESEARCH DESIGN

The study is based on both qualitative and quantitative approaches. As a quantitative research approach structured individual interviews has been conducted and as a qualitative research approach key informants interview and focus group discussion has done. At the same time this study is explorative as well as descriptive.

Suggested to be specific about who were the respondents for individual interviews, key informant interview and FGDs.

What specific topics were included in the instruments of above three different respondents?

3.2 SOURCES OF DATA

This study is based on both primary and secondary data. Primary data has been collected through individual interviews with the help of structured questionnaire, focus group discussion with the help of checklist. Respondents for individual interviews were the heads of the user households, key informants were the president, vice president, secretary, assistant secretary, treasure and members of the -executive committee and some selected users were for the focus group discussion. Secondary data has been collected from books, magazine, booklets, internet, and broacher for successful completion of the study.

3.3 SAMPLING PROCEDURE AND SAMPLE SIZE

In total 295 community forest are in operation in Tehrathum district. Among them four community forest were selected according to the study objectives. Those are Malengeni CF, Hukkafore female CF, Patlechaur CF and Juke

Saplange CF; which are male leaded, female leaded, higher caste leaded and lower caste leaded respectively.

From the each community forest 20 household heads were interviewed according to the systematic random sampling. Similarly 5 key informants from each community forest were interviewed. –Focus group also conducted to supplement the study. In total 100 respondents were the sample size of the study.

3.4 DATA PROCESSING, ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

Collected information is entered in to computer after editing and coding. Computer software DBase IV was used for data entry. After entering, data are transferred into SPSS statistical software package for further processing and analysis. frequency distribution, cross tabulation, bar diagram and pie chart are the main means of data analysis and presentation. collected information is analysed by using both qualitative and quantitative approaches.

CHAPTER IV

SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

It is also essential to mention some demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the respondents. Hence, this chapter deals with some basic information on the sampled study sites and important demographic characteristics of the sample respondents such as age-sex structure family type, family size. It also deals socio economic characteristics such as literacy status, educational attainment, occupational status, size of land holding, income level and livestock rearing etc of the respondents.

4.1 OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY SITES

Tehrathum district is located in northern part of the Koshi zone of the Eastern development region of Nepal. Tehrathum is situated about 1,467 meter from sea level and extended 26°66' to 27°30' north longitudes and 87°25' to 87°4' east latitudes. Tehrathum occupies the area of 679 square kilometer or 66,587 hectare in which 23,987 hectare land is occupied by different types of forest

Tehrathum comprises 1,14,128 populations among them male population is 55,541 and female population is 58,587. Literacy status of district is 55.4% in average. Main occupation are Agriculture, Livestock rearing, Wage labour, Job etc. and Major Religion of inhabitants are Kirat, Hindu and Buddha. Mainly, Nepali, Limbu, Rai, Tamang and Gurung language is used at greater extent. Similarly, Numerous types of ethnics groups and caste has been residing at the district. Average family size of the district is 5.47 and population density is 167 per square kilometer.

Tehrathum is one of the important place from the tourism point of view and others tourism as well because of rich bio-diversity and numerous holy and scenic places. It keeps the special significance for the development of the country. Transportation, health facilities and communication of the district is

very low. In nutshell, it is in the 12th position of human development among 75 districts of the Nation. (Kunwar, 2060)

Among the total area of the Tehrathum district 35.88% land is occupied by forest land. Total area of forest is 23,987 hectare among which (12,649.23) hectare forest land is as a national forest, 11,328.03 hectares forest land is as a community forest, 33.67 hectare forest land is as leasehold forest and remaining 8.66 hectare forest is as private forest.

Regarding the community forest, 295 community forests of Terathum district have been handed over to the community since 2047/048 B.S. After handing over the forest to the community 22,859 households have benefited (Ban Sambandi Gatibidhi, 2061). Various NGOs and INGOs are actively involving to uplift the status of local people through forestry programme.

Community forests of the district supply 35%, 5%, 41% timber , fuel wood and fodder respectively of total demand of the forest products (Ban Sambandi Gatibidhi, 2061). Main products of community forests of the district were as followings.

Table:4.1 Main Forest Products of Community Forests

<u>S.N.</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Main forest products</u>		
		<u>Timber (cubic feet)</u>	<u>Fuel wood (Bhari)</u>	<u>Fodder (Bhari)</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>2054/055</u>	<u>19547</u>	<u>80841</u>	<u>11100</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>2055/056</u>	<u>9025.5</u>	<u>55928</u>	<u>5657</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>2056/057</u>	<u>15272</u>	<u>78372</u>	<u>35717</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>2057/058</u>	<u>17643.1</u>	<u>60884</u>	<u>26908</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>2058/059</u>	<u>13953.5</u>	<u>85835</u>	<u>83305</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>2059/060</u>	<u>10891.5</u>	<u>84842</u>	<u>48834</u>
<u>7</u>	<u>2060/061</u>	<u>14388.7</u>	<u>74450</u>	<u>34253</u>

Source: Ban Sambandi Gatibidhi, 2061

-Malengeni community forest had handed over on 2052 B.S. which has occupied 44.43 hectare. One hundred and thirty households were the user member of the forest. It is the male led forest in which 10 male members and one female

member are in executive committee. Main forest species were Patle, Katus, Chiraito and Lokta. Major caste of the forest users were Gurung and Tamang.

Hukkafore female community forest had occupied 15.85 hectare land which is handed over to the community on 2055 B.S. Eighty households were the user member of the forest. Many users of the forest were female Limbu. This is female led community forest because out of total 13 members of executive committee, 11 members were female. Main forest species were Patlekatus, Chiraito, Malingo etc.

Patlechaur community forest is the forest of community people of Jirikhimtee ward no 8 and 9, Piple ward no 7 and 8 and Sabla ward no 9. It occupies 1906 hectare area which was handed over on 2052 B.S. In total, 112 households were benefiting from the forest. Main user caste of the forest are Chhetri and Brahmins so it is higher caste led CF. The main species of the forest are Salla, Uttis, Katus etc.

Juke Saplange community forest is located on Sabla VDC-5, 6 and 7. The area of the forest is 8.95 hectare which is handed over to community people on 2051 B.S. Out of total 50 user households 60% share was shared by lower caste people and major post of the executive committee was also hold by lower caste community people. main species of the forests were Chilaune, Patle, Kagate etc.(Ban Sambandhi Gatibidhi, 2061)

4.2 DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

This section deals with some demographic characteristics of the study population such as age-sex composition, family size and family types.

4.2.1 AGE-SEX STRUCTURE

Age-Sex Structure of the respondents is an important variable for the study. Directly or indirectly age and sex structure of the respondents is responsible for creating conflicts and for resolving as well. Hence age sex structure of respondent is a determining factor for sustainable community forest management.

Table 4.2: Distribution of Respondent By Age Groups and Sex

Age groups	Male		Female		Total		Sex Rate
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
20-30 Years	18	25	8	28.57	26	26	225
30-40years	35	48.61	12	42.86	47	47	291
40-50 Years	12	16.67	5	17.86	17	17	240
50-60 Years	4	5.56	3	10.70	7	7	133
60-70 Years	3	4.16	-	-	3	3	-
Total	72	100	28	100	70	100	257.14

Sources: Field Survey, July 2006

Table 4.2 reveals that out of the total of hundred respondents 72 percent are male and remaining 28 percent are female. Majority of the respondents (47%) are under 30-40 years age group, followed by age group 20-30 years (26%), 40-50 years (17%), 50-60 years (7%) and 60-70 years (3%) age years respectively.

Similarly, Sex Ratio is 257.14 which implies that number of males were higher than the female respondents and the mean age of the respondents is 36.4 years.

4.2.2 FAMILY TYPE

Mainly families are categorized into the two types, these are: nuclear and joint family. It is classified on the basis of family composition. Family type plays a vital role in forest management, protection and participation.

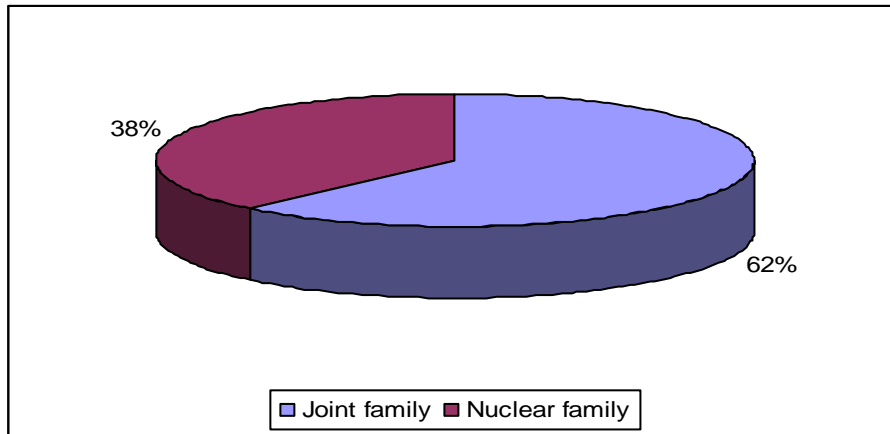
Table 4.3: Distribution of Respondents By Family Type

Family type	Number	Percent
Joint	62	62
Nuclear	38	38
Total	100	100

Sources: Field Survey, July 2006

Table 4.3 shows that most i.e. 62% families are joint and 38% are nuclear family. Family ratio of the respondents is 163.15 which implies than proportion of joint family is higher than nuclear. It is also shown in to the pie chart below:

Figure 4.1: Family Types Of The Respondents



Source: Table 4.3

4.2.3 FAMILY SIZE

Family size is one of the important factors for analyzing the conflict situation existing in community forest and participation on forest management, forest protection and extension. Family size of respondents are as follows.

Table 4.4: Family Size of the Respondents

Family Size	Number	Percent
4-6 member	32	32
7-9 member	52	52
10-12 member	14	14
13-15 member	2	2
Total	100	100

Sources: Field Survey, July 2006

Table 4.4 shows that family of respondents are categories in the interval of two members among the total to families, a significant proportion of the respondents i.e. 52% have 7-9 members in their families which is followed by 4-6 (32%), 10-12 (14%) members, and remaining 2% families have 13-15 members. According to table 6 the average family size of the respondents is 7.26 which is much more higher than national average.

4.3 SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

This section deals with some selected socio-economic indicators of the study population such as literacy status, occupation, caste/ethnicity, religion, income level, landholding structure and livestock rearing number. Those indicators are directly and indirectly affecting community forest management and conflict situation and their management method as well.

4.3.1 LITERACY STATUS AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Education is one of the most important social characteristics of the respondents. It enhances social, economic, moral, political development and civilization. Education positively affects all-round development of the people. Quality of the people depends on the educational status because it enables to perform any task in a good and efficient way.

Most of the respondents in the study area are illiterate and among literate also most of the respondents have attained only primary level. The following table shows the details of literacy status and educational attainment of the respondents.

Table 4.5: Respondents By Literacy status and Educational attainment

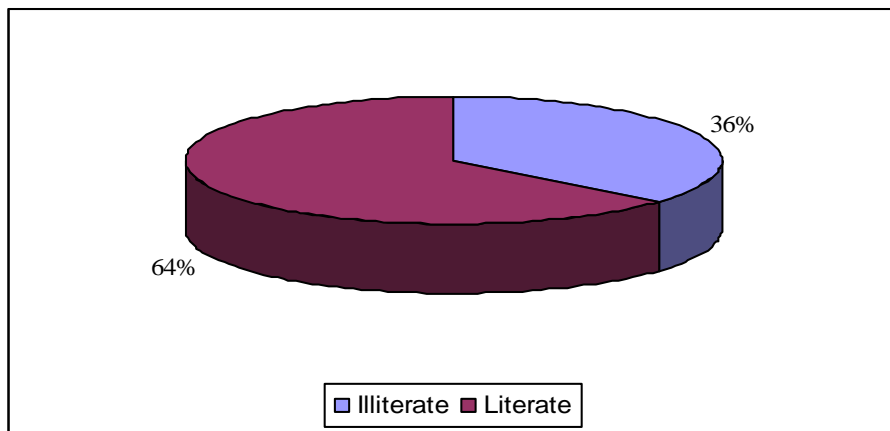
Literacy status	Number	Percent
Illiterate	36	36
Literate	64	64
Total	100	100
Educational attainment		
Non formal education	7	10.94
Preprimary level (up to 3)	16	25
Primary level (3-5)	23	35.93
Lower secondary level (6-8)	11	17.19
Secondary level (9-10) and above	7	10.94
Total	64	100

Sources: Field Survey, July 2006

Table 4.5 reveals that 36% respondents are illiterate and 64% are literate. Among the literate most of them (35.93%) are in primary level and followed by preprimary level (25%), lower secondary level (17.19%), secondary level (10.94%) and remaining 10.94% respondents were literate through non-formal education.

Educational attainment of the respondent is very low (71.87% respondents are below primary level). It shows very low educational attainment of the respondents. The following Pie-chart further expose the literacy status clearly.

Figure 4.2 Literacy Status of Respondents



Source: Table 4.5

4.3.2 CASTE/ ETHNICITY

Regarding the caste/ethnicity respondents were heterogeneous in study site. major caste of the respondents were Tamang, Gurung, Chhetri, Limbu, Rai and Kami. Caste/ethnicity also plays the vital role for the forest management and Conflict status . The following table shows the details.

Table 4.6: Caste/Ethnicity of The Respondents

Caste	Number	Percentage
Limbu	24	24
Rai	15	15
Tamang	12	12
Chhetri	16	16
Bhramin	4	4
Gurung	13	13
Kami	14	14
Damai	2	2
Total	100	100

Sources: Field Survey, July 2006

Table 4.6 shows that on the basis of caste majority of the respondents were from Limbu. Which hold 24 percent and that is comparatively higher than other. The data is followed by Chhetri(16%),Rai (15%), Kami (14%), Gurung (13%), Tamang (12%), Bhramin (5%), and Damai (2%).

4.3.3 RELIGION

Religion is also one of the independent variable which varies the norms/values, attitude and belief of the people. In the study area respondents of the study were from various religion such as Hindu,Buddha,Kirat and Christian. So as per religion the following table shows the details of respondents.

Table 4.7: Distribution of Respondents By Religion

Religions	Number	Percentage
Hindu	42	42
Buddha	18	18
Kirat	39	39
Christian	1	1
Total	100	100

Sources: Field Survey, July 2006

Table 4.7 shows that majority respondents of study area were Hindu(42%), that is followed by Kirat(39%),Buddha (18%) and Christian(1%).

4.3.4 OCCUPATIONAL STATUS

Occupational status is another factor which reflects the socio-economic status of a person. Income level of the people is depended on occupational status to some extent. Main occupation of the respondents at the study area is Agriculture, Wage labour, private job, housewife, politics and livestock rearing. Following table shows the occupational status of the respondents:

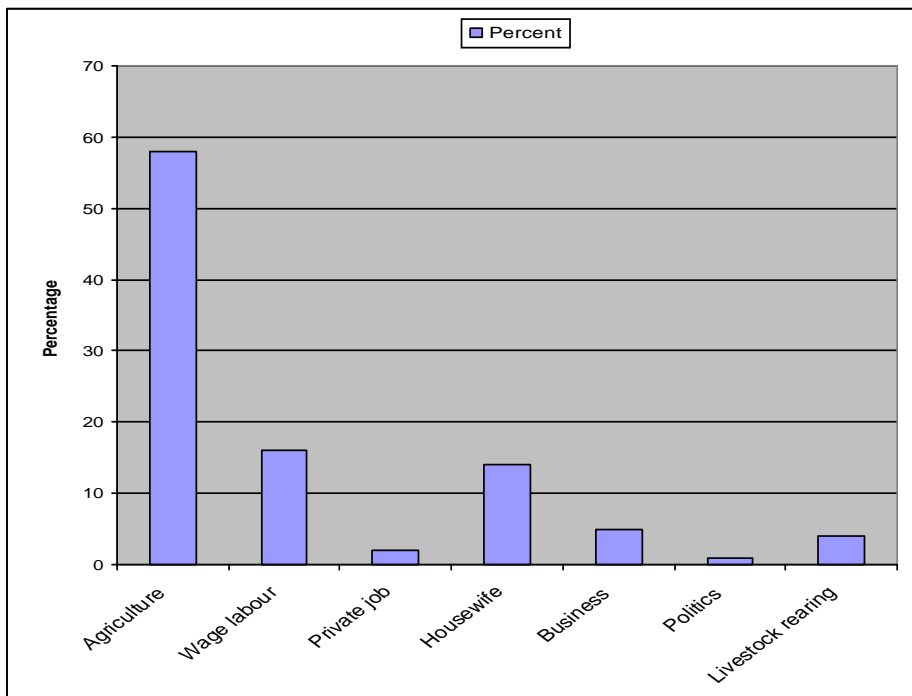
Table 4.8: Distribution of the Respondents by Main Occupation

Main occupation	Number	Percentage
Agriculture	58	58
Wage labour	16	16
Private job	2	2
Housewife	14	14
Business	5	5
Politics	1	1
Livestock rearing	4	4
Total	100	100

Sources: Field Survey, July 2006

Table 4.8 shows that main occupation of respondents is agriculture (58%), followed by Wage labour (16%), house wife (14%), Bussiness (5%), Livestock rearing (4%) and Politics (1%) respectively. The following Bar diagram further clarify the occupational status the respondents.

Figure 4.3: Main Occupation of Respondents



Source: Table 4.8

4.3.5 AVERAGE MONTHLY INCOME OF HOUSEHOLD

A question was asked to the head of the household " how much is your monthly family earnings? " to know the average monthly income level of the family. The level of average monthly income plays an important role and also determines level of living standard and other economic activities. Income level determined the dependency of users on forest and similarly conflicts depends on the dependency on forest to some extent. The following table shows the details of income of respondents.

The families of sample population has been classified under 4 size. According to table 4.9, most of the family of (47%) are between the income range of Rs 6,000-10,000 per month. Similarly 35% family earn between Rs 2000-6000, 5% family

earn Rs 10000-14000 and 13% family of sample population earn between Rs 14000-18000 per month.

Table 4.9: Distribution of Respondents By Average Monthly Family Income

Income Level	Number	Percent
Rs 2,000 - 6,000	35	35
Rs 6,000 - 10,000	47	47
Rs 10,000 - 14,000	5	5
Rs 14,000 – 18,000	13	13
Total	100	100

Sources: Field Survey, July 2006

Mean income of the families of sample population is Rs. 7840 which is very low in comparison with the family size.

4.3.6 LAND HOLDING SIZE

Ownership of land is one of the important indicators of economic status of people in our society. So, this study collected information about land ownership of migrants. Land holding size keeps special significance for raising conflicts on the basis of forest product distribution and management process as well. Following table shows the details of land holding size of sampled population.

Table 4.10 shows that land holding size of the respondents. That is categorized into 6 categories in the interval of 20 Ropani. Out of total 90% have land and 10% families were landless. Landholding size of the sampled population was ranged up to 120 Ropani land.

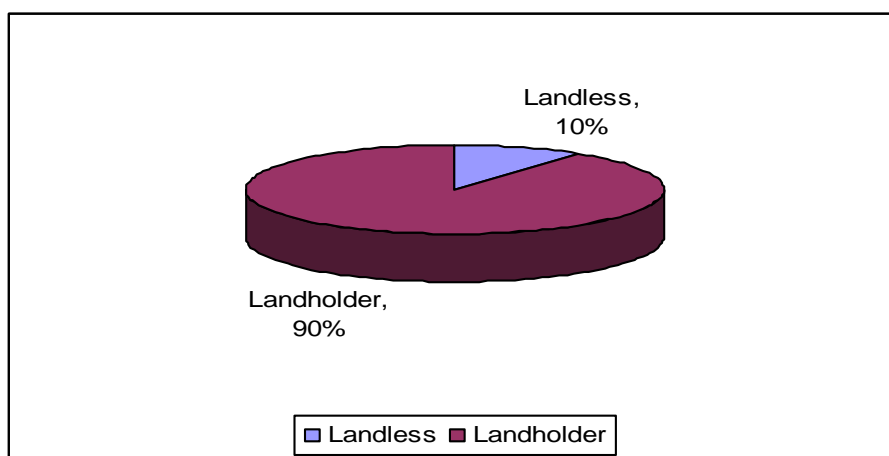
Table 4.10: Distribution of Respondents by Landholding Size

Size of land holding	No of HH	Percent
Landless	10	10
Landholder	90	90
Total	100	100
Land ownership		
Up to 20 Rapani	15	16.67
20 – 40 Rapani	35	38.89
40 – 60 Rapani	23	25.56
60 – 80 Rapani	5	5.55
80 – 100 Rapani	9	10.0
100 – 120 Rapani	3	3.33
Total	90	100

Sources: Field Survey, July 2006

According to the table 4.10, most of the families, 35% have 20 – 40 Rapani land. Similarly 23% have between 40 - 60 Rapani, 15% have upto 20 Rapani, 9% have 80 - 100 Rapani, 5% have 60 – 80 Rapani and only 3% have more than 100 Rapani. Following figure presents the percentage of landholder and landless.

Figure 4.4: land holding status of families



Source: Table 4.10

4.3.7 LIVESTOCK REARING

Livestock rearing is one of the secondary occupation of the rural households and also important factor of income status. Dependency on forest depends on the number of livestock rearing and their types. Livestock rearing number is the responsible for participation on forest management, protection and benefit sharing as well. Following table shows the details of livestock rearing number and percentage of these families.

Table 4.11: Distribution of Sampled Household By Livestock

Responses	Number	Percent
Yes	83	83
No	17	17
Total	100	100
Livestock number		
up to 5	46	55.42
5-10	19	22.90
10-15	11	13.25
15-20	7	8.4.3
Total	83	100

Sources: Field Survey, July 2006

A question " how many livestock are you rearing at present" was asked to the household head to account the livestock number. As per their responses 17% families (households) have no livestock and 83% household reared livestock.

Regarding the livestock number table 4.11 shows that livestock rearing number ranges up to 20 and it is classified at interval of five. Majority have less than 5 livestock i.e. 55.42%. Similarly, 22.90% household have between 5-10 livestock, 23.25% have between 10-15 and 8.43% have more than 15 and less than 20 livestock. Average livestock rearing number among livestock holder is 6.2 livestock.

CHAPTER V

CONFLICTS: CAUSE ,CONSEQUENCE AND MANAGEMENT METHODS

This section deals with some selected forestry related conflicts indicators such as level of knowledge for forest management and regulation, boundary conflict, executive committee formation, leadership, mobilization of bar fund, forest product distribution, consequences of existed conflicts and adopted solution methods for conflict management etc. respectively.

5.1 USER'S RIGHTS

In the context of community forest, user's right is not limited for using the forest product but also concerned to the provision made in the constitution and operational plan. Regarding the sampled community forests use right is limited to only members of user group. Out of user group no one is allowed for using forest production. Those people who have been using from ancient period and they have no other alternative source and those people who have been protecting/managing, and who will be protect, manage and develop in the future, will be qualified for being a member of user group and they have a right to protect, manage and use inside the boundary of constitution of CF and forest act and regulation.

This system of using is creating conflicts on Juke Saplang community forest. Various villagers want to use forest product but those were out of user group. This conflict is hampering to the execution of community forest's programmes and decisions. Executive committee did not want to extend the size of user but some villagers has been giving pressure to include them. As a consequence stolen of forest product has been happening particularly, in the winter season.

5.2 KNOWLEDGE OF CONSTITUTION OF COMMUNITY FOREST

Members knowledge about the constitution of the CF is essential for protecting, managing and utilizing CF smoothly to raise their status. Similarly to claim their rights, duties and responsibilities, to check the balance between provision and management process, all the members should have knowledge of constitution. Following table shows the level of knowledge of members to the constitution.

Table5.1: Respondents' Knowledge about Constitution of CF

Having knowledge	Number	Percent
Yes	87	87
No	13	13
Total	100	100

Sources: Field Survey, July 2006

Table5.1 reveals that 13% respondents have no knowledge about constitution of their community forest, which provides guideline to the members. Remaining 87% have the knowledge of constitution of their community forests to some extent.

5.3 FOREST BOUNDARY ENCROACHMENT

One of the widespread problem of community forestry is forest boundary encroachment in the country since its initiation. Regarding the sampled community forests, all of the forest has been facing the problem fully or partially.

According to the president of Patlechaur community forest, their forest has facing the problem of boundary encroachment slowly every year. They were unable to bar the boundary of forest so it was encroaching. Similarly president of other community forests also told that they were also facing the problem.

Pursuant to the key informants main actors for encroachment were members of user group. They have tried to solve the problem through various efforts but they were unable to solve fully till now. The following table further provide the information in details.

Table 5.2: Encroachment of Forest Boundary and Actor of Encroachment

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	77	77
Don't know	23	23
Total	100	100
Actor of Encroachment		
User Group Members	77	100
Adopted Management Method		
Boundary measurement and separation	38	49.35
Compromise to leave encroached land	14	18.18
No method adopted	15	19.48
Don't Know	10	12.99
Total	77	100

Sources: Field Survey, July 2006

Table 5.2 shows that 23% respondents were unknown about the encroachment problem of forest boundary. Remaining 77% of the total respondents of the sampled community forests have responded that they have been facing the encroachment problem. The main actor of encroachment were the user member in all four community forests.

Patlechaur and Juke Saplang community forest had tried to solve by boundary separation after measurement of their forest land. Hukkafore community forest had compromised to leave encroached land and Malengeni community forest had not adopted any method because the problem is not severe in that forest and Remaining 10% respondents were unknown about adopted solution measure.

5.4 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FORMATION

Most of the Community forests has been facing the problem of executive committee formation. Executive Committee is the group of elected/selected members of users. According to decision made by executive committee, all of the members of user groups fulfill their responsibilities of the protection, Management and utilization.

Regarding the sampled forests the problem is more severer than other because most of the user members were dissatisfied towards the executive committee formation but in the case of other forests, least of the user member were dissatisfied towards committee formation. The following table shows the data.

Table 5.3: Satisfaction of Respondents Towards Executive Committee Formation

Responses	Number	Percentage
Satisfied	62	62
Dissatisfied	38	38
Total	100	100
Causes of dissatisfaction		
Missed qualified members	12	31.58
Favoritism/nepotism	17	44.74
Elite oriented	9	23.68
Total	38	100

Sources: Field Survey, July 2006

Table 5.3 shows that among the total respondents of sampled forests 38% respondents were dissatisfied towards executive committee formation. There the major share of dissatisfaction is of Malengeni community forest. But majority 62% were satisfied in aggregate. Asking about causes of dissatisfaction 44.73% respondents have emphasized on Favoritism and nepotism, 31.58% respondents have told that some qualified members were missed and remaining 23.68% respondents have claimed that formation process was elite oriented.

5.4.1 EFFORTS FOR MANAGEMENT

Conflicts depends upon the level of dissatisfaction and before solving the conflicts reaction arises that reaction plays an important role for management process hence, the reaction after dissatisfaction is accounted in the following table.

Table 5.4: Reaction after Dissatisfaction with Executive Committee Formation

Responses	Number	Percentage
Disagreement towards EC	8	21.05
Discussion	16	42.11
Nothing has been done	14	36.84
Total	38	100

Sources: Field Survey, July 2006

Table 5.4 shows that 21.05% respondents protested by disagreeing the executives of EC. Similarly 42.11% respondents discussed the issue at general assembly and remaining 36.84% respondents had done nothing to minimize the dissatisfaction of dissatisfied respondents of the sampled community forests.

The issue of conflict EC formation is a less effective conflict in nature. Regarding the sampled community forests 38% were dissatisfied. But those dissatisfied were unable to participate in executive committee meetings because of the lack of leadership capacity. Furthermore, a question was asked about the main consequences/effects of conflict issue Executive Committee formation their response was the followings.

Table 5.5: Main Consequences of Conflict Issue: Executive Committee Formation

Response	Number	Percent
Working difficulty	19	50
Discouragement to members	10	26.32
Nothing else	9	23.68
Total	38	100

Sources: Field Survey, July 2006

Table 5.5 shows the main consequences of conflict issue: executive committee formation. Among the dissatisfied, 50% responded that: Working difficulty, 26.32% have told discouragement to members and remaining 23.68% have told nothing else.

5.5 LEADERSHIP

Management of community forest depends on the leadership quality to a greater extent. Literature showed that failure of community forest is the consequences of bad leadership. So in this study, this variable is important to meet the objective of study. In the absence of good leadership forest is negatively affected in the management and development process. Following table shows the details of leadership status, causes of conflicts and further consequences.

Most of the respondents of Hukkafore community forests were dissatisfied towards the leadership. They blamed that their leadership is disqualified or incapable to handle and manage. Similarly some of the respondents of Malengeni community forest told that their leadership was less transparent. Few respondents have responded that leadership neglect their voices. The following table exposes their responses.

Table 5.6: Satisfaction of Members with Leadership and Cause of Dissatisfaction

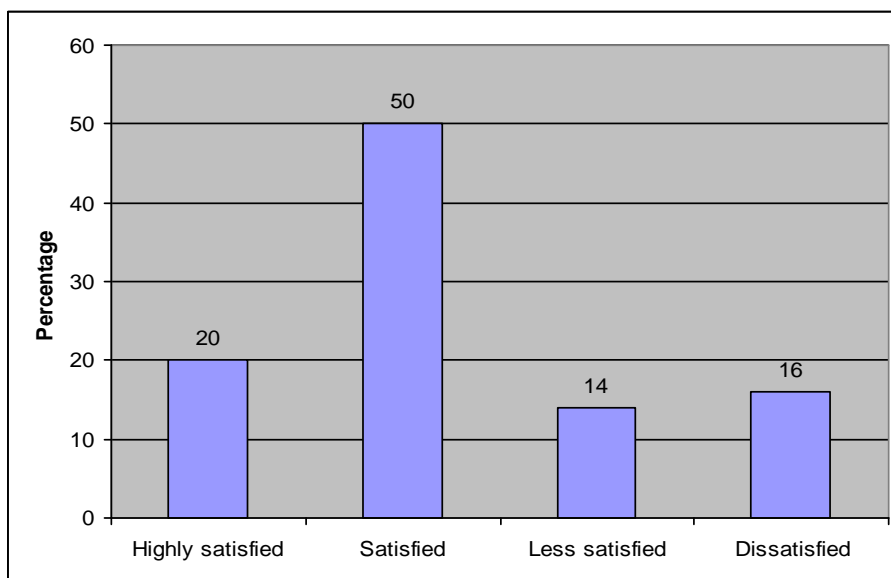
Level of Satisfaction	Number	Percent
Highly satisfied	20	20
Satisfied	50	50
Less satisfied	14	14
Dissatisfied	16	16
Total	100	100
Causes for less satisfaction and dissatisfaction		
Disqualified leadership	14	46.67
Less transparent	13	43.33
Neglect the voices of users	3	10
Total	30	100

Sources: Field Survey, July 2006

Table 5.6 shows that among the total respondents of sampled forests, 70% were satisfied with leadership but 30% respondents were not satisfied with leadership in aggregate. Among the dissatisfied, 46.67% respondents has told that leadership is not qualified and capable. Similarly 43.33% has said that leadership

is less transparent and remaining 10% respondents have told that leadership is neglecting the voices of the users. Following Bar chart shows the level of satisfaction of members with leadership.

Figure 5.1: Satisfaction Level of Respondents to the Leadership



Source: Table 5.6

Question was asked "what efforts have you done for good leadership in your Community Forest?" to know the management of leadership problems. According to the respondents, they have followed following process as far as practicable. The following table shows the results.

Table 5.7: Efforts For Good Leadership

Efforts/solution	Number	Percentage
Demanded transparency	10	33.33
Demand capable and qualified leadership	14	46.67
Nothing had done	6	20
Total	30	100

Sources: Field Survey, July 2006

Table 5.7 shows that 33.33% dissatisfied respondents demanded transparency, whereas, majority 46.67% demanded capable and qualified leadership and remaining 20% had done nothing. Among the dissatisfied user members of Hukkafore community forest most of the members demanded capable leadership for well management and development of forest. They claimed that is one of the hindrance for getting objective of the forestry programme.

5.6 FUND GENERATION AND MOBILIZATION

Sampled forests have been collecting fund from various sources such as charging of the forest product with members of user group and more charged out of the groups. Malengeni community forest has been earning some fund from selling herbal medicine such as 'Chiraito', 'Thulo Okhati', 'Hadchud' etc. Similarly other community forests also generating some funds from various sources. A question was asked "is fund mobilized transparently" to know the transparency status of the forest and their responses were the followings.

Table 5.8: Transparency of User Group Fund

Responses	Number	Percentage
Yes	29	29
No	43	43
Don't know	28	28
Total	100	100
Solution measures		
Demand income and expenditure	18	41.86
Discussion	10	23.25
Nothing had done	15	34.89
Total	43	100

Sources: Field Survey, July 2006

Table 5.8 shows that 28% were unknown about fund generation and mobilization. Among the respondents 43% told that transparency did not exist at user group fund. And remaining 29% respondents has claimed that there was

existed transparency in user group fund. But in this category most of the respondents belonged to executive committee members.

Most of the respondents of Malengeni community forest were dissatisfied towards transparency. In comparison to others, leadership of Malengeni community forest was non transparent. Except Hukkafore others were mobilizing their fund in community welfare e.g. school, street construction etc.

On the other hand, the respondents who claimed there is no transparency 23.25% had raised discussion at general assembly and 15% remained silent. But 41.86% respondents tried to solve through demanding income and expenditure of forest fund.

The conflict issue: transparency of user group fund has been affecting as a multiplier effect. Those, who told that there is no transparency were asked about the main consequences of conflict issue: transparency to the forest management and development. Their responses are in the following table.

Table 5.9: Main Consequences of Conflict Issue Transparency

Main consequences	Number	Percent
Discouragement to the members	19	44.14
Disagree with EC	8	18.60
Difficult to work	12	27.91
Nothing else	4	9.30
Total	43	100

Sources: Field Survey, July 2006

Table 5.9 reveals the main consequences of conflict issue: transparency of fund. Out of the total, majority 44.19% responded as a main consequence: members were discouraged towards the activities of community forest. Similarly, 18.60% have disagreed with the Executive Committee, 27.91% respondents expressed 'difficult to work' as a main consequence and Remaining 9.30% did not care about the consequences of conflict issue: transparency.

Most of the respondents of Malengeni community have responded that the main consequence of transparency conflict is discouragement to the members but at present this issue is totally solved because it is solved by presenting income and

expenditure of forest at the meetings of general assembly. Hukkafore, Patlechaur and Juke Saplange community forests were not much more affected by this issue.

5.7 FOREST PRODUCT DISTRIBUTION

Various Community Forests has been facing the problem on forest product distribution in the country since it's initiation. This was one of the major conflict issues of Juke Saplange community forest in the past because of unequal distribution. Only accessible people used more forest products but at present this problem has solved by negotiation among the members. Regarding the Malengeni, Hukkafore and Patlechaur community forests this is the minor issue because only a few portion of respondents were dissatisfied because of charging system of forest product such as fuel wood, timber etc. The following table clarifies furthermore.

Table 5.10: Satisfaction With Forest Product Distribution and Consequences of Dissatisfaction

Responses	Number	Percentage
Yes	68	68
No	32	32
Total	100	100
Main consequences		
Social disharmony	9	28.12
Unwillingness to participate	18	56.25
Disbelief with EC	5	15.63
Total	32	100

Sources: Field Survey, July 2006

Table 5.10 shows that among the dissatisfied respondents 56.25% have told unwillingness to participate community forest activities because of disproportion of forest product distribution, 28.12% have told social disharmony and remaining 15.63% have shown disbelief towards EC as a main consequence.

5.8 CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

Management of conflict is not a easy task. A question "What is your opinion for resolving existed conflicts in your community forest?" was asked to the members for their opinion. It would be the guideline for management of conflicts and for management of forest in a sustainable way. The following are the opinions for management of conflicts existed in Malengeni, Hukkafore, Patlechaur and Juke Saplange community forests.

Table 5.11: Major Opinions of Members For Existed Conflict Management

Opinions	Number	Percent
Negotiation and Compromise	8	8
Transparency maintenance	30	30
Increased awareness	12	12
Abolished favoritism and nepotism	7	7
Reformation of executive committee	11	11
Long term government policy	10	10
Provide forest products free of cost	5	5
Don't know	17	17
Total	100	100

Sources: Field Survey, July 2006

Table 5.11 shows that 17% members were unknown about what to do for resolving existing conflicts in their community forests. Similarly 30% members has told economic activities should be transparent, 11% have said executive committee should be reformed, 10% were in favour of long term government policy, 12% have told to increase awareness level. 7% respondents suggested to avoid favoritism/nepotism in EC formation, 8% have suggested for maintaining compromise/negotiation and remaining 5% members have suggested forest product should be provided free of cost to the members to resolve existing conflicts/dissatisfaction at the studied community forests.

5.8.1 METHODS OF CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

Methods of conflict management depends on the nature of conflicts and its surrounding environment. Methods for resolving conflicts differ from one community to another forest. Regarding the sampled community forests their conflict management methods were the following.

Table 5.12 Adopted Methods For Conflict Management

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Methods</i>
Non-transparency	Presentation of income and expenditure
Favoritism in EC formation	Discussion
Unequal Forest product distribution	Consensus
Boundary encroachment	Tried to solve through boundary measurement and separation but not solved
Leadership	Negotiation
DFO intervention	Dismissed
Dilemma of sustainable ownership	No methods adopted
Use right	No methods adopted

Sources: Field Survey, July 2006

Table 5.12 shows the adopted methods for existing conflict issues and adopted management methods of sampled community forests.

It is found that the users have tried to solve the boundary encroachment conflicts through boundary measurement and separation from other land but not managed. Major conflict issue: Non-transparency of user fund have managed by presenting income and expenditure. Similarly, the issue 'leadership' can not get any special method for Management even they followed negotiation between user members. But according to the key informants only some members are capable (to handle the forest) and even they themselves are unwilling to provide leadership.

The issue of internal conflict 'dilemma of sustainable ownership of forest' could not get suitable management methods. Still they were in confusion that 'is the ownership of forest will existed to them or not in the long run?'.

On the other hand, 'Discussion' method was adopted for resolving the issues of favoritism in executive committee formation and consensus method has been adopted for the issues of unequal forest product distribution.

One of the major issue of conflicts in Malengeni and Patlechaur community forests 'DFO intervention' was solved with out getting any methods. It means those conflicts were dismissed.

5.9 INTERVENTION OF HIGHER AGENCIES

Numerous community forests were highly suffered from higher agencies since its initiation. Literature shows that particularly, district forest office/officer creates the various issues of conflict on community forest. In this regard, both Malengeni and Patlechaur community were affected by the intervention of district forest officer. In 2054 B.S., district forest officer directed to resign to the president of Patlechaur community forest from his post by showing the cause of disbeliefness of users towards president. But president of that forest, neglected the direction because of false blame. Later, the issue was dismissed.

Simialrly in 2058 B.S., district forest office demanded the 40% income of the Malengeni community forest by mentioning the provision of forest act but forest reject the demand and responded that "we have very low income. It is insufficient for forest management and community development. At last this issue fo conflict also dismissed.

About asking the consequence of conflict issue: DFO intervention, they replied "our forest activities had stopped and increase discouragement instead of active participation".

5.10 INTERNAL CONFLICT

According to the president of Patlechaur community forest and other members of executive committee of user group, they were suffered from internal conflict to some extent i.e. dilemma/doubt/ambiguity towards the government policy. Most of educated and actively participated members have said "we have managed and

developed forest after handover. We have fulfilled forest coverage, grew trees but if government changed its policy, forest may not be in our hands”. therefore they told that government should provide long term policy and commitment to the community about the forest ownership in the long run.

Question asking about the impact of internal conflict they said “we could not tell how it is affecting directly but indirectly this dilemma is one of the hindrance for active participation of forestry activities. Except Patlechaur community forest, other community forests; Hukkafore, Malengeni and Juke Saplange have not faced such issue of forest conflict.

5.11 LEVEL OF CONFLICTS

In a paper entitled “community forestry in Nepal: an overview of conflicts” by K.B. Shrestha (1995) have categorized forestry conflicts in four levels and those are:

1. Conflicts between group or organization.
2. Conflicts between individual and group.
3. Conflicts between individual.
4. Conflicts within individual.

As like his classification, this study found all four levels of conflicts in different four community forest. The following table shows the issues of conflict and level of conflicts together.

Table5.13: Issues and Levels of Conflicts of Community Forests

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Levels</i>
Use right	Between villagers and executive committee
Executive committee formation	Between users
DFO intervention	Between DFO and executive committee
Boundary encroachment	Between users and executive committee
Forest product distribution	Between users
Leadership	Between president and users
Dilemma of sustainable ownership	Within users

Sources: Field Survey, July 2006

Table 5.13 shows that conflicts have existed at different four levels in the sample forests. Particularly conflicts within individual were existed in Patlechaur community forest. Remaining these levels of conflicts was existed in all four Malengeni, Hukkafore, Patlechaur and Juke Saplange community forest more or less.

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This is the study of conflict situation and management practice of Malengeni, Hukkafore, Patlechaur and Juke Saplang community forests. Socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the respondents with conflict issues, consequences of conflict issues, level of existed conflicts and methods of management is the main body of the study.

6.1 SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS

This study consists the conflict status of different four forests with socio economic and leading perspectives. In this regard malengeni community forest is leaded by male but Hukkafore female community is leaded female. On the other hand Patlechaur community forest is handled by higher caste community people but Juke Saplang community forest is leaded by lower caste people like Kami, Damai etc. The summary of the findings is the followings.

-) Major caste of the respondents of Malengeni, Hukkafore, Patlechaur and Juke Saplang CF were Gurung, Rai, Limbu and kami respectively.
-) Main religion of the respondents of Malengeni, Hukkafore, Patlechaur and Juke Saplang CF is Buddha, Kirat (Rai and Limbu) and Hindu respectively.
-) Majority (47%) of the members are from age group 30-40 years and minority (3%) are from 60-70 years age group. Average age is 36.4 years.
-) As per sex 72 Percent members were male and 28 Percent were female. And sex ratio 257.14.
-) Most of the respondents belonged to joint family (62%).
-) Most of the family have 7-9 members (52%). Average family size is 7.26.
-) As per educational level 36 Percent members were illiterate and 64 Percent were literate. Among literate majority 71.88 Percent were below

the primary level and only 10.93 Percent members have passed secondary and above.

- J Main occupation of the respondents were Agricultural (58%) Wage labour (16%), private job (2%), housewife (14%), business (5%), livestock rearing (4%) and politics (1%).
- J Ten percent members were landless and among landholders majority, 35% have land 20 to 40 Ropanies.
- J Monthly family income of the respondents is very low because 82% members earned less than 10,000 which is very low with comparison to the family size.
- J Regarding the livestock rearing 83 Percent respondents have reared livestock. Among them 55.42 percent members have less than 5 livestock.
- J Juke Saplange community forest were facing the conflict issue: use right since 8 years. Non-user villagers force to include them but executive committee had rejected them because forest could not maintain the population pressure. This is one of the unsolved conflict issue.
- J Because of passiveness and lack of education 13 Percent respondents were unknown about constitution.
- J According to the user members and key informants forest boundary encroachment problem has been facing particularly, in Patlechaur and Juke Saplange, Generally in the Malengeni and Hukkafore female community forest. But this problem could not solved even they tried to manage through boundary measurement and separation.
- J Regarding the case of executive committee formation 38% members were dissatisfied because of existence of nepotism, elite domination and missing qualified members.
- J In the case of leadership 30 Percent were less satisfied and dissatisfied respectively because of disqualified leadership, less transparency and neglecting voice of users members.

- J) Regarding the user group fund generation and mobilization 71 Percent members had responded that there was no transparency and some them were unknown therefore major conflict case of the forest was the case of lack of transparency.
- J) As regard to the forest product distribution 32 Percent members were dissatisfied because of charging system of forest products even for the members of the same Community Forest and dis-proportionality in sharing.
- J) According to the key informants, Malengeni and Patlechaur community forests had faced the conflict issue of DFO intervention, which disturbs forestry activities of the users.
- J) According to the key informants of Patlechaur community forest they were facing internal conflict. They were suffered by the dilemma of ownership of forest in the long run.
- J) Regarding to the levels of conflict, four levels of conflict is founded in the studied forests. Those are
 - Conflicts within individual (only on key persons of Patlechaur CF).
 - Conflicts between individual.
 - Conflicts between individual and group.
 - Conflicts between group/organization.
- J) Regarding the consequences of various conflict issues some of the cases were found minor such as; dilemma of ownership in the long run and some of the major cases were: use right, leadership and transparency. In total, main consequences of the existing conflicts to overall development of the forests were as follows.
 - a) Discouragement to the members
 - b) Difficulty for implementation of the Plans and Programmes
 - c) Social disharmony

d) Disbelief with Executive Committee

- J According to the opinion of the members for managing conflicts existed in the Community forests, Majority 30 Percent have emphasized for Transparency Maintenance. Similarly Reformation of Executive committee (11%), avoiding Nepotism in EC formation (7%), long term government policy (10%), Negotiation and compromise (8%) increased awareness (12%)etc. and 17% were unknown about management ideas.
- J Among various cases of conflicts, boundary conflict and conflict about use right is more complicated than others. Some of them in the process of solution and some issues were dismissed itself.

6.1.2 CONCLUSION

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From the findings of the study with regard to socio-economic and demographic background of the respondents and conflict management efforts this study has derived the following conclusion.

Because of lack of leadership quality Hukkafore community forest could not made any considerable progress with regard to the forest development/management thus leadership quality is essential for the forest management.

Literacy status and educational attainment is very low which is the main cause of conflict. Because of the lack of education, the level of awareness becomes very low. About 42 Percent members who were not associated with agriculture were found unable to fulfill their duties and responsibilities. Furthermore only 3 Percent members have private forest but only in small area therefore all of the members were heavily depended on community forest. Most of the members (83%) were rearing livestock and this practices has increased dependency to the forests.

Majority members (83%) are known about constitution of community forest but still some of them were in dilemma of forest ownership in the long term. Majority of the members were unknown about the management mechanism and other process of community forest.

Regarding the management method adopted by the users/members it is imitable and inspirable because they were following negotiation, compromise, consensus, presentation and discussion methods, that may be useful for other community forests highly affected by the various conflict issues.

Finally, sex and caste in the leadership role makes no differences in the forest management and improvement instead of that education and leadership quality plays a vital role. Similarly, development of forestry programmes is negatively co-related with volume of conflicts.

6.1.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of the findings of the study following recommendation are forwarded for the all round development of Community forests.

-) Literacy status and level of education of members should be increased more through the provision of Non-formal education and training etc.
-) Level of awareness should be raised because of the lack of awareness, culture of passiveness for participation is developing..
-) Livestock rearing should be discouraged in order to ensure forest protection.
-) Leadership capacity of the members should be developed particularly Hukkafore community forest so that they will be capable to manage the forest.
-) Main cause of the conflict is lack of transparency. Transparency should be maintained through showing all of the income and expenditure of the forest.
-) Methods adopted for resolving conflict are replicable. These methods are useful for conflict management of the other community forests in the country.

-) Regular monitoring and evaluation of the activities of the community forests should be done by involving user members.
-) Democratic process should be followed in the formulation of the executive committee.
-) Women should be encouraged to participate in decision making process of the community forest.
-) Fund of community Forest should be mobilized in income generating activities for the poor users.
-) Dilemma of users should be removed through counseling of higher agencies.
-) Interaction programme should be organized periodically for minimizing the volume of conflicts and better management as well.

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