

# **Women Participation in Community Forest Management**

**[A Case Study of Hangdewa VDC in Taplejung]**

**A Thesis**

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in Partial Fulfillment of Requirements for the Award of the  
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## **RECOMMENDATION LETTER**

This thesis entitled "**Women Participation in Community Forest Management [A Case Study of Hangdewa VDC in Taplejung]**" has been prepared by Ram Bahadur Gurung under my supervision in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Master of Arts in Rural Development at Tribhuvan University.

I forward this thesis for final evaluation and approval.

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## **APPROVAL LETTER**

This Thesis entitled "**Women Participation in Community Forest Management [A Case Study of Hangdewa VDC in Taplejung]**" submitted by **Ram Bahadur Gurung** has been accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development.

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## ABSTRACT

*Community forestry was introduced in Nepal in 1978. The Community Forestry approach has been highly successful for protection of forests in the hills of Nepal. The local user groups/ communities are responsible for the control, protection and management of the forests. Community forestry advocates strong community participation, bottom up planning and sustainable use of forest resources under this program, one million-hectares of forest land have been handed over to the community, up to 12,000 users groups, representing 1.4 million households in March 2003. Women are also the active users and members of most of the community forests. There are about 560 women user groups. Thus, women are providing an important role in sustainable development of community forests. However, their role is neither properly identified nor explored. This paper explores and analyzes women's role in community forestry for its sustainable development. It also highlights the constraints on maximum female participation in community forestry and focuses on possible ways for solving the problems faced by women in community forestry.*

*In order to open women's introvert nature, explore their attitude and ambitions, utilize women's knowledge and skills, address the obstacles and maximize the women's participation in CF management, equal efforts are expected from all stakeholders. Recommendations related to constitution reformation, policy, regularly and strategy are provided to policy making bodies. Implementation based recommendation such as involving women as EC member in adequate proportion even in major part folios, women mobilization in OP preparation and its periodic review, and disseminating CF related information among women etc. are targeted to CFUG. Liberate sensitization, dissemination and people's mobilization related recommendations are assigned to GO/NGOs.*

*People's participation especially the women's participation has been recognized as an important aspect of community forest management and development for the last decade. Women's participation is expected in all dimensions such as planning and decision-making, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and benefit sharing aspects. In this content this study was conducted in the community forest user group of Hangdewa VDC of Taplejung district with the aim of assessing women's participation in community forest management.*

*The study is descriptive in nature that includes survey and fact-finding inquiries on selected issues. In order to meet quantitative and qualitative*

*requirements, both primary and secondary source of data were used in the study, conducting household survey, focus group discussions; key informant interview and observation methods were used to collect primary data. Likewise, published and unpublished documents were reviewed to secondary infunction.*

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

*Te CFUG was mobilized more physical participation of women in community forest management. Despite some personal, family, social and policy level constraints, women were involved in CF management due to synergetic effects of self-inspiration and daily requirements of then first products.*

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## **ACRONYMS/ ABBREVIATIONS**

|      |   |                                |
|------|---|--------------------------------|
| FUG  | : | Forest User Group              |
| CF   | : | Community Forest               |
| FP   | : | Forest Product                 |
| HRD  | : | Human Resource Development     |
| OP   | : | Operational Plan               |
| MPFS | : | Ministry Plan For the Forestry |
| FRM  | : | Forest Resource Management     |
| EC   | : | Executive Committee            |
| WID  | : | Women in Development           |
| WAD  | : | Women and Development          |
| GAD  | : | Gender and Development         |
| PF   | : | Protect Forest                 |
| JFM  | : | Joint Forest Management        |
| HHs  | : | Households                     |

# CHAPTER - I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Community forestry was introduced in Nepal in 1978. The community forestry approach has been highly successful for protection of forests in the hills of Nepal. The local user groups communities are responsible for the control protection and management of the forests. Community forestry advocates strong community participation bottom up planning and sustainable use of forest resources. Under this program, one million hectares of forest land have been handed over to the community, up to 12.00 user groups, representing 1.4 million households in March 2003. Women are also the active users and members of most of the community forests. There are about 960 women user groups. Thus, women are providing an important role in sustainable development of Community forests. However, their role is neither properly identified nor explored. This paper explores and analyzes women's role in community forestry for its sustainable development. It also highlights the constraints, on maximum female participation in community forestry and focuses on possible ways for solving the problems faced by women in community forestry.

Nepal is very rich in terms of forest resources and bio-diversity. A broad range of eco-systems flourish on relatively small area land in Nepal. The forest resource has made a significant contribution to economic and social development of the country. Besides, Forests are indispensable as a life, support system for women in the hills and mountains, where agriculture, livestock and vegetation influence the ecology of the area and the lives of the local population. In Nepal, two categories of forests are found based on ownership. Those are private forest and national forest. National forest again

has five categories namely into government managed forest. Communities known as user groups. The main objective of the community forest is to achieve sustainable forest resources by converting accessible national forests into community forests in stage.

Forest is one of the most important natural resources of Nepal for its socio-economic development and peoples livelihood management of forest is its primitive stage. Nepal has agro based dominated economic system. Almost 78% populated based on agriculture in Nepal. (Population census 2002) is depend of on forest resources. Nepal is land locked country most of people depend on forest based fuel for cooking and others local workshop.

According to forest act, 2049, community forest means any specific part of National forest land over for local user group for the development preservation and utilization of forest.

Forest is one of the most essential natural resources in Nepal. Main purpose behind developing the forests in Nepal. Is to meet the requirement of timber, fuel protection, water conservation, wild life, recreation and artistic values and maintain ecological balance are environments purpose.

Forest provides 81% of the field consumption (as fuel wood) and more than 50% of the fodder for livestock (WECS, 1997). Forest have traditionally been used for cultural purpose. In recent years, some industries have developed, were use forest product as raw materials.

In Nepal total numbers of FUG (forest user group) are 13,967 total (community forest are 113899 handed over and total number of dept. of forest, 2005). Nepal has experienced and manage its common properly forest resources. None of them were said to be effective to them were said to be effective to control deforestation problem in Nepal. As consequences, government realized the need of peoples participation for the forest

management community forestry development model is launched from year 045-046 B.S. community forestry development programme is related with "Master plan of forestry sector 1988 A.D. the community forestry development program focus on people's participation of forest conservation, development and utilization (Baral, 2001). The participation of women in the utilization of forest communities is usually more than those of male. So, new rules and regulation for community forestry government of Nepal has made a provision to include at least one - third women members of committee in forest user committee. The master plan for forestry sector emphasize on extension approach, aimed at giving the confidence of good cutters and others. Participatory women, who actually make the daily management decision (Kharel, 1993).

The master plan for the forestry sector (MPFS/ 1983) emphasized people participation in forestry development, community forestry, private and household forestry, prevention and control of erosion use the forestry policy of the government in order no ranger one, land and rehabilitation of degraded lands.

Forest sector will be mobilized private, community and especially as the employment and main source of income of background male and females of rural areas. For this the proper change of progress and development of female will make in private sector and community related to the development management and utilization of the forest sector, especially female are involved in the collection of wood, timber, grass which are available form community forest so the compulsory provision of females participation in forest over group will be made (9th plan HMG 2055, Ashad).

After participation of women in community forest management there have been many changes because women always have been sincere forest for their work. After their participation protection and development of forest

was found good: So women play vital role for management of forest. This study aims to assess whether women themselves considered them are co-manager of local forest resources, particularly the CF management or they are imposed to become the manager. Likewise perception of women regarding the motivating factors and hindering factors that influences to involve in CF management to women. Finally, this study aims to analyze the involvement of women in various dimensions of CF management such type of study is beneficial for developing practiced plan, particularly in Taplejung VDC.

Forest is an important natural resource for rural development in Nepal. It contributes to development by providing forest products such as firewood, fooder timber herbs to rural communities, and by regulating atmospheric conditions. Though agriculture is the mainstay of livelihood of majority of rural households, this alone does not supply adequate foods throughout the year due to limited agricultural land available to them. Therefore, the rural households rely on multiple income sources and adopt a wide range of livelihood strategies for food security of many, forest resource is one of the important sources of livelihood means of the rural communities. Besides, forest are to sustain the agriculture and livestock rearing. The farming systems are dependent on forest resources for such products as fooder, feulwood, leat-litter for animal bedding and compost, timber, thatching materials, and other products. If the availability of these forest products declines, nutrient levels and soil structure cannot be maintained and this in turn results in dedine of production of agricultural products. Diminishing forest coverage also means declining in the availability of fuelwood and other products, which eventually affects the productivity level of agriculture.

On the other hand, forest has been the encroached mainly by cultivated land, an addition to other factors such as urbanization, roads etc.

conservation of forest resource is therefore a challenging. However, the government since 1957 has undertaken different efforts for planning and conservation of forest resource in the country. For instance, the forestry master plan has accorded high priority for biodiversity conservation, forest based enterprises, NTFPs and community forestry (FRSC, 1998). The forest Act 1993 and the forest rules and regulations 1995 have encouraged the community based management of forest resources. The Tenth Plan (2002-2007) has explicitly recognized the importance of management and trading of NTFPs in poverty reduction, biodiversity conservation and ecotourism development (NPC 2002).

This paper discusses the forest resource for rural development in terms of uses and importance of forest resource, and its distribution, impacts, factors of change, conservation and development policies and further development.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Study on the role of women's in community forestry is a relatively recent thrust in community based forest management. In the content of women's participation in CF management any from few years rational forest has been handed over to the user committee to manage and utilize it and women were only from around 1980s. Women user's faces several difficulties particularly believe to women's identification, effective penalty, enforcement and delivery effective forest management works. Similarly in sufficient resources cannot meet the demand of women. In male dominated society females may always dominated by male for their participation in CF management if this situation is not improved the existence of women will be soon out of image government of Nepal has allocated the huge budgeted on the name of women participation. But it has not been effective effort. The



number of women users group increasing enormous throughout the kingdom. It appears to play one of the leading roles to uplift the rural women and to stop the rapidly increasing deforestation process. It suddenly arise a challenging question to the nation is "What for the women community forestry and to when the programme for it is for the real women other or to elite women of the community.

So documentation of the living standard of the people now and then the community forester programme launched in the study area is needed on the basis agriculture rural development; employment child education and health. It is recilized to how the people regarding the accessibility and individual fund raised now and before the community forestry programme in a transport manner. It is have important to analyze the actual value of the forest against the subsidy given by the community forestry to control the over exploitation of the subsidy.

Nepal's women's are known as the most poor and disadvantage. So women's participation in community forestry program many helpful to increase economic status of women in society. It could be big help to case of poverty alleviate in the country. Due to actual rural poverty in the hilly area, the community has extended pressure on the forest for timber and fuel wood collection. Forest is the source of livelihood for poor and marginal. People during dry season, the have no employment in form land, so we might change in their protection being employed them in the forestry development activities through community forestry rather than poaching timber and fuel wood from the forest. Such employment program should reflect the community forestry strategies that can exactly uplift one rural livelihood with no less.

However, there has not been a systematic study in this regard in participation of women in national forestry. District forestry officers have

started monitor of financial resources of FUGS. So UFO can assess their financial status to support forest and other development activities. It is for the sustainable for rural women livelihood. So the study intends to assess the present status of FUGS financial source fund mobilization and management. System users group have accumulation fund and they have been using it for the varieties of purpose rather than the community prioritized development works. Are they utilizing to obtain possible optimal output of the resources? Exploring these will give clear guidelines for fund mobilization in sustainable manner to support the women's livelihood.

Deforestation is the main problem in our country and women's were the main users of forest product and to stop the illegal activities it is very necessary to participate women in CF management. Some studies have been made in different parts of Nepal about peoples participation in forest management. However there has only few study which examines the participation of women in the user committee and some recommendation to improve the organization and participation of women groups in forest resource management so to till this gap, this study play a vital role for forest management. So arastic changes are required in forest sector through women participation.

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The general objective of this study is to examine women's participation in community forestry management activities and in implementation of CF programs designed for the development and management to local forest resources and to determine the socio-economic condition of respondents at the study areas the specific objectives are as follows:

- To examine type and level of women's participation in community forest management.

- The assess women's participation in decision - making, implantation, monitoring and evaluation and benefit sharing process of community forest management.
- To identify the factors affecting in the participation of women in community forestry management.

## **1.4 Importance of the Study**

The study on women's participation in community forest management system has its own importance. It will examine the participation of women in the forest committee and one factors affecting their participation to fill this gap, this study will attempt to document the activities of women involved in forest resources management. This study will show that how community forest management system at Hangdewa VDC in Taplejung. This study will help to make policy for forest user in forest development activities, for extension community forest in successful way, for similar field workers and agencies (NGOs and INGOs) who want to work forest management activities.

## **1.5 Limitations**

Nepal is a multicultural, multi-linguistic nation. It is really difficult to cover the multi-cultural, multi linguistic population in the research for the student researchers. So, the study has some limitations. The study will be conducted on the Hangadeba VDC of Taplejung district. The research focus on how women are participation in community forestry, their attitude towards community forestry, their participation in decision making, participation in committee affecting factor for women's participation and implementation of operatial plan and CF activities.

## **1.6 Organization of the Study**

The study report is presented in the sequential flow of acknowledgment, table of contents, list of maps and illustrations and chapters. Chapter first covers introductory portion including background, statement of the problems, objectives of the study and significance of the study.

Chapter second mainly deals the review of literature where all possible relevant information's was consulted and findings of the similar types of research have been cited. This chapter deals on the literature reviewed by the researcher related to the community forest for the upliftment of disadvantaged groups in the Nepalese society. Regarding the literature review a number of published and unpublished different reports and other books have been consulted to proceed this research. The conceptual and theoretical frame work and operational definitions also have been included in this chapter.

Chapter third explains research methodology including population, sample size, techniques, research design, nature of data, methods of data collection, data collection techniques and data collection tools.

Chapter four is related to description of study area and general information of the study area. Chapter five related with socio-economic characteristics of the respondents including socio and economic aspect of the study with women in community forest management, women participation in different community forest activities.

Chapter six includes summary, conclusion and recommendation of the study.

# **CHAPTER - II**

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

### **2.1 Concepts**

The relevant literature regarding forest resource particularly community forest management, peoples participation and women participation in community forest mentioned in the published and unpublished documents will be reviewed in this chapter. For this purpose various books, magazine, working be consulted on the wholes, management issues on forest resource as well as people's participation will be reviewed. (Pradhan, 2008)

Forest is an important natural resources for rural development in terms forest products for supporting livelihoods of the rural people, regulation of atmospheric conditions, and maintenance of biodiversity in Nepal. However the forest has been the most threading resource due to encroachment by different development activities such as the expansion of agriculture, urbanization, roads, etc, which has affected not only on diminishing of biodiversities but also on decreasing productivity level of agriculture and causing hardship in livelihood practices. The government policies have accorded high priority to conserve, develop and planning of the forestry through adopting different measures. However, some of the forestry programmes have ignored their possible side effects, particularly on the livelihood pattern. In Nepal, the basic problem is to use of the existing data sources with no ways for the analysis for forest resources as the information has been generated by different methods.

Community forestry was introduced in Nepal in 1978. The community forestry approach has been highly successful for protection of forests in the hills of Nepal. The local user groups/ communities are responsible for the

control, protection, bottom up planning and sustainable use of forest resources. Under this program, one million - hectares of forest land have been handed over to the community, up to 12,000 user groups, representing 1.4 million households in March 2003. Women are also the active users and members of most of the community forests. There are about 560 women user groups. Thus, women are providing an important role in sustainable development of community forests. However their role in community forestry for its sustainable development. It also highlights the constraints on maximum female participation in community forestry and focuses on possible ways for solving the problems faced by women in community forestry. (Shrestha, 2004)

According to the new forest policy of 1990s, any part of forest can be handed over to local community for its management; conservation and utilization in which land is still owned by government and trees are owned by community. The community has full authority to control over resources and to decide conservation, management and utilization plan. All the revenues and benefits derived from the community forest go to the community fund community can decide income and expenditures for the various rural development purposes without any approval of local authorities.

## **2.2 Importance of Community Forestry**

Some of the important features of community forestry policy are as follows:

- \* All the accessible forests can be handed over to users.
- \* The forests user groups (FUGS) have to manage the forests as per the approved constitution and operational plan.

- \* Any national forests suitable to be converted into community forest (CF) will not be assigned to other such as household forest.
- \* District forest officers (DFO) can land men forest to FUG.
- \* FUGs can use surplus funds in any kinds of community development works.
- \* The FUG can fix the price of forestry products irrespective of government royalty.
- \* The FUG can plant long-term cash crops without disturbing the main forestry crops. FUG can transport any forest products simply by informing the DFO.
- \* FUG will not be disturbed by political boundary while handing over the forests.
- \* The FUG can establish forest based industries.

**a) Identification / Investigation Phase:**

During the identification phase, discussion was held with the community members about community forestry development process and handing over of community forests to the local community. For this, forest areas have been identified and verification of the user households has been carried out by the forest department staffs.

**b) Forest: User Group Formulation Phase:**

After the identification and verification forest user-groups have been formed. The forest user group prepared the constitution for the community forest and registered it in the district forest office.

**c) Operational Plan Preparation Phase:**

Operation plan proposal, which includes forest management, institutional development of user group. Similarly, various activities on

institutional development have been accepted after discussion among the user group members.

**d) Implementation Phase:**

After the acceptance of operational plan of community forestry, the user group implements it. However, necessary technical assistance has been provided by the HMG officials to the user group. Similarly, various activities on institutional development have been carried out.

**e) Review and Revision Phase:**

Revision and review of constitution and operational plan of community forestry has been preformed if required. Similarly, monitoring and supervision has been carried out from the management committee, forest user group and district forest office (Shrestha, 2004).

## **2.3 Forest Management Practice and Peoples Participation on the World**

Forest is the major natural resource of the world. The forest is also called mother of nature various environmental consequences such as ozone layer depletion global warming, acid rain, loss of biodiversity etc are margining with the depletion of forest resources. Realizing its seriousness, emerging with the depletion of forest resources. Realizing its seriousness, international community has emphasized in forest resource management.

Like in Europe and America, forest protection with the involvement of local people initiated since 1980 in South Asia. Fox example, under the joint forest management (JFM) in India, the degraded forests were given to community for management and regenerates. Similarly in Africa (Gambia and Tanzania), attentions was shifted to community based natural resource management. The emerging trend in Africa was to support the custodial interest of the forest adjacent community.



Involvement of communities in forest management is now a significant feature of national forest policies and practice throughout the world. Government of various countries are increasingly decentralizing and turning of local communities to assist them in protecting and managing state owned forests. Governments of various countries have supposed greater reliance on resources at community levels is a potential solution to a growing resource problem (FAO, 2001), community based management system are still very much in a stage of evolution. In fact, community based approach is an major challenge in many places due to little experience in collaborative management particularly in mobilization of people in decision making and implementation at local level.

## **2.4 Women's Participation**

Involvement of women is crucial for the success of community forestry women's are the major collectors of forest product. Such as fuel wood, fodder, fruits and grass etc. They cook and do most of modestic works. Therefore, it is they who suffer the social and economic consequences, of deforestation, most directly having to spend more and more time and walk longer distances in search of this essential forest product. However they should not be considered in isolation and total community participation should be effected (Kayastha, 1991).

If the forest are to be successfully managed by local users, then women mostly participate, they are responsible for collecting most of the fuel wood, fodder, leaf compost and bedding, as well as controlling grazing. The men, on the other head generally take care of cutting and selling timber, and of administrative decisions about the forests.

Women gave worked successfully on both annexed and all female forestry communities in Nepal. Village men and women, and professional

farmers generally agree that women are capable of doing committee work or of learning how to do it.

Indicators that women's participation will help the forests first and women second, women will have to give to forestry before forestry gives to them Siddique (1989a) further writes that, given that it is essential to involve in development and implementing workable management plans, there has to be targeted effort to draw them. Because of nature of Nepalese society and one position of men and women in it, often strategies be unworkable. (Siddique, 1989a)

Further writes, following the recent concern of development professionals and environment activities regarding effectiveness and sustainability forest programs. The participation of women in forestry is being recognized essential to forestry. By the same token, forestry is increasingly being seen as essential to the advancement of women in rural community, where life and subsistence are directly dictated by nature and quality of available renewable natural resources women for forestry and forestry of women both are valid, highly desirable and non introductory concepts. (Siddiqui, 1992)

Experiences is that women have worked successfully in both mixed and all female forest committee in rural Nepal. Village men and women and professional foresters now generally agree that women are capable of committee management she recommends that women's membership of forest committee be promoted primarily through extension activities. According to her, women should participate as much as possible in forest management committee. (Inserra's, 1988)

Presents a case study on "Women's participation of forest committees in which is an attempt to understand what kind of factors influence the effectiveness of forest committee and to encourage women to be involved. In

the strategy developed for improving the effectiveness of forest committees, the following aspects are discussed. (Parasi et al., 1987)

- Discussion prior to formation
- Motivation
- Selecting committee members
- Entering good making procedures
- DFO support
- Improving attitudes
- Motivating women
- Defining the role of women
- Selecting appropriate women numbers
- Despite common greets and interest, women suffer disadvantages in level of exposure to education, employment and format decision making in Nepal.

Reveals that if women are involved in every stage of CF management planning process, the chances of their voices, voicing their opinion and making people listen to them are increased. When committees are formed without female representation decision usually fail to recognize women's needs and constraints. (Kharel, 1993)

Write that women's participation in CF has so far mostly in terms of labour contribution. They were not formulated Brahman and Chhetri women development division (1999) writes that women participates have removed all male members from the community forestry users group in. world member 4 of makes VDC. They again may that forest is small and the community forest user group was organized some years ago there almost all the members were men and they were managing it. But nobody was taking

are of it. However, women groups? Committee were organized through production credit for rural women and had noticed that trees were illegally cut down and sold in the market. As a result, trees for fodder and fuel were decreasing and suffering of women were increasing. The committee started to watch and took help from some males as well. (Chhetri and Rana, 1995)

"Community forest means a national forest handed over to user group or its development, conservation and utilization for the collective interests." The act has given priority to the CF as "National forest suitable to hand over to the user's group a CF shall not be handed over as leasehold forest." Similarly the act has provided major status and role to the FUG. The FUG is a registered group in District Forestry Office (DFO). The user group is an autonomous corporate body having continuous session. Hence, it can prepare work plan for the development and conservation of the forest and utilizing selling and distributing the forest produce by maintaining the environment balance. (Forest act, 1993)

The CF approach has streamlined the users in FRM at local level. By following its unique philosophy. Women came in front line regarding FRM in different parts of the country. first of all, women of 26 hrs of Bartheli VDC of Kavrepalanchok district forest all women FUG and managed 2.9 hectares of land in all women FUG of Chhanare Siureti, Bokhim VDC of Bhojpur district, male take 119 ha forest for management successively, the rate of formation of all women FUG and women member in mixed group increased significantly. Women have managed Smallest (0.22 ha in Bedikhel Lalitpur) to biggest (527 ha in Budhabare, Dhankuta) CF as their needs and managerial capability.

Regarding women's participation, data (HMG/ DOF, 2003) shows, that currently 613 (4.8%) FUGS are handled by all women group. Similarly, 33567 (21.5%) women are working EC member in different FUGS. The

number of formation of all women FUGs is higher (97 FUGS) in FY 053/054 and higher in percentage (9%) in FY 2058/059. The percentage of formation of all women. FUG is optimistically increasing in recent years Nepalese women have shown equal concern in forest resource and environmental management. For example, women handled FUG, named Malati of Saptari district showed capability and won ward Ganesh Man Singh Ran Puraskar, by conserving the CF efficiently (ibid).

Number of studies has been conducted in different part of the Nepal looking at women's participation in forest management on the basis of previous studies, we can say that women are the real used and manager of the forest resource trend of women's involvement and capability has been increasing in CF management except some successful examples, they need support from men and forestry institution present study area, there is not conducted any study focusing purely on women's participation. So it is expected that, this study will fulfill the gap of the study.

## **2.5 Operational Definitions of the Variables**

community forestry: Forested or degraded forest level owned by the government but formally handed over to a group of villages for its protection, management and utilization.

Forest Management: It is defined by fisher: as a set of technical and social arrangement involvement in the management of forest including the protection consumption and distribution of forest products.

People's participation: people participation is the involvement of people in the substantive and procedural process of assessing, monitoring and evaluating the project and activities that affect and benefit them. In other word it is the intended beneficiaries' involvement in decision making process is called peoples participation.

Household / Family: Household or family has been used interchangeably. It is a social group consisting of married couple and their children living together and sharing a common kitchen.

Forest Users Group: All member of community that regularly use a forest to meet their household used, organize themselves as a group to protect manage and utilize the forest.

**Users Group Assembly:** It is a gathering of the peoples who are the direct users of the forest to discuss or prepare a plan or to discuss forest management activities.

Users Committee: It is a committee formed from the uses groups to protect, develop and utilize the forest products.

# **CHAPTER - III**

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This chapter describes the methods adopted in the study. This chapter deals with methodology employed for the study where criteria for selection of the study area and respondents, sampling procedure, data collection and methods of data analysis are discussed.

### **3.1 Population**

This study included of all those women who were involved in community forestry particularly in Hangdewa VDC of Taplejung district. The total population of in this VDC is 3,848 The total number of sample was hundred fifty sample were selected from ward number 1 and 2, 3 and 4 of Hangdewa VDC respectively, by using random sampling. The data was collected from the women's who were available at the time and interested.

### **3.2 Sample Size and Techniques**

Household from the each settlement included in the sample on the weight basis of the respective settlement. The researcher had made a preliminary visit to the study site order to identify the representative settlement for study.

The household was the sampling unit of the study. A total of 100 household was the sample. Size in the preliminary visit to the study site, the each settlement have the following number of total household had been identified. Simple random was applied while choosing the respondents.

### **3.3 Research Design**

Exploratory as well as descriptive research design was performed for this research. However, exploratory modes of methodology dominates over

the later. Besides, the study also examined the trend of awareness, participation, advantage group, disadvantage groups, stakeholder, experiences, size, existing condition and the investigation of explored findings was described.

### **3.4 Nature and Source of Data**

On the basis of nature, both qualitative and quantitative data was agglomerated. This primary data was collected from the interview, observation, schedule etc. Agglomerated during the field work are the primary data to be generated. Similarly the secondary data was also used for the study which was collected from VDC for the study which was collected from VDC record: published and unpublished literature like books, journals, articles, research reports and dissertation, are the secondary data needed during the study.

### **3.5 Methods of Data Collection**

To collect the required information the researcher has visited the selected households for household survey and filled up the questionnaire. for the further and supplementary information, interview with women of related area, focus group discussion at settlement, case study and observation method have been carried out.

#### **3.5.1 Data Collection Techniques**

##### **a) Household Survey**

The researcher went to study site and filled up the questionnaire from respondents to get such primary data the researcher conducted door to door visit with the member of this community forestry.



### **b) Interview with Key Informants**

To have reliable data investigator collected from key informant using the semi or unstructured interview method. To make the reliable data, interview have been taken as cross checking from the stakeholders.

### **c) Focus Group Discussion**

Focus group discussion will be conducted with the members who are involved in skill development training, members who are involved in such training and non-Dalits. The gender proportion and women status will also be maintained in focus group discussion.

## **3.5.2 Data Collection Tools**

Within above maintained techniques, following tools have been implemented for the collection of data.

### **a) Questionnaire**

Structured questionnaire was prepared to generates the realistic accurate data from household survey of the respondent; To make favourable situation, I had tried to stimulate the people to share information without any hesitation and heartily requested to fill the questionnaire by them.

### **b) Check List**

Check list is also important tool of the data collecting. This tools was focused on the various aspect of women participation, level of awareness, participation condition, sustainability condition, skill development training and problem facing and more issues.

# **CHAPTER - IV**

## **DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREA**

This chapter deals with general information of the study area, location physical settings, climate, demographic characteristics of the study area and socio-economic characteristics of the community members. Such as population composition, age, sex, educational status, economy, infrastructure facilities and general status of people in the study area.

### **4.1 General Information**

The study was conducted community forestry user group lies in Hangdewa VDC. The climate is mainly tropical that resulted the majority of hand wood sisaoo, Khayar, simal in the forests. the forest located southern part of VDC. CFUGS exist consisting 20.1 sq. km. forest area in VDC different types of wildlife such as deer, leopard, wild pig, Phino and birds are available in the forest. Total population of Taplejung district is 1,20,053 and forest coverage area 1.19 ha/ person. Basically, rivers fertile agriculture land, forests etc. are major natural resources of the VDC, fertile agriculture land has strongly supported to agriculture and animal husbandry as the main and technology occupation of the people.

Facility of electricity is available throughout the VDC. The VDCs includes primary, secondary and private colleges, similarly a primary health center Telephone lines also available in the Hangdewa VDC.

Hangdewa VDC contains 16,000 population involved in community forest 7475 male, and out of them female 8525 female. Majority of the population of VDC speak Nepali Majority of the population is of Hindu religion.

## 4.2 Economic and Social Users of Community Forest

As discussed above, forest resource provides products such as fuel wood, fodder timber, and NTFPs upon which rural communities depend for domestic use, livelihood means and sources of income, agricultural activities, and industrial use. The amount of wood fuel use varies considerably between rural and urban areas, mainly owing to differences in population size and stage of development. Fuelwood use is common in rural areas as the main source of household energy, while charcoal is mainly used in urban and peri-urban areas. The production of 1 tonne of charcoal requires approximately 6m<sup>3</sup> of wood. The major energy and - use is cooking in households. The non-household uses are room heating, water heating and factories, such as brick kilns, bakery, raw sugar (Chaku, Gand), charcoal preparation, and hotels and restaurants.

Wood fuels come from variety of supply sources (Table 1). Natural forest is the principal source of fuelwood. However, considerable amounts of wood fuels are estimated coming from non-forest areas, such as village lands, agricultural land, shrub lands, trees on farm, dung and agriculture by-products.

**Table 4.1 Projected Biomass Fuel Supply (000tonnes) in Nepal**

| Source              | 1991 | 2001  | 2011  |
|---------------------|------|-------|-------|
| Natural forest      | 3853 | 3758  | 4285  |
| Shrub lands         | 290  | 351   | 402   |
| Plantation          | 419  | 1420  | 2657  |
| Trees on farm       | 2916 | 3694  | 4868  |
| Dung                | 1149 | 1310  | 1390  |
| Agriculture residue | 1041 | 1613  | 1905  |
| Total               | 9668 | 12146 | 15507 |

*Source: MPFSP (1988)*

Energy consumption in Nepal is excessively dependent on fuelwood. This represents 78 percent of the total fuel consumption. The consumption fuel wood in rural areas is over 94 percent of the total fuel consumption (Pradhan and Pradhan 2006). This compares to 58 percent and 82 percent energy supplied by fuelwood of rural household energy consumption in Pakistan and the Philippines respectively. The per capita fuel wood consumption for the country is estimated to be 1 cubic meter (600 kg) Perannum (ADB/ HMG/N, 1982 cited in Pradhan and Pradhan 2006). The widespread use of fuelwood in rural areas is attributable to various reasons. Fuel wood is often the cheapest and most accessible form of energy supply. This is one of the cheapest and most accessible form of energy supply. This is one of the reasons for the location of villages. The Tarai forests provide most of the fuelwood, since they are easily accessible. Secondary, excessive use of fuelwood is mainly due to lack of alternative energy sources. For instance, only 2.3 percent rural household have used kerosene for household energy as compared to 36 percent urban households.

Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) are other important products of the forests and their associated areas. The people living surrounding the forests extract NTFPS for foods, medicines and other household uses. NTFPs constitute an important source of livelihood for the rural people. The rural people as employment and income source have adopted collection of NTFPs for several years. Some of the important NTFPs are alaichi allo, amala, amalbed, amareso, barro, bhang (hemp) bhutkesh, bhyakur, bikhiara, bojho, chiraito, adlchini, niuro, harro, jatamashi, jhyall, kurilo, lokta, majitho, nigalo, hirmasi, unio, utis, yarshagumba of these, some of NTFPs, including yarshagumba, guchi chyau (mushroom). Jatamashi are the high value medicinal and food products (Banskota and Pradhan 2007). Flows of

most of these products take place particularly from the western mountains to India via important Nepalese market place.

Recreational activities such as picnic and hunting, and the cultural and religious activities take place in protected forest areas. It is to be noted that most of the protected forest areas are of religious importance, such as gods and temples, clan worships, etc.

# **CHAPTER - V**

## **DATA ANALYSIS**

### **5.1 Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Respondents**

The socio-economic characteristics of FUG have both direct and indirect effects on community forest management. Important among such characteristics are educational level, ethnicity/cast, land holding, educational level, livestock population, age structure and occupation. Social characteristics, such as high literacy percentage, small household size and less ethnic diversity among FUG, have generally positive impacts on the process of forest management. (Karki et al., 1994:113-114). Economic characteristics, such as small land holding and high livestock holding have a negative impact on the forest (Gajurel et al., 1987). The section therefore describes and analyses the socio-economic characteristics of the sampled FUG and respondents.

#### **5.1.1 Social Aspect**

Basically caste, religion, population, family pattern and education were considered under social situation of the study area. Therefore, situation regarding these issues are discussed and analyzed in the study.

##### **5.1.1.1 Case/Ethnicity**

The study area possess less diverse in caste/ethnicity composition. In the uses of Shiswar buffer zone community forest covers the majority population by Gurung, Brahman and Chhetri, and other castes is given in table

**Table 5.1 Caste/ Ethnicity of the Household**

| S.N. | Caste/ethnicity | No. of HHS | Percentage |
|------|-----------------|------------|------------|
| 1.   | Gurung          | 30         | 30         |
| 2.   | Brahman         | 25         | 25         |
| 3.   | Limbu           | 25         | 25         |
| 4.   | Chhetri         | 20         | 20         |
|      | Total           | 100        | 100        |

*Source: Field Survey 2008.*

Having domination of Balance population (30%) in the study area, almost users Biogas and rural wood way for cooking few far man and livestock purposes. Circumstances Brahman (25%), Limbu (25%) and Chhetri (20%) used fuel wood for cooking food for man and livestock purposes in the study area.

### **5.1.2 Educational Status of Respondents**

For the study purpose, users were broadly classified in to two categories such as literate and illiterate. During the study the educational status respondents was also studied separately. Literate people and respondents of the study area were further classified according to their level of education, which is given in table 5.2.

**Table 5.2 Educational Status of Sample Household**

| S.N. | Level of Education    | Male/Female | Percent |
|------|-----------------------|-------------|---------|
| 1.   | Illiterate            | 35          | 35      |
| 2.   | Primary               | 25          | 25      |
| 3.   | Secondary             | 20          | 20      |
| 4.   | Intermediate +2       | 15          | 15      |
| 5.   | Above intermediate +2 | 5           | 5       |
|      | Total                 | 100         | 100     |

*Source: Field Survey 2008.*

According to above table the literacy rate of the study area is found 60%, which is higher than national literacy rate 53.7% (CBS, 2002). Higher literacy rate among user found positively determined the level of awareness in serious descriptive of community forest management such as forest protection, without and development. Among the literate people majority of them are just literate and minimal no have got higher education.

### 5.1.3 Age Structure

Age distribution of population has an important role in planning, economic and social development. Age characteristics of population describe the social aspects of community like aging of population, dependency, social responding are often different is aspect to their age.

The dissertant has categorized age structure of respondents in to main four parts. In first respondents belonging 20-30 years old, second part respondents belonging to age 31-40 years old 3<sup>nd</sup> part of respondents belonging to age 41-50 years old and fourth part of respondents belong to age above 50 years old.

**Table 5.3 Distribution of Age Structure of Sampled Respondents**

| Age          | No. of Male | No. of Female | Total | Percent |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------|---------|
| 20-30        | 15          | 20            | 35    | 35      |
| 31-40        | 10          | 13            | 23    | 23      |
| 41-50        | 14          | 17            | 31    | 31      |
| Above 50 yrs | 6           | 5             | 11    | 11      |
| Total        | 45          | 55            | 100   | 100     |

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

The above table shows any the respondents 15 male respondent 20-30 years old, and only 6 male occupied above 51 years old. In female, 20-30 years old and above 50 years same 20 and 5 female occupied. In CFUG



respondent age group 31-40 are very interested to tack about forestry progress and they play main role to protect, manage other activities in age group above 51 they are sincere about forest activities.

## 5.2 Economic Aspect

This section deals about the land holding pattern food sufficiency status, occupation, livestock raising practice and physical facilities of the sample household.

### 5.2.1 Landholding Size

To study the wild economic condition of the respondents, the researcher has developed an indicator for assessing landholding size. It was reverted that all the agriculture land.

**Table 5.4 Distribution of Sample HHS by Land Holding**

| Land size        | No. of HHS | Percentage |
|------------------|------------|------------|
| up to 10 Ropani* | 35         | 35         |
| 11 to 15 Ropani* | 25         | 25         |
| 16 to 20 Ropani* | 25         | 25         |
| Above 20 Ropani* | 15         | 15         |
| Total            | 100        | 100.00     |

*Source: Field Survey 2008.*

\*Ropani is a unit of land main in Nepal 1 Ropani is equivalent 50.3645sq.ft. Table shows that majority of people of study area are holding less other no Ropani. Land has a kind of symbolic meaning of will being for e.g. who holds more and high quality of land is accepted as rich. Due to not having sufficient agriculture land most of the people are dependent on forest resources.

### 5.2.2 Livestock Population

Livestock are essential component of rural livelihood and agriculture in rural areas depends on livestock. Most of the respondents of SBC FVGs were found to process livestock. From the sample FUGs cows, buffaloes and goats were the most common livestock. In FUGs most of the respondent found having 2 or 3 cows, buffaloes, some respondents found having more 6 who were the businessman of the milk and dairy products.

**Table 5.5 Respondents According to Livestock Population**

| Livestock population | CFUG |        |       |            |
|----------------------|------|--------|-------|------------|
|                      | Male | Female | Total | Percentage |
| 0-3                  | 17   | 20     | 37    | 37         |
| 4-6                  | 20   | 25     | 45    | 45         |
| Above 6              | 8    | 10     | 18    | 18         |
| Total                | 45   | 55     | 100   | 100        |

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

The above tables shows that is both study areas many respondents, who found having cattle less than six. In CFUG out of 100HHs 45 were found to have 4-6 cattle, 37 see found 0-3 cattle and 18 HHs were found above six cattle.

### 5.2.3 Occupational Status

The word occupation literally denotes the primary work of an individual. Occupation of land of the have hold respondents. This part has categorized the occupation of respondents in to three parts. Like agriculture (family), service and business main occupation of the respondents is agriculture and economy of the respondents is dominated by agriculture.

**Table 5.6 Occupational Status of Respondents**

| <b>Occupation</b> | <b>Male</b> | <b>Female</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|-------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| Agriculture       | 25          | 30            | 55           | 55             |
| Service           | 12          | 18            | 30           | 30             |
| Business          | 8           | 7             | 15           | 15             |
| Total             | 45          | 55            | 100          | 100            |

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Most of the respondents have expressed that they land have another profession, although agriculture is the most important. In CFUG majorities of the respondents are engaged in agriculture which is 55%, out of 100 respondents 25 are engaged in service where 12 male and 18 female are engaged in service act of 100 respondents 8 male and 7 female are engaged in business.

### **5.3 Economy of the Study Area**

#### **5.3.1 Agriculture**

Nepal is predominantly agricultural country with almost 80% of its total economically active population engaged in agriculture. Agriculture is the main source of livelihood for the people and backbone of the economy.

The main economy activities or the employment of the people of study area Hangdewa VDC are agricultural. As in other parts of the carry, the people of study are mainly subsistence females because they produce almost grains for consumption not for purpose of business. The agriculture depends on rain.

#### **3.3.2 Types of Land and Land Holding**

The main occupation of study area is agriculture but suitable land is not sufficient. Maize and Teri produced in Bari where other crops cannot be growth in Khet summarized and a little no. of maize and Tori produced in

Khet paddy crops are produced in Khet, other type of land in this area is Khar Bari, where old type of grass with is used for made temporary house.

In these areas some of land transferred from owners for a certain period of time for Bandhaki. The selling and buying of land is very save in case of Bandhaki land, the person who gives loan accepts the land us manage and he does not take interest on his loan, the utilizes and land till the loan is natured of he could not able to return loan, the land is owed by sale as a legal process. This system is practiced in CFUGs.

### **5.3.3 Parma System and Wage Labor**

Parma is the reciprocal relationship of family labor. Parma system is also called labor exchanging labour. This system is popular among related family and among small farmers.

According to Bajaracharya: (1994). Parma is the reciprocal exchange of family labor. Each year particularly during times of planting and harvesting every household mobilizes labor from other households in addition no their own family labor and an agreement is made between reveal household to week in each household in turn on a reciprocal basis. In the study area, women are the main source of Parma. The laborane paid on the basis of the amount of work done. In other wards labor may be engaged on a contact basis where by an entire household will work collectively with payments male to the group on the basis of the amount of the work household even though the contribution of male/female as wage labores varies with the crop, there is usually a higher constitution from men than women. Women are generally lined for transplanting; weeding, applying manure and harvesting while men are mostly employed for plugging and threshing.

In the study area wage labor system is being popular day by day. The contribution of female as hired labores is higher than that of male. Female go

for wage laborers in the entire village the laborers are paid wages in terms of money. In the study area they go for wage labor when they finished their agricultural tasks, but the professional wage laborers to go their necessary.

#### **5.3.4 Indigenous Profession**

In fact the rural economy is based on the indigenous professions. Indigenous profession is that profession which is transmitted from to generation to generation. This type of profession is depends on different cast or ethnic group. In the study are Brahman the dominant and followed by middle cast and lower cast.

Although the society has been changing crazy day, the higher castes always encourage to lower cast to follow their own profession. In conclusion, they could preserve on protract their own culture which helps to reflect their own original identity. Indigenous profession also varies from generation to generation as a form of agriculture profession.

#### **5.3.5 Establishment of Women (Ama) Group and Young Men's (Yuba Club) Group**

In study area on the one hand women have established a women's (Ama) group) the married women's between the ages of 15-45 years old is allowed the membership of the group. They have developed their own norms or rules. They accumulate fund to mobilize for women's creation. By this way they can help disadvantage group.

On the other hand you men have establish a Yuba Club. They play a vital role to develop their village in various ways. They collect the fund from their activities such as by playing Bhaili, collect Chande etc. They spent this money to made water pump, for construction of road and other social work. In this way we see that both groups play a important role for social development.

## 5.4 Women in Community Forest Management

This is the main section of the study. Basically it concerns with the specific objectives and their corresponding results. The result one totally based on the data collected from primary and secondary sources. Four dimensions of participation such as women's involvement in decision making and planning process, implementation process, monitoring and evaluation process and benefit sharing are discussed as their participation in community forest management. Take dimensions include varies sub dimensions. However, only common but important issues of each dimensions are considered while analyzing the results. Likewise results of previous studies are compared with the results of this study.

### 5.4.1 Composition of the Member of Forest User Committee at the Selected Community User Group

In CFUG every executive member of the forest user committee was selected and approved by FUG, The are 10 members and among them 5 male and 5 female members.

**Table 5.7 Distribution of CFUGC According to Caste/Ethnicity**

| Caste/ethnic group | Executive Members |        | Total |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------|-------|
|                    | Male              | Female |       |
| Brahman            | 3                 | 2      | 5     |
| Chhetri            | 2                 | -      | 2     |
| Tharu              | -                 | 2      | 2     |
| Rai                | -                 | 1      | 1     |
| Total              | 5                 | 5      | 10    |

*Source: Field Survey, 2008.*

### 5.4.2 Age and Martial Status

A CFUG out of 10 no body are between 20-30 years old 2 member are between 31-40, 2 members of 41-50 and reaming 6 are above 50 years old. All members in this CFUGs are married. Marital status exempld as imported characteristics in selecting for committee members, because married women are socially and nature. Moreover, married women comprise a more stable part of the community.

**Table 5.8 Age and Married Status CFUG Members of Selection**

| Age group | No. of Members | Percentage |
|-----------|----------------|------------|
| 20-30     | -              | -          |
| 31-40     | 2              | 20         |
| 41-50     | 2              | 20         |
| Above 50  | 6              | 60         |
| Total     | 10             | 100        |

*Source: Field Survey, 2008*

### 5.4.3 Future Plan of Women's CFUG and Women Participate CFUG

1. The aim of CFUG is to conserve or protect this forest not only for uses of forest products to the users but also to develop it is demonstration area to show other people The revenue earned from the forest is saved in the back so a to use it in the near future.

2. To conserve the environment
3. Help to make small path certain village
4. They have future plan to plant trees around the area and collect the fund in the future.

#### **5.4.4 Activities of Women's CFUG and Women Participation CFUG**

1. Women of required participation in assembly, meeting and general group discussion.
2. Women of satisfactory participation in the protection, harvesting, distribution and practice.
3. Their involvement is also satisfactory in decision-making process.
4. The new forest legislation compels a user group that its committee should at least one-third member after women. Seeing women, have found contain fifty percent members and hence it is very good in the perspective of modern legal concept.
5. Women have satisfactory participation in different manage the forest harvesting, pruning, distribution, plantation and preparation.

### **5.5 Women's Participation in Different Community Forestry Activities**

#### **5.5.1 Status of Implementation in the Selected Areas with Female Respondents**

The CF programme assume that people espically women because women are the main uses of forest such as fall wood, fodder and grass) should have a higher degree of understanding and clarity on CF concept and process and their sales and responsibilities below table shows quite interesting as well as supring result and confirms that the level of informations poor among the CFUG members. Livelihood familiar with the name of CFUG, work is about lessen 55% of use group. About 15% people new of HHs and year of handed over of their community forest from criteria park and DFO office.



**Table 5.9 Female Respondents who Knew as Provides the Answers to the Basic of Information**

| S.N. | Particular                  | No. of HHs | Percentage |
|------|-----------------------------|------------|------------|
| 1.   | CF name                     | 6          | 30         |
| 2.   | Area                        | 3          | 15         |
| 3.   | No. of HHs                  | 2          | 10         |
| 4.   | Year of forest hand over    | 4          | 20         |
| 5.   | Estimated no. of population | 5          | 25         |
|      | Total                       | 20         | 100        |

*Source: Field Survey, 2008*

### **5.5.2 Women's Participation in Decision Making of CF Activities**

Decision-making is one of the most important phases of community forestry activities. Women's participation it is equally important for the effective management of the forest by implementing plans, rules and regulation.

In CFUG decisions were mode by calling meeting. Usually meeting takes monthly for minor decision, like data of assembly and fines committee member decide but for major decisions like time of opening parts, plantation, weeding and clearing time etc. group assembly is called. The decision making power of women belonging to CFUG seems strong but they have a comment that they develop their decision making power because of male and female participate in various training and workshop.

Participation of women in executive committee was 50% but all women members both from executive committee and users group express their logic in meeting, discussion and general discussions are passed and followed in protection, harvesting and distribution of the forest. They often

impressed the view that they had positive effect in forest management. This factor played major role in improving the FUG effectiveness.

### **5.5.3 Women's Involvement in Implementation Process**

Basically, women's involvement in carrying out silviculture operating such as clearing tree plantation, bushes, product collection, thinning etc. was taken in to consideration during the collection of field information.

Involvement of women in implementation past of the CF management is higher than that of other parts like decision-making, monitoring and evaluation and benefit sharing. Women, men and both were involved together in cultural generations of implementations process of CF management in the study area. The researcher found more involvement of women in silvicultural activities than the man. However, the combine involvement of both sexes found higher.

Particularly the value consisted silvicultural activities as there system (compulsory but relatively in efficient labor for common/social activities) hence, men send women to participate in such issues. In silvicultural activities, the researcher found more involvement of women in tree plantation also in the study area. According to respondents and forestry technicians, particularly women used to transport samplings from the nursery and transplant it men found responsible for engaging the pit and felling and protecting the plantation areas. The respondents added that women seriously take care of growing plans.

In the observation of researcher both women and men found involved in FPs collection and transportation. However the degree of women's involvement was again higher in the natural field. Women found heavy loaded in this regard. Users reported that men used to consider it as women's work. Sometimes men feel their prestige by transporting the fuel wood from the community forest. Hence, men used to collecting and transporting forest

productions from the community forest except timber. Like other activities, the researcher found equal and higher combines participation of both sexes.

#### 5.5.4 Women's Involvement in Monitoring and Evaluation Process

Some common issues regarding monitoring and evaluation aspects such as: involvement in monitoring of cultural activities, involvement in regular assessment of community forest (quantitative and qualitative), involvement in forest protection activities (as Ban Heralu), and involvement in general assembly and reviewing of operational plan were selected for the study data) of involvement is given in below fig.

**Table 5.10 Women's Involvement in Monitoring and Evaluation Process**

| S.N. | M.E Process             | Both | Male | Women | Total |
|------|-------------------------|------|------|-------|-------|
| 1    | Silviculture activities | 22   | 4    | 4     | 30    |
| 2    | Quality control         | 24   | 4    | 2     | 30    |
| 3    | Involving as Banharalu  | 10   | 15   | 5     | 30    |

*Source: Field Survey, 2008*

**Figure 5.2 Women's Involvement in Monitoring and Evaluation Process**

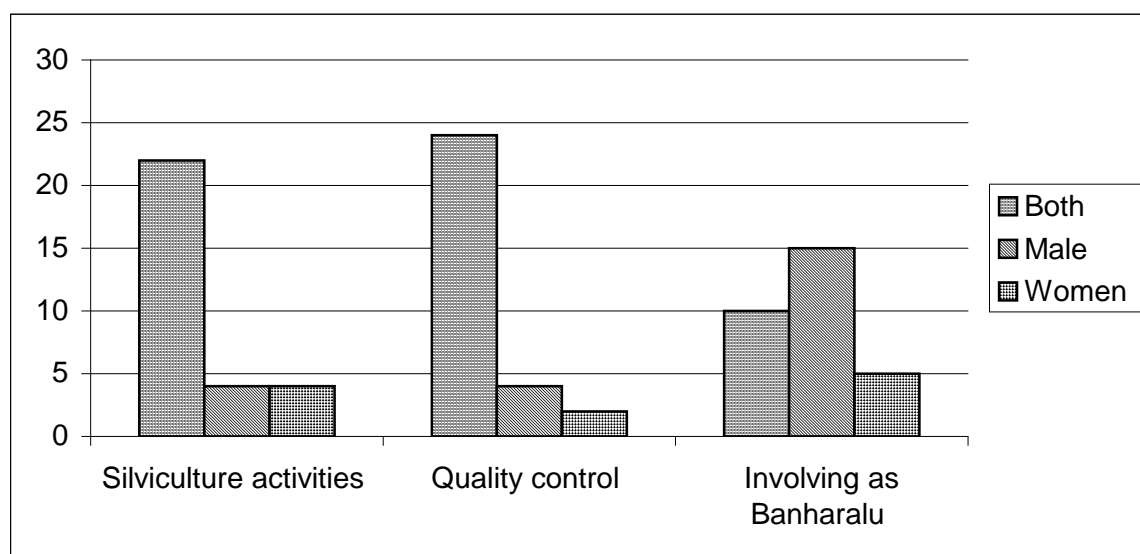


Figure shows that involvement of both sexes in various sub issues of higher rate of women as ban heralu found higher as compared to other sub

issues. Respondents of the study area explained that both men and women executive communities members took parts in monitoring aspect. Similarly, they attended that women alone cannot act as ban heralu because of fear of wild animal etc. The researcher found a little bit higher involvement of men in this issue, however, was itself lower in both cases. A male member was found involved as a forest watchman.

Informants expressed that provision of monitoring and evaluation is poorly mentioned on lack in operational plan it is, this is the took of member and forest ethnicity. Thus, ordinary us found about M and E aspect of community forest management.

#### **5.5.5 Women's Involvement in Benefit Sharing Process**

Some common issues of benefit such as forest product sharing, opportunities to participate in training/visits and utilize the benefits to be available from social activities launched from the income of community forest are analyze in the study.

##### **Forest Product Sharing**

After the establishment of community forestry, women of the study area were benefited remarkably. According to the respondents almost of the forest related work like fuel wood and fodder collection. Have to perform by women. Before establishment of community forest they had to work 7/8km daily for.

Users were found mainly concerned with distribution of timber forest product and non-timber forest products available from the community forest. In the initial days due to limited production of timber the CFUG found adopted equal sharing of forest products to be available from the community forest. According to the executive committee members, now a day users are getting any kinds of timber as per need based (equitable), seasons based and cost based as determined by committee and forestry technicians. Fooder

harvesting was found almost free except some restricted species such as, Sal (Sorea robusta) and Chanp (Michelia champaca) etc.

The researcher found the CFUG and to consider each household as a unit of user and distribute FPs based on household concept. Similarly, CFUG found to be distributed high quality of timber in defined rate in defined process in defined season by taking early consent of concern of concerned Range Post. Throughout the study the researcher found no gender based forest resources distribution system in the study area.

### **Human Resources Development (HRD)**

Mainly the trainings, workshops and study tour/visits were considered under the HRD activity. According to these respondents training and visit program enhance knowledge, skills, attitude and confidence on respective subject, which strengthens the leadership and managerial capability of the participant. However, elderly people found not so interested to participate in training and visits.

During the interaction with informations, the researcher found that the CFUG found weak in conducting number of activities, number of participants and women participation. Researcher found various reasons behind low participation that the executive committee totally depends on range post and do not arranged trainings and visits from own initiation. Similarly, reasons behind low participation of women found that lack of earlier information, lack of confidence of women socio-cultural influence prevailed among Bramin families.

A general trend found that mainly planning, management and awarness related activities found conducted by the Taplejung district forest office concerned with RCNP. These activities found mainly out stationed followed by community based. The trainings and visits having shorter duration, community based and implementation orientated were found. Some

women were received short-term trainings in the community level on forest management which was organized by different NGOs with the technical support of RCNP. Data reveal that male participant dominated even community - based and short courses.

### **Benefits from community development and social activities**

During the study it is found that CFUG has launched limited number of community development/social activities in the study area from the income of the community forest. According to respondents, community development activities conducted in the CFUG area save money, time and labor of the users. The CFUG has conducted timber support for school, community services, land purchase for community building construction, road construction within the community forest area and river bank protection.

Among these limited activities land purchase for community building construction, timber support for school building, village road maintenance, and temple construction were general activities. Majority of the respondent reported that both sexes are getting benefit from those social and community development activities. The researcher found lack of special program targeted to women and disadvantaged people/group like skill development and income generating activities which supports them to become self-reliant.

### **5.5.6 Factors Influencing Women's Participation in CF Management**

#### **5.5.6.1 Motivating Factors for Women's Participation**

There are different factors which are responsible to motivate women in community forestry activities. About 30% women are motivated by self interest. Causes of self interest are experience in the gradual decline of forest and their desire for better management for the future.

Some women were participating in the absence of men in their household. It is also kind of motivating factor. Often men do not like women to participate in development work. However, the males in 25% household have played some role in motivating women to take part in different activities.

There are 25% women who participated in community Forestry activities by villager's request. By villager's request women also commit themselves in user group committee. Therefore, request also seems to be an important motivating factor.

**Table 5.11 Motivating Factors for Women's Participation**

| Motivating factors    | Age group    |              |       | Educational status |                         |       |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|-------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------|
|                       | <30<br>N = 4 | >30<br>N=116 | Total | Educated<br>N = 12 | Not<br>Educated<br>N =8 | Total |
| 1. Self Interest      | 1            | 5            | 6     | 5                  | 3                       | 8     |
| 2. Husband advice     | 1            | 4            | 5     | 3                  | 3                       | 6     |
| 3. Official request   | 1            | 3            | 4     | 3                  | 1                       | 4     |
| 4. Villager's request | 1            | 4            | 5     | 1                  | 1                       | 2     |
| Total                 | 4            | 16           | 20    | 12                 | 8                       | 20    |

*Source: Field Survey, 2008*

Table shows there is little affect on motivation due to age educated women are firstly affected by their self interest and husband advice.

In greater than 30 years age about 25% are mainly motivated by self interest and 20% are motivated by husband's advice, 15% are motivated by official request and only 20% were motivated by villager's request. In less than 30 year's age, same numbers of women were affected by same factors.

### 5.5.6.2 Inhibiting Factors for Women's Participation

In our society, there are different factors which are inhibiting women's participation. Inhibiting factor of study area was shown in table. In study area, users are ethnically heterogeneous so there seems to be no dominating factors except male influence on female to participation. In this area culture has not affected their participation. Most of the women are busy and they can not devote their time to community forestry work even though they are interested. Our social structure is not favouring for women. They have to cook and feed their children and to work in their farms, besides they do not get support in household work from their family.

Another major constraint is self confidence. Most of the women expressed that they do not participate, even if participate they do not raise their voice. This is due to poor education and they said "if we have education it enhance our knowledge and then we can speak (raise voice) among male." They believe education will enhance their self confidence. Not only education but encouragements of male and other family member were also responsible factors. Such type of support to encourage women was not found in the study area. Local people said that women's participation is necessary but practically they are not seen supporting women.

**Table 5.12 Inhibiting Factors for Women's Participation**

| Motivating Factors | Age group    |              |       | Educational status |                      |       |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|-------|--------------------|----------------------|-------|
|                    | <30<br>N = 4 | >30<br>N= 20 | Total | Educated<br>N = 12 | Not Educated<br>N =8 | Total |
| 1 Family           | 1            | 3            | 4     | 2                  | 1                    | 3     |
| 2. Society         | 1            | 1            | 2     | 1                  | 1                    | 2     |
| 3. Education       | 1            | 5            | 6     | 3                  | 4                    | 7     |
| 4. Time            | 1            | 7            | 8     | 6                  | 2                    | 8     |
| Total              | 4            | 16           | 20    | 12                 | 8                    | 20    |

*Source: Field Survey, 2008*



Table shows that greater than 30 years women mainly affected by time constraint which is about 35%. They are also affected by education which is about 25%. Educated women feel that their time constraint is the main inhibiting factor. About 50% educated women expressed such feeling. Whereas, about 50% uneducated women feel that lack of education is the most important inhibiting factor. In this way it seems that education and times are more important inhibiting factors. In this way it seems that education and time are more responsible in inhibiting women's participation. By adequate family support and good opportunity of education, these constraints can be minimized.

## **CHAPTER - VI**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS**

This chapter summarizes the major findings of the study, draws conclusion about the role of women in community forest management and provides recommendations to make women more active in forest management for the stakeholders concerned. Summary mainly focuses on the objectives, methods and of the study. Conclusion section attempts to synthesize the results of specific objectives. Similarly, the recommendation part consists of some fundamental recommendations to the immediate stakeholders of the CFUG.

#### **6.1 Summary**

The study 'Women's Participation in community forestry was conducted in Community Forest of Hangdewa VDC of Taplejung district aiming to assess the status of women's participation in community forest management at the stud area. Among the total user's household 100 households were surveyed. The study was carried-out some sequential steps of research methodology such as defining research problem, reviewing literature, designing research, collecting data, analyzing data, interpreting data and reporting.

The study has revealed a marked change in living standards of people who are actively engaged in the community forest management. While looking towards the women's side, only few of them are found to have raised their living standard. The general condition of the lower-caste is found very poor. Some exceptional women have been found contributing in decision-making process to a certain level. In the case of lower-caste women, the situation is quite different.

It has also been revealed that the time spent by men and women in their daily works was closely related to demographic socio-economic factors such as family size, ratio of adult men and women member in the family, age of family members, farm size and family income. Cultural variations have strongly influenced the time allocation pattern and control of resources. There appears a structured inequality between men and women over the productive resources and benefits.

The men seem far a head in having exclusive access to fixed property and to retain the land rights. Likewise, they have made better access to cash earning as well. However, the control of men over the resources appears influenced by the decision made by women especially in the farming system.

## **6.2 Conclusion**

The study shows that Community Forest in Taplejung district of Nepal brought remarkable change in the life style of the people. They also had started some program to up-lift the living standard of the people. But the programs were not focused on the specific issue of the women and poor. It was also found out of that there was a vast difference in time based work distribution pattern of men and women. Man had more leisure time than women. During the field observation all most of the women were busy the whole day in doing productive as well as reproductive work. Most of them were involved in vegetable farming, animal husbandry, farming and labor work. Due to this women had no leisure time, while men were only busy in productive workmen and women worked including progressive activeness.

Findings of this study show that women can play a significant role in community forest development, protection and management. Hence, success of the CFUGs largely depends upon degree of women's participation in its management from the very beginning. Women's participation in CF management was greatly determined by various factors like biophysical

situation of CF, socio-economic and cultural practices, institutional culture of the EC, government's forestry policy, extension efforts of forestry organizations, perception and attitude towards CF and allied issues, and status of women in the family and society. Women's participation as executive committee members and their presence in regular meeting were found good but Their participation in discussion was found active. Participation of ordinary women was found very low in decision-making process.

Participation of women in implementation process was found high. Male's influences in decision making in the family, requirements of forest productions to women, and tendency of giving less response to social works, prevailed in the community are the reasons for it. In aggregate, participation of both sexes in monitoring and evaluation process was found poor in the CFUG. Particularly, women's participation was observed rather poor in M & E aspect, due to lack of strong provision of regular monitoring and evaluation in the operational plans of FUG, lack of knowledge on women in this regard.

In case of benefit sharing from social and development activities implemented by FUG, access of both sexes was found almost equal in the study. But there was lacking of women focused development activities. For the better involvement of women in community forest management human resource development activities should be lunched effectively and sufficiently.

Women were motivated to participate in community forest management due to requirement of forest products, attachment with forest, and women involved success stories carried out in different parts of the country. Similarly, women considered the self-inspiration, their neighbors/villagers, concerned EC, and forestry technicians as potential

sources of motivation to involve in CF management. Factors like regular household inadequate knowledge/skills, lack of compulsory provision regarding women involvement in legislation, patriarchal influence in the family and society, and backbiting nature of society was found as hindering factors of women's participation in CF management.

Even today, two types of issues are out standing regarding women's participation. First issue is quantitative aspect of women's involvement in different activities of CF management and second is qualitative (subjective) aspect of women's involvement, which is very difficult to analyze and interpret. Participation of more people in the community forest management itself is a big problem. In this context, involvement of women in equal proportion with male in dimensions of CF management is the burning issue of the forest resource management.

### **6.3 Recommendations**

The recommendations are based on the results achieved from the study as per the aspirations of the local people from the community forestry. These recommendations will be fruitful for the further studies, policy makers, forest activist, development agencies and individuals.

#### **Recommendation Related with Stakeholders**

Community forest itself is a complex phenomenon, which is interrelated with various stakeholders in different steps and aspects of its management. The policy-makers, concerned EC and local governmental organization and non-governmental organizations (GO/NGO) are major stakeholders CF. Therefore, some recommendations are provided to the major stakeholders to boost up women's participation in CF management.

***Related with policy-makers-*** Forestry policy is the apex body at national level formulation. In this context, some recommendations are made to the policy-making body, which are as follows:

- ) A mandatory provision should be formulated ensuring at least equal and proportional participation of women in executive committee, which leads to compulsory participation of women. The constitution should assure provision of quota system for the time being (at least for 10 years). By doing this automatically EC member could get minimum education on CF and environment so that they could motivate the peer groups.
- ) Being a corporate body the FUG should be empowered to develop operational plans independently. An intensive intervention of forestry technicians during OP preparation needs to be minimized.
- ) FUGs should be reviewed, categorized and awarded based on their performance. Among various parameter people's participation especially the women's participation should be the main. For the time being, all-women groups should be reviewed and awarded separately.
- ) A special meeting of all-women FUGs should be arranged annually at district level. Strength and weakness of such groups should be explored and shared among concerned agencies. By doing this, at least rest of the groups of the same district could be aware of such issues.

***Related with Respective FUGs-*** FUG is a corporate body that is authorized regarding operational plan preparation, forest resource distribution and CF management as a whole. In this context, FUG has a

crucial role in policy formulation at local level and user mobilization. Some recommendations related with FUG are as follows:

- ) Despite the lack of provision of quota system at national level, FUGs seem to manage quota system at local level and key positions such as Chairman, Secretary, and Treasures should be assigned to women. Such type of practice helps to boost up knowledge, morale and feeling of responsibility among women that ultimately will increase women's participation.
- ) The FUGs should organize an orientation program on periodic basis, targeting the general users. Provision of women's equal participations should be developed to that woman could be made aware policy, constitution, OP, regulations of respective CF.
- ) A gender sensitizing training should be organized at village to minimize the feeling of misconception regarding women's involvement and their leadership in development process. Other trainings such as leadership development, time management, community development, income generation etc. should be organized. Number of women participant should be increased in trainings, workshops, and exposure visits to be carried out by the FUG, Range post and District Forestry Office for widening the range of thinking of women.
- ) A self-explanatory operational plan should be prepared in the spirit of current five-year OP. On the other hand, OP should be prepared with equal presence of both sexes and maximum number of users, which should be thoroughly disseminated and discussed among general users.

- ) Women are the real users of the forest resources and immediate victims of deforestation. Therefore, community forest activities should be launched with timely consign and voluntary participation of women at all stages of the CF management.
- ) Income received from the CF should be invested on those activities, which could make benefited to women and disadvantaged groups so that these groups utilize fruit of CF and inspire to participate in CF management.

***Related With GOs/NGOs-*** The GO/NGOs launching in the FUG area play a catalytic role in the community. These projects bridge the gap directly between policy and community level. In these circumstances GOs/NGOs have a vital role in supporting and sensitizing the users. Major recommendations related with development agencies are as follows:

- ) These organizations should provide facilitation support to FUG member to improve women's participation in CF development and management.
- ) Women, who are devoting seriously to community forest development and management activities, they should be recognized publicity. An ample example of women participation in CF management should be disseminated through mass media. Such types of recognition definitely maximize conservation thinking and practices among other users.

### **Recommendations for Further Studies**

- ) Further researchers on different activities of community forest practices should be carried out to find the degree of



involvement of women and to suggest possible measures to encourage their participation.

- ) Sustainable development of forest requires to be undertaken, which assumes not only new planting of forests, but also other actions. They are deducing more productive and steady tree species, sowing useful plants between trees, increase the value of used forests, carrying out of ecologically correct, more effective and lesspolluting techniques of tree feeling, using forest products: herbs, dyes fibers, and encourage the use of a forest to cause it minimal harm, such as in ecological tourism.
- ) Alternative livelihood activities should be made available to rural people to reduce their dependency on forest resource. In addition, effective public awareness programmes about forest conservation and importance needs to be initiated through different communication media and adoption of curriculum in school. Research should be carried out for designing effective public awareness programmes.

# APPENDIX - I

## QUESTIONNAIRE OF HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

### 1. Identification

VDC Name:

FUG Name:

Tole/ Village Name:

### 2.1 Particular respondents:

Name:

Sex:

Occupation:

Education:

2.2 Family size                      Male                                      Female

### 2.3 Type of house

a. Pakki                      b. Semi Pakki                      c. Kachhi

### 2.4 land own by the household

Khet in Kattha [    ]                                      Bari in Kattha [    ]

### 2.5 Live stock own by household

a. Buffalo [    ]                                      b. Cow [    ]

b. Ox [    ]                                      c. Goat [    ]

c. Sheep [    ]                                      e. Other

### 3. Community forest related information

#### 3.1 What is the vision of your to look community forest?

a. Positive                      b. Negative                      c. Neutral

#### 3.2 What is the role of women in forest management?

a. good                      b. better                      c. worse                      d. nothing

3.4 Why did you join FUG? Specify

- a. Religious reason
- b. Under social pressure

3.5 Do you know rules of FUG about utilization conservation/ protection and management?

If Yes, specify rules

.....if no, why?

3.6 Do you use to involve in implementation part of CF management?

If Yes how?

- a. Plantation [   ]
- b. Thinking [   ]
- c. Bush clearing [   ]
- d. Product collection [   ]
- e. Others [   ]

3.7 Have you get opportunities to participate in training, workshop, visits?

Yes [   ]                  No [   ]

If yes, specify

Name of activity:

Organizer:

3.8 Do you use to involve in forest products distribution?

Yes [   ]                  No [   ]

Yes how?.....

No why? .....

3.9 Do you know the community development social activities conducted by CFUG?

- a. School building
- b. Drinking water,
- c. Road
- d. Bridge
- e. Irrigation
- f. Temple
- g. Others

3.10 Are the women equally benefited from community developmental activities?

Yes how?.....

No why?.....

3.11 How did you motivated to involve in CF management

Interview Schedule for key informations

1. What was condition of the jungle for ten years? What are the main reasons for it?

.....

2. What has present executive committee been done? What has been produced form the jungle?

.....

3. Does the forest consumer committee take part in activity of forest?

.....

4. Is forest consumer committee powerful to manage it? How does it?

.....

5. Do all women of committee participate to manage the forest researches?

.....

6. Are there any obstacles to increase the women participation? If they are, what are they?

.....

7. Is there any social and cultural factor for the management of the forest?

.....

8. How has present forest user's committee participated in their activities?

.....

9. Do women participate the committee's activity? If they don't participate, what are the main factors?

.....



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