

Role of Women in Community Forest Management

*(A Case Study of Aishwarya Women Community Forestry
of Latikoilee VDC, Surkhet)*

A Thesis

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Submitted By

Lok Bahadur Oli

Class Roll No. : 198

Exam Roll No. : 2747

T.U. Registration No. : 8041-94

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This Thesis entitled "Role of Women in Community Forest Management : A Case Study of Aishwarya Women Community Forestry of Latikoilee V.D.C., Surkhet District" has been prepared by Mr. Lok Bahadur Oli under my supervision as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development.

To the best of my knowledge the study is original and carries useful information. I recommend it for evaluation to the Thesis committee.

.....

Dr. Chandra Lal Shrestha

Associate Professor

Thesis Supervisor

Central Department of Rural Development

Kirtipur

APPROVAL LETTER

We certify that this thesis entitled "Role of Women in Community Forest Management : A Case Study of Aishwarya Women Community Forestry of Latikoilee V.D.C., Surkhet". Submitted by Mr. Lok Bahadur Oli to the Central Department of Rural Development, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of MASTER OF ARTS in Rural Development has been found satisfactory in scope and quality. Therefore, we accept this thesis as a part of the said degree.

Thesis Committee

.....

Prof. Dr. Pradeep Kumar Khadka

Head

Central Department of Rural Development

T.U. Kirtipur

.....

External Examiner

.....

Asso. Prof. Dr. Chandra Lal Shrestha

Thesis Supervisor

September, 2008

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Lok Bahadur Oli

ABSTRACTS

The study entitled "Role of Women in Community forest management : A Case Study of Aishwarya Women Community forest user group in Latikoilee V.D.C. of Surkhet District done in the issue of women's role in community forest management. Community forest is the people's participatory approach in which the local users of the forest are involved in planning, development, protection, production and use of forest resources. The concept of CF came in to practice in Nepal in the late seventies (1978). At present, the CF programme is launched in most of the parts of Nepal.

Community forestry is people oriented forest program in Nepal. The effectiveness of CF in relation to role of women is very crucial. Still, the primary forest user group (women) is not participated properly in the CFM. This study focused on the participation of women in decision making, implementation, monitoring & evaluation and benefit sharing, effecting factors relation to women's participation in CFM. To fulfill these objectives, Aishwarya women community forest of Latikoilee V.D.C. of Surkhet district was selected as study area. AWCFUG has 78 households out of total 40 households were selected as sample units. To meet the objectives of the study, primary & secondary data were collected from the field survey. These data are analyzed descriptively & analytically with the help of computer software programme.

The study has revealed that the involvement of women in CFM is limited. Access of ordinary women in decision making is found lower. Women's participation in FUG general assemblies & regular meetings was not active & decisive. But in the case of benefit sharing access of both sexes was found almost unequal. There is no gender based forest resource distribution system. Only Executive Committee members take part in monitoring and evaluation aspect. Women EC members were found passive in vital discussion & in taking decision. The educational level was found influential factor in active participation. The different CF related training, has benefited the users. The women who are less participate & are less active are found less awared & less motivated. Lower caste users are far behind in participation in CF activates.

Therefore, more training should be conducted to make active to all users for higher participation. In overall, this CF was found a model forest but, some major changes should be made to improve women's participation in Community Forestry management & development.

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ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

AWCFUG	= Aishwarya Women Community Forest User Group
BS	= Bikram Sambat
CF	= Community Forestry
CFM	= Community Forest Management
DDC	= District Development Committee
DFDP	= District Forest Development Programme
DFO	= District Forestry Office
EC	= Executive Community
FAO	= Food Agricultural Organization
FGD	= Focused Group Discussion
FUG	= Forest User's Group
GOs	= Government Organization
ha	= hectare
HH	= Household
HMG/N	= His Majesty's Government of Nepal
ICIMOD	= Integrated Centre for Mountain Development
INGO	= International Non Government Organization
M.A.	= Master of Arts and Humanities
M.Sc.	= Masters of Science
NGOs	= Non Government Organizations
PPF	= Panchayat Protected Forest
V.D.C.	= Village Development Committee