

CHAPTER - ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Nepal is a small landlocked South Asian Himalayan Kingdom, which lies between India and Tibetan Autonomous Region of the peoples republic of China in the north. The total area is 147181 square km. The topography of Nepal starts from the world's deepest gorge "Kali Gandaki" to highest peak point on the earth. The Mt. Everest is the highest peak of world. Nepal is located between 26°12' to 30°27' North latitude and 80°4' and 88°12' East longitude.

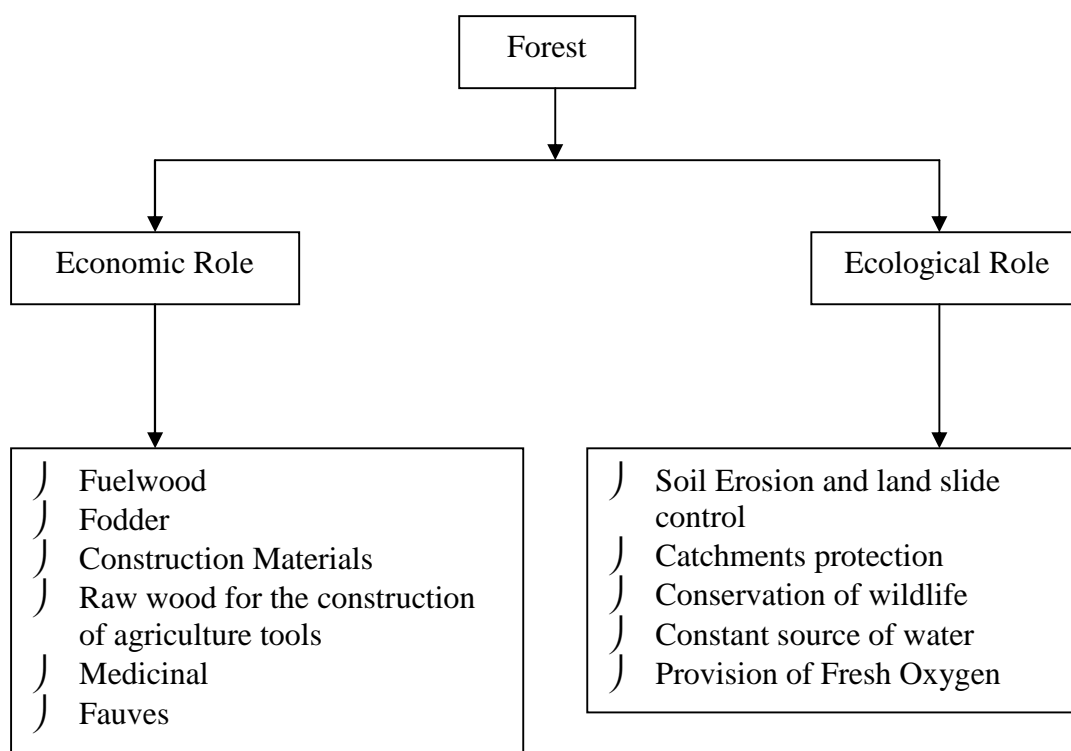
This unique geographical setting, broadly divided into those ecological zones via the mountain, the hill and the Terai having diverse nature in terms of religious, castes, cultures and languages. Nepal is one of the least developed country in the world. The role of education to enhance human potential is crucial. Enhanced potential is important to unleash and foster the empowering human capacity to overcome poverty as well as anxieties. Therefore, opportunities for easy to education for all use crucial in countries like Nepal.

Forest is very important in the context of Nepal. Forest the second largest renewable natural resources after water, which can provide a sustained economic and social contribution for the development of the country. Besides, the above roles, forest's play an important role in maintaining a stable ecosystem & precipitation. In Nepal, forests have an enormous role to play in protecting the hilly topography natural calamities like floods, landslides and soil erosion. Forests have been proven as a means of recycling waste materials and every. Forest are essential to maintain and protect the flora and fauna. Forests maintain moisture in soil, reduces ultra violet radiation coming from the sun. From the very beginning of human civilization forests have been playing an important role and are considered as an essential resource for environmental protection. It also performs multifarious functions providing timbers, poles, pulps and stakes and fodder for the cattle maintenance of watersheds, moderating effect on climate, source of oxygen, reservoir of plant species including fish, wildlife and place of recreation and amenity values.

Forest plays an important role in sustaining the productivity of the land by using the organic manure of the animal dung supported with the bedding materials from the forest. Wood biomass is the most predominant source of energy for rural households, rural industries and village activities for their daily energy needs. A large majority of people use wood more than any other single source of energy. Forest is an integral part of man because it helps human society by providing firewood, fodder for livestock, timber, raw materials for industries, fruits and herbs for medical purposes and also a major source of income for people.

According to the Nepal Australia forestry project (1984). Many countries have realized the importance of natural resources such as forest. In Nepal, these are the most important because forests are a renewable natural resource which can provide a sustained economic and social contribution for the development of the country. Forests have an enormous role to play in protecting the hilly topography from natural calamities like flood, land slides and soil erosion. Forests provide aesthetic appeal throughout the land but most importantly are a proven means of recycling waste material and energy. This function is very important in maintaining a stable ecosystem. Forests are essential to maintain flora and fauna diversity. Consequently, forests are the best appreciated from these aspects as a renewable natural resource as an effective core for soil and water conservation. For providing a pleasant aesthetic appeal to environment, or a means by which waste materials and energy are recycled and utilized and as a buffer to the flora and fauna diversity.

Chart 1 : Diagrammatic Representation of the Role of Forest



Nepal has a total land area of about 147 thousand sq.km of which 55 thousand sq.km (37%) is natural forest. The rest is divided into shrub land (5%), grassland (12%), tree covered land adjacent to farms (4%), cultivated land (21%) and other (Settlement) rocky areas, perennial ice and snow lakes and rivers 21%. Most of the forests (89%) are distributed in Terai siwaliks middle Mountain and high mountains.

Mountains in Nepal are exposed to various climatic influences from tropical to arctic. Therefore, the mountain are subjected to strong erosional forests. The forest protects the effects of heavy rainfall during the monsoons and reduces sheet erosion. Forest have always been the inspirable part of the subsistence activities of human beings. Forest has been giving food and shelter to men, since the hunting gathering stage. In many less developed areas however, the forest still provides the main food and shelter for the tribal people. Once it has been considered that green forest is the wealth of Nepal, there was more forest than the needs of the country.

In the earlier days government did not paid any attention regarding the preservation of forest. Before 1975, 57% of Nepal land was under forest cover which gets reduction to 29% and Nepal needs to have 43% of forest to maintain ecological balance of the country.

Forest, rainfall and agricultural productivity are closely inter-linked. Forest support agriculture and livestock raising making important contribution to the highlands farming economics.

Of the total 14,225,000,000 tones of major forest products consumption 39.5% consist of fuelwood. Thus the forest is regarded as the main energy resource of Nepal this resource can be divided in following types according to geographical variations.

- a. Tropical forest - below 1000 mtr.
- b. Subtropical forest - 1000 -2000 mtr.
- c. Temperate forest - 2000 - 3100 mtr.
- d. Sub-Alpine forest - 3100 - 4200 mtr.
- e. Alpine (No forest but shrubs) - upto 4500 mtr

But now a days Nepal's forests are declining dramatically in both quantity and quality over the last two decades, more than half a million hectares have been lost.

Forest are converted into brush land in the hills and agricultural land in the terai because of spontaneous unorganized encroachment into terai forest by hill migrant's more than 100000 hectares prime forest in the terai have been converted to agricultural land in recent years.

On the basis of land use data available for 1986, it is estimated that present forest area of Nepal ranges from 4.9 to 4.3 million hectares from 32% to 30% (in 1978-79 and 1991-92 year book) of the total area of the country. However more recent estimate would be far below this figure.

The main cause of forest decrease is over cutting of wood for fuel, heavy logging for fodder, cross border timber smuggling, extension of agriculture land for food, setting fire to obtain bush growth of grass to feed livestock and clearing forest for resettlement program during 1950 to 1985 and to certain extent illegal settlement.

The damage and destruction done to the forest have aggravated soil erosion and down stream sedimentation and have caused losses in agricultural productivity. The gradual degradation of forest have posed ecological system and there by it has called forth the attention of all the people over exploitation the forest resources initiate a vicious cycle so the future in Nepal. Society is definitely threatened.

Conservation and development of forest have been regarded as a social responsibility of the government and people.

To maintain all these condition community forestry program is the urgent need in the context of Nepal. Community forestry can be broadly defined a people oriented

forestry programme or activities. Sometimes it is simply described as forestry of the people and by the people others define it as any forestry activity aimed at providing goods and service for the benefit of rural communities.

The FAO of the United Nations (FAO UN) defined it in 1978 as any situation which intimately involves local people in a forestry activity. It excludes large-scale industrial forestry and other form of forestry which contributes to development slowly through employment and wages but includes activities by forest industry enterprises and public services to encourage and assist forestry activities at each community forestry are the following;

- a. Forestry for local community development.
- b. Village forestry
- c. Social forestry
- d. Rural forestry
- e. Participatory forestry

The studies show that women's role in forest management is important. That is why government of Nepal is involving women in forest management program. This study is drawn on the women managed community forestry Ashwarya Women Community forestry introduced in 2060 B.S. of Latikoilee VDC Surkhet. In pre stage this community forestry started in 2044/045 B.S. based on participation of local consumers and land protection office Surkhet. It lies between 600 km. far from Kathmandu valley in western north part. The district separately identified after 2018 B.S. It is located between 28⁰20' to 28⁰58' north latitude and 80⁰59 to 82⁰2' east longitude. The total are of Surkhet district is 249016 hectare among this forest area 177854.70 hec. (71%), Agricultural area 66596.16 hec. (27.1%), Arial land area 4562.70 hec (2%). The possible community forestry area is 28,846 hec. (16%). The Surkhet district lies 250 mtr to 2200 mtr. In the sea level. The surrounding of Surkhet district are salyan, Doti and Actham, Dailekh, Jajarkot, Banke, Bardiya & Kailali district.

Since, woman occupies about 51% of the total population in Nepal, women empowerment and resource accessibility is required to enhance rural development. Women are the keys to open and manage the problems and resources respectively since the long period ago. To strengthen their role in rural development, Nepal also has included women in different development activities and one of them is in community forest management. Nepal has introduced the concept of community

forestry in 1978 A.D. with the assistance of world bank. However, it lacked to involve women particularly. The participation of women in community forest management goes data back to the decade of 1990s after the restoration of democracy.

The total study area lies east of Surkhet, Birendranagar valley and extension in 51.42 hect. Of land situated in Amritdanda, Subbakuna locality. It is the well exemplary model which is managed totally by women alone. There are 11 women FUGs in which backward are genuinely involved. This area has been settled by Chhetri in majority and other castes such as Dalit, Brahmin and other have also inhabited. In order to analyze the women role in rural development in general and community forestry management in particular. This study is focused on this remote rural area.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Though Nepal was rich in forest resources and there was a saying that "HARIYO BAN NEPAL KO DHAN". It depleted very rapidly in the last few decades. Nepal's forest is decreasing in both quantity and quality over the last few decades. The rapid socio-economic change in Nepal has placed a new demand on forest resource. People are cutting trees, farmers are clearing trees for expanding agriculture land. Therefore, Nepal's forest is gradually disappearing causing a major ecological crisis. The natural forests in Nepal's hill have been degrading considerably due to over exploitation and absence of systematic management an over-increasing human and livestock population intensities the growing pressure on forest resources. As the forest declines number of problems related to environmental degradation such soil erosion land slide desertification, climatic hazards etc emerge.

Statement of the problem is the crucial step in any research process. Problem does not necessarily mean that some thing is seriously wrong with current situation or with the organization under study. A problem simply indicates that on interest in some field in which findings might help to improve the existing situation (Pant, 2002). Establishment of women status in society is challenging issue for the context of developing countries as well as developed. There role can't be seen in the good way or good manner.

In the case of developing countries like Nepal, the situation of women is very miserable our culture society, religion are to some extent bounded the female, not

only our culture gave the female right. So many legal provisions also support to control the female right and dominated by male. Every part of female life male dominant system occur in different way. Female roles are change in the case of different situation. Like, when she plays the role of a daughter, always stay under the elder/younger brother or father. Again when she plays the role of the wife, stay under her husband. At last, in the old age of last, she stay under new own son. This is the scenario of actual Hindu women. We take about the 21st century of advance development, gender equity & equality all aspect of society. Therefore many questions arise here in contrast.

The structure of Nepali society male dominated or patriarchal, patriarchy means male domination where only superior male have occupied privileges and power where as females and other junior males do not have; for instance, in the matter of participating in religious work, in achieving parental and husbands property, suing and distributing economic resources, participating and deciding in developmental works, sharing the benefit of development & involving in public work, making decision etc. are virtually controlled by male. However, nature of domination can vary in different societies, and even within a single society for different classes and cultural groups. It also differs in different period of history. Thus, existing social system or cultural practices play an important role to determine men and women's space and their role in a society.

In the context of Nepalese society, women are less motivated in some causes to go ahead in the area of decision making and representation in public sphere. Banjada (2003) writes that our social system has provide woman with less opportunity of education and exposure to outside world, i.e. their enthusiasm, capacity and confidence on leading. The management, decision making and influence in managements process and out comes have been limited. Therefore women's social position, meaningful participation and representation in the community forest management are also highly influenced by their level of awareness, capacity and their confidence.

The forest nationalization act nationalized the forest, which was under the control of various communities. They didn't agree immediately with the government's act. This led to rapid depletion of the forest. The lack as well as difficulties of supervision from the centre, bureaucratic practices, and the lack of ownership feeling among the people who were the direct beneficiaries of the forest led to the failure of

the nationalization policy. The relative failure of the nationalization policy led to the adoption of the community forestry approach by the government in late 1970s. This approach aimed to tackle the critical issue of the rapid degradation of forest land and fertile soil in the hills which ultimately have repercussion on the country's and even the sub continent ecosystem (Dahal, 1994).

Woman are the primary user of forest resources. The management of firewood, fodder, liters has been managing by women. For enhancing the present management system and to achieve sustainable management the women's role can not be underestimated especially in rural Nepal. In order to conserve, manage and develop the forest or even to stop the rapidly increasing deforestation process, only government effort and male participation is not enough, local women themselves should be made conscious for their active participation in forest management and conservation. So local women's participation play a vital role in conservation and management of forest.

A micro level analysis of women's participatory approach in development efforts must be emphasized. However, government policy is to empower and encourage women to participate in community forestry program, by laws and policies are not end, they are only the means to achieve goals otherwise they will remain as the "showing teeth of Elephant" only.

Keeping this in mind the present study has been tried to pursuit of the following research questions :

- 1) What do you think about your (women) role in forest management activities?
- 2) What are the different causes of deforestation and how does it present?
- 3) Which factors motivate women to participate in forest management activities?
- 4) Do you have any idea on local peoples perception towards women's role in community forest management activities?
- 5) What kinds of change to seem of women an income & awareness level after established CF?
- 6) What are your suggestions for the improvement of women involvement in community forest management?
- 7) How women are taking part in the process of decision making, benefit sharing and implementation process of community forestry?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The general objective of the study is to assess the role of women in community forest management of Aishwarya women community forest user group of Latikoilee VDC-1, Surkhet district and the other specific objective of the study are as follows :

-) To explore the role of women in forest resources management.
-) To inquire about the change in income level of women after the information of this community forestry.
-) To suggest measure for controlling deforestation.

1.4 Significance of the Study

From different information media, the slogan of women's role, participation, and women empowerment are being expressed. It is long time to know the real situation of role of women's in community forestry. This study shows how the Aishwarya women community forestry user group in Latikoilee Surkhet district works & it also shows how the women community are sensitive to manage the forest. The involvement of women is still under consideration. There has been no sufficient study which examine the role of women in community forest management and the factors affecting in their active participation. To fill this gap, this study aims at accumulation considerable information regarding role of women in management experience, constraints and achievements of community forestry women that may help concerned government agencies, do nor agencies, planners, policy makers, social related activists, future researcher to plan similar projects better. This study also helps to lunch other women related community development program and access their role to up lift the society.

It is hoped that, the finding from this study will help to make the policy for forest user group in forest development activities, for extension of community forest in successful way, field workers and the agencies (i.e. NGO/INGO) who wants to works in community forest management.

1.5 Limitation of the Study

As a student of Rural Development, this thesis research is undertaken to meet the partial fulfillment of the requirement for Master Degree of Arts. Due to time and budget constraints small area is selected for the study. The study is focused on meeting its given objectives in certain period of times with limited budget. Some selective social science research tools are used in the research works which is also the limitation of the study. Therefore, the findings of the study may not be generally conclusive in other areas. Every research has its own limitation. So this study has also some limitations which are presented as follows :

-) This study is related with Aishwarya women community forestry situated in Mid western part of Nepal Surkhet district, Latikoilee VDC ward no. 1 among the different 7 community forests of Latikoilee VDC.
-) This study has analyzed only the situation and role of women in Aishwarya women community forest management.
-) The findings of the study will not be generalized at national level on the basis of objectives because it has not covered other aspects of the community forestry.

1.6 Organization of the Study

Organization of the study is the sequential and organized form of the whole research report. In it the researcher firstly chapter one deals introduction of the study, chapter two deals about the review of literature, chapter three research methodology, chapter four description of the study area, chapter five analysis and discussion : description of Aishwarya women community forest user group and last chapter six has described about the summary, conclusion and recommendation. Thus the overall organization of the study is managed.

CHAPTER - TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

Literature review is a part of the research. It provides general ideas about the subject matters and methodology which help the researcher to active to targeted objectives. Thus, this chapter reviews of available literature such as books, journals, research papers and articles, published by various scholars from different perspective focusing in the field of community forest management.

2.1 Origin of Community Forestry

Community forestry was initially defined by FAO as any situation which intimately involves local people in a forest activity. It embraces a spectrum of situation ranging from worldless areas which are short of wood and other forest products for local needs, through the growing of trees at the farm level to provide cash crops and the processing of forest product at the household artisan or small industries level to generate income to the activities of forest dwelling communities. Thus community forestry was planned as encompassing activities by individuals households, men and women, farmers and other people as well as those involving a community as whole.

Similarly Gerald Foley and Geoffray Berned made the study of farm and community forestry in 1986 A.D. They present a new approach in community forestry. The multiple regression analysis based on tree cultivation and approaches to farm and community forestry was also noted.

2.2 Definition of Community Forestry

The term community in its broadest sense may refer to any group of persons united by a community of interest. In this sense a professional group, residential unit or a club or a voluntary association may all be referred to as communities. Forest is biological community dominated by trees and other wood vegetation. Thus community forestry means something like "People Forestry". This acknowledges that community forestry activities are aimed at providing direct benefits to rural people and that "the people" should have a substantial role in decision making. At this level

that is, as a statement about the philosophy behind community forestry, there is nothing wrong with the term (Gilmor and Fisher, 1991).

According to Fisher and Malla, community forestry or village forestry is seen as the control, management and use of forest resources by villagers. It seeks to increase the level of awareness of local people and actively to involve them in all aspects of forestry activities (Fisher and Malla, 1987).

Fisher defined community forestry as any form of forestry activities undertaken specifically and principally to provide communal benefits to the people living in the villages or small communities in the vicinity of the forest area which involves them directly in its management. (Fisher, 1991)

Generally speaking, the community forestry has been implemented in several countries including Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia. The program in different countries covers private planting (encouraging people to plant trees in their own land) and community planting (planting and managing trees in public lands). Community forestry has been implemented in Nepal means growing trees on public and communal land as opposed to private firms. (Gurung 1987)

The underlying principle of community forestry programme is that the program is of the people, carried out by the people themselves for the benefit of the community as a whole (Shrestha, 2004). Community forestry is the forest protected managed and utilized by local forest user groups.

Based on the above definitions, this study views community forestry as forest conservation, management and utilization by the local community. A group of people who are actively participate to conserve and manage their local forests for their benefit by themselves.

2.3 Forest Management Practices in Nepal

The study on community forestry is not new in the present society many government offices, NGOs, INGOs, researchers and higher level students have undertaken the study on community forestry in Nepal. Similarly at present many analytical studies on community forestry have been undertaken in different part of the world.

There are a number of studies and community forest published in various books, documents, journals and documents of international organization and ministry of forestry, community forestry offices and departments.

Similarly detail study about community forestry have been sufficiently found in Nepal. In the case of Nepal B.P. Kayastha also made the study on community forestry in the context of Nepal. Community forestry has been introduced in Nepal with the main objectives of fulfilling the local demands of timber, fuelwood, fodder and other forest products.

Most development specialist recognizes that women play a vital role in forest resource management. Women constitute about half of the total labour force any country, proper mobilization of this section of the population is essential for attaining the development of a country. Several studies concluded in Nepal reveal that women spend enormous time in forest related activities such as farming, collecting fuelwood, fodder and leaf litter, grazing animals, fetching water and cooking food. Thus these studies stress on the need to full involved women in community forest management activities.

Forests have been managed by the local people in their traditional way since time immemorial Nepal's forest history has been divided into three phases; before the Rana regime, during Rana Regime and after the Rana regime. We found two types of efforts.

2.3.1 Governments Efforts and Practices

Beofer the Rana regime, Nepalese forest management practices was in the hand of local community and no special rules were made for forest protection. Religious forest, Niji ban, etc. were found to be well managed by local people (Mahat et al, cited by palit). During Rana regime forest and land were given to army officers and high ranking officials in the name of Jagir, Birta etc. At that time the people in-charge of the forests were Talukdars who were responsible for tax collection as well as distribution of fuel wood, fodder, small timber, grazing, collection of leaf litter and other activities. The local people collected what was needed from the forest without paying any fees, although some sort of gift in return to the functionary has become customary practiced.

Community forest was introduced in Nepal with the enactment of panchayat protected forest (PPF). There after, the local people were taken as the main managers and user of those forests. After the restoration of democracy, in 1991, the government owned forest was handed over to villagers as a community forest. The regulation

assigned the right and responsibility for forest protection to the local people, for their own benefit. (Kharel, 1995)

The government of Nepal nationalized all types of forest in 1957 that act snatched the use right of local people and deprived people from their traditional use practices of forest (Gilmore, and Fisher, 1991, Chhetri, 1994). The main aim of government was to increase state revenue through the forest. However, land area under forests decreased. The forest act of 1961 provided legislation for state administration of the forest. The act defined forest categories and covered description, registration and demarcation of forests. It also defined the duties of the department of forest, listed forest offenses and prescribed penalties. The government was unable to manage the forest effectively because of the lack of requisite infrastructure (both technical and administrative) forest was categorized into national, religious forests, panchayat forest and private forest. Management decision also remained with the government. However, ninth plan took a significant step towards community forestry through the forest conference held in Kathmandu in 1974. Forest officers from all parts of Nepal attended the conference. A community oriented group of foresters working in districts strongly favoured involvement of people in the management of forests, a form of forestry to be later known as community forestry. (Pandit, 1996)

The government of Nepal's forest sector policy was first declared in the sixth five year plan (1981-1985) which emphasized community participation in the management conservation and uses of forest resources. This policy was further promoted with the passing of the decentralization act 1982 and 1984 rules for its implementation. The act and rules aimed at handing over responsibility for planning to the panchayat and district level. The act formalized the duties and responsibilities of village panchayat and ward communities and empower them to form user groups. The master plan for forestry sector 1988 has objectives to meet the basic need to promote people's participation in forestry resources development, management and conservation. In addition the enactments of forest act 1993 and the forest rules 1995 have made implementing community forestry programme easier (Chhetri, 1994). Stated that in 1971 and 1978 panchayat forest and panchayat protected forest (PPF), were introduced under the community forest development programme (DFDP) with the purpose of handing back the protected forest and its management to the people.

2.3.2 People's Efforts and Practices

It is already mentioned that many ethnic groups of Nepal have been managing and operating the forest resources in their own way. In the eastern hilly region, people mostly managed the forest resources under the kipat system (Gautam, 1995). Under this system all land irrespective of its use was owned by the community. This system itself is evidence of local management for local benefit. Similarly, Dahal (1994) writes that before 1964 there were kipat and Raikar system of land ownership in eastern hilly region of Nepal. Both types of land and forest resources were held under control of Subba, Jimawal, Pagari and Thakuri who were not only responsible for maintaining law and order and collecting revenue for the government, but also responsible for the sustainable use, allocation and management of forest resources.

Box 1 : Historical Time Line of the Forest Management Policy in Nepal

Year	Policy/Act/Regulation	Remarks
upto 1846	Conversion of forest to agricultural land protection of terai forest	Increase the tax base of the state as a buffer against foreign invasion
1846-1950	Forest land given as Birta to influential officials. Exploitation of terai forest	Conversion of forests to agricultural and land export of timber of India
1957	Private forest nationalization Act	Indiscriminate cutting of forest
1961	Indiscriminate cutting of forest	Protection, management and utilization of forests entrusted to the DFO
1967	Forest preservation act (special provision)	The power of the DFO as a law enforcing agent strengthened further
1976	National forestry plan	Recognized the need for people's participation in forest management
1978	Panchayat forest regulation and panchayat protected forest regulation	Handing over of limited grass of government forest land to the control of panchayat(s)
1981	Forestry sector policy of the sixth five year plan (1981-85)	Emphasized community participation in the management, conservation & use of forest resources.
1982	Decentralization act	Moves towards transferring the control of forests of local people strengthened
1988	Master plan for the forestry sector plan	Covered all aspects of forestry designed to take Nepal's forestry into 21 st century, strongly emphasized community forestry and recognized the role of real user in forest management.
1993	Forest Act	Regulatory function of DFO still intact but significantly softened, forests can be handed over to FUG by the DFO.
1995	Forest Regulations	Procedural guidelines for implementation of the forest act 1993

Source : ICIMOD, 1999

According to new forest policy of 1990, any patch of the forest can be handed over to local community for its managements, 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. Community has to prepare a simple operation plan in collaboration with DFO's where major decision are made by users themselves expect some technical knowledge are borrowed from forest technicians. All the revenue and benefits divided from the community forest go to the community fund. Community can decide income and expenditure for the various rural development purposes without any approval of local authorities.

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

-) All the forests can be handed over to users. (no area limit)
-) The forest users groups have to manage the forests as per the approval constitution and operational plan.
-) Any national forest suitable to be converted into community forest will not be assigned to other such as leasehold forest.
-) District forest officer can hand over forest to FUG.
-) FUG can use surplus fund in any kinds of community development Works.
-) The FUG can fixed the price of forestry products irrespective of government royalty.
-) The FUG can plant long term cash crops without 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.
-) FUG can punish misuses who offend against the ruled of the operational plan.

Community forestry is considerable a successful mode of forest management in the hills of Nepal. However, the implementation of community forestry in the terai region has been slower than in the hills. There has been widespread skepticism in the forest administration and among international donors about whether community

forestry is also feasible in the terai region. In contrast to the extensive body of knowledge on community forestry in the terai (Chakraborty and et al, 1997)

2.4 Peoples Role in Community Forestry

The concepts, people's role have been used since ancient time of plato and Greek philosopher in public affairs especially in political science. The role of people, those days was merely a matter of voting, holding office, attending public meeting, paying taxes and defending the state (Joshi, 1995). The meaning of participation however has changed with the passage of time. The role of people in the affairs of the state is necessary for a modern welfare state. The participation (role) ideology. "Bottom Up" approach was originated reaction to colonial Bureaucratic failure in 1950s.

Social activist and field worker advocated on the side of participatory desk, against the top down approach. During the later half of the 1970s the concept peoples participation in development becomes more popular and fashionable as oppose to the "Top down" approach (Lisk, 1981, cited in Joshi, 1995). World bank also realized the participatory development approach develop to far less achievements on expected output from billions spent on development project through "top to bottom" approach of development. The concept peoples participation has become a politically attractive slogan; it is perceived as in instrument for greater effectiveness as well as new source of investment participation is becoming a good fund. Raising device and it could help the private sectors to be directly involved in the development business. Community participation is now generally taken as necessary pre condition to the successful implementation of any renewable or rehabilitation project. Community participation is generally agreed to be important for the long term success of local resource management system (Kortun, 1986 cited in Joshi, 1945).

Peoples role has been used in variety of context such as community development, social mobilization, community participation, pubic participation etc. various authors define people participation in divergent way. It regards community participation as the means of involving people outside of the government in the planning process, while Bhandari (1997) sees it as a means of reducing power differens and therefore, contributory to equalization and social justice. It calls it as involvement of the people activity in the decision making concerning development

project or in the implementation (quoted in Joshi, 1995). World Bank defines, "participation means their active not passive involvement & it should be transformative". People's participation is often narrowly defined as the voluntary contribution of labour and or cash by the local people. However, conceptually people's participation includes their participation in identifying needs, decision making, implied benefit sharing and evaluation. People's participation has been taken as a means by the government agencies and the projects for achieving their goals. "A problem free situation of peoples participation is not easy". There is no common understanding regarding what peoples participation. Different level of people has different perception about it participation in the sense of only physically involvement is passive participation. Such participation does not seem to last long. (Joshi, 1993)

Community forestry of Nepal is one of the popular programs in the context of peoples participation. Many scholars and professionals have defined community forestry as any situation, which intimately involves local people in forestry or tree growing activities for which people in forestry activities. Likewise, It describes, "Social forestry as referring to any situation which closely involves local people in forestry or tree growing activities for which people assume responsibilities and from which they derive direct benefit through their own efforts". In the context of Nepal Gilmour and Fisher (1991) define "Community forestry is the control and management of forest resources by the people who use them for their domestic purposes and as an integral part of subsistence and peasant farming system". Similarly, Kharel defines "Community forestry as management of forest by the local people who depend upon them for fuel, fodder, timber, food and raw materials" (Kharel, 1995).

Peoples role is the most essential feature of community forest in field practice, idea of peoples participation in community forest has gained high level of popularity in Nepal. The institutional arrangement and policy behind this program is popularity in Nepal. It behind this program is quite good in the sense of peoples participation. But the gap between rhetoric and realities is seen in the practices. It is happening because of an inadequate under standing of how the idea of people's participation and empowering the people could be effectively put into practice. This research on Latikoilee VDC of surkhet district gave feed back to know that there is no real participation of people in plantation work carried out by forest user group with the help of district forest office. Most of the user's involved in plantation in return for

wages. This involvement is given name of full participation. All seedling were pulled out in the same evening of plantation work when researcher asked the users during his field visit about such behaviour; it was known that they were thinking that plantation of government seedlings means losing their convenient land from this research it was concluded that the type of people involved in decision making were elite while some other people were not fully informed and the need of general people was not recognized.

It is realized that people's participation is the best way to achieve the objective on effective protection and management of forest resources. It is suggested for popular participation that existing local practices, institution, organizational structure and local user group should be recognized people should be convinced that they are not only the protector but the immediate beneficiaries as well. Effective participation can be further increased if people are well informed about the program and sense of belonging is created through motivation and awareness.

Nepal has successfully implemented community forestry program with the active participation of local people. Forest community formed by user groups take the responsibility of protecting, planting and conserving natural forest people participate in all stage of decision making, planning and reaping benefits. They show ample interest *Step of decision making* in nursery and plantation works. Even the poor are willing to participate in community forestry program because they can collect fuel wood and fodder from the community forests and save their time for earning wages. Role of women is crucial for the success of community forestry women are the major collectors of the forest products such as firewood, fodder and dry leaf. So consequences of deforestation directly impact on women. District forest office and other line agencies most motivate women to participate or handover in community forestry program through extension and awareness classes.

2.5 Role of Women in Community Forestry

Involvement of women is crucial for the success of community forestry. Women are the major collectors of forest product such as firewood, fodder and fruits, grass etc. They have done most of domestic works. Therefore it is they who suffer the social and economic consequences of deforestation, must directly having to spent more and more time and walk longer distances to in search of these essential forest

products. However, they should not be considered in isolation and total community participation should be effected.

Kharel, Fisher and Malla, have pointed out that a number of problems have been identified by various programs and projects that it is very difficult to involve women in forestry due to the particular nature of Nepalese society where women have a minimum role in decision making, rural women are illiterate and have a localized view of life. The society is male dominated where men are not willing to share their power and authority, without which approaching rural women is impossible (Kharel, 1987, Fisher and Malla, 1987).

Most of the case are not single women participated in the forest users group program through self-interest and motivation. Most women were simply nominated and they had no idea that they were participation as members said that they were there because their husband or father had forced them to participate (Dahal, 1994 : 78).

Regmi concluded in his study women's involvement in forestry committee could definitely help the government to solve deforestation problem in Nepal. Several studies conducted in different parts of Nepal have also shown the heavy reliance of women on the forest. These studies have also recommended women's active participation in community forestry program so that the community can protect and development the local forest resources (Regmi, 1989).

Shrestha point out that, women interact with the natural environment much more than men. But they were not involved in the approval of the management plan and in the selection of forest watchers women also did not participate in any of the user meeting, committee in which included political male leaders as members (Shrestha, 1987).

If the forests are to be successfully managed by local users, then women must participate, they are responsible for collecting most of the fuelwood, fodder, leaf compost and bedding as well as controlling grazing. They also provide much of the labour for nurseries and tree planting. The men, on the other hand generally take care of cutting and selling timber, and of administrative decisions about the forest.

Women have worked successfully on both annexed and all female forestry committees in Nepal. Rural people and professional foresters generally agree that women are capable for doing committee work of learning how to do it. Gurung mention that people participation is the most essential feature of community forestry.

A genus participation approach is important and the association of participation in the programme should gorg our of the community organizing process (Gurung, 1999).

The need and necessity of women's participation having been accepted as reality in forestry and their situation being understand in it's true perspective, the strategy proposed visualize all men and women concerned with the program promoting the required focused on women. The importance of women in forestry activities is acknowledge by policy makers. The master plan for the forestry sector emphasis on extension approach, aimed at gaining the confidence of wood cultures and others, particularly women, who actually make the daily management decisions (HMGN, 1989).

The involvement of women must be recognized as an essential element of achieving success in and development work including community forestry. In community forestry this means women's involvement in all activities, right from the formation of user's groups to the distribution of forest products. When women participate actively in all the stages, only then can we say that women are truly involved in community forestry. Women's participation in forestry needs to be understood in this light and taken up as a major concern for all forestry personnel (Siddiqi, 1989).

2.6 Studies on Community Forestry management

-) Regmi, Bishwamani in this study indicated that forest are being cleared and over utilized because of increasing population. Nepal is a predominantly an agricultural country and move than 80% of the population are dependent upon agriculture for their livelihood. Similarly Nepalese people depend upon forest resources for their daily necessities like fuelwood litter fodder, timber etc. Besides people depend upon forest for round-wood medical herbs, hunting and for aesthetic values. But due to increase in population the demand for natural resources has increased including that of forest resources to meet the growing demand of forest products, forest area are being cleared and over utilized.
-) Rana Saurab Bikram defines the community forest on this study community forest is the control management and use of forest

resources by the villagers for their own benefit and for the benefit of the society as whole.

-) Kafle, Shesh Kanta pointed out in his study that deforestation has led to the poor socio-economic condition of the rural people. Rapid forest denotation has led to serious environmental degradation. As a result natural calamities like land slides in the hills, flooding in the terai and foot kills and draught in most of the areas in the country have frequently occurred, this consequence has further led to the poor socio-economic condition of the rural people.
-) Chemjong, Dambar Dhoj pointed out in this study about the development of community forestry or the idea and practice of forest user group (FUG) was developed in response to the increasing deforestation problem in Nepal.
-) Koirala, Anita emphasized the importance of forest in the past. From the very beginning of human civilization forests have been playing an important role and are considered as an essential resource for environmental protection .
-) Upadhaya, Krishna kumar pointed out the importance of forest resources for the development of the country. The forest as one of the main resources of Nepal is vital importance for the development of the country.
-) Dagmar B. pointed out the involvement of women in forestry activity. In Nepal most of the women spent a significant portion of their time in forest related activities such as farming, collecting fuelwood and fodder, grazing, animal fetching water and cooking.
-) Dahal, D.K (1994) pointed out the forest users group in eastern Nepal the Gender issues particularly the role of women in FUG management were acknowledged by all FUGs. In practice, however, women are considered weak and discouraged from being active members on will enhance collective action and effective management of FUGs.
-) Siddiqui (1989) views that rural women are among the most frequent and most important forest user in Nepal but still have a very marginal role in forestry programs. Although the government policy is to

empower women to participate in community forestry planning and implementation process never the less Nepali socio-cultural practices. Still seem to be reluctant to let women go ahead.

-) Shrestha (1987) points out that, women involvement is noticed higher than men in household production and collecting fodder and fuel wood are. But they were not involved in the approval of the management plan and in the selection of forest. Watchers women also did not participate in any of the user meeting committee in which included political male leaders as members. She concludes that if women are not involved in project planning and decision making they may have difficulty conceptualizing projects ideas are expressing their own needs.
-) The plans and program should provide equal opportunity for women and men to participate in forest activities, "Women as primary users and protectors of forest due to lack of participation and to the potentials of success through women's involvement" (ICIMOD, 1991). Without their proper participation the efforts of government will not be successful peoples participation is a solution of effective protection and management of common property resources such as forest and participation of women is very necessary in forest management activities.
-) One study of Nukcef (1998) concluded that through there is an increasing as the committee and in the general assembly still their as a gap in the flow of information. The committee and men mainly make the decision women, poor and discriminal of occupational caste people are regarded move as listner and workers, while committee members rich and non are regarded as instructor, supervisor and leaders.
-) Kharel (1987), have pointed out that a number of problem have been identified by various programs and projects that it is very difficult to involve women in forestry due to particular nature of Nepalese society where women have a minimum role in decision making; rural women are illiterate and have a localized view of life. The society is male nominated where men are not willing to share their power and authority. Without which approaching rural women is impossible. It is also felt that it will take a long time before one can expect any major involvement of women in forestry.

-) Several studies have confirmed that women's labour contributed to Nepalese agriculture is substantial and at least equal to that of men. And Nepalese people who subsist on agriculture heavily depend on forest resources.
-) Most development specialist recognizes that women play vital role in forest resource management. Women constitute about half of the total labour force of any country, proper mobilization of this section of the population is essential for attaining the development of a country. Several studies conducted in Nepal reveal that women spend enormous time in forest related activities such as farming, collecting fuelwood, fodder and leaf litter, grazing animals, fetching water and cooking food. Thus these studies stress on the need to involve women in community forest management activities.
-) Regmi (1989) concluded in this study that women's involvement in forest committee could definitely help the government to solve deforestation problem in Nepal.

CHAPTER - THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

The overall objective of this study is to monitor the women's role in community forest management. It is the micro level study which deals with the role of women in community forestry. The study has tried to analyze the existing level of women's role in an Aishwarya women community forestry. In this research the researcher applied analytical (Exploratory) research design together with its descriptive character.

Analytical research design was applied to explore the issues concerned with the role of women in CF management activities. It also assisted to explore the issues regarding to the knowledge, perception and practices about community forest management in the studied people. Descriptive research design was used to describe the socio-cultural and economic characteristics of the studies population. Similarly, it is also used to describe the women's involvement in different activities of the CF such as decision making, monitoring and evaluating program implementation and benefit sharing.

3.2 Rationale of Selection of the Study Area

Community forestry programme is one of the successful program of forest management. This program is running in Latikoilee VDC of Surkhet district which lies along the Ratna Highway (Nepalgunj-Surkhet), mid western part of Nepal which is 600 km far from the Kathmandu valley in western north part. This program has been running 2044/045 B.S. active participation of local consumer and land protection office of surkhet. The Aishwarya women community forestry program has been running since 2064 B.S. basically oriented to rural development perspective based on the concept of people's participation and quite effective in this area.

This VDC is composed different ethnic groups such as Dalit, Kshetri, Brameen etc. further more, it was felt easy to collect data and carry out the study because the researcher is already well known to this area and it is accessible to the researcher to collect data. So, this area was selected.

The study area and FUG were selected for the following reasons :

-) It is 5 km far away from its headquarter and it is linked with Ratna highway & King road of Surkhet valley. So it was easy to reach and travel in the VDC for data collection.
-) It is one of the oldest women CFUG of Surkhet district.
-) The study area consists of diversified population ranging from various castes & groups and low level of economic and education status. Those factors widely affects the women to involve in the women community forest management.
-) No study has been carried out on women's role in community forestry management.
-) This study will be useful to other parts of CFUGs in surkhet district because of their similar geographical structure. Social and cultural situation.

3.3 Nature and Source of Data

Both qualitative and quantitative data were used in this research those were collected from the field through the use of various research tools and techniques order to fulfill the stated objectives and to answer the research questions. These data were gathered from the primary & secondary sources. Primary data were gathered from the field through observation, interview, household survey, group discussion etc. Secondary data were gathered from various published and unpublished documents, records journals, books, articles internet. DFO etc. The secondary data helped to understand overall status of women in Nepal, theoretical perspectives to look at women's position and participation and decision making of women in CF management activities.

3.4 Universe and Sampling

For this study Aishwarya women community forestry user group was deliberately selected. The AWCFUG covered ward no. -1 Amritdaa, subakamana on the basis of the total households in the study area. There are 78 households (in Amritdada locality) among 40 households were taken as sample households. In this

research work the households of the study area were taken randomly for detailed household survey.

3.5 Method of Data Collection

The study is based on the field survey. So, the data collection techniques were household survey, and focus group discussion, field checklist were used as data collection tools. To generate the primary data different techniques were employed which are as follows :

3.5.1 Household Survey

Household survey was conducted in using structured questionnaire to obtain detailed information about population characteristics like as age & sex composition, marital status, caste/Ethnic, religious, occupation and educational status etc. Moreover, cropping patterns sources of energy, fodder life litter and timber, pattern of forest products collection and involvement of collection (role of women in forest management), income level of woman, and measures for controlling deforestation were also collected through the household survey.

The household head normally female and male were interviewed from each household. Besides these, it also helped selecting the key informants who knew about the CF etc. It also helped the researcher to build report with community members which made it easier to collect the needed information.

3.5.2 Observation

Observation was used to collect qualitative information like women's role in CF management activities including decision making, monitoring and evaluating activities, program implementation and cost and benefit sharing observation also helped the researcher to recheck the information which is collected through the other tools. The CF executive committee minute annual work plan showed that the women's role of participation in meeting (general assembly & executive committee) and protection forest management were high. I found that male helped to female in the time of meeting & protection of forest as a suggested committee.

3.5.3 Interview

Interview was applied to find out the past and present participation position and role of women in CF management similarly. This tool was also useful for the researcher to find out the women's perception about CF management, income level & methods of controlling deforestation. A set of questions were prepared for interviewing with the female members of Ashwarya women community forestry. Interviews were conducted with executive committee members about time table of monthly meeting and their attainment & role of women in management activities.

3.5.4 Focus Group Discussion

Focus group discussion proved helpful to find out relevant information like decision making, evaluation process of CF management activities. Formal group discussions were held in Latikoilee VDC. Through this discussion were held to collect information about socio cultural practices in the study area. Some of the acquired information collected by other tools was cross-checking through the group discussions.

3.6 Key Informant Interview

The key informant interview was conducted together more information through checklist which is an important tool to collect a quantitative data. Key informant interview pre-designed questionnaire were conducted. For this local elites development partners, teachers, former VDC representatives, chairperson of the CFUG and other members & staffs village elder and social workers as well as forest specialists were interviewed. Those kinds of interview were conducted in a very informal way. So, key informants were the knowledgeable persons of the community.

3.7 Data Analysis

The data were collected through various sources using various data collection techniques and tools. The qualitative data were analyzed and interpreted descriptively making the argument in logical way. The quantitative data were coded, classified on the basis of nature of data and then presented in using simple statistical tools.

CHAPTER - FOUR

DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA

4.1 District Introduction

Surkhet district lies in the mid western development of Nepal and an expands over 2451 square km of area. It extends from 28°20' to 28°58' north latitude to 80°59' to 82°2' east longitude. The district comprises of fifty village development committees and one municipality.

Geographically, 84% of the area is covered by hills and the valley plains cover 16% area. The altitude ranges from 192 meters to 2800 meters. The district has very diverse topography in terms of geomorphology, altitude and geological formations based on these. The district can be divided into three geographical areas, low hill area (Churia range), high hills areas (Mahabharata range) and valley plains. Sub-tropical climate is found in lower altitude areas whereas warm temperate climate prevails in high altitude areas. Most of the settlements are confined to valley plains and lower foothills. Socio-cultural and economic environment of the district is the outcome of all these diverse geographies.

The total population of the district according to 2001 census is 288691, which comprises of 142886 males and 545805 female. Chhetri is the dominating ethnic group followed by Dalit and Tamang. Nepali is the dominant language, around 99% people are Hindu and the rest are Buddhists. Subsistence agriculture is the major occupation of most of the people. The total no. of household is 493999 and average density of population seems 118 per sq. km. The total area of this district is 2451 km.

Among the total area 66596.16 hect. about 27% of land is cultivated land forest area 177854.70 hect. which 71%. Arrial land 4562 hact. which is 2% and potential community forestry 28846 hect. which is 16%. The district is bounded by salyan district in east, Doti and Achham district in the west. Achham, Dailekh and Jajarkot district in the south and Banke, Bardiya and Kailali in the north area.

For political and administrative purposes, the district has been divided into 3 constituencies, 1 municipality, 50 V.D.C. and 11 Ilakas. Birandranagar is the headquarter of the district.

The climate of the district is moderate with a maximum temperature of 37.1⁰c and the minimum temperature of 4.5⁰c. The average annual rainfall of the district is about 1526 ml.

Major castes found in surkhet district are Chhetri, Magar, Brahmin and Thakuri. Chhetri dominate all other caste groups 963327) and highest percentage is found in Kami (81%). It is followed by Brahmin (25716) vidyapur V.D.C. which is 36% magar population comes in the third place (10499). Highest percentage of magar is found in Neta V.D.C. (65%). Thakuri (4155), Damai (4103) and Gurung (3649) are other notable caste groups. (Surkhet district resource, Development and Profile Maps).

4.2 Introduction of the Latikoilee V.D.C.

Latikoilee is one of the V.D.C., among the 50 VDCs and 1 municipality of surkhet district. It is located at 80⁰41' east longitude 28⁰32' north latitude toward west north of Kathmandu in the distance of 600 km.

Latikoilee V.D.C. lies in the electrical constituency no. 1 of the surkhet district. The structure of land pattern in this V.D.C. is not uniform that is higher in middle like Karkrebihar eco-tourism sector (Protected area) and higher in east north than west north. Latikoilee V.D.C. is surrounded by many other VDCs and municipality. It is bounded by Jarbuta V.D.C. and Satakhani V.D.C. in the east, bheri river and Hariharpur V.D.C. in the west, Birendranagar municipality and Uttarganga V.D.C. in the north and Bheri river and Chhinchhu V.D.C. in the south. Jumla surkhet road passed through this V.D.C., touches the ward no. 1, 8, 9. Bulbule pound and Deutibajyai temple lies in this V.D.C. The natural boarder of Latikoilee V.D.C. is rivers like Jhuprakhola, Bheri river and Nikaskhola.

Agriculture livestock is the main occupation and the main source for the livelihood of the V.D.C.'s people. According to district profile about 72.03% of people are directly engaged in Agriculture, 3.55% engaged in small own business, 12% engaged in governmental/non governmental service and 12.42% engaged in others different kinds of work.

There is not even a single industry in the V.D.C. Unemployment in the non form season is common. People especially youths go to the different parts of the country and foreign country as for job (Village/District Profile 2005).

4.2.1 Climate

The climate of the V.D.C. is tropical. The maximum temperatures of the V.D.C. reach up to 41.2⁰c in summer and 4.5⁰c in winter. The minimum temperatures of the V.D.C. reach down 30⁰c in summer and 32⁰c in winter. The average rainfall of the V.D.C. is 2200 ml. (Village profile 2006)

4.2.2 Natural Resources

In general land, forest and water are the important natural resources of the V.D.C. Brief account of these resources is as follows :

4.2.2.1 Land

Land is one of the most exploited and utilized natural resources in the study area. The total area of V.D.C. is 185 km² the total population of this V.D.C. is 15488. Among the total population 72.3% of people are involved in agricultural activities on the basis of availability of irrigation facilities. Land is classified as Bari and Khet.

4.2.2.2 Forest

Another important natural resources of the area is forest. The total forest area of V.D.C. is 3420.42 hac. among this 51.42 hac of forest area is managed by Aishwarya women community Forest User Group (FUG).

4.2.2.3 Water

Even though water is one of the most important resources of Latikiolee V.D.C., one major river Jhupra Khola, Bheri river is located in the ward no. 1, 3, and 5 of study area. Other main water resources are Itram Khola, Pipira Khola, Gagre Khola and Nikas Khola. The main resources of water in this V.D.C. is Bulbule pound. These resources are useful for drinking water supply and irrigation facility. Different types of drinking water projects is supplying drinking water of the people of V.D.C.

4.3 Population

The total population of the V.D.C. is 15,488. Among them 7850 (50.86%) male and 7638 (49.32%) female. The total household number of the V.D.C. is 2498 and the average family size is 6.5. The majority of the population belongs to caste and caste groups are chhetri, Chaudhari, Damai, Thakuri, Magar, Tharu, Brahman, Newar and other groups etc. The Brahmans are more literate than other caste groups the least literate caste group is Chaudhari and other Dalit castes. Even though this is known as literate V.D.C. of surkhet district.

CHAPTER - FIVE

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS : DESCRIPTION OF AISHWARYA WOMEN COMMUNITY FOREST USER GROUP

5.1 Establishment of AWCFUG

Aishwarya women community forest user group was registered in 2044 B.S. as a Ganesh community forestry user Group. It was running guidelines of district land protection office surkhet. In that time, Ganesh community forestry was handling both male and female.

After some time, Ganesh community forestry was changed Aishwarya women community forestry user group and registered in 2060 B.S. guidelines of district forest office surkhet and the forest was handed to the user group since beginning. After mean time, this AWCFUG totally female headed at till date. The total population of ward no. 1 is 2406. Among them 492 population of this ward the users of the AWCF.

The total household user group is 78 and the total forest area of AWCF is 51.78 hec. and tree species of the forest are sal, khayar, saj, batdhairo, masala, bakaino, simal, salla etc. and animal like jackal, Rabbits, nigala bagh, badel etc are found in the forest.

5.1.1 Objective of the AWCFUG

-) Protection, development, management and utilization of the forest.
-) Supply of timber, firewood and other forest resources according to their requirement.
-) To collect the fund from the selling of the extra forest resources according to their requirement of the member.
-) To conserve water resources.
-) To control soil erosion, deforestation, firing.
-) To develop and manage this forestry user group as a protected area or Eco-tourism area.
-) To aware the user group or people to plantation in ownership land.

5.1.2 Constitution Procedure and Term of Committee Member

User committee of this community forestry were 11 members among them 100% seats are secured for women. To give suggestions for user committee, suggested committee will of 5 members among them 100% seats are secured for male.

The term of committee member is an one year generally user committee member are used to select by the coordination of the general meeting of the user groups. If any opposition rise, members must be selected through election among the members of the users group.

5.1.3 Distribution System of Forest Resources in AWCFUG

Forest Product	Time for Collecting	System	Distribution
Firewood	once in Magh and Falgun	Can take from dry branches, green branches during thinning	1 Bhari per person Rs 5
Timber	Kartik to Jestha	Dry wood only	Per cubic fit Rs. 400
Beam for Housing	As per FUGC direction and users requirements	As per the decision by the FUGC meeting	As when needed
fencing Materials	All round the year	As per FUG decision	As when needed
Fodder	Within Mangsir to Magh	As per FUG decision	As when needed
Grass (Babio+khar)	within Mangsir	As per users requirement	1 Bhari per person Rs 10
Leaves and litter	All round the year	free	free (no cost)
Plough	Magh and Falgun	As per the decision by FUG meeting	one plough per HH per year with the cost of Rs. 80

Source : Field Survey, 2008

5.2 Social/Economic Characteristics of FUG

Social and cultural features of 40 sampled household were examined to discuss the socio-economic characteristics of the forest user group.

5.2.1 Caste/Ethnic Composition of Forest User Group

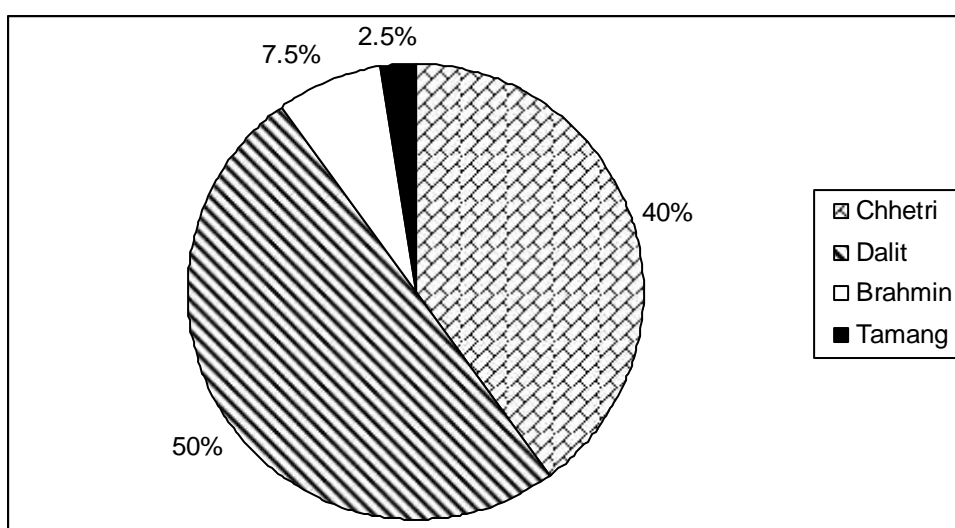
Aishwarya women community forestry user group have 78 huseholds and the total population of FUG is 492. the FUG is combined by different caste/Ethnic composition. Chhetri caste is the dominated group of Kami, Damai, Brahmin and other ethnic groups. The caste/Ethnic composition of the sampled households of the FUG is presented in the following table and figure.

Table No. 1
Caste/Ethnic Composition of the Forest Users

S.No.	Caste Group	Number	Percentage
1	Chhetri	18	40%
2	Dalit	20	50%
3	Brahmin	3	7.5%
4	Tamang	1	2.5%
	Total	40	100%

Source : Field Survey, 2008

Figure No. 1 : Caste/ethnic Composition of the Forest Users



Source : Field Survey, 2008

Above table and figure shows that among the 40 sampled respondents 40 percent are Chhetri, 50 percent are dalit, 7.50 percent Brahmin and 2.50 percent are tamang.

5.2.2 Population Composition by Age and Sex

The age group of the sampled population mainly dominated by non working age group in the study area. According to field survey, large percentage of the people 60 percent in 20-39 yrs age group, 25 yrs of the total population is lies in 60 to above yrs age group and 5 percent of total population lies in 0-19 yrs age group. Likewise, among the total sampled population 47.5 percent are male and remaining 52.5 percent are female. These are given in the table and figure below.

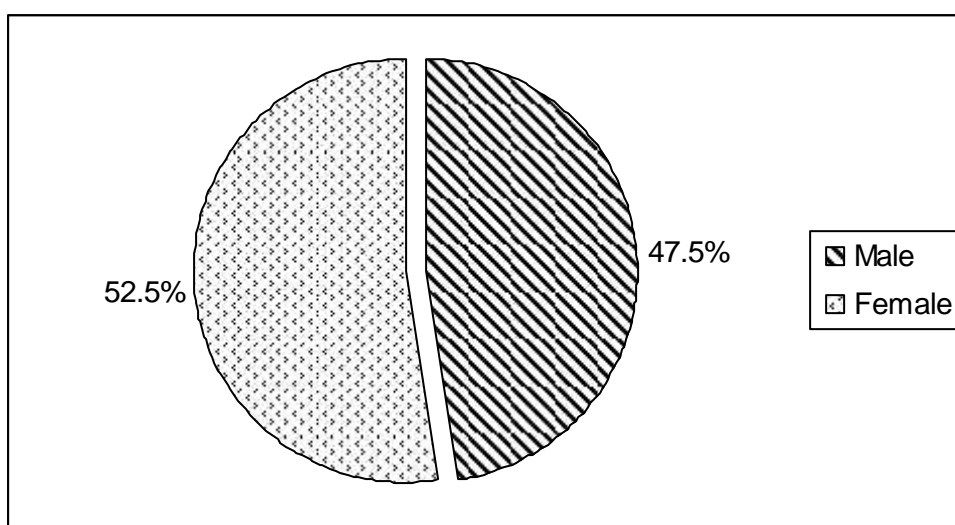
Table No. 2

Age structure of the Population of Sample Household

S.No.	Age Group	Total	Percentage
1	0-19	2	5
2	20-39	24	60
3	40-59	10	25
4	60 to above	4	10
	Total	40	100%

Source : Field Survey 2008

Figure 2 : Population Composition by Sex



Source : Fiend survey, 2008

5.2.3 Family Size

The average family size of the sampled households in the study area is found 5.2 persons. Distribution of respondents households by family size is presented in the table below :

Table No. 3
Family Size of the Surveyed Household

Family Size	Households	
	Number	Percent
0-5	21	52.50
6-9	15	37.50
above 9	4	10
Total	40	100%

Source : Field Survey 2008

The above table indicateds that most of the household, were found having 0-5 members in the family which is 52.50 percent of coverage of the user group. Likewise 37.50 percent households were found having 6-9 members, 10 percent household were found having above 9 members.

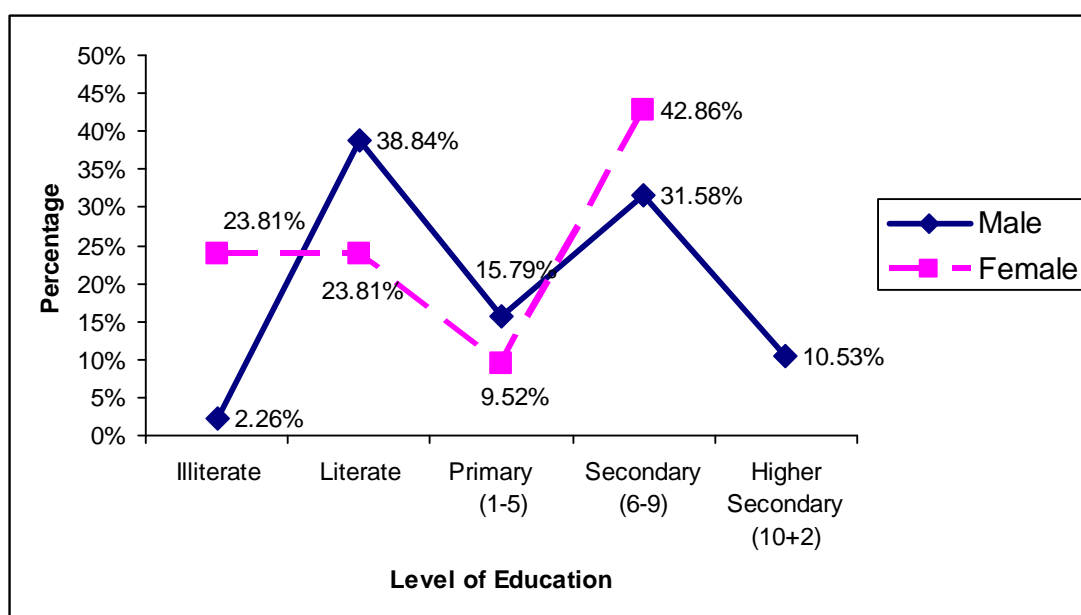
5.2.4 Population Composition by Religion

Religion is one of the important parts of the population analysis. It affects the habit and nature of the people. The population by religion in the study area is mainly composed of Hindus. Among the total sample population 100 percent are Hindu.

5.2.5 Educational Status

Education is one of the basic needs and fundamental rights of the people in this contemporary world. The Educational status of the rural people is still lower than national average data and also the Nepal's status has remained below other SAARC countries. The Educational status of the field surveyed population is given in the figure below :

Figure 3 : Educational Status of the Surveyed Population



Source : Field Survey 2008

The above figure shows that the literacy rate of the people is more than the national literacy rate. Among the surveyed population 23.81 percent female cannot read and write. Likewise 23.81 percent women are can read and write 9.52 percent are primarily educated, 42.86 percent are secondary level and only zero percent are above +2 above level educated. Likewise according to the figure, 5.26 percent male are still illiterate in the study area which is below than female illiteracy rate. The figure also shows that male literacy rate higher than female literacy rate. According to this 36.84 percent male are only read and writes, 15.79 percent are primarily educated, 31.58 percent are secondary level, and 10.53 percent are higher secondary level.

5.3 Economic Characteristics of FUG

For the economic characteristics land holding, livestock holding, occupation and income sources (Primary + Secondary) of the forest user group were surveyed and examined. The details of these activities are briefly discussed in the following section.

5.3.1 Land Holding

Land is the most important factor for rural income and employment generation. The households can be categorized (Rich households, Medium household and poor households) according to the quantity of ownership of the land. Households having more land ownership are called rich, their income and living standard are obviously better than the others; those having low ownership of land are called poor. The size of the landholdings in the study area is unequally distributed. Most of the families have their own land, but relatively a few of them do not have sufficient landholdings. The landholding size of the surveyed households is given in the table below:

Table No. 4

Land holding size of the Samples Household (Land in Katha)

Land Size	Khet		Bari	
	Households	Percentage	Households	Percentage
0-10	13	32.5	19	47.5
11-20	2	50	12	30
21-30	5	12.5	8	20
31- above	2	5	1	2.5
Total	40	100	40	100

Source : Field Survey, 2008

* One katha is equivalent to 0.0335 hector.

The above table shows that the households of the study are small and medium farmers. They do not have enough to cultivate. According to the above table most of the household have small size of the land holding. The table shows that 32.5 percent households have 0-10 katha khet, 50 percent households have 11-20 katha khet, 12.5 percent households have 21.30 katha and 5 percent households have 31 to above katha khet. Likewise, respectively, 47.5 percent households have 0-10 katha Bari, 30 percent households have 11-20 katha, 20 percent households have 21-30 katha and 2.5 percent households have 31 to above katha bari, respectively. The table shows that the land holding size of the sampled households is low. According to this the size of the bari is lower than size of Khet.

5.3.2 Livestock Holiday

According to the respondents and stakeholders, the likewise rearing pattern in the study area has been decreasing due to the lack of grazing land, shortage of fodder and effects of animal diseases. The main livestock reared by the sampled households are Ox, goat, buffalo, cow. The purpose for rearing these animals are for getting fertilizer, milk, meat, plough land and other income generating activities.

5.3.3 Agricultural Production

Rice, wheat, maize, millet, potato, paddy are the major agricultural production produce by the households in the study area. Because of low availability of irrigation land the productivity of the land is also low. According to the respondents and key informants, the households of the study area is not sufficient to food by their own production. Only few households are totally depend on for food on their own agricultural production for few months. Most of the households is borrowed agricultural production from market and local landlord.

5.3.4 Occupational Structure

Agricultural is the main occupation of the Nepalese people. It has also been remaining as mainstream of the employment for livelihood and income generating activities. Similarly, agriculture is the main occupation of the people of the study area. But, agricultural production is not sufficient for their livelihood. So, people of this area involved in subsidiary occupation in various types of services as well foreign employment and labour work.

5.3.4.1 Occupational Structure of the Respondents

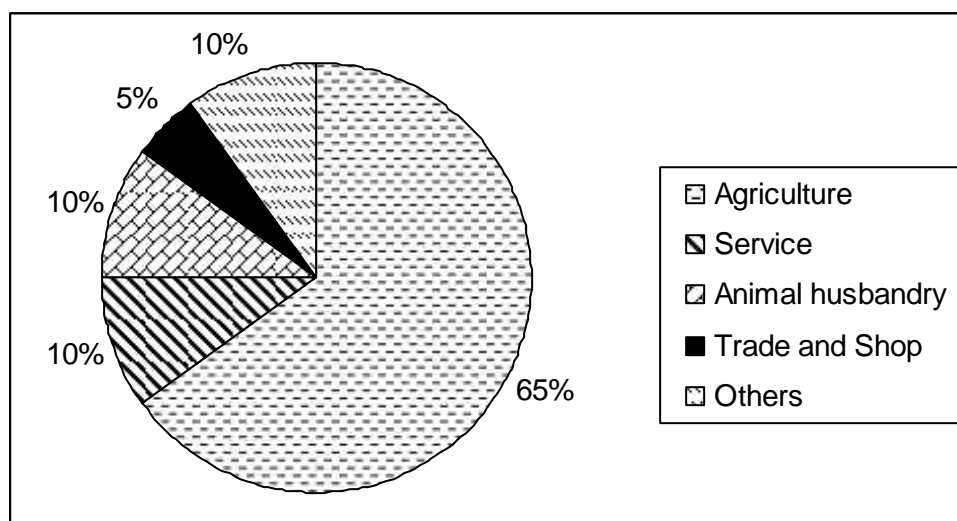
In the study area, most of the respondents are engaged in the agriculture. This is the main sources for their livelihood or income. According to the field survey 65 percent respondents main occupation is agriculture in the total sampled households 10 percent are engaged in various types of services (job) including government and non-governmental service, 10 percent are working as an animal husbandry, 5 percent are have their own rural business like glossary, hotel, fancy, cosmetic shop etc, and remaining 10 percent are engaged in other agricultural and non agricultural job such as wage labour, driver respectively which is given in the table and figure below:

Table No. 5
Main Occupation

S.No.	Occupation	Households	Percentage
1	Agriculture	26	65
2	Service	4	10
3	Animal husbandry	4	10
4	Trade and Shop	2	5
5	Others	4	10
	Total	40	100

Source : Field Survey 2008

Figure 4 : Occupational Status of the Respondents



Source : Field Survey 2008

5.4 Role of 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 results are totally based on the data collected from primary and secondary sources. There are different role of women involvement in process, monitoring and evaluation process and benefit sharing are discussed as their role in community forest management. These dimensions included various sub-dimensions. However, only common but important issues of each dimension are considered while analyzing the results.

5.4.1 Women's Involvement in Decision Making Process

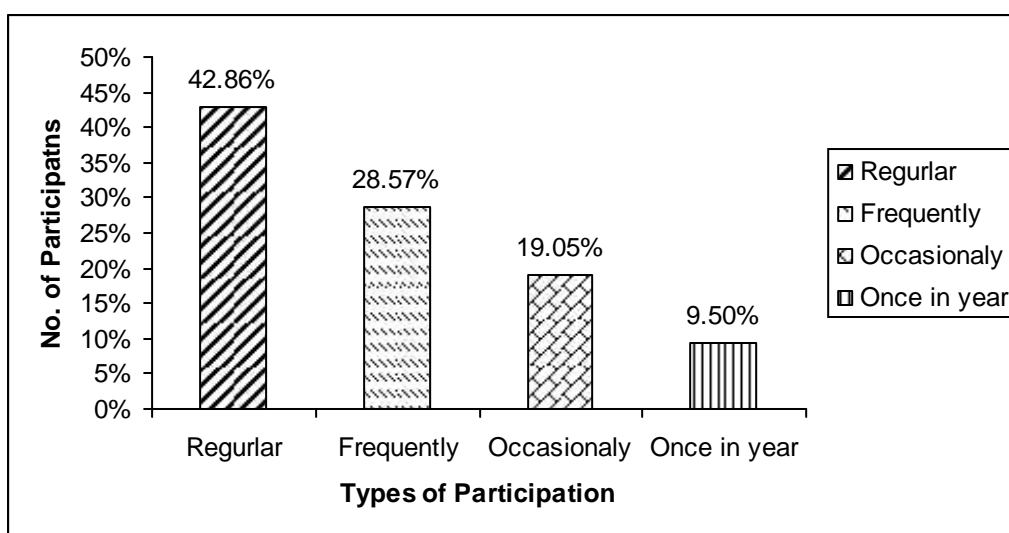
In Aishwarya women community forestry, the FUG makes decision through committee meetings and group assemblies. Meeting of group or committee relied on the issue to be decided. Committee members decide minor issue whereas group decides major issue.

Women's involvement in decision making process in CF development and management is considered in terms of their involvement in committee regular meeting and general assembly, constitution preparation meeting, name registration in CFUG involvement in operational plan preparation, using voting right for executive committee member selection and involvement in conflict management.

5.4.2 Frequency of Women's Participation FUG Meetings and Assembly

FUG meeting and assemblies are means of decision making. Therefore, the frequency of meeting attended by women also determines the women's involvement in the decision making process of CF because major decisions are made between committee members during the regular meetings and the general assemblies. However, women's pattern in FUG meetings is shown in the figure below :

Figure 5 : Women Participation Pattern in FUG Meetings



Source : Field Survey 2008

Among the 21 women or (52.5 percent), the meeting includes CFUG committee regular meeting and general assembly. Above figure shows that 42.86 percent women are attending community forest users group committee meeting

regularly, 29.05 percent women have occasionally attended CF related meeting and 9.52 percent women have been attending annual once in year.

5.4.3 Women's Involvement in Implementation Process

Implementation is the real practice of operational plan, constitution and other decision made by the user group. It is the main responsibility of the user committee to implement all decisions an operational plan with the full participation of users. It is the responsibility of forest users to be involved in implementation of rules and plan for effective implementation of CF program, protection and management are major implementation activities of community forestry. Implantation of decision includes which area of the forest is considered for the application of management operation, what period of the year is allocated for the harvesting of forest products, planting and distribution of forest products, how and what practices are to be applied in the planting, harvesting and protection and so on.

Women respondents of Aishwarya women FUG were asked their participation in there major implementation activates of CF, such as protection of forest, implementation and management operation.

Aishwarya women community forest user group has appointed paid watch men for the protection of forest but for this purpose there is involved in protection of forest as a "Ban heralu"/Ban pale and executive committee volunteer guidelines of Ban heralu on the regular rotational basis.

Forest management is the scientific operation that is applied in forest. Forest management operation includes plantation, weeding, thinning and pruning clearing bushes, shivgling, collection/transporting forest products and five line construction inside the forest area. It needs technical knowledge for the forests management therefore, management operation needs technical assistance form DFO. So, users as well as DFO often play several roles simultaneously in forest management.

AWCFUG planted trees seedlings, thinning, pluming and clearing operation in the forest.

Table No. 6
Women's Participation in Forest Management Operation

S.No.	Description	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Plantation	6	15
2	Weeding	9	22.5
3	Thinning/Pruning	13	32.5
4	Bush clearing	7	17.5
5	Collection of Forest products	5	12.5
	Total	40	100

Source : Field Survey 2008

The above table shows that majorities of women, about 32.5 percent of the total respondents are involved in thinning and pruning forest products and 22.5 percent of women respondents are involved in weeding 17.6 percent of women respondents are involved bush clearing. 15 percent and 12.5 percent women respondents are respectively involved in plantation and collection of forest products. It shows that the involvement of women in implementation part of the CF management is higher than other parts like decision making monitoring and evaluation.

Intensive farming roles of women and their inherited roles of managing, collecting and using of various plants and animals from forests and pastureland is vital. Therefore, women are the key actors in the managing forest products and agricultural plant resources.

5.4.4 Women's Involvement of Benefit Sharing

Benefit sharing is an important element of people's participation. If there is no equal sharing of forest products, people may be frustrated with the CF programme. Equal sharing of forest products may make user's to realize the CF as their own. Some common issues of benefit such as forest products sharing, opportunities to participate in training and utilize the benefits to be available from social activities launched from the income of community forest are analyzed in the study.

The women members of Aishwarya women community forest user group were asked whether they share the benefits from the Community forest equally or not and

they are satisfied with the present condition of distribution system or not. It was found that benefit is shared equally on household basis. A detail of women's involvement in benefits sharing process is described below:

Forest Product Sharing - After the establishment of CF, women of the study area 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 CF they had to walk far for this purpose. But, now the forest products are easy to get comparing to a decade ago. The CFUG had distributed the community forest area 0.65 hact per household for the purpose of protection, development and utilization of community forest.

Users were found mainly concerned with distribution of timber and non-timber forest products from CF. In the initial days due to limited production of timber the CFUG was found adopted equal sharing of forest products to be available from the CF. According to the executive committee members, now users are getting timber as per need based, season based and cost based as determined by committee and forestry technicians.

The field survey found that the CFUG used to consider each household as unit of user and distribute forest products based on HH concept. Throughtout the study, the researcher found that no gander based forest resources were distributing system in the study area.

Human Resource Development : Mainly the training, workshops and study tour were considered under the HRD activity. The younger and adult user was found very enthusiastic in HRD activities. However, elderly people were found not so interested to participate in training and visits.

It was found that planning, management and awareness related activities were conducted mainly by the Illaka forest office, Latikoilee. The data reveals that there is dominance of male in such trainings. Researcher found various reasons behind low participation of female. Some of them are - lack of female representative in the executive committee, depends on ranger post, conduction of trainings without female consultation. Beside lack of awareness was also found among them which hinder them in their meaningful participation. Similarly, lack of earlier information, lack of confidence and lack of time are also some of the major obstacle.

During the study, it is found that AWCFUG have conducted limited number of community development activities from the income of the community forest. Some of

them are timber supporting program for school building, road construction within the community forest area, river bank protection and donation to victims of natural disaster.

Majority of respondent reported that both male and female are getting benefit for those social and community development activities. The researcher found that there is lack of special program targeted to women like skill development and income generating activities which supports them to become self-reliant.

5.4.5 Hindering Factors for Women Participation in Community Forestry Activities

Various factors, which negatively influence to women's participation in community forest management and other local development activities in the study area is analyzed accordingly.

a) *Illiteracy*

Women are more illiterate than male in study area. According to the respondents, women of the community are lacked with formal education. Thus they have problem to read & write the rules, regulations and minutes of the CF meeting. Due to illiterate they have problem to learn forest management skills also, illiteracy is another major obstacles of women's participation.

b) *Lack of Knowledge Forest*

According to the respondents, inadequate knowledge and skills about the CF is next problem of women. Due to the lack of knowledge about the rules of CF women couldn't share in discussion and decision makes process properly. Because of the lack of these knowledge women were became passive in CFM activities.

c) *Poor Economic Condition*

In the study area most of the households are poor. They spend their time for substantial economic activist. Due to the poor economic condition, they have lack of time and education. So, poor women have obstacles to participate in public activities. In this way poor economic is one of the major obstacles of women participation.

d) Traditional Male Dominated Culture

In the study area, there is existing Hindu culture system. According to the culture, meeting attend, decision-making and participate in public activities are the duty of male not of female. Male used to give less chance to keep view for women in every development activities. So, this is also one of the problems for women's participation in community forest management.

e) Self-humiliation

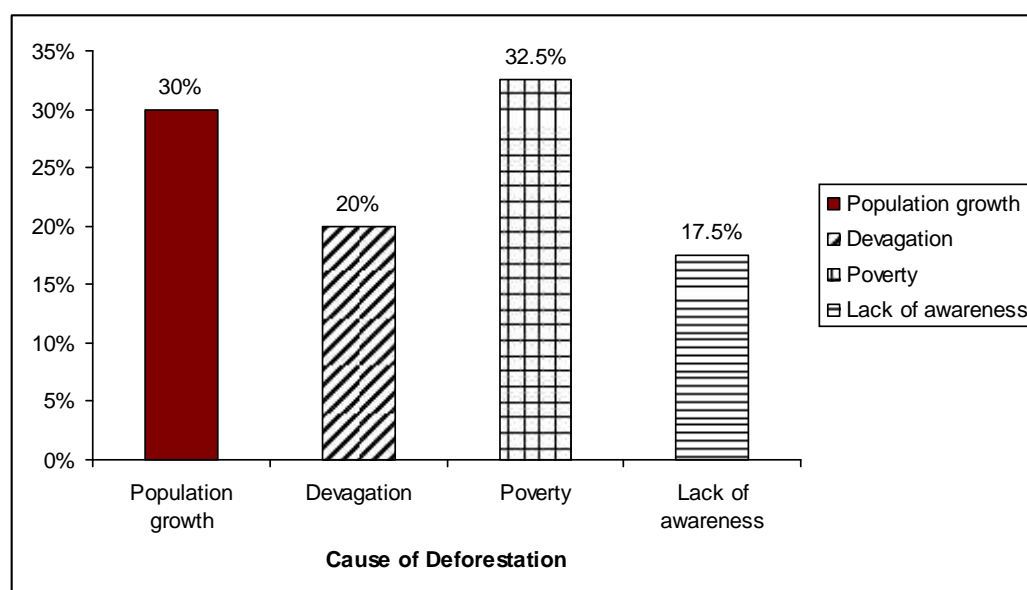
Females have humiliation feeling in this study area. They-feel that they are not able than male for discussion, decision-making and forest rearing. They also feel that they couldn't make good relation with district forestry staff and they are not capable to do managerial task than male. The humiliation feeling makes the women passive in community forest management.

Above mentioned any single causes are not responsible for the low participation of women in community forest management activities. The combinations of all of the causes are main problems for women participation.

5.4.6 Measures for Controlling Deforestation in AWCFUG

Deforestation is the major problem for his CFUG. According to field survey many respondents reply about deforestation level and what are the cause of deforestation. They are given below figure. The main cause of deforestation are population growth, divagation, poverty and lack of awareness.

Figure 6 : Measures for Controlling Deforestation in AWCFUG



Source : Field Survey, 2008

The above figure shows that 30% respondents of the total respondents reply causes of deforestation is population growth, 20% are reply divagation and 32.5% & 17.5% women are reply respectively poverty and lack of awareness.

5.4.7 View of Local People about Women's Role toward Community Forest

5.4.7.1 Positive Views about Women

Positive view of local people about the role of women as following :

-) Women are also helping to manage community forest.
-) Women used to help for forest watchman to rear forest.
-) Women respects and follow FUG rules.
-) Women can be active if they have chance to do something.
-) Women used to participate in CF meeting and they share their ideas and used to take part in discussion and decision-making process.

Women of study area ar positive about community forest program. Unless they are busier in their household work but they are helping to manage the forest. Women's actively participation in general meeting of CF and they follow and respect rules, they help for forest guard for forestry rearing. They have no experience to take part in discussion in decision-making but they are trying to keep their views in CF general meeting. If they have training, awareness programs and support and encourage of male they can play active role in forest management of other development activities. They must be included in development activities without gender bias.

5.4.7.2 Negative Views about Women

In study some of the local people view that women can not play good role for forest management. The negative views of local people are as follows :

-) Women do not want to participate in CF meeting.
-) Women have no idea and ability to manager forest.
-) Women don't care about public concerns.
-) Women must manage their internal household tasks, it is not a duty of women to attend meeting and be active in social development activities.

-) Women couldn't be able to be active and to play dominant and creative roles even they have chance to do something.
-) Women have not wide concept, to manage public concerns without bias.

According to the some local people views, women did not want to participate in development activities. They have not interest about the social development activities including CF management. By tradition, task of women is inside the household and agricultural field. Women are of narrow concept; they couldn't make social issues with neutral way. They couldn't play dominant role in public activities even they have chance to do so.

The negative view about women is affected by the traditional male dominated concept. The strong supporter of traditional male dominant cultural system has negative views about women's role towards public concerns. The next group of local people believes that social development is not possible without proper involvement of women in local development activities including the management of resources.

CHAPTER - SIX

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This chapter summarizes the major findings of the study, draws conclusion above the role of women in community forest management and provides recommendations to make women more active in CFM for the stakeholders concerned.

6.1 Summary

The study "Role of Women in Community Forest Management" was conducted in Aishwarya women community forest of Latikoilee VDC of Surkhet district aiming to assess the status of women's role in CFM in the study area. Among the total 78 households 40 households were surveyed.

On the basis of the study, some major findings of the study can be summarized as follows :

-) There are various caste and cultural groups who are the users of CF. The Aishwarya women community forest user group is a multi ethnic group where Chhetri, Dalit, Brahman, Tamang together.
-) Agriculture is the main occupation of the people in the study area. But agricultural production is not sufficient for their livelihood. So, people of the area are involved themselves in subsidiary occupation in various types of services as well as labour, driver, trade.
-) The Aishwarya FUG has made rules for protection, management, benefit sharing and implementing following those rules and regulations. The main leadership has been taken from women community.
-) The FUG had distributed the CF area 5 kattha per household for the purpose of protection, development and utilization of CF.
-) Women participation in general assemblies and regular meetings of FUG is not satisfactory. In the study area, women's participation in CFM is found limited. Women's involvement in operational plan preparation is found very low and was not active and ecisive.

-) The study has revealed that the involvement of women in implementation part of the CFM is higher than that of other parts like decision-making, monitoring & evaluation. Some exceptional women have been found contributing in decision-making process to a certain level.
-) Access of ordinary women in sub-dimensions of decision-making found lower.
-) Regarding conflict management the involvement of women was negligible.
-) Women EC member's participation was passive in the vital discussion and in taking decision.
-) The women members seem more dependent on male members due to lower confidence and knowledge on subject matter.
-) Both women & men found involved in forest products collection and transportation. However, the degree of women's involvement was again higher in the actual field.
-) The field survey found the FUG used to consider each household as a unit of user and distribution FPs based on household concept. There is no gender based forest resources distribution system in the study area.
-) AWCFUG found weak in conducting number of training. EC totally depends on range post and do not arranged training and visits by own initiation.
-) AWCFUG has conducted limited number of community development activities in study area from the income of CF. respondent reported that both sexes are getting benefit from those social and community development activities.
-) There is lack of special program targeted to women like, skill development and income generating activities which support them to become self-reliant.
-) Involvement rate of women in each sub-issue of Monitoring and Evaluation process found lower in the study area.
-) In very year the proportion of women's involvement in general assembly is found totally.

-) Majority of the respondents of the study area were involved in forest resource management for the fulfillment of day to day requirement of forest products.
-) Majority of the respondents guided to involve in CF management. Likewise, lack of knowledge, self-humiliation and illiteracy among women found other problems.
-) The findings reveal that education is the major influencing factor in decision making and leading the group in user committee.
-) Most of women are found untrained and unaware of the activities lunched by the GOs/NGOs./INGOs.

6.2 Conclusion

The concept of community forestry programs a vital one for preserving and developing natural resources in general and forest resources in particular in Nepal. Forest is one of the major resources of rural livelihood. It is the source of food, firewood, timeber, fodder, leaves and liters etc. The rapidly increasing population growth and its subsequent effects on natural resources particularly forest resources has been noticing since long.

For the better management and enhancing the forest resources the CF program is launched in Nepal since 1978. The community forest is the forest handed over to the local community on which they have the full authority to use, protect and manage CF in their own way so that they can fulfill their basic needs for firewood, timber and other forest products in a sustainable manner. Women are the primary user of forest resources and their roles increasing in CFM. Thus, the ultimate manager's and uses of the forest are women.

The research unit "Ashwarya Women community forest" was handed over to the user group in 2060 B.S. It lies in the ward no. 1 of Latikoilee VDC & 78 households are directly involved at present. Dalit and Chhetri are the major caste groups. User group is highly dominated Chhetri so; their representation in user committee is also high. The level of income of the people of this area is medium and their economic activities are subsistence farming with livestock.

Aiwsharya women community forest is used mainly for fire-wood, fodder, grass, leaf litter, poles and timber. The forest products are collected for the domestic purposes. General rules for using forest products are outlined in the FUG constitutional forest operational plan.

During the field observation most of the women were busy the whole day in doing productive as well as reproductive work. Most of women were involved in vegetable growing, animal husbandry, farming, caring family members and labor work. Due to this women had no leisure time, while men were only busy in productive work.

Women collect firewood during the scheduled community distribution time. They fulfilled their additional requirement of firewood from agricultural residues. It took average of 5.27 hours for collecting a Bhari of firewood in the past. These days fire wood collection from CF is much more time saving and easier.

Timber is used for house construction and HH tools. Except very few houses, other houses are made by the timber and forest products. Fodder is the main animal feed for the live stock in this area. People used this fodder for staple feed which is important for animal husbandry. Every HH maintain livestock for domestic purposes. Therefore, collection of leaves and flitters become the main job of the local people. Tree leaves and litter are collected specially for bedding purposes.

Forest is an integral part of the farming system in general and therefore, the management of CF has helped to protect the fragile ecosystem Nepal succeeded to protect the several species of medicine plants in particular.

Role of women is important in almost all aspects and activities of CFM. But the self-motivated participation is considered the real participation. The importance of women's participation noticed from the period of formation to the protection of forest.

Findings of this study show that women can play significant role in CF development, protection and management. Hence, success of the community forestry program largely depends upon degree of women's participation in its management from the very beginning. Women's participation in CFM 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 satisfactory but

their participation in discussion was found passive. Participation of ordinary women was found very low in decision making process due to deep rooted patriarchal domination in the society.

Participation of women in implementation process was found high. Male's influences in decision making in the family, requirements of forest products to women, and tendency of giving less response to social works, prevailed in the community are the reasons for it. Women's participation in monitoring and evaluation process was found poor in the AWCFUG due to lack of knowledge on women in this regard.

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

The participation on forest management by women is limited due to social role. Women are found highly busy involving household chores and household level forestry activities. However, majorities of women are participated in the group interview and discussion.

Women were motivated to participate in CFM due to requirement of forest products, attachment with forest and women involved sources stories carried out in different parts of the country. Similarly, women considered the self inspiration, their villagers, concerned EC, forestry technicians, local political leaders and husband (family member) as potential sources of motivation to involve in CFM.

Factors like regular inadequate knowledge, illiteracy, poor economic condition, self humiliation, patriarchal influence in the family and society, and backbiting nature of society found as hindering factors of women participation in community forest management.

The level of women's participation depends upon the composition of FUG executive committee. Generally, an adult committee member participates actively. Usually, married women do not leave the village, as there are high chances of young women leave the village after they get married.

Regular income sources and participatory decision making roles and professional development opportunity thrust the degree of women's participation. The

system of utilization of local human resources, knowledge and resources also plays vital role in the pattern of women participation.

As long as more people are clear about the benefits joining after FUG and clear about the rights and authorities of groups as well as less conflict between members, higher would be the participation of women in community forestry management.

Educational system of the people plays a key role for better involvement of women. High educational status of the women, higher would be the participation of women. Similarly, if more constant support from DFO and other line agencies are provided and professional development opportunities among FUG members are available, greater would be the chances of generating women's participation in community forest 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 CFM and second is qualitative aspect of women's involvement, which is very difficult to analyze and interpret. Involvement of women in equal proportion with male in all dimensions of community forestry management is the burning issue of the forest resource management.

6.3 Recommendation

Based on the findings of the study, the following suggestions can be formulated :

6.3.1 Recommendations 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 organizational are major stakeholders of CF. Therefore, some recommendations are provided to the major stakeholders to boost up role of women in community forest management.

6.3.2 Related with Policy Makers

Forestry policy is the apex body at national level that directs to constitution, strategy and implementation procedures formulation. In this context, some recommendations are made to the policy-making body, which 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.
-) Being a corporate body the FUG empowered to develop operational plans independently.
-) Compulsory mandate should be given to FUG to organize the AGM with equal presence of users and active participation of women.
-) FUGs should be reviewed, categorized and awarded based on their performance.
-) A special meeting of all women FUGs should be arranged annually at district level.
-) Focus should be given to introduce alternative strategies to bring women in to main stream of development in general and their role in decision making process in CFM in specific for gender equity.

6.3.3 Related with Respective FUG

Forest user group is corporate body that is authorized regarding operational plan preparation, forest resource distribution and CFM 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 :

-) Key positions such as chairman, secretary and treasurers should be assigned to women. Such type of practice helps to boost up knowledge, moral and feeling of responsibility among women that ultimately will increase women's participation.
-) User groups has no sufficient technical knowledge on forest management. Thus, more training should be conducted in this field.
-) User group has given more emphasis only on protection but is not applying management operation effectively. They should increase their participation in forest management.

-) Women participation in decision making should be increased through awareness. They should be encouraged to hold responsible position in user committee.
-) The FUG should organize non-formal education program to women. So that the importance of CFM for the present as well as future generation could be well understood.
-) 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.
-) User to users especially women to women system (Peer education) of awareness should be adopted for awareness and women empowerment.
-) Operational plan should for awareness and women empowerment.
-) Operational plan should be prepared with equal presence of both sexes and maximum number of users.
-) Women are the real users of the forest resources and immediate victims of deforestation. Therefore, CF activities should be launched with timely consign and voluntary participation of women at all stages of the CFM.
-) Income received from the CF should be invested on those activities, which could make benefited to women and disadvantaged groups.

6.3.4 Related with NGOs/INGOs

The NGOs/INGOs launching in the FUG area play a catalytic role in the community. NGOs/INGOs 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.
-) Training materials of technical aspect should be provided to user committee as reference material.
-) Users are aware of the value of forest products but lack of technical knowledge on how to grow. Therefore, technical knowledge should be provided to them and linked them to appropriate market.
-) Several studies could be made on this subject with more explanation and emphasis on ethnic perspectives.

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Annex - I

Questionnaire for the Household Survey

General Information

1. Name of the Respondents :
 - i) Caste :
 - ii) Age :
 - iii) Ward No. :
 - iv) Locality
2. Marital Status :
 - i) Married
 - ii) Unmarried
 - iii) Divorced
 - iv) Widow
 - v) Separated
3. Education :
 - i) Illiterate
 - ii) Literate
 - iii) Primary
 - iv) Secondary
 - v) S.L.C.
 - vi) Intermediate
 - vii) Bachelor
 - viii) Master Degree
4. Main Occupation :
 - i) Agriculture
 - ii) Service
 - iii) Animal Husbandry
 - iv) Retail Trade and Shop
 - v) If other (Specify)
5. Secondary Occupation
 - i) Agriculture
 - ii) Service
 - iii) Animal Husbandry
 - iv) Retail Trade and Shop
 - v) If other (Specify)
6. Household Members :

S.No.	Member Name	Age	Sex	Education	Primary Occupation	Secondary Occupation
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						

7. Information about Family :
 - i) Nuclear family (Up to 5)
 - ii) Joint Family (6 to 9)
 - iii) Large family (Large above 10)

Community Forest Related Information

1. When was this community forest to user group established?
2. What contribution did you make establish this CFUG?
 - i) Cash donation
 - ii) Formulation of policies & Planning
 - iii) Participation in the meeting
 - iv) In registration process
3. Whose name has been registered in FUG from your family?
4. Did male provide time to participate in CF?
5. Have you gone to participate FUG meeting?
 - i) Yes
 - ii) No
 - iii) Do not get information
6. If you participate in CF meeting how do you participate?
 - i) As a audience
 - ii) discussion
 - iii) Suggestion
7. How you get involved forest related activities?
 - i) Regularly
 - ii) Frequently
 - iii) Occasionally
 - iv) Never
8. If you participate, how many times
 - i) Regularly
 - ii) Frequently occasionally
 - iii) Once in year
9. What do you think about status of the present forest condition?
 - i) Increase
 - ii) Decrease
 - iii) No change
 - iv) Don't know
10. Tell me about male and female participation in harvesting and fetching forest products.

Activity	Male	Female	Both	Hired Wookers
Firewood				
* Harvesting				
* Fetching				
Grass cutting/collection				
Leaf litter collection				

11. What do you feel about community?

Positive	Negative

12. What type of energy do you use for daily cooking?

- i) Fuelwood ii) Kerosene
iii) Gas iv) Others

13. If fuelwood is not used give reason for not using ?

- i)
ii)
iii)
iv)

14. Which factors motivate women to participate in forest management activities?

- i) Internal ii) External
iii) Mixed iv) Can't say

15. In your family does anyone have forest related training?

- i) Yes ii) No

16. Do you have any idea on local peoples perception towards women's role in community forest management activities?

- i) Positive ii) Negative
iii) Indifferent attitude

17. Have you got family support to involve in CF management activities?

- i) Yes ii) No

18. If yes, who have?

- i) Male ii) Female

19. If female have not participated in the training, what is the reason?

- i) Lack of information ii) Lack of time
iii) Lack of interest iv) Lack of Education

20. Did your get your annual income increased?

- i) Yes ii) No iii) Don't know

21. Do you involve in any saving activities?

- i) Yes ii) No

22. How far has community forest helped in providing forest products? Is that capable of meeting the needs of the users?
- i) Very much ii) Not significantly iii) Not good
23. Do you use to involve in forest product distribution/allocation?
- i) Yes ii) No
24. Who organized it ?
- i) ii)
25. Have any awareness program been conducted focusing women in forest management activities in your FUG by DFO/NUKCFP/ etc.?
- i) Yes ii) No
26. Do you know about deforestation?
- i) Yes ii) No
27. If you know deforestation, what are the cause of deforestation?
- i) Population growth ii) Devegation
iii) Poverty iv) Lack of awareness
28. What is the reason for saving and how is it going?
29. Do you involve in protection of forest? (As a Ban heralu etc.)
- i) Regularly ii) Frequently
iii) Occasionally iv) Never
30. Do you use to involve in monitoring and evaluation activities?
- i) Silviculture ii) General Assembly
iii) Quantity and Quality Assessment iv) Not involve
31. Do you use to involve in the implementation part of the CF management? If yes how?
- i) Bush clearing ii) Product collecting
iii) Thinning and Pruning iv) Plantation

Annex - II

Key informants Interview

1. Do you know past forest management system before the introduction of present system? What are difference?
2. What is your opinion about women's role in the forest management committee?
3. What do you think about your (women) role in forest management activities?
4. What do you think about DOF/NGOS/INGOS and CBOs role in the forest management activities?
5. What are your suggestions for the improvement of women involvement in community forest management?
6. What are the different cause of deforestation and how does it prevent?
7. What kinds of change do seem of women in income and awareness level after established CF?
8. Do you tell about deforestation level of this community?

Annex - III
Checklist

1. Name :
Name of Village :
Caste :
Religion :
Locality :
Designation :
2. No. of households in study area :
3. No of women FUGs in this Forestry.
4. Level of women income.
5. No. of women participate in political parties, decision making.
6. No. of caste set led there.
7. Amount of timber export by this community.
8. Social and Physical setting.
9. Amount of firewood use by each households.
10. Problems faced by women FUGS.
11. Measure to over count these problems.
12. Plantation period of this CF.