

## CHAPTER -ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Forest has been one of the important natural resources of Nepal. Due to varied physiological and climatic conditions, Nepal has a very diverse flora and fauna. The forest area of the country is only 0.15 percent of the world's total forest area, but it contains 118 ecosystem, 75 vegetation types and 35 forest types (Shakya, 2004).

In the Nepalese countryside the population largely relies on forests to fulfill basics of life such as fuel wood, construction material, feed for livestock, leaf-litter for the preparation of compost and other non-timber forest products. Moreover, forest contributes in the conservation of soil and water, and preservation of biodiversity, enhancement of landscape, aesthetic value, recreation, ecotourism etc. Moreover, forest provides over 70 percent of energy requirement. It is estimated that 40 percent of the Total Digestible Nutrient (TDN) as a source of food for livestock is provided by forest (ibid).

In the past local people used to protect forests in their vicinity. Nepalese forests had not seen commercialization until the unification of Nepal. However, after the unification, the state declared its ownership over forests while parts of forest ownership was transferred to institutions and individuals as Birta, Kipat, Jagir, Guthi etc. in order to manage the resources at the local level and for the benefit of the locals. Before 1957, the government encouraged individuals to convert forest land to agriculture as a means of extending state revenue. As a result of limited state regulation, local villagers controlled forest and forest products.

In 1957 the government introduced Private Forest Nationalization Act, 1957 that abolished private ownership of forest, but this had negative impact on locals. Deforestation became rapid. Government failed to protect forest resources. To address this situation, the governments made provisions of different acts and regulations in 70s, 80s and 90s to ensure participation of local people and communities in forest management. Community forestry is the best example as to how local people can be involved to manage forest resources in sustainable way.

The concept of Community Forest (herein after CF) was incorporated in Nepal's National Forestry plan of 1976 and Forest legislation of 1977. Further

modification of these plan and Legislation has made it possible for the development of community forestry in Nepal (Mahat, 1997, Quoted by R.Roy, 2002). Efforts on protection and conservation of forest resources were started after the establishment of District Forest Offices in all the 75 districts in 1983 (Amatya, 2002). For the real people participation and induced ownership feeling over the forest, the Forest Act, 1993 and Forest Regulation, 1995 came into effect. These Legislations are supportive and conducive for the community forestry development in Nepal (Roy, 2002).

The Forest Act, 1993 has emphasized on forest management by defining different types of forest such as Government managed Forest (National Forest), Community Forest, Leasehold Forest, Religious Forest, and Private Forest. As per the Act, Community Forest are those forests that are managed by the community themselves through Forest User Group (FUG), for its development, conservation and utilization for the collective interest. FUGs are given the rights to the forests but not to the land. The community and private forestry program is the largest component program of the Master Plan for the Forestry Sectors. Under this program all accessible hill forest are to be handed over to local communities (ibid). Moreover, Community forestry is a part of National forest that has given to the users only “**use right**” but not “**land tenureship**” and there is provision of the back from users if they do not follow the rules of operational plan of the forest.

Community Forestry is a participatory approach in forest management under which the authority for the protection and management of local forests is handed over to the community to manage as common property by groups of rural people. They agree to use local forests to support their farms, household and community. The potential area of community forest in Nepal is 35, 61,600 hectares (61%) of the total National Forests. At present 11, 90,000 hectares of forest area has been handed over to 14,337 forest user groups, which benefits 16, 50, 000 households (DoF, 2007).

In Nepal rural women are seriously affected by poverty, inequality and illiteracy. Low level of income, heavy dependency on male members in different fronts of family affairs, subsistence level of production and lack of other skills keep Nepali women in vulnerable position. In addition, they are not familiar with technical know-how for commercial production under different income generating activities. This situation entails that rural areas of Nepal will remain poor if the “poverty of women” is not addressed by providing opportunity to mobilize resources which are relatively easily accessible to them. In this regard, forest can be a source of income

for women. However, using forest as source of income by rural women is not easy because they have no skill to manufacture different products by using forestry related raw materials on the one hand and there is lack of market facilities on the other. Moreover, they can not devote their full time to secondary source of income because they are compelled to involve themselves in livestock raising and agricultural works in addition to household chores. Thus, their participation in income generating activities related to forest is not only for commercial purpose. Which implies that commercialization of their secondary occupation, which has immense potentiality, will help increase their income contributing directly or indirectly in the alleviation of rural poverty.

Community Forestry is considered as successful program because of active participation of community, especially women, poor and marginalized groups. Community forestry has a great potentiality to generate substantial economic benefits to the local communities at household level and also support community developments. Participation of the poor themselves is very important in every program, which aims at poverty alleviation. Women have a vital role in community forestry as they are the major collectors of forest products, and they are also the first to suffer from the social and economic consequences of deforestation.

Women are the main extractors of firewood and fodder in the Nepalese context and hence they need to be sensitized regarding the sustainable use of forest resources along with utilizing forest products in income generating activities (Sapkota, 1994). Badikhel is an example to demonstrate as to how women can best use of forest products for the purpose of manufacturing different products. They are using forest for their income along with its use as a source of fodder and firewood.

For any development programs to be successful, gender balanced participation of locals is very important. However, in the Nepalese perspective women's participation is not considered worthwhile even though they are primary users of the forest (Bhandary, 1997). In most communities, the management of the forest is generally taken by the male members and they are predominant in the Forest User Group Committee. Women have little say in the decision making and overall management of the Forest. This study will try to analyze role of women in the management of Bandevi Shanti Community Forestry at ward No. 5 of Badikhel VDC, of Lalitpur District.

## 1.2 Statement of the Problem

Nepal has been losing much of its forest cover and this problem is in very critical condition (Ives and Messrli, 1989). People still hold traditional attitudes towards forest and use it as a common property. For rural women, deforestation means more time and energy to be spent on collecting and carrying fuel and other forest products (Gurung, 1987).

Women play a significant role in forest use, but their heavy involvement in household chores, economic dependency on male and lack of education make them unable to participate in other productive activities. Women's participation in forest management and decision making is very low in Nepal. A Large number of rural women spend their time in the contact of forest for consumption and utilization of forest materials. However, many examples have shown that their involvement for the betterment of forest is very low. The development activities have not only overlooked gender issues while designing programs, but also have been unable to capitalize women's ability to enhance productivity of natural resource through improved technology and skills ( ibid).

If we mobilize women's labour contribution in forest activities, we can save the greenery of the nation and many rural women would get the opportunity of employment based on forest products. Participation of women in forest activities would be difficult without monetary attraction. Such kind of monetary gain or income generation activities could be related with forest management. If rural women avail the employment opportunity based on forest products, they would involve in its protection and management because these forests based activities often provide the poor, especially women with their only source of income.

Constraints against achieving women's participation in forest-related programmes appear to be their lack of skill, technology know-how and vicious cycle of poverty. It is necessary to encourage them to involve themselves in income generating activities based on forest products and their capabilities should be utilized in forest management and preservation through their occupation. In this context, participation of women in forest activities is very essential because they collect forest products such as bamboo, *bet* and *nigalo* for making different products. Unless the entire responsibility, utilization and decision making authority is given to women the problem of deforestation in Nepal will remain unchanged. It must be borne in mind

that women constitute half of the country's population and they are the primary users of forest resources (Regmi, 1989). Hence the protection and management responsibilities of forest should be entrusted to women. Education, employment opportunities and independent income could make them conscious about forest and its protection. However, it is rather difficult to involve women in forest management. It requires making them optimistic and confident about the benefits of future through their forest-based income generation activities. It is necessary for women to think that forest is their source of income and the responsibilities of its protection and management rest on their hands.

From aforesaid explanation it can be inferred that women are the principal users of forest and they must be given a major role in its management and conservation. However, women's participation in CF management is very low. Many research works have stressed the need to involve n/ women in forest management to make forest activities a success. A number of factors are responsible for the non-involvement of women which has been dealt with in detail in this research. It is argued that local level institutions or organizations such as Community Forest User Group (CFUG) will be effective in conservation and development works if they ensure equal participation of men and women in making management decisions and in the control of resources.

### **1.3 Rationale of the Study**

Deforestation and ecological crisis in Nepal may be characterized as lack of women's participation in forest management. The words like "manager" and "Protector" in the context of management of forest are used for women only from theoretical point of view but not in practical sense. The management responsibility of forest has not been given to women because of their lack of education, economic dependency, heavy load of household chores and patriarchal influence in the family and society.

It is better to consider that forest can be a source of income for rural women and their participation may be increased through financial incentives and their say in decision making. The unemployed rural women's contribution can be shifted in forest preservation and its rational use.

Even though a lot of studies have been undertaken on women and forest related issues, they only describe the attitudes of women towards forest, their traditional utilization pattern, but not the process of decision making and their participation in it. Most studies focuses on the fact that women are the primary users of the forest and they need to be included in its programs. For example, a report on the status of women in Nepal tells that 66 % of the total time needed for fuel wood collection is spent by women; 87% of time spent on drinking water collection is done by women and they spend more time in agriculture related activities than men (Acharya and Benett 1982).

The present study attempts to show something different from previous studies. Since there have not been much studies on the nexus between women and community forestry of Badikhel VDC of Lalitpur District, this study would be helpful to analyze the extent to which women involve themselves in Bandevi Shanti community forest management of Badikhel VDC. The study will also analyze the factors which motivate them or the factors that discourage them for their affiliation in the management of community forestry. In this context, the study would contribute to understand the hidden power relations between men and women within the family and community of the study area. Therefore, the finding of this study would be of great help to the policy makers, planners and donor agencies who are responsible for improvement of forest resources as well as the programs on women's development. This study would also be helpful for women to encourage them in the field of forestry. Most importantly, the study attempts to bring new information regarding women's role in decision making and management of community forest.

#### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

The general objective of the study is to analyze women's participation in management of Bandevi Shanti Community Forestry of Badikhel VDC, Lalitpur District. Specific objectives of the study are to:

- ) To find out overall socio-economic condition of community in the study area;
- ) To find out the level of women's participation in community forest management in terms of decision making, implementation in the areas of protection of forest, forest management activities such as plantation,

weeding, thinning, pruning, bush clearing, collection of forest products, and benefit sharing;

- ) To discuss the socio-cultural factors that affect women participation in community forest management; and
- ) To suggest the measures for enhancing women's participation in community forest management.

### **1.5 Limitation of the Study**

The present study is limited to Ward No.5 of Badikhel VDC of Lalitpur district. This is a micro level study and hence the result may not be generalized for the other parts of the country. Though the subject matter of the study is very broad, the study is carried out with limited time and resources. The study concentrates only on participation level of women in community forest management. This study has not followed any theoretical model and is based only on descriptive analysis. Data collection was held in the year 2007 and 2008 (BS 2063 and 2064). In this study months of Baishakh to Fagun were considered as the time period for the year 2064 BS. Because of the second General Assembly of 2064 BS is yet to be held, which will be held on Chaitra 2064 BS. So that in the analysis part of the same year, data are calculated till Fagun and the rest period (i.e. month of chaitra) is excluded.

### **1.6 Organization of the Study**

This study report is divided into seven chapters. The first chapter includes general background, statement of the problem, objectives and rationale of the study and the chapter ends with limitation of the study.

The second chapter presents a review of literature which is divided into two sections. The first section deals with the community forestry in general and second section focuses on literature dealing with women's participation in Community Forestry.

The third chapter describes the methodology applied by the researcher to carry out this research work. The chapter is again divided into three sections. First section presents the rationale for the selection of the study site, the second section describes about the census procedure, nature and source of data, tools and techniques applied

for collection of data, and the third section deals with the presentation and analysis of the data applied by the researcher.

The fourth chapter elaborates the ecological and demographic setting of Badikhel VDC of Lalitpur district. The chapter deals with geographical location, vegetation, population etc.

The fifth chapter explains the socio-economic profile of the villagers of Bandevi Shanti community Forestry User Group. This chapter gives picture of demographic character, socio-cultural and economic activities of the villagers. It also includes overview of CF management and women's participation in community forestry.

The sixth chapter is the major analytical part of the dissertation. The chapter tries to present the participation level of women in community forestry management along with motivating and hindering factors for their involvement. Last but not the least; the seventh chapter is the chapter incorporating summary, conclusion and recommendations.



## **CHAPTER -TWO**

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

This portion of the thesis reviews the literature related to forest management. In this context, the community forestry will be main focus of the analysis. In doing so, general literature related to community forestry will be presented. Lastly, women's participation in community forestry will also be mentioned.

#### **2.1 Familiarization with the Concept of Community Forestry**

Community forestry is something like “people forestry”. Community forestry activities are aimed at providing direct benefits to rural people and that “the people” should have a substantial role in decision making. Gilmour and Fisher (1991) define community forestry in terms of control and management of forest resources by the rural people who use them especially for domestic purposes and as an integral part of their farming systems. Since community forestry constitutes both social and biophysical elements, they both are equally important. The "resource" can be managed effectively with a clear understanding of forest management principles and knowledge of natural system and "social" part can be dealt with a clear understanding of a society and their relationships with the resource and institutions related to it (Pokharel, cited from <http://www.wrm.org.uy/countries/Asia/Nepal.html>).

Community forestry or village forestry can be perceived as the control, management and use of forest resources by villagers. It seeks to increase the level of awareness of local people and to involve them actively in all aspects of forestry activities. Community forestry is perceived 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). The community forestry has been implemented in several countries including Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia. In different countries it covers private planting (encouraging people to plant trees in their own land) and/or 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 farms (Gurung, 1987)

Community forestry involves local people in the management of forest resources, which are at least partly intended for their use. It is based on the notion that appropriate involvement by local people in forest management enhances the sustainable use of forest resources (Fisher et al, 1997). The basic objective of community forestry programs is to increase community involvement in the management and ownership of forest resources. The underlying principle of community forestry program is that the program is of the people, carried out by the people themselves, for the benefit of the community as a whole.

Based on the above definitions, this study views community forestry as forest conservation, management and utilization by the local community. It is most accurately and usefully understood as an umbrella term denoting a wide range of activities which link rural people with forests, trees, and the products and benefits to be derived from them

## **2.2 Evolution of Community Forestry Concept**

It is widely recognized that local communities have historically played an instrumental role in forest management as an indispensable common property. Gilmour and Fisher (1991) are of the opinion that community forestry in the guise of management of common forest resources is not new and they provide references to medieval England and to pre-sixteenth century Switzerland. Management of common forest resources was well developed in England by the middle ages with clearly defined use and ownership rights and “..... Such rights already dated from time immemorial”. Thus, far from “community forestry” being a modern concept, it is in fact a very old one-another case of “old wine in a new bottle” (Gilmour and Fisher, 1991).

In the late 1970s two major roles of forest that were recognized are to provide forest products and trees for rural people who no longer had access to them, and to find ways of increasing the benefits of the forest resources to the local people who lived in or near forests. The concept of community or social forestry crystallized somewhat in the late 1970s with the release of landmark FAO publication ‘Forestry for local community Development’ (FAO, 1978).It has defined CF as “.....any situation which intimately involves local people in forestry activity”. The legitimization of the concept was also boosted by the adoption of “Forestry for people” as the theme for

the Eight World Forestry Congress in Jakarta in 1978 .In particular, the emergence of the concept of community Forestry in the late 1960s and early 1970s paralleled the wider concerns of development planners with meeting basic community needs (ibid).

Therefore, the concept of community forestry is not new but was formally initiated in the 1970s by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, and the World Bank (ibid). By the 1980s the concept of community forestry had become firmly entrenched within the forestry policy of many developing countries. Forestry for the local community development is a new people oriented policy whose objectives are to raise the standard of living of rural people and involve them in decision making, so it is about rural people for the rural people. Hobley (1996:3) presents the typology of change in the concept and philosophy of forestry for local community development since the1970s (table 2.1). The typology clearly illustrates how the concept of CF has evolved and developed since 1970s. It is clearly seen that forestry practices responded to events in different decades. Rio and its outcomes partly outlined in Agenda 21, gave more fuel for further strengthening of community participation at the local level, which ultimately enhanced the management of forests by local communities.

**Table 2.1**  
**The Typology of Change (Community Forestry)**

<b>Decade</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Response</b>
1970s	* Oil crisis = other energy crisis-firewood * Sahelian drought = deforestation * Bangladesh floods = deforestation	Forestry for local community development
1980s	* Eco-disaster = Forestry renaissance	Creation of new forest resources = wood lots/social forestry
Late1980s	* Changing development practice = from top-down to bottom up planning	Local control and management of resources = participation, acknowledgement of value of indigenous technical knowledge, enhanced role of NGOs.
1990s	* New forest sector policy * Rio and Agenda 21 * Decentralization * Public sector reform	Participatory management = institutional and policy reform, new partnerships, collaborative, joint, participatory and community forestry

*Source: Hobley, M. 1996. Participatory Forestry: the process of change in India and Nepal, Rural Development Forestry Study Guide 3, overseas Development Institute, London Cited in Tripathi, 1999*

In South Asia, many experiments in the participatory management of forest resources have been carried out since the 1970s. Social and community forestry

programs in India and Nepal have attempted to transform the relationships between a powerful state bureaucracy and local people directly dependent on forest resources. These programs revealed that a large proportion of the population depends heavily on forest resources for subsistence, energy, nutrition, income and the maintenance of farming systems. It has been realized that traditional management of forest by government to halt (control) the loss and degradation of these countries forests is not possible without the active participation of local communities. The inadequacy of government-based approaches to forest protection and management led to the search for alternatives and experimentation with a number of approaches such as social forestry, farm forestry, community forestry, joint forest management and rural development forestry (Hobley 1996, cited in Tripathi, 1999).

## **2.3 Community Forestry in Nepal**

### **2.3.1 Background**

Forest management has a long tradition in Nepal. The rulers of Nepal (following unification of the country in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century) showed little interest in forest management. Land use policy in the hills was designed to encourage the conversion of land from forest to agricultural use in order to increase the tax base (Mahat et al., 1986). One of the major values of the forests (from the view of central government) was as source of fuel for the metallurgical industries necessary for the manufacture of arms. Occasionally royal orders were issued concerning treatment of specified forest areas, but general forest legislation as such did not appear until the mid-twentieth century (ibid). After the over throw of the Rana regime in 1950, the first policy statement was written in 1952/53, but the policy was never implemented. It defined three categories of forest including “community forests”. Community Forests were to be set aside to “.....serve the needs of the surrounding villages in respect of timber..., firewood leaves for manure and fodder, fencing thorns, grazing and edible forest products. The protection of the forests and distribution of produce should be entrusted to Panchayats.” This is the first mention of community forestry in Nepal (ibid).

In order to remove the feudal land tenure as it applied to forests, the Private Forest Nationalization Act was passed in 1957. One of the major intentions of this Act was to “prevent the destruction of forest wealth and to ensure the adequate protection,

maintenance and utilization of privately owned forests” (Regmi, 1978 cited in Gilmour and Fisher, 1991). However, this had negative impact on locals. Villagers reacted negatively to nationalization, believing that their traditional rights of access and use had been curtailed. Because of inadequate technical and administrative responsibilities government failed to protect the forest resource. Deforestation becomes rapid. Villagers destroyed the forest so that the land could be claimed as private property after it was cleared and cultivated. As a result of inadequate government control and adverse local reaction to Nationalization, Nepal’s forests effectively become common property.

The Forest Preservation Act, 1967 was introduced to define forest offences and prescribe penalties, thus strengthening the role of the Forest Department as a policy and law enforcement agency. To reduce common-property character of the forest, the government with financial and technical assistance from World Bank and other donor agencies, launched a program to return formal control of forest resources to local villagers. Thus community forestry program was initiated in the late seventies. Legislations passed in 1978 and 1982 provided the provision for the establishment of new categories of forests to be managed by local communities, religious institutions and individuals. Thus forest protected as Panchayat forests (forests are limited to 125 hectares in each community. The community receives all income from the sale of forest products), Panchayat Protected Forest (limited to 500 hectares in each Panchayat, and villagers receive three-fourths of forest product income), Religious forests (forests located at places of religious importance.), and Leasehold Forests (2.5 hectares for individuals in Kathmandu to 68 hectares for institutions in the Terai). In spite of this, very little land has actually been transferred to the panchyats.

The concept of community forest was incorporated in Nepal’s National Forestry Plan of 1976. Further modification of these plan and legislation made it possible for the development of community forestry in Nepal (Mahat, 1997, Quoted by R.Roy 2002). Efforts on protection and conservation of forest resources were started, after the establishment of District Forest Offices in the entire 75 district in 1983. The historical timeline of the forest management policy in Nepal till 1995 is presented in the table 2.2.

**Table 2.2**  
**Historical Time Line of the Forest Management Policy in Nepal**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Policy/Act/Regulation</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
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 areas 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 and use of forest resources.
1982	Decentralization Act	Moves towards transferring the control of forests to local people strengthened.
1988	Master Plan for the Forestry Sector Nepal	Covered all aspects of forestry designed to take Nepal's forestry into 21 <sup>st</sup> 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.
1993	Community Forestry Operational Guidelines	Procedural guidelines for the implementation of community forest.
1995	Forest Regulations	Procedural guidelines for implementation of the Forest Act 1993.
1998	First Amendment of Forest Act 1993	Seeks to restrict some of the rights of CFUGs and gives more power to DFO
2000	Special forest policy for Terai, Chure and Inner Terai	New management regimes for block-system production forestry in the Terai and inner Terai, and a strict protection approach in the Siwaliks (foothills)
2000	Forest Policy	withdraws some of the rights of local forest users in the plains area of Terai, with the intention that the forests would be better managed by the active involvement of the government
2001	Revision of Community Forestry	Imposition of additional technicalities on

	Operational Guidelines	CFUG's management of forest, without the accompanying delivery of needed services. Provides room for manipulating through technical reason.
2001-2006	Forestry Sector Policy of the Tenth Five year Plan (2002-07).	Emphasis on people's participation in forestry management in general and community forestry in particular
2003	Government financial ordinance for levying 40 per cent tax on CFUG forest product sales	Tries to restrict the rights of users to use their resources.
2003	Collaborative forest management (CFM) guidelines	Emphasizes on collaboration with different stakeholder in the management of forest.
2007-2010	Forestry Sector Policy of the Three year Interim Plan (2007-11).	Ecological balance and nature conservation though effective forest management through communities and private sector involvement.

*Source: ICIMOD, 1999, Timsina et al., 2004, NPC, 2008*

### **2.3.2 Policy History of Community Forestry**

#### **Panchayat Forest Rule 1978 and Panchayat Protected Forest Rule 1978**

The Panchayat Forest and Panchayat Protected Forest (PPF) Rules officially initiated the implementation of a community forestry program in Nepal. Forest lands without trees were handed over to local panchayats as “Panchayat forest” and with trees as “Panchayat protected forests.” However, forests were not handed over to actual users who were protecting the forests or who could protect the forests. The local people did not feel that they were the owners of the forests because the forests were handed over to the lower level political units. Besides, village leaders elected in the Panchayats had no incentive to better manage the forests because most of the forests were too far away for them to monitor. Moreover, the forests were highly degraded; there were no initial benefits and incentives for long-term management. Similarly, since the Panchayats used to get a portion of the income from the PPF, the villagers lacked incentive for managing the PPF.

#### **Master Plan for the Forestry Sector**

The Master Plan for the Forestry Sector (MPFS) was approved in 1989 providing a 25-year policy and planning framework and remains the main policy and planning document for the continuing development of the forestry sector. The long-term objectives of the Master Plan are to meet the people's basic needs for forest products on a sustained basis; to conserving ecosystems and genetic resources, to

protect land against degradation and other effects of ecological imbalance; and to contribute to local and national economic growth. To meet these objectives the MPFS has accepted CF as an important tool. It has emphasized the role of women in CF management.

### **Forest Act and Forest Rules**

The major recommendations of the Master Plan have been incorporated in the Forest Act (1993) and Forest Rules (1995). The act and the rules have given substantial rights to local people in managing their community forests. The codification of these rights in the national legislation is one of the unique features of community forestry in Nepal. Further elaboration of these rules is made in the community forestry directives and guidelines. The focus of this legislation is on institutionalizing Community Forestry User Group (CFUG) as an independent and self-governing entity, nationwide expansion of community forestry, providing utilization and management rights to the local community, and creating an accountability forum for community development. It has also limited the role of the district forest office to that of supporter, facilitator, monitor and regulator of community forestry.

### **Forest Sector Policy 2000**

Forest policy, 2000 withdraws some of the rights of local forest users in the plains area of Terai, with the intention that the forests would be better managed by the active involvement of the government. According to the policy, the barren and isolated forestlands of the Terai, inner Terai and the Churia hills will be made available for handing over as community forests. Community forest operational plans will be prepared and forest products will be used based on annual increments. As the main objective of community forests is to fulfill the basic needs of local communities for fuelwood, fodder, and small timber, 40% of the earnings from the sale of surplus timber coming from the community forests of the Terai, Siwaliks and Inner Terai will be collected by the government for program implementation. It is worth mentioning that the policy mentioned that large patch of forests in blocks in the Terai and inner Terai will not be handed over to local communities as community forests. They will instead be managed by the collaborative solidarity of local users, local political bodies and the government. The tenth Five Year Plan and Interim three year Plan (2007-



2010) both have emphasized on CF in sustainable management and conservation. Besides, they have stressed greater role of women in decision making in CFUG.

### **2.3.3 The Main Institution at Community Level is the Community Forest User Groups**

The Community Forest user groups (CFUGs) is an independent and self governing entity formed by a number of households living near a particular forest area and legally recognized by the Forest Act of 1993. The group is responsible for the management of a particular community forest handed over to them. The constitution of the user groups controls the democratic functioning of the user groups. The community forest user group members have the rights given by the legislation and as mentioned in the operational plan. They can use the forest products internally at a price fixed by the groups themselves, and also sell the surplus forest products to outsiders at market prices. They also have their own group fund, and the income from the sale of forest products and any other source has to be deposited in that fund. The fund can be utilized for forest protection and community development activities. The committee is comprised of about 11 members and they constitute the executive wing of a CFUG. The committee has no particular rights according to the forest act and rules. However, they exercise the rights as authorized by the user groups and as mentioned in the Operational Plan. It has been reported that most of the executive members of the CFUGs are elites or wealthy, and they do not necessary represent the interests of the poor, women and socially disadvantaged members of the group.

### **2.3.4 Achievements of Community Forestry**

During the last 25 years of community forest implementation, about 1.2 million hectares or 25% of national forest lands have been handed over to more than 14,000 local Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs). About 1.6 million households or 35% of the total population of the country are members. The achievements of community forestry can be seen in terms of better forest conditions, social mobilization and income generation for rural development and institutional building at the grass roots level. This model of local peoples' participation in natural resource management has also been expanded to watershed management and buffer zone management, where conservation of watersheds and biological diversity is the prime

objective. The achievements made through the community forestry program can be outlined in terms of sustainable forest management, livelihood promotion and good governance (Kanel, 2004).

Micro level studies and other evidences show that as a result of the Community forest program denuded forests have regenerated and the condition of forests has improved to a large extent (ibid). There is an overall improvement in forest protection contributing to local environmental conservation and increased greenery. Community forestry is contributing to livelihood promotion in many ways. These include fulfilling the basic needs of local communities, investing money in supporting income generation activities of the poor people and providing access to the forestland for additional income or employment.

The community forestry program has built capacity among many local people. About 7.7 million people or 35% of the population is involved with CFUGs and about 170,000 local people are working as committee members (ibid). Some local people in the user groups and committees have received training in many topic areas including silviculture, gender equity and record keeping. These trainings have strengthened local capacity to a large extent. As a result of these local level democratic exercises and trainings, many CFUG members were elected in different positions of local government such as District Development and Village Development Committees. CFUGs are grass-roots organizations, with elected committees responsible for forest management and other local-level development activities. The forest act and related regulations grant the freedom to undertake local development activities as well as provide a continuing forum in which local people exercise democracy

## **2.4 Women's Participation in Community Forestry**

Involvement of women is crucial for the success of community forestry. Women are the major collectors of forest products 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, most directly having to spend more and more time and walk longer distances in search of these essential forest products. However, they should not be considered in isolation and total community participation should be taken into account.

The collection of forest products, mainly fodder, fire wood, grass and thatches, is a woman's role in most parts of the country. In addition to the collection of forest products, women manage fire wood, fodder and bedding materials, as they are primarily responsible for household chores. Being involved in the collection and management of forest resources, women have developed a traditional knowledge base about their management and utilization. Despite this, women are generally excluded in the decision-making process of CFUGs. As a result, most CFUG decisions, including funds management, are made in favor of relatively wealthier households (Bhatta and Gentle 2004; Gentle 2000; Ghimire 2000). The exclusion of women in the resource management process has serious negative consequences not just for gender equity, but also for the efficient functioning and long term sustainability of these initiatives, and for women's empowerment (Agarwal 1997). Social exclusion has economic, social and political dimensions and it explicitly embraces the relational as well as distributional aspects of poverty (Bhalla and Lapeyre 1997). The main reason for the exclusion of the majority of the poor is the high opportunity cost of joining a group, especially for income-earning women (Acharya 2004; Adhikari 2003; Gentle 2000; Maharjan 1998; Richards et. al 1999; Weinberger and Jutting 2001)

Therefore, increasing participation of women, poor and disadvantaged groups is an important, yet difficult issue in community forestry. Participation of those groups has been improving and the national database maintained by the Community Forestry Division (2007) shows that about 780 CFUGs operated by committees made up entirely of women.

Gentle 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 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. Besides, he pointed 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 (Gentle, 2003).

Regmi concluded in his study that women's involvement in forest 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 develop local forest resources (Regmi, 1989). Women have worked successfully on both annexed and all female forestry communities in Nepal. Rural people and professional foresters generally agree that women are capable for doing committee work of learning how to do it (Gurung, 1994).

The need and necessity of women's participation having been accepted as reality in forestry and their situation being understood in its true perspective, the strategy proposed visualize all men and women concerned with the program promoting the required focused on women (Regmi, 1989). The importance of women in forestry activities is acknowledged by policy makers. The master plan for the forestry sector emphasis on extension approach, aimed at gaining the confidence of wood cutters and others, particularly women, who actually make the daily management decisions (HMGN, 1988).

The involvement of women must be recognized as an essential element of achieving success in development work including community forestry. This means women's involvement in all activities, right from the formation of users' 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 (Gentle, 2003).

Chhetri and Nurse Deals with equity in community forest users group. They concluded that equity in decision making and allocation of resources are more complex process. More equitable decision making and allocation of fund may only be achieved by FUGs as they become stronger, experienced and more effective in the course of time (Chhetri and Nurse, 1992).

## **CHAPTER -THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This chapter deals with the research method and tools that were applied for the study to make it more systematic and scientific.

#### **3.1. Selection of the Study Area**

Bandevi Shanti Forest User Group located at ward number 5, Kodku Thulokhola of Badikhel VDC of Lalitpur District has been selected for the study purpose. The study area has purposively been selected for the following reasons.

- (i) Easy accessibility of the area for the data collection purpose as it is easily accessible with motorable road and researcher belongs to the same district;
- (ii) This Community Forest User Group (CFUG)s was rewarded as the best CF in the fiscal year 20062/63 B.S by Lalitpur District Forest Office;
- (iii) A fairly large number of women at Badikhel are engaged in Bamboo-crafting, and it could be interesting to see how women spare time for the management of community forest out of their busy life ;and
- (iv) Despite the fact that study area is very near to the capital city, fairly large number of people in the study area are poor and illiteracy is prevalent at larger extent. It could be interesting to know the socio-economic and educational status of the people in the study area and how these factors have been hindering them to actively participate in community forest management.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

This study has adopted descriptive research design. This research design makes an attempt to collect and describe the relevant data to analyze the pattern of women involvement in the community forestry management. In order to fulfill the specific objectives of the study, the analysis is basically based on primary data, which were derived from household census, focused group discussion, key informant interviews, and field observation. Out of 80 household 57 (i.e. 70%) household's

interviews were conducted with female and rest with male. Secondary information are also use to analyze participation of users in community forest management.

### **3.3 Nature and Sources of Data**

Both primary and secondary data have been used in this study. However, the analysis part is basically based on primary data. Primary data were collected from the field study with the help of census method, key informant interviews (with users, teachers, government and non-government officials, and committee member), field observation and focused group discussion. Secondary data were derived from village profile, Forest User Group Constitution and Operational Plan, publications of District Forest Office, Lalitpur and Department of Forest, CBS, documents of different government agencies, journals and published and unpublished related documents.

### **3.4 Data Collection Techniques**

#### **3.4.1 Primary Data Collection Techniques**

The following tools/ techniques were used to collect primary data.

##### **a) Household Census**

Household census with the help of semi-structured questionnaire was carried out to get information about socio-economic condition, demographic data, and various aspects of women involvement in the management of community forestry. Each household was contacted for information.

##### **b) Questionnaire (Semi-Structured)/ Interview**

The questionnaire was designed to address the objectives of the study (Annex 1). The interviews were conducted with the users covering 80 households, who were able to answer the structured questionnaire. According to the census 2001, the total number of household in the ward number 5 was 75 but the constitution of BSCFUG, 2008 (with amendment) and census carried out for the study purpose has shown it 80. However, in the case of absence of household head the interviews were conducted with any member who could answer the questions. The questionnaire intended to record the information (data) about socio-economic, educational condition, involvement of women in

community forest management and different motivating and hindering factors for women involvement in community forest management.

### **c) Field Observation**

This is one of the most important tools for collecting qualitative data. Required qualitative information were recorded through observation of various activities such as firewood collection, collection of leaf-litter and fodder for livestock from forest, utilization pattern of forest products and income generating activities. Besides, women involvement in FUG Committee meetings, and their involvement in the decision making purpose were also observed to assess their role in decision making purpose This information helps to verify information collected through focused group discussion and interviews. The observation helped tremendously in understanding the field reality, which was fruitful for the study that could not had been captured through verbal discussion.

### **d) Focused Group Discussion**

Both women and men groups were considered as interest groups for collecting information from group discussion. Discussion with women and men were taken separately. All together 4 focused group discussions were conducted. Out of four, two focused group discussion were conducted with men and women separately and two discussions were taken with together. Number of participations were 5/6 persons in each focused group discussion. Qualitative data were collected through group discussions. Group discussions were carried out to explore changes related to social status, their time to collecting forest products after implementation of CF in the village, users' participation in different community forestry activities. In this regard, information was collected regarding motivating and hindering factor for their participation in community forestry. Guidelines for focused group discussion are placed at Annex-II.

### **e) Key Informants interview**

Key Informants for this study were those who were able to express thoughts, feeling, opinions regarding different aspects of community forest management along with the nexus between forest products and income generating activities. Key informants were selected purposefully as to ensure that issues raised would be addressed by them. District Forest Officials, Lalitpur, Forest User Group Members, committee members, secretary of VDC, ex-VDC chairperson, elderly of the community, social activist, chairperson of the FUGs were the key informants for the study. A separate guideline was prepared and used to collect information from the key informants.. Maximum efforts were made to collect qualitative data from the key informants. The guidelines for the key informants' interview are placed at Annex III.

### **2.4.2 Secondary Data Collection Techniques**

The relevant secondary data and information were collected from the literature such as reports of government and non government offices related to forest in general and community forestry in particular; publication of different related offices, research papers, village profile, district profile, Constitution and Operational Plan of the studied FUG, research papers, minutes of General Assembly Meetings and Executive Committee Meetings..

### **2.5 Data Analysis and Presentation**

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 various tables by using simple statistical tool such as mean and percentage. After presentation of the data in tables they were analyzed and interpreted coherently. Cartographic techniques were also used for the presentation purpose.



## CHAPTER FOUR

### INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY AREA

Lalitpur is one of the most famous historical districts among 75 districts of Nepal, which is located in the Bagamati Zone of Central Development Region. This district lies in the southern part of the Kathmandu valley. It is situated between  $27^{\circ} 22' - 28^{\circ} 50'$  north latitude and  $85^{\circ} 14' - 85^{\circ} 26'$  east longitude. The elevation varies from 457 meter to 2831 meter above mean sea level (Badikhel VDC Profile, 2000). The district spread in an area of 39267 hectare (385 sq.km.). The bordering districts are Kavrepalanchok in the east, Kathmandu in the west, Bhaktapur in the North and Makwanpur in the south. Lalitpur district has one sub-metropolitan and 41 Village Development Committees (VDCs). Among forty one VDCs, Badikhel VDC lies in about 12 km south east from the district headquarter. It is divided into 9 wards.

#### 4.1 Physical Layout

The physical map of this VDC looks like a triangle, which is wider in south than in north. Badikhel VDC is surrounded by Small and medium size hills forming natural barrier. Godwari VDC is located in the east and north, Jharuwarssi and Chapagaoun in the west and Lele and chapagaun in the south of the VDC. The Badikhel VDC has an area of 17,824 Ropani (905.2 hectares). Its altitude ranges from 1298 to 1744 meters from the sea level. Most of the steep slope land is north-east faced. The village is bounded by the Karmanasha and Kodku streams. These two streams are unique in the sense that they flow west and south to north respectively, instead of north to south as most other rivers of Nepal.

#### 4.2 Climate

The climatic condition of any place is determined generally by its elevation and that will be confirmed on the basis of recorded mean annual temperature. The elevation of the VDC is 1298 to 1744 meters from sea level. So it has warm temperate climate. The temperature of this VDC ranges from  $18^{\circ}$  Celsius to  $27^{\circ}$  Celsius in summer and  $3^{\circ}$  to  $16^{\circ}$  Celsius in winter. Some times the minimum temperature in winter falls below  $0^{\circ}$  Celsius. The average annual rainfall of Badikhel is 500-700 mm.

The maximum rainfall occurs during June-July in southern part of the VDC (Badikhel VDC Profile, 2000).

### **4.3 Vegetation**

Forest is a renewable resource of Badikhel VDC. Community forest can be found in Lalitpur district including Badikhel VDC. Private forest is very few in this VDC. Major kinds of plant species in Badikhel are: *Chilaune* (schimawallichhi), *Utis* (*Alnus Nepalensis*), *Sallo* (*Pinus Roxburghii*), *Lapsi* (*Spondiasaxillaris*), *Bans* (*Arthraxonlancifous*), *Katus* (*Castanopsis Indica*), *Jurekafal*, *Hadekafal*, *Nigala*, and *Bet*.

People of Badikhel use local forest as a source of firewood, fodder, poles and timber for daily use and even for income generation. The people of Badikhel depend on forest for fodder for their livestock population. This in turn contributes to farming by providing manure. Besides, the local people overwhelmingly depend upon forest as a source of energy owing to the lack of other alternatives. Forest also provides materials for handicrafts and also provides timber to the local people. Therefore, it can be said that Local forest highly influences the economic life of the people as they can extract forest productions for income generation. Thus, the local forest of Badikhel is inseparable from their life and their activities. As in other area of Nepal, Badikhel witness degradation of forest resources because of lack of effective protection.

### **4.4 Water Resources**

There are some small rivulets and springs within VDC. There are three kholas (streams), namely Kodku khola, Karmanasa and Thulo khola.. Kodku khola originates from southern hill side of Badwan Danda is the main source of water and it bifurcates VDC. Karmanasa khola flows through side of VDC and is mainly used for irrigation. Thulo khola main tributary of Kodku khola is also providing the irrigation facilities. Kodku khola and Karmanasa khola are perennial. Besides these three major Kholas, a large number of spring water sources are found in Badikhal VDC. Among them most renowned is Gwalindaha, which lies in ward no. 9 of the VDC. It is because of the spring the village is also named as Gwalindaha.

## 4.5 Land Use

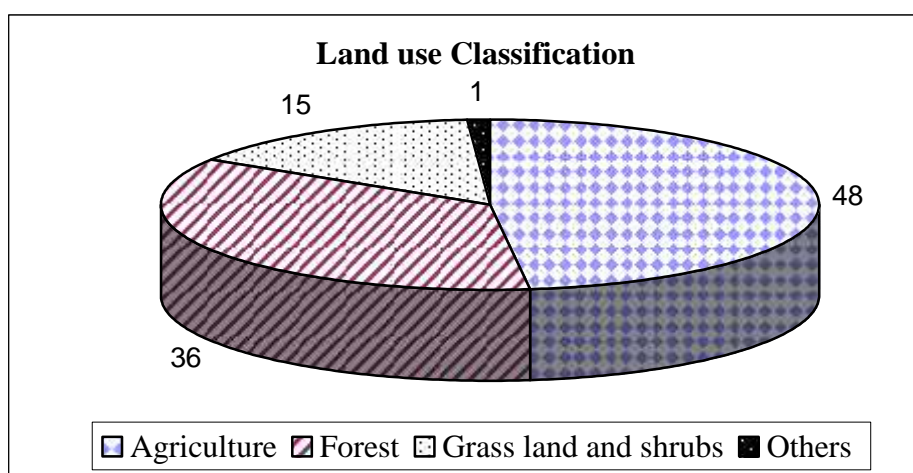
In this VDC, land use can be categorized in different aspect such as agriculture, forest, grassland and others, which is shown by following table.

**Table 4.1**  
**Land Use Classification**

SN	Land Use Classification	Land Mass (in Ropani)	Land Mass in %
1	Agriculture land	8555.52	48
2	Forest	6416.64	36
3	Grass land and shrub	2673.6	15
4	Others	178.24	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>17824</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Silwal Ratna, 2002,*

**Figure: 4.1**



From the table 4.1 it can be illustrates that Badikhel VDC has land mass of 17824 Ropanis of land. In terms of over all land use in Badikhel agriculture land covered 48 percent of the VDC area. The area of the forest in Badikhel VDC covers only 36 percent while total existing forestland including shrub and grass land and others land occupies 52 percent.

## 4.6 Socio-economic Condition of Badikhel VDC

### 4.6.1 Population

According to the national census of 2001, the total population of Badikhel VDC is 3, 232 of which 1,656 are male and 1,556 are female. The total number of household is 579. The highest number of people (562) is residing in Ward No. 7 of the VDC (Table 4.2).

**Table 4.2**  
**Ward Wise Distribution of Population of the VDC**

Ward	No. of Households	Population		Total
		Male	Female	
1	79	208	208	416
2	74	185	189	374
3	47	128	133	261
4	75	221	194	415
5	75	204	184	388
6	50	163	164	327
7	95	298	264	562
8	33	102	85	187
9	51	147	135	282
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>1656</b>	<b>1556</b>	<b>3212</b>

*Source: CBS, 2001*

The table 4.3 indicates that Pahari is the main dominant caste in this VDC, which is 56% of the total population. Brahmin hill stands second, which has population of 1063 (33 %). People in this VDC used to live in joint family, but nowadays the tendency of preferring nuclear family is rising. However, almost all people in Pahari family believe in the joint family system.

**Table 4.3**  
**Population by Caste/Ethnic Group**

<b>Caste/Ethnic Group</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Chhetri	205	6.38
Brahman – Hill	1,063	33
Magar	23	0.71
Tamang	1	0.03
Newar	18	0.56
Kami	1	0.03
Gurung	4	0.12
Damai/Dholi	46	1.43
Limbu	2	0.06
Teli	1	0.03
Sunuwar	39	1.21
Kayastha	2	0.06
Pahari	1,806	56.22
Unidentified Caste	1	0.03
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,212</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: CBS, 2001*

#### **4.6.2 Occupational Status of People of Badikhel**

Badikhel VDC is inhabited by different castes. Most of the people are dependent on agriculture. Mostly Brahmin and Chhetry depend on agriculture whereas Pahari are following the Bamboo based crafts as their main occupation. The reason behind this is the lack of sufficient fertile agricultural land for cultivation. Besides these two main occupations, people are also engaged in services, labour, small business etc.

**Table 4.4**  
**Occupational Divisions of Working Age Population**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1.	Agriculture	379	595	974	76.8
2.	Cottage Industry	72	13	85	6.7
3.	Labour	66	3	69	5.4
4.	Services	54	7	61	4.8
5.	Business	12	4	16	1.3
6.	Administration	8	-	8	0.6
7.	Technician	29	5	34	2.7
8.	Others	20	2	22	1.7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>1269</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: CBS, 2054 cited by Ratna (Silawal) Gautam, 2002*

From the above table 4.4 it is clear that more than 76% population depends on agriculture. About 7 % population depends on cottage industry.

### **4.6.3. Educational Status of People of Badikhel**

There are three schools running in this VDC out of which Path Pradarshak Primary School is run by the government, the remaining two are run by the private sectors. However, most of the students are found to be studying in other VDC close to Badikhel. According to the Base Line Survey carried out by the VDC in 2000 around 60 percent of the people in the VDC are literate. Total number of SLC graduates are 185 and 156 are having higher education. As far as the educational status of women is concerned around 51.59 % women are illiterate. Only 1.11% women have got higher education. The percentage of women SLC graduate is 1.88%.

Most of the women in this VDC involve only in household chores except Pahari Community women whose heavy involvement can be found in income generating activities like bamboo crafting and manufacturing of household utensils like *Dalo, Nanglo, Doko* etc.

**CHAPTER- FIVE**  
**DESCRIPTION OF BANDEVI SHANTI COMMUNITY**  
**FOREST USER GROUP**

**5.1. General Introduction**

People of Badikhel VDC ward Number 5 had two forestry user groups till 2053 B.S. (Established in 2051 B.S), namely Bandevi Community Forest User Group and Bandevi Shanti Community Forest User Group. They were handed over to community in 2053-02-23 and 2053-03-13 respectively. Since both the community forests were located in the same ward and users of both the community forestry were almost same, the people of the area had decided to merge both the community forest user groups upon the approval of district forest office, Lalitpur and considered Bandevi Shanti Community Forest User Group (BSCFUG) as the new authorized Community Forest User group of the inhabitants of Badikhel VDC ward no. 5, Kodku Thulo Khola. The BSCFUG has already concluded thirteenth General Assembly Meeting in Asoj 2064.

The BSCFUG covers 205 female and 229 male (total 434) populations of 80 households. However, one male and one female member of a household are the members of the FUG. A male or a female who is 18 years or above, is eligible, to be a member of the FUG. Therefore, the total member of the BSCFUG is 159 (one household has only one male member) and affected population of the BSCFUG is 434.

The total area of 89.9 ha is covered by the BSCFUG (The map is attached). Major tree species of the forest area are pine tree (Sallo), Chilaune, Saaj, Bamboo, Kattus, Kafal, Rhododendron, Simal etc. and animals like leopard, jackal, bear, and rabbits are found in the forest area (BSCFUG,2059). The age of Khote Salla is 36 years and for others it is around 12 years on average. The document of Operational Plan of BSCFUG has considered the forest available in BSCFUG as Even aged (*Saman Barsha*) Forest.

For the effective protection and management of the forest, BSCFUG has prepared *Ban Karya Yojana* (Operational Plan). The latest action plan is in the process of approval from the district forest office. The Operational Plan will be the

continuation of the action plan prepared in 2059 B.S. According to the action plan the total forest area is divided into 4 plots and prescribes forest protection and management based on the available forest species and their status for harvesting.

## **5.2 Objectives of the BSCFUG**

According to the Constitution and approved Operational Plan of the BSCFUG, objectives of the BSCFUG are as follows:

- (i) Effective utilization, management and development of community forest from the collective efforts of all users;
- (ii) Conservation of biodiversity and promotion of ecological balance;
- (iii) Organize training, workshops and interaction programs related to community forest;
- (iv) Gain support and cooperation from the concerned parties such as elected local bodies, district forest office, NGOs related to forest management;
- (v) Cater demand of grass, leaf litter, timber, firewood, and other forest resources of the people in the area;
- (vi) Conserve water resources and control soil erosion;
- (vii) Maintain cordial relationship with other community forest user groups in the nearby area and work jointly for the protection and development of forest; and
- (viii) Ensure empowerment and effective participation of those users who are very poor and socially and economically backward.

## **5.3 Composition of the BSCFUG**

According to the constitution of BSCFUG, its executive committee comprises of 13 members including chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, joint-secretary, treasurer, and other 8 members. However, present executive committee has only 10 members. The tenure of the officials of the executive committee is of 2 years. The tenure starts from the starting of Nepalese fiscal year (i.e., Shrawan 1 to Asar 30). Normally, User Group Committee is selected by consensus. However, in case of any opposition to that idea, the committee is formed through election. The present committee was selected recently through consensus.



The composition of Executive Committee is clear from the table (Table is placed at Annex IV).

Table clearly depicts gender imbalance in the formation of executive committee. Out of 10 members in the committee, only 3 officials are female. It is worth mentioning that they don't hold responsible positions except Vice-Chairman whose role can be visualized only in the absence of the Chairman.

## **5.4 Major Rules Mentioned in the Constitution and Operational Plan**

Through constitution and operational plan the forest users have made rules and regulations for the effective management of the forest resources. The Operational Plan is the directives for forest management and utilization such as plantation, thinning and pruning, collection of fodders, leaf litters and firewood. Different rules and regulation regarding forest management as provisioned in the Constitution and Operational Plan are mentioned below.

### **5.4.1 Rules for Firewood**

Cutting down green trees for firewood is not allowed. Every household has to participate at the time of thinning and pruning. The firewood collected is kept at one place and divided equally among all 80 households. Every household has to pay Rs. 5 per *bundle (Bhari)* of firewood. If some household does not want to take it, it is given to some other household by charging the same amount. For wedding and other religious activities household can avail the facility of 6 *Bhari* firewood.

### **5.4.2. Rules for Fodder**

The Operational Plan has not mentioned exactly the timing and fee for fodder collection. It has mentioned that BSCFUG members can collect fodder under the condition imposed by executive committee of BSCFUG.

### **5.4.3 Rules for Leaf-litter**

The forest is opened for all members all round the year.

### **5.4.4 Rules for Timber**

Timber can be distributed to member of BSCFUG and outsiders based on the annual production (*Barshik Katan Kshyamata*). The timber can be given to the

members to construct new houses, to repair old houses and other household purposes. The ceiling is 50 cubic foot for maintenance purpose and 200 cubic foot for new house construction. The outsiders have to participate in the auction and the minimum price will be the double of what BSCFUG members are paying. No time is mentioned regarding the timber harvesting.

#### **5.4.5 Rules for Plucking of Rhododendron Flowers and Coal Making and Yam Digging**

Those who want to pluck rhododendron flowers have to pay Rs 5 per Bhari. Burning of wood/trees for the purpose of making coal and digging of yam are strictly prohibited.

#### **5.4.6 Rules for Tree Plantation and Thinning and Pruning**

The action plan has not specified the timing for plantation and thinning and pruning activities. It is up to the committee to choose appropriate time. Normally plantation of seedlings is held during June and July and thinning and pruning takes place during November and mid December.

#### **5.5 Penalty Provisions**

Under Forest Act 1993, the Operational Plan of BSCFUG has some provisions of penalties to control the activities against the operation plan. Following table is self-explanatory.

**Table 5.1**  
**Penalties to User According to the Operational Plan**

S.N	Related Activities violating Operational Plan	Penalty (in Rupees)
1	Timber stealing	50/Cubic foot (First time), 70/Cubic foot (Second Time) and 100/Cubic Foot then after
2	Fodder stealing	15 (First time), 25 (Second time) and 30 then after
3	Fire wood stealing	25 (First time), 50 (Second time) and 60 then after
	Digging of yam	25
4	Stealing herbs	10- 500
5	Damaging bamboo and Nigalo plantation area	100-500
6	Coal making	501 for the first time and cumulative fine then after
7	Illegal Hunting	200 plus the penalties provisioned in related laws
8	Firing	500 plus penalties provisioned in related laws
9	Absent in BSCFUG Executive Meeting and general assembly ( <b>Provision of the constitution</b> )	50 (First time), 100 (second time)
10	Failing to renew the membership of User Group by paying Rs. 30 by the end of Shrawan ( <b>Provision of the constitution</b> )	penalty of 3 per month

*Source: Operational plan 2059, BSCFUG /Constitution of BSCFUG, 2008 (With amendment)*

## **5.6 Social Characteristics of BSCFUG**

As we discussed earlier that only ward no 5 of Badikhel VDC was the coverage of the BSCFUG and all 80<sup>1</sup> households were selected for the study purpose.

### **5.6.1 Ethnic Composition**

Badevi Shanti Community Forestry User Group has covered 80 households. There are 434 users among these households. From the table 5.2 it can be inferred that the users are overwhelmingly dominated by Pahari Community. There are 78 households (97.5%) of Pahari and 2 households (2.5 %) of Brahmin.

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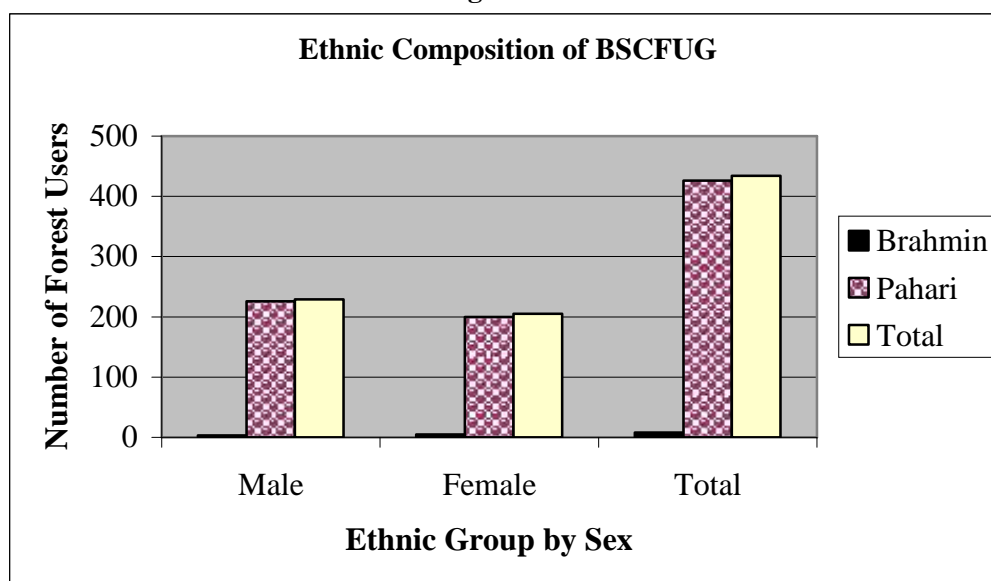
<sup>1</sup> According to the population Census of 2001, the number of households in ward No. 5 was 75, but the census carried out for the study purpose has shown it 80.

**Table 5.2**  
**Ethnic Composition of Ban Devi Shanti Community Forest User Group**

S.N.	Ethnic composition	No. of Households	No. of forest users			Percentage of Users
			Male	Female	Total	
1	Brahmin	2	3	5	8	1.8
2	Pahari	78	226	200	426	98.2
3	Total	80	229	205	434	100

*Source: Field Census, 2007*

**Figure 5.1**



### 5.6.2 Religious Composition

The BSCFUG is characterized by the dominance of Hindu people. Out of 80 households, 75 households belong to people having Hindu belief. Three households follow Buddhism whereas only two household practice Christianity. Table 5.3 is self explanatory in this regard.

**Table 5.3**  
**Religious Composition of Ban Devi Shanti Community Forest User Group**

S.N.	Composition by Religion	Number of Household	Percentage
1	Hindu	75	93.7
2	Christian	2	2.5
3	Buddhist	3	3.8
	Total	80	100

*Source: Field Census, 2007*

### 5.6.3 Age and Sex composition:

From the table 5.5 it is clear that around 48 percent of the benefited users of BSCFUG fall under the age category of 15-39 years. The people who are 60 and above constitutes only 6 percent of the total population. As far as sex composition is concerned, 53 percent are male whereas female covers only 47 percent.

**Table 5.4**

#### **Age and Sex Composition of Ban Devi Shanti Community Forest User Group**

S.N.	Age Group	Male		Female		Total	
		No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage
1	0-4	24	10.5	26	12.7	50	11.5
2	5-9	17	7.4	22	10.7	39	9.0
3	10-14	25	10.9	19	9.3	44	10.1
4	15-19	18	7.9	24	11.7	42	9.7
5	20-24	28	12.2	20	9.8	48	11.1
6	25-29	30	13.1	24	11.7	54	12.4
7	30-34	21	9.2	15	7.3	36	8.3
8	35-39	14	6.1	13	6.3	27	6.2
9	40-44	6	2.6	8	3.9	14	3.2
10	45-49	13	5.7	10	4.9	23	5.3
11	50-54	13	5.7	8	3.9	21	4.8
12	55-59	5	2.2	3	1.5	8	1.8
13	60 +	15	6.5	13	6.3	28	6.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Census, 2007*

Table 5.4 reveals that male population is greater than the female. The highest proportion of population under study falls on age group 25-29 which is 12.4 percent of the total population and the lowest proportion of population falls on 55-59 age group which is 1.8 percent of the total population.

### 5.6.4 Household Size and Structure

Household size of the BSCFUG found from 1 to 15 members with average number of 5.9 persons. Most of the people are living in joint families.

**Table 5.5**  
**Household Size and Structure of Ban Devi Shanti Community**  
**Forest User Group**

S.N.	Household Size (No. of Family Member)	Number of Household	Percentage
1	1-3	7	8.8
2	4-6	34	42.5
3	7-9	31	38.8
4	10-12	6	7.5
5	12+	2	2.5
Total		80	100

*Source: Field Census, 2007*

Table 5.5 depicts that majority of the households have 4 to 6 family members, which is 42.5 percent of the total households. The households having 7-9 family members stands second in this regard, which is 38.8 percent of the total households. The households which constitute 10-12 family members represent 7.5 percent of the total number of households. Two household has got 15 members. It can also be inferred from the table that the temptation for extended family is gradually reducing and practice of having small number of family is on the rise.

### 5.6.5 Educational Status

Despite the fact that the study area is very near to the capital city, still around 50.5 percent of forest users are illiterate, out of which around 57 percent females are illiterate (By considering 50.5 as 100%). Another gloomy picture is that around 11.5 percent of the users are just literate but they do not have any schooling. It is sad to know that none of the users among 434 populations is post graduate degree holder.

**Table 5.6**  
**Distribution of Literate Population 6 Year and Above by Educational**  
**Attainment and Sex**

SN	Educational Status	Male		Female		Total	
		No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage
1	Illiterate	102	44.5	117	57	219	50.5
2	Literate but not Schooling	35	15.3	15	7.3	50	11.5
3	Primary (1-5)	52	22.7	48	23.4	100	23.0
4	Secondary (6-10)	23	10	16	8.0	39	9.0
5	SLC	12	5.3	8	4.0	20	4.6
6	Intermediate	4	1.8	1	0.4	5	1.2
7	Graduate	1	0.4	-	-	1	0.2
8	Post Graduate	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>		229	100	205	100	434	100

*Source: Field Census, 2007*

The table 5.6 also portrays the fact that 4.6 percent users are SLC level. It is bitter fact that the number of female students is gradually reducing once they move upward from primary level.

## 5.7 Economic Characteristics

For the economic characteristics, the status of household in terms of their economic situation, land holding, livestock holding, occupation and income sources of the forest user groups were examined. The details of these activities are briefly discussed in the following section.

### 5.7.1 Economic Status

**Table 5.7**  
**Economic Status of the Household**

Economic Status	Household		Population			
	No	Percentage	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
Very Poor	11	13.8	28	29	57	13.1
Poor	35	43.7	91	87	178	41.0
Middle Class	34	42.5	110	89	199	45.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Constitution of Bandevi Shanti Community Forest User Group, 2000 (First Amendment, 2008)*

**Figure 5.2**

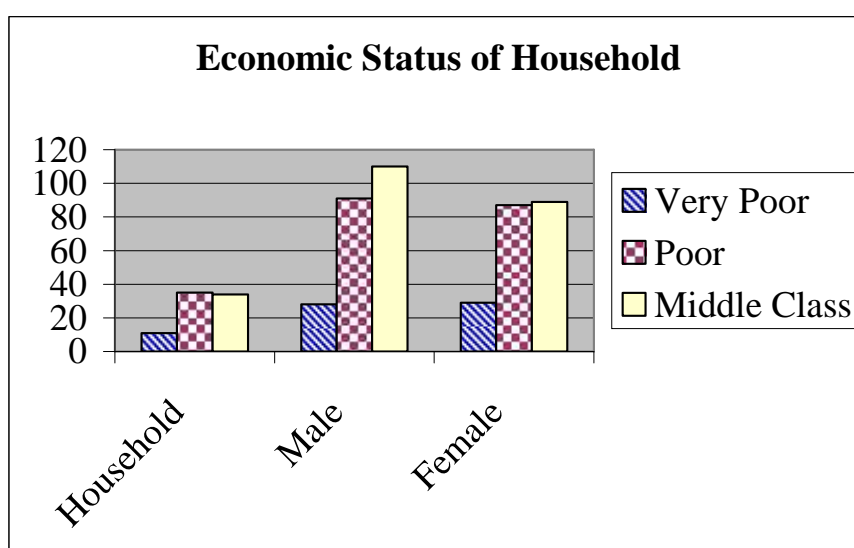


Table 5.7 shows that around 41 percent populations in the study area are poor and 13 percent are very poor. Therefore, altogether 54.1 percent are under the ambit of poverty. Around 46 percent people belong to middle class category. Knowing the

fact that the study area is very near to capital city, the extent of poverty can be considered as alarming. Forestry can help those people either to enhance the productivity of agriculture or to increase their income by utilizing forest resources.

### 5.7.2 Land Holdings

Table 5.8 shows that none of the forest user household is landless. The majority of the household (i.e., 50 %) possess land sizes ranging from 6 to 10 Ropani.

**Table 5.8**  
**Distribution of Household by Landholding Size.**

S.N.	Size of Land (in Ropani)	No. of Household	Percentage
1	Below 2	5	6
2	2-5	25	31
3	6-10	40	50
4	Above 11	10	13
<b>Total</b>		80	100

*Source: Field Census, 2007*

13 percent household possesses land more than 11 Ropani and 6 percent household possesses land more than one Ropani to less than two Ropani. The study has revealed that those households which possess small piece of land rely on other economic activities like service, bamboo crafting, wage laboring etc.

### 5.7.3 Livestock Holding

It is also because of the livestock people maintain community forestry in their vicinity. Table 5.9 shows that altogether 309 livestock population which somehow rely on Ban Devi Shanti Community Forest Area. Out of which 19.4 percent are cows/oxen and 67.3 percent are goats. Buffalo population is only around 9 percent.

**Table 5.9**  
**Livestock Holding of Household**

Types of Livestock	Number	percentage
Cow	50	16.2
He Buffalo	7	2.3
She Buffalo	20	6.5
Oxen	10	3.2
Goat/Sheep	208	67.3
Others	14	4.5
<b>Total</b>	309	100

*Source: Field Census, 2007*



#### 5.7.4 Agricultural Production

Rice, maize, millet, potato and some other off-season vegetables are the major agricultural products of the study area. According to the respondents and key informants, the households of the study area are not sufficient to food production by their own. Out of 80 households, 18 households completely rely on agriculture for their living.

#### 5.7.5 Occupational Structure

Agriculture is the main occupation and major source of income and employment in Nepal; and same is the case for BSCFUG.

**Table 5.10**  
**Occupational Distribution of Household**

S.N.	Occupation	Households	Percentage
1	Agriculture	18	22.5
2	Services	6	7.5
3	Business	2	2.5
5	Bamboo/Nigalo/Bet Crafting	54	67.5
	Total	80	100

*Source: Field Census 2007*

Table 5.11 shows that most of the household (about 68%) are involved in bamboo/Nigalo/Bet crafting. They prepare different items out of bamboo and other related materials and sell out for their livings. Around 8 % forest users rely on services whereas around 3 percent are involved in business to make their living. Around 23 percent household depends completely on agriculture. It should be kept in mind that the household which rely on services, business and bamboo related activities are also involved in agricultural activities, but as secondary occupation.

#### 5.8 Forest Utilization Practices

The people of the study area need forest products such as leaf litter, firewood and fodder. The forest users fulfill most of their demand of forest products from community forest and to some extent from their own farmland. So far, the forest Users are using forest products for the purpose of income generation in a limited scale as the raw materials for the purpose of bamboo crafting are not available in BSCFUG area in sufficient quantity. As the trees of the community forest are in young age, it is not viable to produce timber as demanded by users. If users need large amount of

timber, they buy from nearby market. Different kinds of herbs and aromatic plants are also available in BSCFUG, which are regularly in use by the people in the area.

The review of literature in the Chapter II gives us an insight that participation of women in community forestry is determined by their income, education, employment and social status. However, most of the rural women of Nepal are confined to household affairs as they do not have alternative employment opportunities. Though study area is near to the capital city, it is one of the Pahari communities that are backward in education, employment opportunities, resources or in other forms of development and their status is almost same as other rural women. Nevertheless, they are the ones who overwhelmingly supply fodder; leaf litter and firewood need of their families.

It is to be noted that the people of the study area have been using available natural resources in conventional way. The pattern of use of forest products and women's participation are very backward and traditional. They are compelled to go to the forest daily to satisfy most of their domestic needs. They bring fodder, firewood and materials for bamboo crafting from the forest. Interestingly, women's role is nominal in the conservation of the forest.

During both seasons, winter and summer, women collect firewood from the forest and they use any type of plant for this purpose. The BSCFUG is source for the people of the study area to meet their fodder demand as well. As we have already seen in the table 5.10 above that livestock is part and parcel of the people in the study area. The BSCFUG has been playing vital role to meet the fodder and leaf litter demand of the study area. In this regard, the women of the study area go to the forest daily to collect fodder and leaf litter for their cattle. They raise animals for the milk production, manure for cropland. Because of the lack of sufficient grazing land for cattle, they are compelled to rely on the forest daily to collect fodder.

**CHAPTER- SIX**  
**WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY**  
**FOREST MANAGEMENT**

Various dimensions of involvement of women in community forest management, namely women's participation in decision-making through their involvement in Executive Committee Meeting (ECM) and General Assembly Meeting (GAM), participation in implementation process comprising protection of community forest, materializing activities such as plantation, weeding, thinning, pruning, bush clearing and collection of forest products and benefit sharing, are discussed at length in this chapter. However, only common but important issues of each dimension are considered while analyzing the results. The chapter concludes with motivating and hindering factors that affect the level of women's participation in community forest management.

## **6.1 Women's Participation in Decision Making**

### **6.1.1 Procedural Details**

Forest User Group makes decision either through General Assembly Meeting (GAM) or through Executive Committee Meeting (ECM). The agenda of the GAM or ECM is based on the sensitivity of the issues to be resolved. The ECM takes decisions on minor issues whereas GAM is responsible to make decisions on major issues.

According to the Constitution, the ECM holds first Saturday of every month at 7:00 AM in BSCFUG's office. A committee member who is absent in Committee meeting has to pay Rs 50/- for the first time and the amount is Rs 100/- if the person is absent then after. Besides, a member of BSCFUG has to pay Rs 30/- per year as annual fee. The constitution has clearly mentioned that until and unless the member of both Executive Committee (EC) and General Assembly (GA) participate full time, he is not considered as present. It is mandatory that two members of each household have to participate in GAM (BSCFUG, 2064). The member of a Forest User Group is a household but not an individual. Therefore, the household decides which of its member should represent in the GAM.

Previously the GAM used to take place once in a year. The recent amendment has made it twice in a year- in the month of Asoj and Chaitra. However, the meeting

can take place any time in case of emergency. The quorums for general assembly are 67%. for the first time and if the meeting can not be held because of lack of quorum, the general assembly meeting is possible if 51% members are present. For the purpose of quorum, one male and one female member of a household are considered. In case if balloting takes place in some specific issue, male and female member of the same household has freedom to cast their vote based on their own judgment (ibid). However, it is worth mentioning that every decision is carried out by consensus. It is also to be noted that the GAM is a very vital platform to make important decisions. Besides, it gives final touch to the constitution and operational plan, which are drafted and discussed in the earlier stages by the executive committee. Unlike the date of ECM is mentioned in the Constitution, nothing is explicitly said about GAM. After fixing the date of the GAM by the EC, all members are informed.

The role of women in decision making is analyzed through their participation in ECM and GAM. The status of participation of women in ECM and GAM was judged by asking respondents to express the frequency of their participation and also by consulting records of BSCFUG.

Decision making has to do either with the decision making in various aspects of community forest management or with the implementation of the decisions taken by the ECM and GAM in line with the letter and spirits of Operational Plan and Constitution. On the one hand, it is responsibility of the Executive Committee and General Assembly and on the other hand it is also the active participation of members, which determine the success of the implementation of Operational Plan.

### **6.1.2 Women's Participation in User Group Executive Committee Meeting**

Attendance of EC member in monthly meeting was assessed based on the minute books of the BSCFUG. Table 6.1 shows the numerical representation of male and female members of the Forest User Group in ECM during the year 2062, 2063 and 2064. The table depicts that the participation of female was not as encouraging as that of male. It was only 53 percent of their expected number of attendance as per the constitutional provision in the year 2062 and it was 68 percent in the year 2063 and 64 percent in the year 2064. The participation level in 2064 was further decreased because of the composition of the EC. Earlier the EC used to be 13 members out of which 5 members were females. Now the situation is different and female members

are only 3 out of 10 members. The participation of female members in the month of Asar and Magh in all the years considered were either very low or non-existent. According to them the low attendance of women EC member as compare to men can also because of inappropriate time of the meeting, which is constitutionally set for 7 in the morning for the first Saturday of every month. Normally morning time is peak hour for women in terms of their household responsibilities.

**Table 6.1**  
**FUG Meetings Attended by Members**

S N	Months	Meeting attended by*								
		Year-2062			Year -2063			Year -2064		
		M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1.	Baisakh	8	5	13	8	5	13	8	5	13
2	Jestha	8	1(4\$	9	8	4 (1)	12	8	2 (3)	10
3	Asar	7(1)	-(5)	7	8	1 (4)	9	7 (1)	1(4)	8
4	Shrawan	8	2(3)	10	7(1)	5	12	7	1(2)	8
5	Bhdara	7(1)	2(3)	9	8	4(1)	12	7	3	10
6	Asoj	8	5	13	8	3(2)	11	7	2(1)	9
7	Kartik	8	2(3)	10	7(1)	2(3)	9	7	2(1)	9
8	Mansir	8	3(2)	11	8	3(2)	11	7	3	10
9	Paush	7(1)	4(1)	11	8	5	13	7	3	10
10	Magh	8	2(1)	10	8	1 (4)	9	6(1)	1 (2)	7
11	Falgun	8	2(3)	10	8	3(2)	11	4(3)	2(1)	6
12	Chaitra	8	4(1)	12	8	5	13	**	**	**
<b>Total</b>		<b>93</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>94</b>
Expected number of Attendance according to constitutional provision		96	60	156	96	60	156	80	39	116

*Source: Field Census 2007/ BSCFUG Record*

**M= Male, F= Female**

\* Note: Till 2064 Asar the old Executive Committee of BSCFUG was composed of 8 males and 5 females. The recently formed Executive Committee, which is effective from Shrawan 2064, however, consists of 7 males and 3 females.

\*\* - Meetings are yet to be held

\$ Figures inside parenthesis represent absent numbers

### 6.1.3 Women's Participation in General Assembly Meeting (GAM)

**Table 6.2**  
**Participation in Assembly Meeting (2007)**

S. N.	Participation level	Meeting Attended by				Total	Percentage
		Male	%	Female	%		
1.	Always	60	37	30	19	90	56
2	Sometimes	12	8	39	25	51	33
3	Never	8	5	10	6	18	11
<b>Total</b>		<b>80</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>159*</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Census 2007*

\* Each household has two members in BSCFUG and both of them have to compulsorily participate in the GAM. Out of 80 households, one household comprises only one male family member.

Table 6.2 explains that there are only 90 users among 159 who were regularly participating in assembly meetings. Among 90 regular participants of the meeting, 60 were male and 30 were female. It means that about one-third percent of male forest users regularly participated in the assembly meeting; whereas only 19 percent female forest users did that. From the table we can infer that female contribution in decision making through participation in assembly meeting is very low in comparison to male. It is to be noted that 10 female members never attended the GAM.

Table 6.3 entirely depends on the record of the BSCFUG also supplement the argument presented in the table 6.2 above for the low level of participation of female users. Table shows that in the GAM of 2063 and 2064, only 29 percent and 34 percent female members respectively participated.

**Table 6.3**

**Participation in Assembly Meeting**

SN	Participation Year	Attendance Status (Male)			Attendance status (Female)		
		Absent	Present	Percent	Absent	Present	Percent
1	2063 B.S.	29	51	32	32	47	29
2	2064 B.S.	21*	59*	37	25*	54*	34
<i>Total number provisioned by the constitution is 160- Male-80 and Female-80. Out of which 159 (80 male and 79 females) are eligible members of the assembly.</i>							

*Source: Minutes of General Assembly, BSCGUG/Field Survey 2007/2008*

*\*As mentioned in limitation of the study the data related to GAM represents the GAM held on Asoj 2064. The next GAM is yet to be held on Chaitra 2064 BS.*

### 6.1.3 Nature of Women's Participation

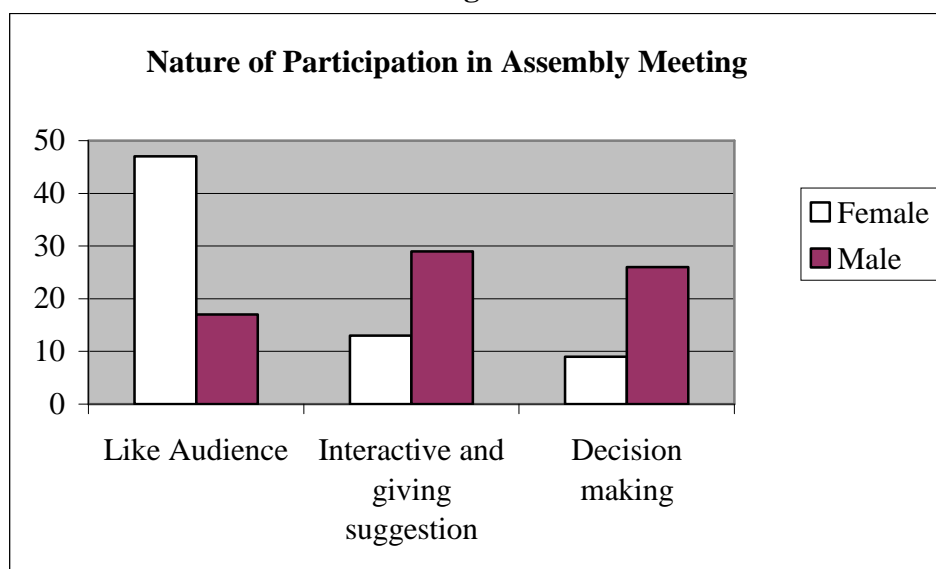
The table 6.4 represents the nature of participation of women forest users. Among 69 (Please refer to table 6.2) women forest users who participated in assembly meeting either regularly or sometimes, the majority (68 %) attended meeting like audience, i.e., they just participated in the meeting without any participation and interaction. Likewise, table 6.4 shows that only 24 percent Male attended meeting like audience.

**Table 6.4**  
**Nature of Participation of Women in Assembly Meeting**

SN	Nature of Participation	Participation of Female		Participation of Male	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Like Audience	47	68.0	17	24.0
2	Interactive and giving suggestion	13	19.0	29	40.0
3	Decision making	9	13.0	26	36.0
Total		69	100	72	100

Source: Field Census, 2007

**Figure 6.1**



The table also depicts that around 19 percent of them were interactive and gave suggestions in the meeting. Only 13 percent gave impression of their presence by really involving themselves in decision making. The activities covered under decision making are basically involvement in constitution preparation and involvement in Operational Plan preparation.

According to the constitution of the BSCFUG, the women members have right to attend meeting. Compulsory provision of meeting attends and absence of male member in family makes some of women's attendance in the meeting but the attendance of women like audience is high and the percentage of women for decision making purpose was found very low. The study shows that women's participation is simply representative not an active participation.

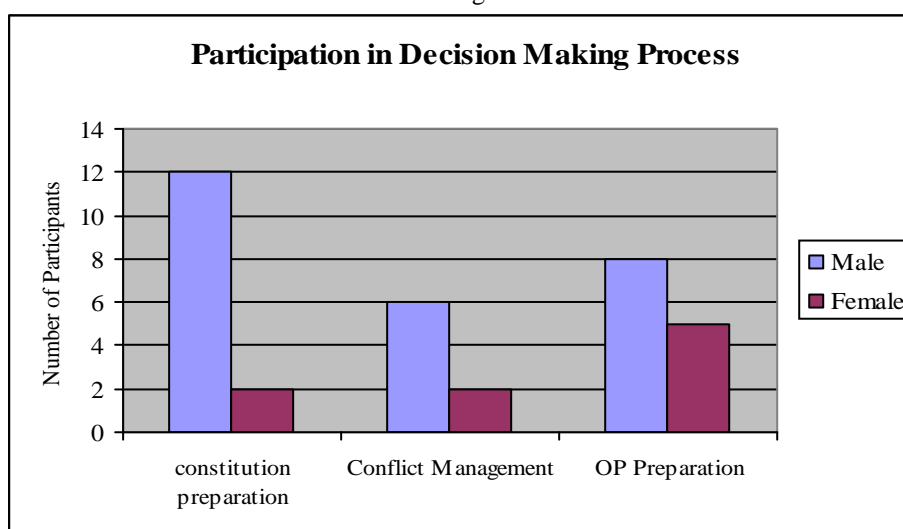
The low participation of women in both GAM and ECM was also characterized by their low level of educational status. The women members seem more dependent on male members due to lower level of confidence and knowledge about subject matter. Hence women's decision-making in CFM is highly influenced by their educational status. Women EC member's participation was passive in the vital discussion and in decision taking. Details of women's involvement in decision making process are given below in table 6.5.

**Table 6.5**  
**Women's Participation in Decision Making Process**

S N	Description of Participation	Participation of Female		Participation of Male	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Involvement in constitution preparation	2	22.0	12	46.0
2	Conflict Management	2	22.0	6	23.0
3	Involvement in OP Preparation	5	56.0	8	31.0
Total		9	100	26	100

*Source: Field Census, 2007*

Figure 6.2



The table 6.5 suggests that in decision making process the female forest users dominantly involved in the preparation of Operational Plan. Around 56 percent



female and 31 percent male users among those who involved in decision making process (table 6.5) involved in the preparation of operational Plan. The share is 22 percent each for involvement in constitution preparation and conflict management. If we see the male figure their involvement in those activities are 46 and 23 percent respectively. Since the operational plan is directly related with the forest resource management, female might have shown deep interest in forest management as they are the ones who are compelled to be in touch directly with forest and forest resources.

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

Once we say implementation, it has to do with the implementation of Operational Plan, which is prepared in line with the Constitution from the approval of GAM and District Forest Office. Therefore, naturally implementation means materializing the activities related to protection and forest management activities such as planting, weeding, thinning, pruning, bush clearing, collection of forest products etc.

Protection and management of activities like plantation, weeding, thinning, pruning, bush clearing, collection of forest products are major implementation activities of community forestry. Implementation of decision includes which area of the forest is considered for the application of management operation, what period of the year is fixed 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. There is no meaning of decision making unless the decisions are brought into the implementation through active participation of all users.

Respondents of BSCFUG were asked their participation in three major activities of Community Forestry Implementation activities- protection of forest, materialization of activities like plantation, weeding, thinning, pruning, bush clearing, and collection of forest products and benefit sharing. Participation in implementation is categorized in three levels.

Respondents who are participating regularly in implementation activities are categorized in high participation, who are participating frequently in such activities are categorized in moderate participation and at last that participating occasionally are

categorized in low participation. Participation of women in different activities is discussed in following sub-headings:

### 6.2.1 Women's Participation in Protection of Forest

BSCFUG has appointed a watcher for the protection of forest. However, considering the size of community forest area and the negligible amount (Rs 5200/- per year) paid to him for his service, the members of the BSCFUG members also helped him in protecting forest by volunteer guarding on the regular rotational basis.

**Table 6.6**

#### **Participation of Women in Protection of Forest**

S N	Gender	Participation level in protection of forest				
		High	Moderate	Low	Never	Total
1	Male	30(19)#	31(19)	12(8)	7(5)	80(51)
2	Female	6(4)	12(8)	22(13)	39(24)	79(50)
Total		36(23)	43(27)	34(21)	46(29)	159(100)

*Source: Field Census, 2007*

(# the data inside parenthesis represent percent)

Above table 6.6 describes that there was less participation of female than male in protection of forest. The table entails that only 4 percent female forest users highly participated in protection of forest. However, 8 percent and 13 percent women involved themselves in moderate and less level respectively. 24 percent female did not involve themselves in forest protection in any manner. In totality 46 percent male involved in protection activities whereas this figure is only 26 percent in case of female. When the female members of BSCFUG were asked about their low participation in the protection activities, they informed that protection is challenging work and needs time and energy. Besides, protection may also be needed in odd hours and difficult rainy days and harsh winter days. Besides, they have to heavily involve in household chores, by which they find little time for the protection activities. It is difficult for them, therefore, to involve in protection activities regularly.

### 6.2.2 Women's Participation in Forest Management Activities

Forest Management activities for the study purpose includes activities like plantation, weeding, thinning, pruning, and clearing of bushes inside the forest area. To perform these activities one needs technical knowledge and therefore, technical assistance from District Forest Office is urgently needed. In this regard, users as well

as District Forest Officials invariably play several roles simultaneously in forest management. However, there is a need to take initiation form forest user group. In case of BSCFUG, Rangers of Badikhel Range Post has been providing such assistance remarkably.

For the effective management of forest, the total BSCFUG area has been divided into four blocks. The Operational Plan has set different priorities for each block. For example, the first block has priority of Timber production, firewood and fodder production and development of bamboo and *nigalo*. There is an activity of bamboo, *nigalo* and other species plantation. The second block has priority of biodiversity conservation, ecological balance, establishment of demonstration plot and timber production. Besides, production of firewood and fodder are other priority areas. Obviously, plantation is part and parcel of all these activities. The third block is the area with priorities for protection of species, supply of grass, leaf -litter, fodder and firewood and natural regeneration of forests. Lastly, the fourth block has set priorities to supply timber, leaf litter, firewood. The priorities are also for natural regeneration and plantation of bamboo, *nigalo* and other non-timber forest of commercial value such as *Amrisho*. In the Bandevi Shanti forest area the BSCFUG has also been carrying out plantation activities regularly as and when necessary in specific areas.

Forest Management related activities needs physical exercise. Therefore, normally high participation of male compared to women can be found in this regard. Same is the case for the BSCFUG. Women are found to be participating in bush clearing and thinning whereas male participating in pruning and transportation of extracted material from forest to open land during forest management. According to respondents, lack of sufficient knowledge on forest management, they were not getting expected output.

**Table 6.7**  
**Level of Participation in Forest Management Activities**

S.N.	Gender	Participation level in management of forest					
		High	Moderate	Low	Total	Never	Total
1	Male	50 (31)#	17(11)	10(6)	77(48)	3(2)	80(50)
2	Female	23(14)	35(22)	17(11)	75(47)	4 (3)	79(50)
	Total	73(45)	52(33)	27(17)	152(95)	7(5)	159(100)

Source: Field Census, 2007

(# The data inside parenthesis represent percent)

Table 6.7 shows that only 14 percent women highly participated in management of forest, whereas 31 percent male fall in this category. Like in forest protection activities, some of the forest users did not involve themselves in any kind of forest management activities, but the percentage is less in comparison to protection activities. It is worth mentioning that in totality 48 percent male and 47 percent female were participating in forest management related activities.

Table 6.8 below is helpful to know about the nature of participation of female forest users in forest management activities. The table shows that majority of women (about 38 percent) of the total women respondents were involved in collection of forest products. Weeding activities comes second. Around 28 percent women involved in that activity. Moreover, 15 % were involved in bush clearing activities. The least participation of women could be observed in plantation where only 8 percent were involved. Therefore, the involvement of women in implementation part of the community forest management is higher than other areas like decision making.

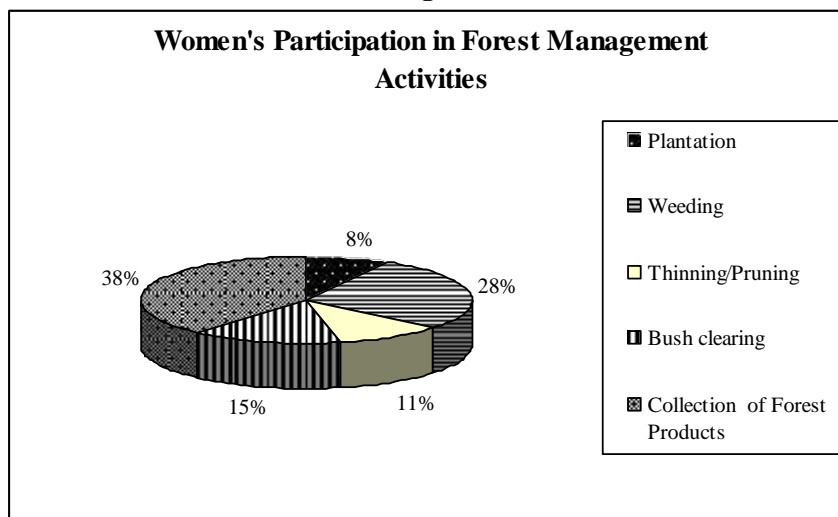
**Table 6.8**  
**Women's Participation in Forest Management Activities**

S.N.	Description	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Plantation	6	8
2	Weeding	21	28
3	Thinning/Pruning	8	11
4	Bush clearing	11	15
5	Collection of Forest Products	29	38
Total		75*	100

*Source: Field Census, 2007*

\* *By considering 75 in above table 6.7 as 100*

**Figure 6.3**



It is worth mentioning that during focused group discussion with male respondents in the study area, it was realized that they felt that collection of forest products is women's' job. They sometimes felt losing their prestige by transporting the forest products from the community forest area. Hence, men were found denying collection and transporting forest productions from the community forest except timber.

Collection of forest products is one of the major responsibilities of the women in the study area as the key task of a woman in a household. Table 6.9 shows the involvement of women in collection of forest products in the study area.

### **6.2.3 Women's Participation in Benefit Sharing**

Women participation in community forestry can be ensured through equal sharing of forest products. Equal sharing of forest products may make women users to realize the community forest as their own.

Benefit sharing includes distribution of forest products like firewood, fodder, timber, and grass and leaf liter. Firewood and fodder are important forest products needed for users. The members of the BSCFUG were asked whether they share the benefits from the community forest equally or not and whether they are satisfied about the present condition of distribution system or not. It was found that benefit was shared equally on household basis as per the provision mentioned in the Operational Plan. The BSCFUG fixed nominal price for the extracted forest products to be distributed among households.

**Table 6.9**  
**Level of Participation in Benefit Sharing**

S.N.	Gender	Participation level in benefit sharing					
		High	Moderate	Less	Total	Never	Total
1	Male	45 (28) #	21(13)	10 (6)	76 (47)	4(3)	80(50)
2	Female	38(24)	15(10)	15(9)	68(43)	11(7)	79(50)
	Total	83(52)	36(23)	25(15)	144(90)	15(10)	159(100)

*Source: Field Survey 2007*

(# the data inside parenthesis represent percent)

Table 6.9 indicates that higher percentages (24) of women were highly participating in benefit in comparison to other activities of forest management. Around 28 percent of male forest users found highly participating in benefit sharing of forest products. Somehow around 43 percent women played some role in benefit sharing. This percentage is higher in comparison to their participation in forest protection and slightly less than management activities.

Benefit sharing has also to do with providing equal opportunity to training and exposure visits to all members of CFUG. However, from the study it was found that either there is no enough number of training and visit opportunities or there is no clear cut rule to distribute training opportunities among members.

### **6.3 Factors Affecting Women's Participation**

In any kind of participatory program there may be motivating and demotivating factors which influence the success of the program. Same is the case for community forest program in general and activities of BSCFUG in particular. There are some factors, which are responsible for the active participation of the people in community forestry program. This portion of the chapter will analyze some of the enhancing and constraining factors for women's participation in Community forest management of BSCFUG. Factors enhancing to increase the women's participation are included in motivational factors and factors, which are the barriers for women's participation, are mentioned in obstacles or hindrances.

### 6.3.1 Motivating Factor for Women's Participation in Community Forest Management

Motivating factors of women involvement in community forestry was assessed in the study. According to the forest users there are various factors, which determine frequency and effectiveness of women's participation in community forestry management. Among different activities of forest management, it was found that the largest percentage (47 %) of female users (Table 6.8) involve themselves in activities like plantation, weeding, thinning, pruning, bush clearing and collection of forest products. This figure is 43% (Table 6.9) in benefit sharing and 26% (Table 6.6) in protection of community forest. In the following table 6.10, we will see the motivating factors for those 75 women who are involved in one of the activities of forest resource management.

**Table 6.10**  
**Motivating Factors for Women to Involve in the Forest Management**

S.N.	Motivating factors	Number	Percentage
1	Requirement of forest products	58	77
2	Affection with forest	12	16
3	Demonstration effect	5	7
Total		75	100

*Source: Field Census, 2007*

From the study it is found that majority of the women of the study area were involved in forest management for the fulfillment of day to day requirement of the forest products like leaf-litter, fire wood, fodder and other non-timber products. The field census revealed that among 75 women who involved in forest management in any form, around 77 percent involved in forest management in order to fulfill their forest products requirement. Around 16 percent have affection with forest and hence they were motivated in forest management activities. Only 3 percent were affected by demonstration effect. Their involvement is only because of others involvement. They were influenced by others. They were found inspired by some success stories carried out in neighboring villages and other parts of the country, in which women's role was substantial.

### 6.3.2 Sources of Motivation

Sources of motivation were also assessed during study. From the field census, it is found that majority of the respondents (64%) were inspired to involve in community forestry management by their villagers/society. On the other hand, peer groups were found as effective tool of motivation, which positively influenced women in community forest management. One fifth people were motivated by forest technicians who have played an important role to motivate people to be a member of community forest user group. It is also found that the forestry technicians were interacted with women during meeting, training and other activities, which inspired women to work as executive committee member, participants of training etc. Politicians and family members were also found inspiring to involve in the community forestry. There are 3 % and 5% women forest users who were influenced by local political leaders and family members respectively.

**Table 6.11**  
**Sources of Motivation**

S.N.	Sources of Motivation	Number	Percentage
1	Villagers and fellow forest users in BSCFUG	48	64
2	Forest technicians	15	20
3	Executive Committee	6	8
4	Local political leaders	2	3
5	Family members	4	5
Total		75	100

*Source: Field Survey 2007*

### 6.4 Hindering Factors for Women Participation in Community Forest Management

Various factors which negatively influence women's participation in community forest management in BSCFUG, is analyzed in the following paragraphs.



#### **6.4.1 Maximum Time Devotion for Household Chores**

A research conducted on Nepali women state that they work more (11 hrs.) than men do (7 hrs.). They are responsible for all household chores and also for collecting firewood, fodder and leaf litter. 66% of the fodder and firewood are collected by women and children. Besides these, women also help in agricultural works. So from the wee hours of the morning to the late evening women are always engaged in one work or the other. Thus, they have little time to be engaged in other activities, how important it might be (Acharya and Benett, 1982). The situation of women in the area of BSCFUG is same.

Women in the study area were observed heavily involving in activities like child rearing, feeding household members and livestock and agricultural activities. Respondents of the study area confirmed the fact that lack of time resulted in due to regular household chores is a main problem regarding their involvement in community forestry management.

In this context, women in the study area opted for limited exposure also because they did not wish to be bothered with additions to their regular workload. Moreover, the low involvement of women in BSCFUG is also because of the perception of men about women regarding their involvement in forest management. Male members think that the involvement of women in forestry is not necessary and also that women should involve themselves only in household chores. Besides all the problems mentioned above, women of BSCFUG area are involved in bamboo crafting as a secondary occupation and that increase the burden of the women thereby minimizing of the chance of their high level of participation.

#### **6.4.2 Illiteracy**

Around 57 percent women in the study area are illiterate. The study revealed that illiteracy is another cause for the lack of participation of women in forest management. Being illiterate, the women don't understand why is it important for them to participate in forest management. Lack of education limits to a large extent their willingness and ability to be involved in non-traditional activities that take them out of the home. Because of illiteracy, they themselves are unsure of their abilities as well. Besides, illiteracy has constrained their knowledge in the balanced way of resource extraction from the forest. In a nutshell, though women of study area have

extensive interactional relation with the forest, it is not preventive and sustainable relation but just to satisfy their current minimal necessities.

#### **6.4.3 Lack of Knowledge about Rules of Community Forest**

According to the respondents, inadequate knowledge and skills about the community forest is also a serious problem. Due to the lack of knowledge about the rules of community forestry as mentioned in the constitution and Operational Plan, women could not share in various activities of the forest management. Lack of knowledge has also nexus with illiteracy factor mentioned above.

#### **6.4.4 Poor Economic Condition**

In the study area 54 percent (13 percent are very poor and 41 percent are poor) of the total households are poor. They spend most of their time to make their living and hence they lack time to participate in public activities such as community forest management. The scenario can be interpreted in different angle. Low level of economic condition constraints them to involve themselves in forest management activities freely because they only think forest as a source of firewood, fodder and grazing land and extract forest products for their household needs lacking knowledge to manage forest in a scientific way.

As mentioned before women are responsible for household chores and income generating activities, but males handle all household financial affairs, which have made women of BSCFUG economically weak and passive. In this kind of scenario one can not expect too much from women.

#### **6.4.5 Lack of Self Esteem**

Lack of confidence and self esteem is another factor which have been hindering for the effective participation of female in the management of community forest. Most of the women in the study area feel that they are not able than male in the activities related to discussion, decision making and forest rearing. They also feel that they couldn't maintain relation with the district forestry officials and they are not capable of involving themselves in managerial task. These kinds of ill feelings turn BSCFUG women members somehow passive in community forest management.

#### **6.4.6 Lack of Cooperation from the Male**

As we are aware of the fact that women have nature to think and act for collective benefit and their activities revolve around the family and society. They can come forward only if the males support them. However, local men consider that forest management is their task and women have nothing to do with it. They have developed feeling that women are less traveled, less exposed to the world outside their villages and are illiterate. On the other hand, women are hesitant to become involved in activities without gaining the approval and support of their husbands or fathers. Same is the case for the women in BSCFUG. They would happily take part in any development endeavors and status rising activities in their villages if they receive strong support and motivation from male members of the community. In this scenario it is obvious that women involvement in the management of community forestry to the full extent is not possible.

## CHAPTER –SEVEN

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter presents major findings of the study in summarized form. It will draw conclusion about the role of women in community forest management and recommend some suggestions to make women more active in community forest management of BSCFUG.

#### 7.1 Summary

The community forestry area covered by Bandevei Shanti Community Forest User Group located at Badikhel VDC ward No 5 was the geographical area of the study entitled "women's participation in Community Forest Management". The major objective of the study was to assess the level of participation of women in the community forestry management of BSCFUG. The census was carried out for the purpose of this study. Therefore, all 80 households were covered to collect data to examine the extent of women's involvement in the community forest management.

Major findings of this research work can be summarized in the following points.

- ) Unlike other community forest user groups in the vicinity, the Bandevi Shanti Community Forestry User Group is homogenous in terms of racial /ethnic composition. Out of 80 households, 78 households belong to Pahari and 2 households belong to Acharya Brahmin families.
- ) Poverty is the reality of the area. Out of total households 54 percent households fall under poverty. Unlike common rural feature of the country, agriculture is not the main occupation of the people in the study area. Majority of household (68 %) involve in *Bamboo/Nigalo* and BET crafting. Agriculture comes then after. Only around 23 percent of household depends on agriculture for their living. Very few households rely on service and business as well.
- ) Another notable feature of the BSCFUG is that around 50.5 percent people are illiterate and around 11.5 percent are literate but they have never been to schooling. This kind of educational status of the people in the study area has adversely affected in the participation of women in the community forest management.

- ) The composition of executive committee is not female friendly. Only 30 percent female are there in the committee, but they are not actively participating in decision making process as their role like audience is prominent.
- ) Women participation in general assemblies and regular meetings of FUG is not satisfactory. Around 30 percent of the female members regularly participate in the assembly meetings, but they are failed to prove their presence in the meeting as 68 percent of them are just like audience without having either any interaction or any role in the decision making.
- ) Women involvement in the protection of the forest is also far from satisfactory level. Only 25 percent of women were found playing some role in the protection of forest, out of which only 4 percent were highly participating in the protection of forest. This figure was found to be 19 percent in case of male.
- ) Forest management related activities like plantation, weeding, thinning, pruning, bush clearing and collection of forest products are the areas where encouraging number of females were participating. Around 47 percent of the female were participating in management operation activities of any form such as plantation, weeding, thinning and pruning, forest products collection, bush clearing etc. However, only around 31 percent were highly participating in management operation activities. Collection of forest product is the areas where encouraging number of women were found to be participating.
- ) As far as women involvement in benefit sharing is concerned, encouraging number (24 Percent) of women was highly participating in benefit sharing activities.
- ) The field census found the FUG considered 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 enabling female users to participate more and more in forest management.
- ) Out of 80 households, 54 are involved in *bamboo/bet/nigalo* crafting related activities. However, BSCFUG is supplying negligible quantity of

*bamboo/nigalo/bet* for those households. Those households rely on external markets for their raw materials.

- ) There is lack of special program targeted to women like, skill development and income generating activities which support them to become self-reliant.
- ) 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 CFM with their villagers/society. On the other hand, peer groups were found effective tool of motivation.
- ) Maximum workload is the major problem of women to involve in CF management. Likewise, lack of knowledge, lack of self esteem and illiteracy among women found other problems.

## **7.2 Conclusion**

The community forestry program implemented over the last 30 years has contributed immensely in terms of increased forest cover, income generation and rural development. Besides, its contribution is well regarded in the field of social mobilization and institutionalization of democracy at the grass roots level. The program emerged in 1978 as a remedy to reduce and halt deforestation and forest degradation (Kanel et al, 2005). However, it gradually evolved into a participatory forestry program based on institutional development. The forest act of 1993 and the forest rules of 1995 have further elaborated the concept and practice of community forestry, and the differences between community as an institution, and forest management as activities for both conservation and income generation. Now CFUGs are robust institutions, and are also the entry point for many other rural development activities. Therefore, the main thrusts of community forestry in Nepal today are on institution building and alleviating poverty (ibid).

Therefore, it can be acknowledged the fact that the concept of community forestry programs is vital for preserving and developing natural resources in general and forest resources in particular in Nepal. Forest is the source of food, firewood, timber, fodder, leaves and litters etc. It therefore, necessitates having sound

mechanism for the effective management of forest resources amid the pressure exerted on those resources because of rapidly increasing population. Forest management can not be effective until and unless, females highly participate in the forest management process. Forest is the source of fire-wood, timber and other forest products and ultimate managers and users of the forest are women. Ban devi Shanti Community Forrest on the one hand is providing food, firewood, timber, fodder, leaf-litter and on the other hand has shown good example as to how sustainable management of natural resources is possible through community forestry. In essence, BSCFUG has contributed in the promotion of participatory forestry program based on institutional development through the involvement of women though in limited scale.

Like women in other part of rural Nepal, the women in the study area were found very busy the whole day in their household affairs and also some other productive works such as vegetable farming and bamboo/nigalo/bet crafting. Therefore, it was realized that it was impossible for women to actively participate in community forest management. Whatever, level of participation they have been showing is not at satisfactory level, but until and unless their drudgery is minimized, it will be difficult for them to increase the level of participation. Moreover, their participation could not be felt as their role in the meeting is simply like that of audience without any interaction and involvement in the decision making not in the decision making process. Another aspect of improvement is education. A large chunk of people in the study area are illiterate. Female illiteracy is higher than male. Education is very vital either to change the conventional mindset of male who think that women are not supposed to come outside home and involve in activities like forest management or to enhance the confidence of women to socialize and work together with men actively in community forestry management. Training and exposure visits along with literacy programs can significantly contribute in this regard.

Overwhelmingly women were motivated to participate in CFM due to requirement of forest products. In this scenario if they are not imparted knowledge on sustainable forest management, the objective of BSCFUG could not be achieved. Therefore, the role of education and training is very vital. On the other hand, active participation of women from the very beginning of planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of community forestry is urgent to increase the feeling ownership.

Factors like regular household's chores, 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. Therefore, it is prime responsibility of male members of the BSCFUG to provide environment and to encourage women to increase the level of participation of women.

To conclude, community forestry can be a panacea for institutionalizing democracy at grass root level and for sustainable natural resource development. For this, the role of women is outstandingly important. The participation of women should be ensured in every activity of community forest management, and male members in the society should be supportive by creating favorable environment to the women.

### **7.3 Recommendations**

Community forestry management itself is a complex cross cutting phenomenon, which is interrelated with various stakeholders in its different steps and aspects. The policy-makers, concerned Executive Committee and local governmental organization and non-governmental organizations are major stakeholders of community forestry. Following steps are recommended to increase the participation of the women in community forestry management.

- (i) There should be a mandatory legal provision for equal participation of both sexes in Executive Committee to increase women involvement in the community forest management. In this regard, women should be empowered through training, skill development and other measures of capacity building. Such activities help boost up knowledge, morale and feeling of responsibility among women that ultimately contributes to increase women's participation. Moreover, favourable environment and opportunities should be given to women to uplift their status. For this, relevant laws and regulations should be amended;
- (ii) In the long run, Forest User Group should be empowered by giving it authority to prepare its Operational Plan and Constitution independently without any involvement of any government unit. This can be an important step to promote inclusive democracy at the grass root level;



- (iii) Since women are kingpins for the success of community forestry, strategies should be adopted to enhance their role right from the decision making to monitoring and evaluation;
- (iv) Since emphasis has been given to protection of forest rather than in the management side, training should be organized for members of the BSCFUG who are directly or indirectly involved in the community forest management;
- (vi) Since illiteracy is one of the hindering factors in the effective management of community forest, non-formal education program to women should be launched to increase their level of awareness regarding the importance of community forestry;
- (vii) A gender sensitizing training should be organized at study area to minimize misconception regarding women's involvement and their leadership in community forestry management;
- (viii) Bamboo/*Nigalo/Bet* crafting is major occupation of predominant household in the study area. However, they have been facing problem for raw materials for which they have to rely on external markets. BSCFUG should work on war footing in the development of bamboo and other related plants in Bandevi Shanti Community forest area enabling bamboo crafting entrepreneurs to acquire raw materials they need from their own forest;
- (ix) Experts are of the opinion that participation of women in forest activities would be difficult without monetary attraction. Such kind of monetary gain or income generation activities could be related with forest management. If women in the study area avail the employment opportunity based on forest products, they would involve in its protection and management of Bandevi Shanti forest because these forests based activities often provide the poor, especially women with their only source of income. For this to happen, BSCFUG should emphasize on plantation, regeneration, protection and development of bamboo, *Nigalo*, *Bet* and other cash generating herbal plants.
- (x) Community forestry management is multi-dimensional, tiring and resource consuming effort. There should be collaboration among FUG, GOs and

NGOs. NGOs can share hand of BCSFUG in disciplines like training, non formal education programmes and other means of capacity development.