

**Community Forestry in Nepal
(A Case Study of Gaagan Khola Community Forest
of Hatpate VDC, Sindhuli District)**

**Project Work
Submitted to the Central Department of Rural Development, Faculty
of
Humanities and Social Sciences Tribhuvan University
in Partial Fulfillment of Requirements for the
Degree of Master of Arts
in Rural Development**

**By
Jaya Kumari Dhakal
Exam Roll No.: 3829
TU Regd. No.: 43204-90**

**Central Department of Rural Development
Tribhuvan University
Kirtipur, Kathmandu
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RECOMMENDATION LETTER

The project work entitled "**Community Forestry in Nepal (A Case Study of Gaagan Khola Community Forest of Hatpate VDC, Sindhuli District)**" has been prepared by Jaya Kumari Dhakal under my full guidance and supervision for partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development. I forward it with recommendation for evaluation.

Dr. Mangala Shrestha

Supervisor

Central Department of R.D.

Tribhuvan University

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Date: 2065-9-13

APPROVAL LETTER

We certify that the project work entitled "**Community Forestry in Nepal (A Case Study of Gaagan Khola Community Forest of Hatpate VDC, Sindhuli District)**" has been submitted by Jaya Kumari Dhakal in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development has been found satisfactory in scope quality and hereby accepted undersigned members of the committee.

The evaluation committee:

(External Examiner)

Dr. Mangala Shrestha
(Thesis Supervisor)

Prof. Dr. Pradeep Kumar Khadka
Head of the Department
Central Department of Rural Development

Date: 2065-09-13

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Jaya Kumari Dhakal

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Before some years, there were 6.4 million hectares of forest, but the current time forest area is only 4.27 million hectares (29%) of total area in the country. The forest deforestation rate was 1.7% per year. So forest depletion has brought much environmental impact as soil erosion, land slide, floods, soil degradation and out-migration of people. Forest conservation resource is fundamental protection of the other resources as water, soil, flora and fauna human activities like agriculture animal husbandry, and others largely depend on it. In 2005, the government handed over a total of 12,19,272 hectares and 14,337 CFUGs for conservation, management and sustainable use of the forest and 16,47,717 HHs is directly benefited.

This study has been carried out in the Central Development Region; in Sindhuhli district, and covered area 118 hectares. The study focused the people's participation in the community forestry. The study objectives were :1. to analyze the socio-economic characteristics of the users group members; 2. to examine the role of community forest on community development; 3. to understand people's participation in community forest management system.

The research was qualitative and quantitative in nature and used primary and secondary source of data, where primary data were collected by the field visit through interview, questionnaire, and secondary data were collected from various books, journal, official report and publications. Data were analyzed by tabulation pie, chart, Bar diagram and percentage. Mainly the study was focused on the specific area in Gaagan Khola CFUGs with limited time frame.

In the study area there is different types of cast/ethnic groups in the users group. Education status of women is comparatively low than man. All the women were engaged in household work and agricultural production. In CF women's representation on executive committee is minimal, but participation, group meeting, benefit sharing and forest utilization pattern seems satisfactory. Most of the respondents were not familiar with committee members. The lower cast people, whose majority was highest were not active different activities like forest protection, bio-diversity maintenances, pruning, thinning, nursery, fire line construction and assembly. The alternative income generation activities and improved technologies must be forward for this community. These are the recommended for the better balance of the forest resources in the community forest.

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ABBREVIATION/ACRONYMS

CF	=	Community Forestry
CBS	=	Central Bureau of Statistics
CFUGs	=	Community Forest User Groups
DFO	=	District Forest Organization
DDC	=	District Development Committee
DOF	=	Department of Forest
FUG	=	Forest User Group
FAO	=	Food and Agriculture Organization
FUs	=	Forest Users
Gov't	=	Government
HHs	=	Households/Households Survey
Ha	=	Hectare
HMG/N	=	His Majesty of Government of Nepal
INGO	=	International Non-Government Organization
ICIMOD	=	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
MOPE	=	Ministry of Population and Environment
MPFS	=	Master Plan of Forest Sector
NGOs	=	Non-Government Organizations
PPF	=	Panchayat Protected Forest
PF	=	Panchayat Forest
UG	=	User Group
VDC	=	Village Development Committee