

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Nepal is recognized as a mountainous country in the world. More than 90% of the total populations are inhabited in rural areas and depending on agriculture. Most of the rural areas of the country are far-out of minimum basic development requirements. Quantity of land holding per family is decreasing due to population growth and along with productivity of the land is also decreasing, that is why, the rural poverty is spread tremendously. Thus, poverty is the a main constraint of development. The 10th five-year plan of Nepal has developed and poverty reduction strategy paper and directed towards strategic poverty reduction activities.

Forest is the life of society for a developing country like Nepal and also a great element for human beings. It provides daily life subsistence materials and services. That is why forest and human beings have mutual relationship. It is also regarded as a valuable and renewable resource (Bajracharya, 1975).

Forest is one of the important natural resources of Nepal. Forest is complex ecological entities with a multitude of productive, protective and regularly functions. So for the production function of forests, the most important forest production include logs, timber, firewood, fodder, fruits, flower, fibers, medicinal herbs etc. Firewood from the forest is the most important energy resources for about 85% of the Nepalese people who live in rural areas. The protective function of forest include the role of forestry in preventing soil erosion and landslide prevention, protection and conservation of plant diversity, and an enhancement of scenic beauty in the countryside. The regulatory function of hydrological cycle of water regime, minimization of air and water pollution by absorbing carbon dioxide as well as other harmful elements, moderation of adverse effects of light, heat, wind and other climatic process. Forest, which is a renewable resource, performs

multifarious function by providing various valuable services and products. It conserves watershed, protect from flood and soil erosion, help to regulate climate and is also a habitat for various animal and plant species. Also, the forest provides fodder forage and litter to the livestock, wood for domestic use and trade, composting and thatching materials, farm implements fruits, honey, oils and medical herbs. In brief the forest has been playing crucial role in sustaining the farming system in Nepal since long (ibid.).

Hence, community forestry in Nepal is about establishing and partnership between HMG and the forest users group in which CF is seen as a deliberate and conscious application of business method and technical forestry. Principles to help village community. People participation is the most essential feature of community forestry in Nepal. Because of mass illiteracy and backwardness it has been termed very difficult to get people's participation in any forestry projects in Nepal (Gilmour et al, 1988).

In Nepal, out of the total territory, 14.7 million hectares forest covers total 5.5 million hectares (ha), which equals to 37% of the land area. Only 11% of natural forest is in Terai and High Himal Zone, the remaining area is evenly distributed across the Middle hills and Siwaliks of this land area 3.5 million hector 61% has been identified as potential community forests, which could be handed over to local people for management. According to Department of Forest (DoF, 2002), the total area of handed over CF is about 925,089 hector to about 11,749 user groups and it has benefited about 12,92,184 families from the implementation of Community forestry operation Plans in Nepal (HMG, 2002).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Forestry sector plays a central role in economic & social life of Nepalese people. Forestry encircles many objectives: economical, rural development (poverty alleviation, employment, and empowerment and self-reliant), tourism, natural biodiversity conservation. Majority of Nepalese people depend on Nepal's

immense natural resource for their livelihood. Once green forest were national wealth of Nepal, but now the situation has greatly changed. With the growing population the need and demand of forest have greatly increased. At present the area of forest has estimated about 37% only (ibid.). Subsequently, there are very few forest that are not under severe pressure from the growing population. The responsible causes for this are rapid deforestation, weak conservation system, unscientific cultivation and management system and uncontrolled population growth.

The concept of community forestry is based on the principles of people's participation. In other words it is thought that forest can be effectively managed under the responsibility of the local people rather than government control. The users' awareness level of the forest resource is important as well as necessary element for their livelihood.

Considerable efforts have been made to conserve forest in the hills of Nepal, but in the end use, we find ourselves cutting trees is not bad in itself as a forest is a resource which should be utilized regularly in a managed way. Forest provides numerous benefits to the people and to support economic growth. The present trend to utilizing to the point of total destruction in the hills of Nepali, however, it has become a major problem. The reason is the lack of proper management system. In effect, a renewable resource is being treated as non-renewable resources. Therefore, the main concern of the forest sector in the hills of Nepal is to stop this trend and for this purpose the preparation and implementation of management plans are essentials.

The procedures of transferring forest ownership from DF to the FUGs have not yet been systematized. It needs further requirement based on the lesson learned from different part of the country.

Deforestation is the main problem in our country and people were the main users of forest and to stop the illegal activities it is very necessary to participate people on community forest management. This potential activity helps the people

of that particular area in community development. In this study, it is felt that in order to develop the forest or even to stop the rapid increasing deforestation process, only government efforts are not enough, people themselves should be made conscious for their active participation in community forest promotion. So people's participation plays vital role of the forest product.

However there has not been studied which examines the participation of people in the user committee and some recommendation to improve the organization and participation of people in forest resources management, so to fill the gap this study play a vital role for management. However the study mainly focuses on:

- What is the opinion of the user's towards their forest?
- What is the role of community forestry in utilization of local forest product?
- Will the existing forest management system be sustainable?
- How actively the entire CFUG members participate in Community Forest activities?
- What are the responsible factors that affects in people's participation in CF management.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this research is to assess the people's participation in the user committees' activities in the study area. The specific objectives however are:

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.

1.4 Rationale of the Study

In Sindhuli district, very limited studies have been carried out about the people's participation in CFUG. The major contribution is providing valuable information issues of participation, equity and management in community forestry development in district and national level.

This may be helpful to policy maker, planners and professionals in journey to consider people's participation, equity and management in community forestry development in district and national level.

This may be helpful to policy maker, planners and professionals in journey to consider people's participation, role and importance in forest management, role of people in community forest management and also their action towards community development.

This study also helps to researcher to develop skills and confidence on the research purpose as well as enhance the sociological and anthropological knowledge at the academic levels.

1.5 Importance of the Study

This study is important for investigating the changes in the CFUG study area. The findings of the study will be helpful for the implementing agencies in the formulation of plans and policy maker for formulate the appropriate plan for further development to gain economic achievement and also to improve the participation approach in community forestry of the users. It may open up the further problems to be researched. The findings of the study may help the rural people to decide for participation in community forest management.

1.6 Limitation of the Study

The main purpose of this study is to fulfill the requirement of Master Degree of Arts in Rural Development. This study's determinant is the limited area and focuses on some problems. There are 40 households in the forest user groups taken as respondents. As every human researcher have own limitation, like time, money, resources, manpower and inadequate information. So this study covers only the socio-economic and participation of the local peoples in community forestry program.

This study was carried out only in one FUG in Sindhuli district. Thus a vary small area of study cannot represent the whole country as well as district. The sample sizes are not probabilistic in this study. This study covers only a few selected variables, which is limited to in-depth analysis.

Being a thesis of non professional researcher; detail study is not possible due to the budget and skill. This research is dealt people's participation in decision making at community level not at the household level and benefit sharing indicators of forest products only and forest management and it can not generalize in other natural resource management process. Simple statistical tools (i.e. diagram table, percentage, ratio etc) have been used to analysis the data.

1.7 Organization of the Study

This study is organized into six chapters, where the first chapter, introduce the objectives, significant, problem, limitation and rationale of the research work. Second chapter, discusses the literature review, for the study concerned with community forest. Third chapter analyzes the research methodology. The fourth and fifth chapters analyzes the peoples participation and management in the community forest development and sixth chapter, discusses the summary, conclusion and recommendation.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

The awareness on community forest is rapidly increasing day by day, since the establishment of community forest policy in Nepal and the realization that the conservation of forest is the conservation of soil, water, wood, birds, wild animals, insects and vegetarian animals, which elements are the whole ecosystem and the bio-diversity conservation. That programme is fulfilled through the development of community forest programme. So different studies and research took place on different topics and times to know the reality of community forest. Some literatures are reviewed here to know the existing status of community forest in Nepal and its economic and environmental aspects.

The research concentrates mainly on the extensive review of available documents, books, journals, reports, unpublished thesis and various papers relating to the community forest during the initial stage of this study, which is mentioned below:

It is widely recognized that, local communities have historically played an instrumental role in forest management as an indispensable common property. Common forest resources management was developed in England by middle ages with clearly defined use and ownership right and such rights already dated from time immemorial (Bajracharya, 1975). Thus far from "Community forest" being and modern concept, it is infact a very old one, another case of "old wine in a new bottle" (Gilmour Et. Al. 1991). Late 1960s, the development paradigm changed to the development from below because of the criticizing of development from above (Gilmour Et. At 1991). The emergency of new approach did not replace the old one. Both approaches continue to exist side by side in general development and in the forest

development. In 1945 to 1970 forest was used as a source of industrialization and economic growth. This led to the poverty in the third world countries that increased the rural people getting poorer. Late 1970s forest was recognized two major roles.

- i) increasing the benefits of the forest resources to the rural people who lived near the forest.
- ii) Provided forest product and trees for rural people who no longer had access to them, as a result, forest for local community development

FAO defined community forest as any situation which intimately involves local people in forestry activities. The concept of community forestry had become major program within the forestry policy of many developing countries. Because of continued deforestation, food and energy crisis has become a political issue for which more and more countries are realizing the value of forest in protecting environment and stability ecology legislation emphasizing. The role of community forest has been in community forestry management, and the principle aim is to produce goods and services on sustainable basis to fulfill the basic needs of community (Kayastha 1992).

Forest management has traditionally been a major public policy issue in Nepal, although historically forest has been shaped by political and economic motives rather than by ecological consideration. The tradition of governmental control and protection of forestry resources dates back to ancient times when dense, malaria-infested forests were seen as an important barrier and defense against marauding invaders from the southern plains. Feudal lords imposed rigorous controls upon the use of strategically placed forests although in certain localities forest of particular religious significance were also accorded special protection. In a study of community and forest management in South Asia, Poffenberger has discussed the different transitions in forest management

paradigms in South Asia. Accordingly while population and forest exploitation levels have expanded dramatically over the past years, fundamental shifts in human resources management systems have also played a part in shaping the fate of forest. These changes in social forestry result from the competition of different paradigms or models of management paradigms exist contemporaneously. (Poffenberger, 2000)

In the history of forest management in Nepal, different management strategies can be found according to geographic condition. The forest management has been distinctly different in the Kathmandu Valley, the middle hills and the terai. Forests are an integral part of the kingdom. As Poffenberger has written, during the Lichhavi Dynasty, there were the decentralization administrative policies in Kathmandu valley that supported communal organization like the *gosthi* and *panchali*. Ancient inscriptions that indicate that authority in forest matters were largely a communal matter; with dictates from King Shiva Dev in the middle of the fifth century empowering village councils to oversee use. During the Malla Dynasty in the eleventh century, there was the temple forest network in the valley, with the provisions that banned all hunting, gathering and fires. Malla rulers also gained revenue by exporting timber, wax, honey, birds and elephants collected in the forest of terai. By the eighteenth century, forest management practices for temples, royal land and communal holders in Kathmandu valley were clearly articulated and actively implemented.

The history of the Middle Hills' forests followed a different course. While sophisticated cultures were developing in Kathmandu valley, the hills remained sparsely populated by tribal communities of Tibeto-Burman speaking people. Most of the hill tribes of Nepal held all their lands under a form of *Kipat* (communal control) system. Responding to pressure from new waves of Islamic rulers moving into the Indian Plains from the northwest, a steady stream of Hindu people settled in the middle hills from the eleventh century onwards. With superior weapons, wet rice technology and greater literacy, high caste Hindus with their lower caste

retainer, began subordinating the existing Mongoloid society, influencing their crops and cultivation practices. Indigenous systems of communal forest and land management were gradually supplanted by feudal systems of control.

Nepal began developing a national identity in the middle of the eighteenth century, when Prithvi Narayan Shah, founded the present line of monarchs and began uniting the country. Shah made alliances with Gurungs, Magers, and other hill tribes, allowing them to retain communal khat system of land tenure. Nonetheless, over the next two hundred years, the hierarchical caste-based social structure favored lowland Hindu migrants, while the nobility sought to extend their influence and territorial control through making acquiring land grants (*Birta, Guthi, Jagir*) Birta is an ancient land-tenure system under which lands grants were made usually to the nobility or senior office holder. Guthi grants were made to support the temples, monasteries, religion foundation and charitable institutions. Guthi land endowments included both crop land and forest. Jagir land grants were made in lieu of salaries, especially to army, officials and other government employees. In *Jagir* system, jagirdars (grantee) received all the benefits of the land (ibid.).

The history of forest management in the terai differs sharply from the experience of the hill forest. The dense Sal forests of the terai resisted settlement and logging for centuries due to the prevalence of malaria throughout the region. Only the *Tharu* and several other tribal communities resided in the area practicing hunting, gathering and farming. As early 1793, with the realization of the forest resources of terai as important source of revenue for the government, the government had established administrative regulation centralizing the timber trade, with new orders in 1799 controlling the sell wax and certain other forest products.(ibid.).

The land in Nepal was traditionally seen by the state as its important resource. Cultivated land was of prime importance as its products could be taxed in one way or another. Forest, on the other hand, was seen as virtually wasteland, a

view doubt encourage by the great surplus of forest resource that must have existed centuries ago. It was therefore in the interest of the state to encourage conservation of forest to agriculture land and this policy was pursued energetically and coercively over a long period, the rana policy of agriculture development after 1845 also mainly involved expansion of the area of agriculture land. They also argued that the deforestation of the middle hills of Nepal has been caused mainly by this land-use policy of the government, which promoted the conservation of the forestland to agriculture land. During Rana regime, the forest of Nepal have been strongly affected by the different external influences, such as land grants, exploitation of forests for the purpose of building and smelling for national purpose, have all had a profound influence on land use, and deforestation in particular. Further, the forest land is and integrated part of the agro-ecosystem but a significant proportion of this land, both government and privately owned is being over used or used sub-optimally. This is leading to severe ecological imbalances, which threaten the continued viability of the agro-ecosystem and could contribute to a major ecological disaster. The possible solution was the adoption of community based forestry activities as a means of raising the productivity of all the non- cultivated land and also for more drastic restructuring of the society to become one less dependent on tha fragile ecosystem. By the time of Rana Government was over thrown in 1951, one-third of the country farmland and forest and were held under birta with 75 percent belonging to members of the Rana family. During the same period, Private Forest nationalization Act of 1957 strengthen the Nepal's forest. All the private forestlands of the country especially the birta and jagir land grants, became public domain and were largely nationalized and placed under the jurisdiction of Forest Department. A major goal of the forest nationalization policy was end the feudal system of resource control that had evolved over a century of Rana government administration . Eliminating feudal tenure authority created opportunities for greater control by local communities.(ibid.)

Traditional management of forests by specific local groups was common especially among the hill communities. To recognize these traditional users and the traditional use practices of the forests, His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMG/N) realized the need of involving local communities in the forest management in 1961. However, community Forest Program was initiated in Nepal in the late seventies. In the 1970's, the Community Forest Development Program (CFDP) introduced the concepts of Panchayat Forest (PF) and Panchayat Protected Forest (PPF), Leasehold Forestry with the purpose of handing back the protection and management of the forest to the people. In the 1980s, decentralization regulations were introduced in the forestry sector to further establish and foster local peoples' and local organizations participations in the management and development of PE and PPF. In the 1990, the end of Nepal's Panchayat system of government brought a change in the status to PF and PPF. Today, the term "Community Forest (CF)" is used to refer to any forest under user groups protection and management.

The community forestry policy focused mainly on:

- Handing over accessible forest to the forest user groups (FUGs) irrespective of political boundaries. FUG is made up of households living near by who been traditional users of the forest resources.
- FUG to get all income generated from the community forest resources. As the FUGs start management they get forests products from cleaning, pruning and thinning operations. They are distributed among the users and surplus is sold outside the FUGs.
- Orientations of the entire forestry department staff to cater for change of their traditional role as a policeman than extension worker.(Joshi, 1995).

In Nepal, current forest policy puts great emphasis on community forest management. Community forest is based on the notion for people's participation of the forest users to manage their resources. Consequently, the

management of national forest is being systematically handed over to identify community of users (Bhattarai, 1997). The focus of the Master Plan is on the basic needs of the Nepalese people and on the requirement to meet those needs. The main policy of the Community and Private Forestry Programs is to develop and manage forest resources through the active participation of individuals and communities to meet their basic needs. The main Component and Private Forestry Programs are:

- Establishment and management of community forestry in open and degraded areas.
- Distributions of free or subsidizes seedlings to encourage the establishments of private forests (HMG, 1988).

Nepal's most recent modification of legislation, the Forest Act 1993 aims at securing basic needs for forest products by forming user groups for joint forest management giving "priority to poor communities, or to the poorer people in a community" (HMG, 1995). Thus, community forestry is generally praised as a community based process of empowerment of local groups. The new forestry legislation, Forest Act 1993 and Forest Regulation 1995, is supportive and conducive for community forestry development in Nepal. Accordingly DFO is authorized to hand over any part of accessible national forests to the communities, in the form of community forest for protection, management and utilization of forest, who are traditional users of the forests, if they are interested to manage the forests. Any amount of national forest can be handed over to FUGs if they indicate that they are capable of managing the forests. FUGs are autonomous and corporate bodies with succession rights. FUGs can plant long term cash crops such as medical herbs, without disturbing the main forestry crops and can fix prices if forest products irrespective of the government royalty. DFO can take community forest back from FUGs if they go against the operational plan. However, the DFO must give back the forest back to newly reformed FUG as soon as possible once the problem is resolved.

Development History of Community Forestry

The forest Act of 1978 has introduced the concept of Panchayat Forest and Panchayat Protected Forest, Based on that concept the forest was managed at village level by village Panchayats. The Forest user Group concept was introduced in the Decentralization Act of 1982 where the concept was promoted as the most effective approach for development and management of natural resources in local communities. Village Panchayat was the part of governmental structure, the user groups are autonomous legal entities, and a significant devolution of power to the user groups has taken place in the forestry sector (Bajracharya, 1975). This is the most effective and appropriate to preserve and develop the forest of Nepal.

The community Forestry Program in Nepal was official initiated in late 1970s. Since then, a movement has been evolving to involve local communities in the management and utilization of forests (Kandel et. Al 2003). Particularly, the National Forestry Plan (1976), the Decentralization Act (1982) and the Master Plan of Forestry Sector (1989) specify the importance of local control over forest the local needs. On this ground the Forest Act of 1993 and the forest Regulation 1995 has reaffirmed that the government's responsibility of forest protection and management has devolved to the local communities (Bhattarai, 1997). In Nepal, along with the decentralization, devolution of power in use and management of forest resources, especially through Community Forestry (CF) is remarkable.

Community Forestry at Present

Community Forestry has been a major program of the forestry sector of Nepal. In the last 26 years, it has made impressive achievements. Thus, it is widely

celebrated as one of the most progressive examples of developing control over forest resources to community based user groups (Britt, 2001). At present, we can proudly say that Nepal has moved away from being a country of ecological doom to a community forests .

Community Forestry policy is recognized as one of the most progressive policies in the world (Kandel, 2003). The policy has transferred the responsibility of managing government forest to the communities and provided right of using the forest products in a sustainable way and the with the ultimate policy objective of improving livelihood of rural communities (ibid.). This program promotes the control and use of forest resources by the local people. To ensure their legitimate right, the Forest Act 1993 defines the forest user group as an autonomous and corporate bodies with perpetuate succession. The FUGs are legally authorized to sell and distribute the forest products independently fixing their price (Kanel et.al, 2003; Chapagin et.al, 1999)

People's participant in Community Forestry

People's active participant in forest resources development which would be stimulated by their own thinking and deliberation and over which they control. An effective way for achieving people's participation is through community organization which local people will themselves set and manage (Birtt, 2001).

The new participation approach, participatory silviculture to improve dynamic linkage between forest management and rural livelihood in the community forest in the middle hills of Nepal. As he found that the existing mixed (indigenous, diverse, specialized) type of silviculture systems CF were more complex than generally considered and also identified several issues and challenges in the interface between silviculture practices in CF and rural livelihood. He stated that the existing overall strategy of the community forest management is timber-oriented, which may be harnessed by an innovative

approach to silviculture that consists of new conceptual, methodological and substantive element to give to practices that better ecological, economical and social standards (Ojha,2001).

Nepal has successfully, implemented community forestry program with the active participation of local people. Forest committee formed by user groups take the responsibility of protecting, plantation and conserving natural forest. People participate in all stages of decision making, planning and reaping benefits. They show ample interest in nursery and plantation works. According to one study it has been found that private planting is the most successful components of the community forestry program. Even the poor are willing to participate in community forestry program because they can collect fuel wood and fodder from the community forests and save their time for earning wages (Kayastha, 1991).

The main strategy of HMG a Master plan was to promote people's participation in forest resource develop community forest user groups as one of the important alternatives for the forestry sector in Nepal (Dahal, 1994).

Chhetri and Pandey carried out eight detailed case studies of forest user groups in Baitadi and Achham districts in Far Western Nepal. These eight studies suggest that people active participation is a key solution to effective protection and management of common property resources particularly forests (Chhetri and Pandey, 1992).

According to Verma, in the extreme, participation can be “forced or imposed” on a group of people. In this case, they are forced to donate their labour to plant trees on government land. The second level of participation is “induced participation” in which people are convinced that they should plant certain types of trees or protect the forest. The third level of participation is “guided participation” where the forester's work with the user groups who may have formed their own, but the forester's field staff makes many decision in the process. The people are guided in the direction that the fields staffs determines. Real “Participation” means the users are empowered to direct their own project. The

users make the decision; they initiate the process and the use the forestry staff for technical help and advice. With true participate, the Forest Department does not make decisions for the people, its staff does not have to convince the people to do activities, instead the foresters provide support for the user's chosen activities. Participant will really only happen when people are aware of and exercise their rights (ibid.).

No development effort can succeed without the people's cooperation and commitment and effective development take place through a top-down process alone. In other words, people's participation in am imperative. People participation means different things to different people. People's participation can be at many levels of a continuum. Participation is a process by which people become involved in all stages of situations that affect their lives. Involvement includes studying, making decision and acting. Stages include appraisal, planning, implanting, monitoring and evaluation (Desmond, 1996).

There are a number of benefits to the government that can be gained from promoting people's participation.

-) More accurate and representative activities information about the need, priorities and capabilities of local people.
-) Adaptation of program activities to meet local conditions so that scare resources can be employed more efficiently.
-) Local cost of access to the public for extension programs through local institutions and organizations.
-) Tapping of local (indigenous) technical information that can otherwise be costly to obtain.
-) Mobilization of local resources to augment or even substitute for central government resources.
-) Improved utilization maintenance of government facilities and services.

) More reliable feed back on the impart of the government initiatives and programs.

) Active co-operation of local on new programs

People participation is the most essential feature of community forestry. It should be the principal aim of the community forestry to involve people in all stages from decision making to harvest (Kayastha, 1991).

The active participation of villagers should be encouraged in the different activities of community forest. Accordingly, implementation of the operational plans, which were developed by the users in conjunction with Forest Department field staffs, has shown that there is a continuing role of the Forest Department field staff after the plan has been approved. Where the villagers do not have experiences in harvesting green forest production training may have required. When conflicts arise the field staff or DFO may be requested to act as an arbitrator. It is preferable that the villagers be given the opportunity to solve their own conflicts before the field staffs taken an active role. It must also be recognized that in many cases the first Operational Plan negotiated with the users groups may not be perfect and it may need to be modified as the users gain experience. The composition of the user group may change over time and the user may wish to vary the rules and management prescriptions (Acharya and Barlett, 1991).

Rural people perception of social forestry, cost and benefit of social forestry is a prerequisite for the study of people participation.

The most recent approach in social forestry, essentially, it's a participating approach under which local people are involved in planning implementation and decision making in all aspects of forest management, development, production and protection (Kayastha 1991).

In 1978, the Nepalese Government Introduced Panchyat Forest (PF) and Panchayat Protected Forest (PPF) rules in a response to the failure of the

protection. Panchayat was responsible to manage the forest within their boundaries. Initially, development of forest and other line agencies were willing to handover only barren and degraded forest lands to the local people in the form of Panchayat forest and Panchayat protected forest because reforestation was the main program of community forest and district forest officers and not want to hand over natural forest under estimating the practice of knowledge of local people. Due to the pressure of local users, natural forest was also handed over in selected district.

Acharya (2001). All the accessible forest area in the middle hills of Nepal has been handed over by district forest office to the local communities themselves.

HMG/N (1988) in Nepal, the community forest policy combines with the environmental objectives of preventing land degradation and deforestation with social and economic objectives. The latter objectives are to meet the people's basic needs for fire wood, fodder, timber and other forest products on a sustainable basis and also to contribute to food production through effective interaction between forestry and farming practices.

Department of Forest identified 60% of the national forest (3.9 million hectares) is designed to be handed at the community forest. Many development projects are working in the field of community forest program in Nepal and getting good progress in the hills. Up to 2000, 662 hectares of National forest is already handed over to forest user groups (Gautam, 2009).

Community forestry in a partnership program between government and community organization in which government staffs play a role as facilitator and catalyst to identify real user groups to prepare operational plan of forest and constitution of group and in implementation of community participation

activities, where as user group is responsible to manage, protect and utilize the forest on the sustainable basis (HMG, 1988).

Fisher & Gilmour (1999) has stated that community forest 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 the users. If users do not follow the rules and operational plan of the forest, this provision has made some doubt towards the government from local people.

Community forestry approach developed in Nepal has become one of the best models for managing the forests in the mid hill regions. However in relation to management of forest in the Terai, there are some deficiencies. In a partnership approach to forest management, responsibilities and rights of all stakeholders must be clear and mutually agreed. He proposes a model where responsibilities and rights of all principal stakeholders are clearly defined. Such clarity is one of the main elements necessary for the collaborative model to be acceptable to all stakeholders. It is a strong basis for active participation by stakeholders, also tackles the issue of equitable benefit sharing. The benefit sharing mechanism is based on proportionality with levels of investment. These practical provisions make the proposed model unique and innovative. They create a strong tool for managing Terai forest, and provide income and employment to local people. The proposed model benefits all stakeholders from families, user groups, local government, the DOF to the nation as a whole. It tries to improve local livelihoods, forestry development and local development. In this way, the precious Terai forest can be managed. Community forest planning process presented four separate phases to form community forest and FUG. The 1st phase of community forest is identification of FUG and handover process. The 2nd phase of community forest process is negotiation in user group. 3rd phase, is implementation than includes carrying out approved forest management activities by the FUG and

4th phases, is the review of operational plan at that request of FUG. Where first two phases are concerned with the formation of FUG and last two are concerned with the strengthening of FUG (Fisher, et.al. 1992).

Budhathoki (1987) has mentioned that natural resources cover a large area but the actual storage of forest product is very little in Jajarkot district. There are many areas protected by traditional system of management. He has also noted that, continuous and sustainable participation of the local people in forest management is the most important.

Community forest is forest protected, managed and utilized by local forest user groups. The community forestry programme is the process by which government through the department of forest, makes community forest a reality for rural communities (GON/Forest Bulletin 2063/064).

Community forestry is not new to Nepal, legislation to promote it was passed by government in 1978 and from that time, considerable effort has been focused on community forestry by the department of forest through projects assisted by Bi-and multi-lateral donor agencies and non-government organization (NGOs) (ibid.).

The various studies indicate that community forest management and conservation of the forest is more effective with the participation of local people. Despite many successes in community forest, there are some challenges ahead in the path of community forest management and development. There are three types of conflicts, namely among users, between users and user groups and VDC member. The conflicts are related to decision-making and people's participation based on political ideology and different interest groups.

Most of the study has limited only in accessible area. Only a few studies about the community forest are carried out in remote area. Before this there was no such study, carried out on the community forest in Tiram VDC. This present study is an attempt to assess the condition of community forest and its implementation, management and participation status in the study area.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter focuses the overall methodology and limitation of the present study. It explains the procedures of the study from beginning i.e., selection of the study area to the end i.e., analysis of the data and presentation. It includes research design, nature of data, sampling procedures, data collection technique used in the present study and data analysis.

3.1 Rationale of the Selection of Study Area

This study is carried out in Gaagan Khola Community Forest, Hatpate VDC ward number 4 of Sindhuli district. The study is also aim to include different ethnic groups and it is considered as the best FUG in its protection system and implementation of operation plan among other forest in the Sindhuli because of good safeguarding of the forest by its user from fire protection, Woodcutters, and timely performed the Silviculture activities (Thinning, Pruning, Weeding and Cleaning of the Forest Area). The total households of the study area are 193 households. Its forest area is 118 Ha and the major ethnic group is dominated by Magar and followed by Tamang, Sarki, Damai etc. are the main habitants in the target area. Majority of the people in this area depends on agriculture, service and forest resources.

3.2 Research Design

Descriptive and explorative research design has been selected for this study. The emphasis has been given on the qualitative rather than the quantitative aspects of the information relating to the management condition of forest as well as role and activities of people's participation in forest management system.

3.3 Nature and Sources of Data

In this study, both primary and secondary sources of information has been used. Primary data has been collected from the field survey with the help of interview schedules, observation, and informal group discussion. Secondary data has been collected through published and unpublished books, reports' thesis, journals, papers, records etc for required quantitative and qualitative information.

3.4 Universe and Sampling

The study area is homogenous in terms membership FUG however they are different and varying in terms of cast/ethnicity/economic and other socio-economic attributes. A systematic sampling has been used for selection of the respondents. There are total 193 beneficiaries households in universe. A sample size of 30 households has been taken to represent the status of the whole community.

3.5 Data Collection Techniques and Tools

Primary data is a major factor to fulfill the objectives of the study. Some of the standard tools and technique has been used in order to collect primary data from the study area. Interview schedules, observation has been especially taken as tools for the study. The following tools has been adopted as tools for data collection:

3.5.1 Interview Schedule

In interview schedule is consider to collect information regarding personal information, family background, socio-economic status, relation to the forest, people's participation in different activities and its role in community forest management as well as in utilization of forest product.

3.5.2 Observation

Observation is also a method of primary data collection in which the researcher observes various phenomena by involving herself in a number of groups. Observation is useful in observing the forest resources, performance of forest user group, forest management system, sharing of forest products, role and responsibility of the user group in forest management process, decision making in user groups, and function of the forest user group.

3.6 Data presentation and Analysis

The collected data through various sources using different data collection technique has been put together, processed and analyzed manually. The present study will attempt to present or describes the data in vary simple and communicable terms and language as far as possible. The presentation of quantitative information in tabulation form has been carried out by simple mathematical tools such as percentages, graphs; charts etc. where as qualitative data has been analyzed and presented in descriptive manner.

CHAPTER IV

COMMUNITY FORESTRY IN NEPAL

4.1 Introduction of the Community Forest User's Group

This study is carried out in Gaagan Khola Community Forest, Hatpate VDC ward number 4 of Sindhuli district. The study is also aim to include different ethnic groups and it is considered as the best FUG in its protection system and implementation of operation plan among other forest in the Sindhuli because of good safeguarding of the forest by its user from fire protection, Woodcutters, and timely performed the Silviculture activities (Thinning, Pruning, Weeding and Cleaning of the Forest Area). The total households of the study area 193. Its forest area is 118 Ha and the major ethnic group dominated by Danuwar and is followed by Tamang, Sarki, Damai etc. are the main habitants in the target area. Majority of the people in this area depends on agriculture, service and forest resources.

13 member executive committee if the executive body of the forest users group.

4.2 Caste Composition

Majority of the population is Danuwar (26%) followed by Ghising, Pariyar, and Tamang. The table below shows that majority of the population are Janajatis and Dalits.

The number of Brahmin population is very few among the respondent in this research study. This is because the number of Brahmins is negligible in the area.

Table 4.1: Caste Composition

Category	Number	Percentage
Danuwar	8	26.67
Ghising	4	13.33
Moktan	3	10.00
Pakhrin	3	10.00
Pariyar	4	13.33
Giri	1	3.33
Tamang	4	13.33
Thapa magar	1	3.33
Brahmin	1	3.33
Chhetri	1	3.33
Total	30	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The average family size of the respondents is 6.53; the lowest being 3 and the highest is 12.

4.3 Educational Status

Education helps community development activities with collective efforts and can not accelerated without good education base. Literate means who can read and write in Nepali. So in the study area, surprisingly 75% people are literate and only about 25% of the total population is illiterate.

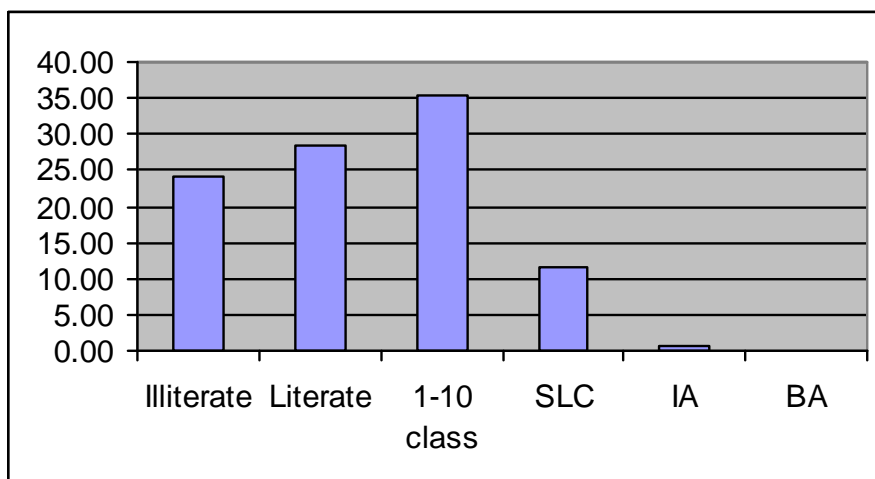


Figure 1: Educational Status

Only about 12 percent of the total population has received the education level of SLC, about 28 percent of total respondent are functionally literate, they are the one who have received informal education for their literacy contribution.

Table 4.2: Educational Status

Category	Number	Percentage
Illiterate	46	24.21
Literate	54	28.42
1-10 class	67	35.26
SLC	22	11.58
IA	1	0.53
BA	0	0.00
Total	190	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008

4.4 Primary Occupation

Agriculture is the main sources of economy of this VDC, and agricultural production of households is the medium to meet the basic requirements. There are various types of occupation, which are related with income generating activities both non-forest and forest product, which help to FUG by providing economic support in their daily life. Forest has great contribution in

agricultural production, fodder for animals, construction materials, firewood, grazing land, timber, medical plants etc are provide to user groups.

Table 4.3: Primary Occupation

Category	Number	Percentage
Service	2	6.67
Farming	21	70.00
Business	1	3.33
Labour	3	10.00
Unemployed	1	3.33
Study	2	6.67
Total	30	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Majority (70%) of the total population said that their primary occupation is farming followed by labour is about 10 percent. Very minimum number of the respondents said that their primary occupation is service or business.

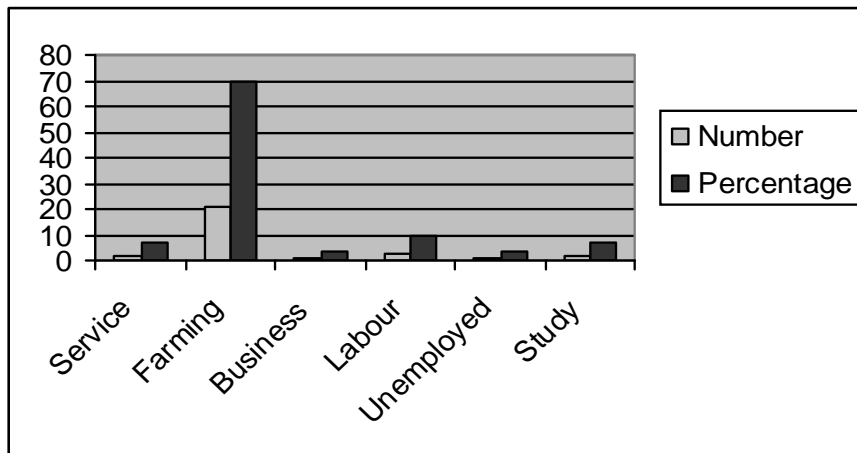


Figure 2: Primary Occupation

4.5 Secondary Occupation

Very few households have their other occupation as secondary occupation, still 41 percent of the total households said their secondary occupation is the farming followed by service 25 percent and labour 9 percent.

Table 4.4: Secondary Occupation

Category	Number	Percentage
Service	3	25
Farming	5	41.67
Business	2	16.67
Labour	1	8.33
Unemployed		0.00
Study	1	8.33
Total	12	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008

4.6 Food Sufficiency

Still about 17 percent of the total households have the food sufficiency from their own land from 0 to 3 months; about 37 percent of the households full fill their food requirement from their own land for 6 to 9 months.

Table 4.5: Food Sufficiency

Category	Number	Percentage
0-3 months	5	16.67
3-6 months	9	30.00
6-9 months	11	36.67
9-12 months	5	16.67
enough to sell	0	0.00
Total	30	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Average food sufficiency of the village is 7.6 months.

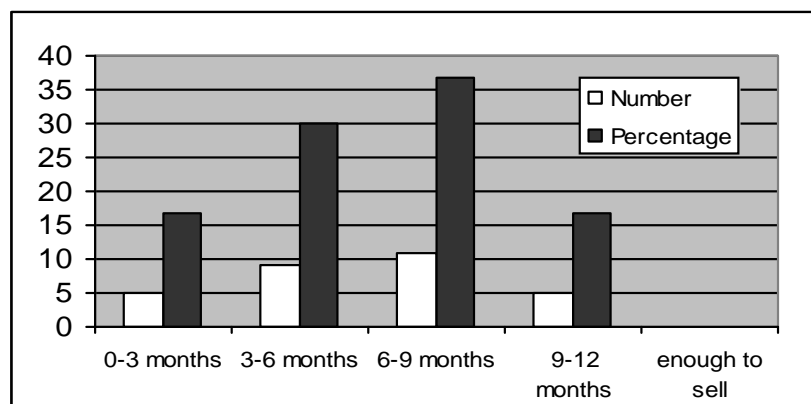


Figure 3: Food Sufficiency

4.7 Livestock

Agriculture is the main occupation of the village economy. Where different types of livestock are found there, and all villager raises cattle for draught power, manure essential for agriculture, milk and meat product. The different livestock are cow, ox, goat, buffalo, horse, poultry and sheep, which are used for household and additional income.

Table 4.6: Livestock

Category	Prior to CF	Following CF	Increase by %
Ox/Cow	252	283	12.3
Buffalo	18	23	27.78
Goat	267	314	17.60
Pig	8	10	25.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The rearing of buffalo has been increased in the village following the establishment of the community forestry. This can be reasoned that the villagers are encouraged to keep the livestock in the village due to the increasing amount of grass availability in the village.

CHAPTER V
ASSESSMENT OF COMMUNITY FOREST

5.1 Information about the establishment of the CF

A question was asked to the respondents about the date of establishment of the community forest in their village in order to find out the level of participation of the villagers in the community forestry- particularly their involvement.

Table 5.1: Information about the establishment of the CF

Category	Number	Percentage
Yes	21	70.00
No	9	30.00
Total	30	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Thirty percent of the total respondents are unaware about the year of establishment of the community forestry in their village. This means that this much of populations were not consulted during the formation of the community forest users committee. The respondents who are aware of the community forest of their village also know the year of establishment and also the number of members of the community forest.

5.2 Mass Meeting for Deciding on CF

Majority, about 53 percent of the total respondents said that there was no any mass meeting organized for deciding about community forestry prior to its establishment.

Table 5.2: Mass meeting for deciding on CF

Category	Number	Percentage
Yes	14	46.67
No	16	53.33
Total	30	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008

This means large number of populations was unaware about the decision made about brining the national forest of their use in to the community forest. And even less number of respondents said that they had participated the meeting.

5.3 Response at the beginning of CF

It was intended to know the response of local people at the beginning of the community forestry at the village.

Table 5.3: Response at the beginning of CF

Category	Number	Percentage
Had good response	22	73.33
Difficult for grass and wood	8	26.67
Total	30	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008

About 74 percent of the total population had good feeling about the establishment of the community forestry in the village- their anticipation! While 26 percent of the respondents had presumed that there will be difficult for brining grass and wood from the forest.

5.4 Present Response

A comparative question between the prior to functioning of community forestry and after the exercise of community forestry for more than 10 years has been asked.

Table 5.4: Present Response

Category	Number	Percentage
Good decision	29	96.67
Difficult for grass and wood	1	3.33
Total	30	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Based on the experience of the local people, now about 97 percent of the total respondents said that it was a good decision of going in to the community forestry. About 27 percent of the respondents had anticipated that it would be difficult to fetch the grass and wood from forest following the community forestry, which later they experienced different, only 3 percent have such difficulty.

5.5 Information on development initiatives of CF

An open question was asked to the respondents about the development and conservation initiatives taken by the community forestry in the village. The following has been their answer:

-) Afforestation
-) Conservation of forest

To the level of respondents, the decision about the initiatives is mostly taken by the community forest user's committee. But sometimes, local mass meeting is also called for deciding about the activities.

5.6 Number of Meetings, Trainings

A question was asked to find out the people's information and participation level at different programs organized by the community forest user's group.

Table 5.5: Number of Meetings, Trainings

Category	Number	Percentage
1-2 times	7	23.33
3-4 times	13	43.33
5-6 times	10	33.33
Total	30	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008

About 44 percent of the total population replied that there are 3-4 events organized by forest users group in a year where as about 24 percent of the total population thinks that these kinds of activities are only 1-2 times in a year.

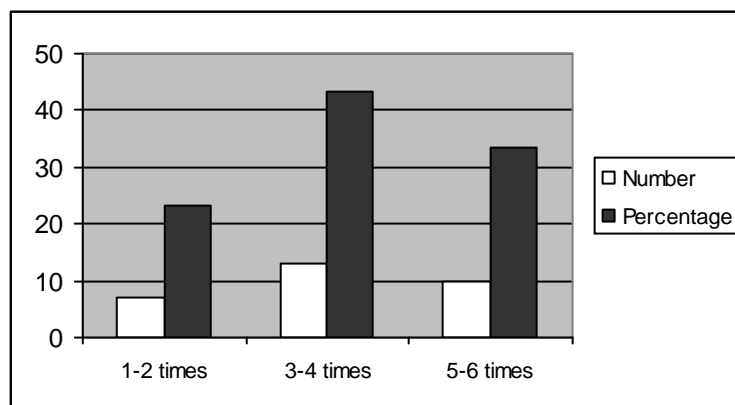


Figure 4: Meetings, Trainings

A separate question about the subjects of these activities was also asked and has got the following answers:

- Forest conservation
- Afforestation
- Sale of forest products

- Income and expenditure of group
- Controlling deforestation

5.7 Invitation to the Programs

Local people’s participation is the important philosophy behind the formation of community forest in Nepal. But, most of the times local elites are taking privilege of communal resources and prohibit the poorest of the poor section of the society from the benefit sharing.

Table 5.6: Invitation to the Programs

Category	Number	Percentage
1 time	0	0
2 times	2	6.67
3 times	2	6.67
4 times	10	33.33
5 and above	16	53.33
Total	30	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

But the situation of participation in this village is satisfactory as majority of the populations, about 54 percent said that they are participating in the 5 and more events in a year in such programs organized by the community forest users group.

It is good to note that there are no one to say that they have participated in none of the programs organized by community forestry.

And similar is the number of the respondents who participates accepting the invitation made by the users group.

5.8 Women's Participation

Women's participation in the community development activities is important and their participation in community forestry is particularly weight more value as their relation to forest is stronger than the males.

Table 5.7: Women's Participation

Category	Number	Percentage
Yes	13	43.33
No	17	56.67
Total	30	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008

About 44 percent of the respondents said that their female family members are also participating in the different activities of the community forestry. Their participation mostly limits to the activities such as mass meeting and discussions.

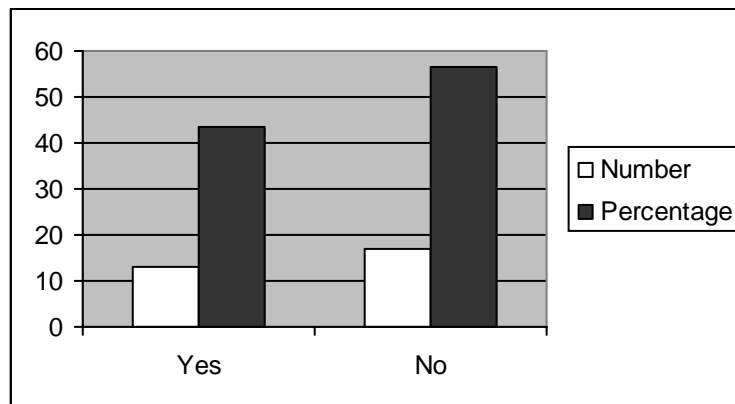


Figure 5: Women's Participation

5.9 Process of Acquiring Forest Resources

A question about what are the processes for members of forest users group to acquire the forest resources. The objective of the question was to explore the

rules of the forest users group. The rules so far has been following as responded:

- use dry and died trees
- careful while grass cutting so that trees are not cut
- follow the community rules for acquiring the woods
- pay certain charges that the group has fixed

5.10 Rules Formulation

It is important that the local people themselves have the control over the rules they make for the preservation and consumption of the forest resources of their locality.

Table 5.8: Rules Formulation

Category	Number	Percentage
Government	0	0
Committee	18	60
Community	12	40
Political Parties	0	0
Total	30	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The government has no influence over the rules that the community has made on the use the protection of the forest. Majority (60 percent) of the respondents said that the community has made the rules for forest preservation and consumption.

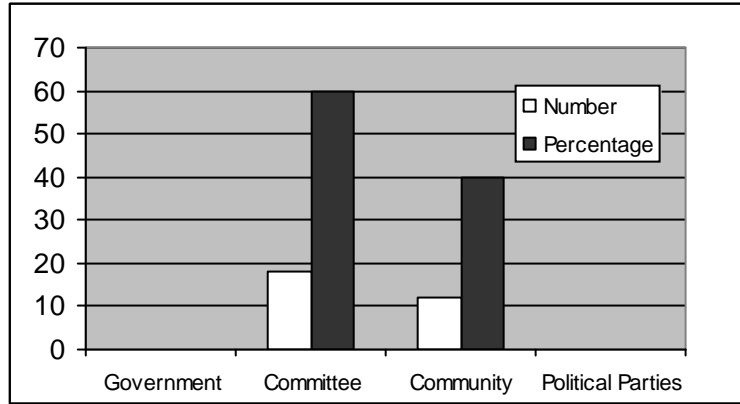


Figure 6: Rules Formulation

However, 40 percent of the total respondents said that the rules are made by the community. While none of the respondents said that the rules are made by the local political parties.

5.11 Response to the Rules

The rules made and practiced by the community may be fair or not fair to them. Of the total, 20 percent of the respondents said that the rules are very fair to them while 63 percent of the total respondents said that the rules are fair to them. About 17 percent of the total respondents are not satisfied with the existing rules of the community forest users group.

Table 5.9: Response to the Rules

Category	Number	Percentage
Very Fair	6	20
Fair	19	63.33
Not Fair	5	16.67
Total	30	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Thus there is still room for the rules to be accommodated addressing the population near about 17 percent.

5.12 Difficulties to Acquire Forest Resources

Local people may have poor access to or have difficulties to acquire the forest resources. The process orientation of the rules may have been standed as burdening barrier.

Table 5.10: Difficulties to Acquire Forest Resources

Category	Number	Percentage
Application to Committee	7	23.33
Difficulty to bring Fire wood	4	13.33
Not timely available	3	10.00
No difficulties	16	53.33
Total	30	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008

About 24 percent of the total respondents said that the application procedure has been difficulties for them to acquire the forest resources, especially the wood.

As there is no certain rules and difficulty monitoring mechanism to firewood, 13 percent of the total respondent shared such views.

Ten percent of the total respondents said that they do not get the wood whenever they need it. They will have to wait until the committee publishes notice for request.

5.13 Community Forest: Afforested or Deforested

Following the formation of the community forest which was prior a national forest, local people's opinion about whether the forest is preserved for deforestation has been increased is important to know.

Table 5.11: Community forest: afforested or deforested

Category	Number	Percentage
Community forest improved	24	80
Deforestrated	6	20
Total	30	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008




As usual to the national scenario, following the formation of the community forest, the forest of Gaagan Khola community has also been improved. 80 percent of the total respondents said that the forest is improved while only 20 percent said that the forest has not been improved.

The respondents who supported that the forest has been improved opinioned that community conservation is effective, afforestation has been regular; consumers are active in preservation of forest, etc.

The respondents who supported that the forest has not been improved opinioned that the good quality trees has been sold to others for the reason of generating income, higher selling orientation, etc.

5.14 Activities and Rules to Preserve the Community Forest

There might be specific rules and activities carried out by the local community forest users group in order to improve the forest situation. The Siddhartha Community Forest Users Group has carried out following rules and activities:

-  Recruited Forest Protector
-  Afforestation
-  Consumption limited to the Users of the Forest

- 🌳 Consumption to certain extent only
- 🌳 Use only laid down trees
- 🌳 Committee monitored system
- 🌳 Wood import only once a year

5.15 Effectiveness of the Rules

The rules and activities of the community forest seem to be effective from its members' eyes.

Table 5.12: Effectiveness of the Rules

Category	Number	Percentage
Very Effective	7	23.33
Effective	19	63.33
Not Effective	4	13.33
Total	30	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008

23 percent of the total respondents said that the rules are very effective, about 64 percent of the total respondents said the rules are effective and about 14 percent of the respondents said the rules are not effective in order to conserve, protect and consume the forest resources of their community.

5.16 Individual Roles for Forest Conservation

The roles and rules made by the community is not always enough to protect and preserve the forest of community level. The individual roles of the community members said the following:

- 🌳 Open eyes against the forest resource stealing
- 🌳 Complain against the illegal trees cutting

 Follow the committee regulation

5.17 Benefits to Family

The benefit of the community forest specific to the family level has also been tried to assessed.

Table 5.13: Benefits to Family

Category	Number	Percentage
Eased Livestock Rearing	17	56.67
Time Saved on Firewood Fetching	6	20.00
Time Saved on Brining Grass	7	23.33
Total	30	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008

About 57 percent of the total respondents said that following the community forest, livestock rearing has been eased. 20 percent of the total respondents said that the time to fetch the firewood from the jungle has been saved due to increased availability of the firewood in the forest. And 23 percent said that the time in brining the grass from the forest has been shortened.

5.18 Disadvantages to Family

It is tired to explore if community forest approach has any disadvantage to the family level.

Table 5.14: Disadvantage to Family

Category	Number	Percentage
Problem to Grazing Animals	24	80
No problem	6	20
Total	30	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

80 percent of the total respondents said that the community forest has been creating difficulties in grazing for livestock while 20 percent said there are no any problems.

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Summary

People's participation is the philosophy behind the success of the community forestry. However, the main forest user group, like women is not much participated in the CF. The study focused on the role of CF in rural development and people's participation in decision making, benefit sharing, monitoring and implementation. To fulfill the objectives of the study is to find out socio-economic, local development activities and impact of CF. The study has been carried out in "Gagan Khola Community Forestry" of Hatpate VDC, Sindhuli District". To meet the objectives of the study, both primary and secondary data were collected from the field survey, and data were analyzed descriptively and analytically.

Majority of the population is Danuwar in the studied CFUG. This is good to note that 75 percent of the total population is literate of the total and 70 percent of the households have the agriculture as primary occupation. Average food sufficiency of the community is 7.6 months. Buffalo, cow, ox and goats are the common livestock owned by the local people

Thirty percent of the total respondents are unaware about the year of establishment of the community forestry in their village.

Majority, about 53 percent of the total respondents said that there was no any mass meeting organized for deciding about community forestry prior to its establishment.

About 74 percent of the total population have positive perception with the establishment of the community forestry in the village. About 97 percent of the total respondents said that it was a good decision of going in to the community forestry. About 44 percent of the total population replied that there

are 3-4 events organized by forest users group in a year. About 54 percent said that they are participating in the 5 and more events. About 44 percent of the respondents said that their female family members are also participating in the different activities of the community forestry. 60 percent of the respondents said that the community has made the rules for forest preservation and consumption of forest products and 63 percent of the total respondents said that the rules are fair to them. Some 10 percent of the total respondents said that they do not get the wood whenever they need it. A vast majority of 80 percent of the total respondents said that the forest is improved. About 64 percent of the total respondents said the rules are effective. About 57 percent of the total respondents said that following the community forest, livestock rearing has been eased. But 80 percent of the total respondents said that the community forest has been creating difficulties in grazing for livestock

5.2 Conclusion

Community forestry program is one of the successful program in the hill and mountain. So this programme is being spread all over the country and is being the good example of community development approach. This programme is focused to participate all the local people including, minor, marginalized, excluded class and disadvantage group, and this study focuses in helping to fulfil the livelihoods of people. In the study area, all the users were aware about more or less about the CF, and also aware their responsibility about the forest management. Forest plays an important role; as protection of environment, soil conservation, eco-system, bio-diversity and water cycling. After handing over the forest to user group, this forest has typically changed in various matters, so the resources capacity has been strengthened. The major occupation of FUGs is mainly agriculture, livestock, farming and some of them are labour. The forest is

used as a source of fire wood, fodder, compost manure, roofing the house from the timber. Some conclusions has been drawn from the present study as follows:

- Women's representation in executive committee is low.
- Community forestry management, utilization, plantation and benefit sharing process is good.
- People's participation as firewood collection, fodder collection, cutting grass and grazing land is mostly used.
- Local people complained about the once a year offering of the wood for their house building.
- People's participation in conservation, their role do not have wider horizon.
- Community forest has not been fully exploiting its resources to be channalized in to other development activities.
- Majority of the people think that the forest preservation has been substantially improved following the implementation of community forest approach.

5.3 Recommendations

From the finding and conclusion of the study, following recommendations have been made:

- All the FUGs have not sufficient knowledge of forest management, so more training should be conducted and specific individual roles should be made clear.
- Women and lower caste people, participation should be increased by the decision making, proper policy and discussion, particularly in executive board.

- Equal opportunity should be found through the effective participation strategy.
- Daily uses materials like, fire wood, fodder and green grass should be available by the local people, timely availability of forest resources to the local people should be ensured.
- Nursery and plantation processes should be increased by the peoples participation.
- Employment opportunity should be increased like "Banpale".
- Local people's economic condition can be improved by the utilization of common property such as forest, thinking should be started on this road as well.

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Annex:1 Questionnaire

Community Forestry in Nepal
A case study of Shree Gaagan Khola Forest Users Group
of Hatpate VDC of Sindhuli District

Questionnaire

General Information

1. HH head:

a. Ward Number:

b. Age:

c. Sex:

d. Family Number: Female _____ Male _____ Total _____

Socio-Economic Characteristics:

2. Educational Status of Family:

a. Illiterate _____ b. Literate _____ c. 1-10 Class _____ d.

SLC _____

e. IA _____ f. BA _____

3. Primary Occupation of the Family:

a. Service _____ b. Agriculture _____ c. Business _____

d. Daily Labour _____ e. Unemployed _____ f. Student _____

4. Secondary Occupation of the family:

a. Service _____ b. Agriculture _____ c. Business _____

d. Daily Labour _____ e. Unemployed _____ f. Student _____

5. Food Sufficiency from own land:

a. 0-3 months _____ b. 3-6 months _____ c. 6-9 months _____

d. 9-12 months _____ e. Enough to sell even _____

6. Livestock Rearing (write in numbers):

Categories	Ox/Cow	Buffalo	Goat	Pig	Have nothing
Prior to CF					
After CF					

Community Forestry:

7. When was the community forestry started in the village to your knowledge?

If you know, WHEN? _____

8. How did you feel when national forest of the village was converted in to community forest?

a. thought that it is going to be a good decision _____

b. thought that it will be difficult to fetch wood and fodder _____

c. Others _____

9. How do you feel having community forest in the village now?

a. was a good decision _____

b. has been difficult to manage wood and fodder and other reasons _____

c.

others _____

10. Was there mass meeting organized for deciding about converting the national forest into the community forest in the village?

Were you invited to the mass meeting? _____

11. What kind of community development activities has been carried out by community forest in the village?

12. Who makes the decision about these kinds of programs?

How are these decisions made?

13. How many times a year the community forest organizes training, workshop, mass meetings in the village?

And what are the subjects of the programmes?

14. How many times a year you are invited in these programs?

How many do you attend? _____

Does your female family members participate in these programs?_____

If yes, what kind of programs are attended by the female members_____

15. What is the process/rules that you need to follow in order to acquire the wood and fodders from the forest?

Who has made these rules?

a. Government_____ b. Committee_____ c. Community_____

d. political Parties_____ e.

others_____

16. What are the difficulties that you have been facing in acquiring the forest resources?

17. Is the forest condition has been improved or deteriorated following the formation of the community forest?

HOW?_____

18. What are the rules and activities carried out for the conservation of the forest?

19. How effective are these rules and activities?

20. What is your role for the conservation of the forest?

21. What are the benefits to you and your family from the community forest?

22. Is there any negative effect to you and/or your family due to the community forest?
