

# **WOMEN'S KNOWLEDGE AND PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY FOREST**

**(A CASE STUDY FROM PRAGATISHIL COMMUNITY FOREST  
OF LEKHANATH, KASKI DISTRICT)**

**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO:**

**THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY /ANTHROPOLOGY  
IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR  
THE MASTER DEGREE OF ARTS IN SOCIOLOGY**

**BY:**

**PUSPA K.C. BHANDARI**



**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY /ANTHROPOLOGY**

**PRITHWI NARAYAN CAMPUS**

**TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY**

**NEPAL**

**2008**

## LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that **Mrs. Puspa K.C. Bhandari** has completed this thesis entitled “**Women’s Knowledge and Participation in Community Forest (A Case Study from Pragatishil Community Forest of Lekhanath, Kaski District)**” under my supervision and guidance. I would, therefore, like to recommend this thesis for final approval and acceptance.

Date:-

---

**Bishwakalyan Parajuli PhD**  
**Head**  
**Department of Sociology/Anthropology**  
**Prithwi Narayan Campus**  
**Pokhara**

## ACCEPTANCE CERTIFICATE

The thesis entitled “**Women’s Knowledge and Participation in Community Forest (A Case Study from Pragatishil Community Forest of Lekhanath, Kaski District)**” has been accepted as the partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Master’s Degree of Arts in Sociology.

### Thesis Evaluation Committee

_____	_____	_____
Bishwakalyan Parajuli PhD	Bishwakalyan Parajuli PhD	Kedar Basnet PhD
Head of department	Advisor	External Examiner
Date: -	Date: -	Date: -

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to express my profound gratitude to my advisor as well as head of the department Dr. Bishwa Kalyan Parajuli, Department of Sociology/Anthropology, Prithwi Narayan Campus, Pokhara, for his continuous guidance and encouragement in every step of this thesis. Without his supervision and invaluable suggestions I could not have completed this thesis.

I am also very thankful to Mr. Abadhesh Kumar Singh, Associate Professor of Institute of Forestry, Pokhara for having taken the time to edit this thesis.

My sincere thanks go to Miss Susmita Chhetri, Mr. Thakur Giri and Miss Ganga Bhandari for their valuable support in conducting the field work for my study. Further, I would like to express my gratitude to *Nityananda Service Foundation* for providing me partial financial support for my research work.

My sincere thanks go to the Chairperson, the Forestry Users Committee and users of Pragatishil CFUG for their cooperation and for sharing their information, knowledge, views and ideas during the field work. Apart from this I would like to thank Mr. Shankar K.C. former-president of Pragatishil CFUG and former FUC members for their continuous support during my field work. My special thanks go to DFO Kaski, Ranger Shishuwa R.P. and Rangers of Planning Section, DFO, Kaski. My special thanks go to my friend Janaki Panta for her encouragement and support.

I would also like to thank my beloved husband Mr. Jhalak Bahadur Bhandari and my family who gave me endless support and encouragement, without their support I would have not been able to accomplish this thesis. In addition I am proud to have received continuous inspiration from my son Pralhad Narshing Bhandari and daughter Shivangi Singh Bhandari.

I would like to pay my honour to my late parent's Mr. Toran Bahadur K.C. and Mrs. Gauri Devi K.C. who dreamt of seeing me in this position. Similarly I would like to acknowledge the support extended to me by my respected brothers Mr. Shyam Bahadur K.C. and Mr. Madan Bahadur K.C. and my sisters Mrs. Sharada K.C., Mrs. Uma Devi Chhetri, Mrs. Rama Karki and Mrs. Prabha K.C. Malla for their eternal support and encouragement. Similarly I would like to thank my nephew Mr. Milan K.C. and all my nephews and niece Sabita K.C. Baniya and all my nieces who were always supportive of me.

I would like to express my special gratitude to my respected brother Lion Govinda Bahadur Chhetri and loving sister-in-law Mrs. Mana Devi K.C., who took the responsibility of my children and made me free from household responsibility during my study as well as fieldwork and thesis writing. They always dreamt of seeing me as a successful personality.

Finally, I am very thankful to everyone who has helped in my dissertation in anyway.

## ABSTRACT

This research was carried out aiming at analyzing the women's knowledge and their participation rate in management activities of *Pragatishil* Community Forest (CF), *Lekhanath*, Kaski district, Nepal. The data were collected through Household (Hh) interview and a set of questionnaire format was used as a data collection tool with 10% sample intensity were taken for this study where respondents were selected randomly. Field observation and informal discussion with different strata people of the study area also helped to draw the findings. The weighted mean score obtained on the *Likert* scale was used to determine the participation rate of the women in different CF management activities, for this three point scale was taken. Besides these, frequency distribution and other simple statistical tools were used in data analysis.

Majority of the general users of Community Forest User Group (CFUG) are still unaware about the CF management system whereas most of the committee members have a good knowledge about it. Young aged women are more knowledgeable than middle and old aged women except few events. Participation rate of middle aged committee member in decision making process as well as basic forest products collection is higher than others. Due to the gaps in information dissemination, high level of unawareness among the women and male dominant community are reducing women's participation in CF management activities.

Intensive extension program regarding awareness should be launched for users about their rights and duties. They should be made aware of the government laws, policies and administrative arrangements of CF program. Networking and coordination mechanism should be established between the users and DFO/other organization for addressing the problems concerning inadequate technical knowledge and other fundamental women's requirement.

---

**Key words:** Community Forest, Knowledge, Participation and Women

## TABLE OF CONTENT

<i>Letter of Recommendation</i>	<i>I</i>
<i>Recommendation from Language Editor</i>	<i>II</i>
<i>Acceptance Certificate</i>	<i>III</i>
<i>Acknowledgement</i>	<i>IV</i>
<i>Table of Contents</i>	<i>V</i>
<i>List of Table</i>	<i>X</i>
<i>List of Figure</i>	<i>XI</i>
<i>Acronyms</i>	<i>XII</i>

### **CHAPTER - I INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Research background	1
1.2 Problem statement and justification	4
1.3 Research questions	6
1.4 Object of the study	6
1.5 Rational of the study	7
1.6 Operational definition of the terms used in the study	8
1.7 Limitations of the study	9
1.8 Organization of the thesis report	9
1.9 Conceptual frame work	10

### **CHAPTER - II LITERATURE REVIEW**

2.1 Community forestry in Nepal	11
2.2 Forestry sector policies	11
2.3 Gender and forestry	13
2.4 Previous study on women	16

### **CHAPTER III-RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

3.1 Introduction	21
3.2 Rational for the selection of the study area	21
3.3 Research design	21
3.4 Universe and sampling	22

3.5	Nature and source of data	22
3.6	Tools and techniques of data collection	23
3.6.1	Primary data collection	23
3.6.1.1	Questionnaire schedule	23
3.6.1.2	Key informant interview	23
3.6.1.3	Focus group discussion	24
3.6.1.4	Observation	24
3.6.1.5	Pre test procedure	24
3.7	Secondary data collection	25
3.8	Data analysis	25

## **CHAPTER IV-DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA AND GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS**

4.1	Description of the study are	26
4.1.1	Brief introduction of Kaski district	26
4.1.1.1	Location	26
4.1.1.2	Altitude	27
4.1.1.3	Climate	27
4.1.1.4	Population	27
4.1.1.5	Literacy	27
4.1.1.6	Land use	27
4.1.1.7	Fuel	28
4.1.2	Study area Lekhanath municipality profile	28
4.1.3	Pragatishil community forest users group, Lekhanath, Shishuwa, Kaski	30
4.2	Study unit description in brief	31
4.3	General characteristics of respondents	31
4.3.1	Age structure	32
4.3.2	Ethnicity/Caste of respondents	32
4.3.3	Ethnicity/Caste composition of respondents in CFUGC	33
4.3.4	Family size	34
4.3.5	Education status	34
4.3.6	Respondent in CFUGC	35

## **CHAPTER - V WOMEN'S KNOWLEDGE ON DIFFERENT MODE OF COMMUNITY FORESTRY**

5.1	Time period of CFUG assembly	36
5.2	Decision making process in the CFUG assembly	37
5.3	User's participation in decision making process	38
5.4	Process of CFUGC formation	38
5.5	Special consideration for poor or dalit women to place in CFUGC	39
5.6	Time period of CFUGC meeting	40
5.7	Status of women's participation in forest protection	41
5.8	Conflict in CFUG regarding benefit distribution	42
5.9	The benefits distribution system among the CF users	43

## **CHAPTER VI - WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN DIFFERENT COMMUNITY FOREST MNGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

6.1	Participation rate of women in CFUG assembly	44
6.2	Women's participation style in decision making process	45
6.3	Respondent's participation rate in decision making process	46
6.4	Respondent's participation rate in forest protection activities	46
6.4.1	Participation rate in forest patrolling works as watchperson	46
6.4.2	Participation rate in controlling grazing, loping and illegal felling works	47
6.4.3	Participation rate in collection and utilization of fuel wood	48
6.4.4	Participation rate in collection and utilization of fodder/grass	49
6.4.5	Participation rate in collection and utilization of timber	50
6.4.6	Participation rate in collection and utilization of NTFPs	51



## **CHAPTER VII - HINDERING FACTORS AFFECTING WOMEN'S INVOLVEMENT IN CF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

7.1	Considering women's Voice During Decision Making Process in Assembly	53
7.2	Freedom to Put Own Idea During Initial Period of CF Formation	54
7.3	Major Hindrances in Participating Forest Management Activities	54
7.4	Forest Product Sufficiency for Respondents House holds Needs	56
7.5	Easiness to Get Forest products	56
7.6	Discrimination in the Wages of Male and Female Workers for Same Work	57

## **CHAPTER VIII - SUMMARY, CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATION**

8.1	Summary	60
8.2	Conclusion	64
8.3	Recommendation	65
	<b>References</b>	67
	<b>Appendices</b>	

## LIST OF TABLES

<b>Table No / Title</b>	<b>Page No</b>
1 Age of the Respondents	32
2 Ethnic/Caste Composition of Respondents in CFUGC	33
3 Time of CFUG Assembly	36
4 DM process in Assembly	37
5 Participation in DM Process	38
6 Process of CFUGC Formation	39
7 Provision for Poor and Dalit in CFUGC	40
8 Time of CFUGC Meeting	40
9 Participation Rate in Forest Protection	41
10 Conflict in Benefit Distribution	42
11 Benefit distribution System Among the Users	43
12 Participation Extent in CFUG Assembly	44
13 Participation Style in DM Process	45
14 Participation Rate in DM Process	46
15 Participation Rate in Forest Patrolling Works as Watchperson	47
16 Participation Rate in Controlling Grazing, Lopping and Illegal Felling Works	47
17 Participation Rate in Collection and Utilization of Fuel Wood	49
18 Participation Rate in Collection and Utilization of Fodder and Grass	50
19 Participation Rate in Collection and Utilization of Timber	19
20 Participation Rate in Collection and Utilization of NTFPs	52
21 Hearing the Women's Voice in DM Process	53
22 Women's Freedom for Sharing an Idea in Initial Period of CF Formation	54
23 Major problems in Forest Management Practice	55
24 Forest Product Sufficiency	56
25 Easiness to get Forest Products	57
26 Discrimination in Wages	57

## LIST OF FIGURES

<b>Figure No/Title</b>	<b>Page No</b>
Figure:1 Conceptual Frame of the Study	10
Figure:2 Population Distribution Based on Caste/Ethnic Composition of Lekhanath Municipality	29
Figure:3 Ethnic Composition of the Respondents	33
Figure:4 Education Level of the Respondents	34

## ACRONYMS

CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistics
CF	:	Community Forest
CFDP	:	Community Forestry Development Program
CFUG/s	:	Community Forest Users Group/s
CFUGC	:	Community Forest User Group Committee
CM	:	Committee Member
DDC	:	District Development Committee
DFO	:	District Forest Office
DM	:	Decision Making
GAD	:	Gender and Development
GM	:	General Member
GoN	:	Government of Nepal
GSE	:	Gender and Social Equity
ha	:	Hectare
HH	:	Household
INGO	:	International Non-Governmental Organizations
IOF	:	Institute of Forestry
MFSC	:	Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation
MPFS	:	Master plan for the Forestry Sector
NGOs	:	Non-Governmental Organizations
NTFPs	:	Non-Timber Forest Products
OP	:	Operational Plan
SLC	:	School Leaving Certificate
SPSS	:	Statistical Package for Social Science
VDC/s	:	Village Development Committee/s
WID	:	Women in Development