

CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

A renewable natural resource, forests provide a wide range of environmental, socio-economic and cultural benefits and services. But forests in Nepal are decreasing at an alarming rate (.5% annually according to the findings of FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment, FRA 2005), thus effective management strategy integrating both the natural and social parts of the forest dependent communities is one of the crucial prerequisites for obtaining the benefits and services of the forest in perpetuity. Keeping this in view, Nepal's forest policy has undergone several changes over time.

Government policy on forest management and property rights has been changing over time in Nepal. Prior to 1950, the forests of Nepal were regarded as an unlimited source of forest resources, even the government exported valuable timber to India (Mahat *et al.* 1986). Regmi (1978) has indicated that at least one third of the forests of Nepal were under '*birta*' tenure and three quarters of this land belonged to the Rana family. He further stated that government rules encouraged the farmers to convert forest land into farm land to increase the tax base.

Following the popular central planning development paradigm, two Forest Acts were passed in 1961 and 1967, which attributed the power of policing and licensing to the Forest Department staff. This created an atmosphere of fear, distrust and conflict between local people and forestry staff (Karna, 1998). In addition, several other Acts such as Land Grant Abolition Act of 1959, Land Reform Act of 1964, and Pasture Land Nationalization Act of 1974, all contributed towards the increase in the power of the Forest Department (Hobley and Malla, 1996). However, the Forest Department failed to stop the trend of deforestation and encroachment and to combat this trend of the destruction of forests. The government of Nepal encouraged the preparation of a Master plan for the Forestry Sector (MPFS) for a period of 21 years in 1988; it highly emphasized community and private forestry program. The Forest Act 1993 and The Forest Regulation 1995 were enacted in order to implement the framework laid down by MPFS (1988), where community forestry program is clearly mentioned.

According to the database record of the Department of Forest, 2008, 21.2% of the total forest area of Nepal covering an area of more than 12, 28,016 ha is under community forests and there are more than 14,413 Community Forest Users Groups (CFUG), which benefit more than 39.7% of the total population. Among the 14,413 CFUGs, 780 CFUGs are managed by women; the total area covered by these 780 CFUGs is 22,792 ha. According to the CF data base, representation of women in FUC is only 25.5 % which does not mark up to the minimum requirement (i.e.33%) fixed by the CFDP guideline 2001.

Two factors crucial to the success of community forest management are gender and equity, thus allowing women, and other marginalized groups to participate effectively in the processes of good governance in forests is essential. Though decision making is an important function in forest user groups and requires the participation of the whole community, in practice disadvantaged groups are frequently marginalized in Nepal, for instance, women must work at home and the poor must work for wages, thus they have no spare time. "These obligations interfered with their ability to attend meetings, and so they were less aware of the decisions being made" (K.C., 2007).

When achievement of community forestry is assessed from gender and equity perspectives, the rhetoric of success is far from reality. An increasing number of empirical works clearly demonstrate that most of the user groups are exclusive in terms of participation and access to benefits derived from community forests. The strata of society which is more dependent on common forests than others for their livelihood, e.g. the poor, the lower castes, and women have been excluded from the process of community forestry and their interests have been consistently overlooked (Hobley, 1996 and Graner, 1997).

In Nepal, 49.96% of the population is male whereas 50.04% are female (CBS, 2003). Though women represent half of the total population of Nepal, they are both socially and economically disadvantaged. In every aspect of life, women are sub-ordinate to men; women in Nepal have limited access to market productive services, education, health care and local government (Acharya, 2003). Generally women have less access and control over family resources than men (Raut, 2006). Men traditionally inherit land and property. Lack of education confines women to traditional household activities. Since the participation of women in utilization of the forest commodities is usually

more than that of men, and since they are the main users of the forest resources, they have vast knowledge. “If programme were to be developed accounting for men’s participation only, it would be inaccessible to about 50% of the total population” (Gurung, 1995).

The role of women in sustainable resource management and practices is generally overlooked and women’s indigenous knowledge with respect to species and use remain largely unrecognized (Raut, 2006). Normally women are looked upon as the psychologically and physically weaker gender without considering their resisting power in terms of survival and subsistence (Chatterjee and Roy, 1995).

From the initial stages of CF practice, women’s participation was ignored in CF planning cycle, so their activities were not successful (K.C., 2007). Realizing this, gradually the CF policies were changed and priority was given to women and their participation in CF activities. Women’s participation in CFUG may be classified into two broad categories namely participation in implementation of CF activities, as in the conservation and exploitation of resources, and participation in decision making. Participation in the implementation of activities does not necessarily mean effective participation in decision making. Effective participation requires that people’s views are effectively taken into account and their views influence decision making (Agrawal, 1997).

Hence the forest activities need to be planned and designed with the close consideration of women's roles, using their extensive knowledge on forest management for any plan preparation process. The study aims to understand women's roles and existing knowledge in CF management and the things that have been hindering their development. This study tries to accumulate information required for this purpose.

1.2 Problem Statement and Justification

In the patriarchal society of our nation, women have always had a lower status; the social structure is so constructed that women hardly have any time to spare, even for themselves. The sole burden of household chores is on the woman, she often has to fetch water and fuel wood, these preoccupations prevents her from getting involved in any kind of decision making roles. The fact that they are often purposely kept out of community management programs, combined with their lack of education has resulted

in a lower self-esteem in women. So, different INGO/NGO/CBOs work in the rural areas to uplift the socio-economic status of women. The Government of Nepal is also laying emphasis on women's empowerment, and for this purpose it has established the Ministry of Women and Social Welfare, too.

The role of women in the management of resources is documented well (Raut, 2006). Women are excluded from different phases of community forestry in Nepal including membership and participation in user groups and access to the incentives derived from it. One of the reasons given for such exclusion has been, to promote the formation of women-only user groups where general body and executive committee are made up of only women. Creating women-only spaces is seen as the best strategy to avoid the weight of patriarchal power and increase women's involvement in community forestry. However, despite good intentions, there still exists a major gap between the expectations and the achievements.

The concern to involve women is particularly focused, because women are heavily involved in the collection of resources and they have vast knowledge on both major and minor forest products. Filton (2003) argues that men and women in Asia and Africa are highly dependent on the natural resources to fulfil their household's needs and contribute to food security. But women's share of decision making power remains low. "Women are out of land, time and money; they are often poorly organized, have restricted access to political power, and a limited ability to influence decision makers. They are often more illiterate than men, and have no collateral to offer for credit. They are also restricted in the jobs they are allowed to do and the distances they are allowed to travel". Several studies highlight barriers in women's roles and their participation due to either culture or religion associated with gender differences (K.C., 2007).

Besides these constraints, women are involved in CF activities from the initial stage itself, though the level of their involvement may vary. They have played a crucial role in CF management. A report published by ICIMOD (1999) said, being a primary user of the forest, their movement in the forests is higher than that of men. So, obviously they have greater interest in the protection and management of the forests. Women can contribute in the identification of the real users of the forest area and also have in-depth knowledge on CF management techniques for better management of natural resources as well as overall development of their own lives.

While effective participation in the institutions of decision making would enable women to influence formulation of rules and regulations in their interest, making rules in favour of them does not necessarily guarantee that women enjoy access to the incentives derived from FUGs. Gendered resource endowment within the family, subordinated positions of women and relative lack of bargaining power often results in the situation where women in general and poor women in particular cannot claim the benefit from the user group (Rai and Buchy, 2004).

All sectors of Nepal including the forestry sectors have begun to give priority to women and are talking about positive discrimination for their betterment. Women have been playing different roles in forest management since long. The Government has also been encouraging the involvement of at least 33% women, in Forest Users Group Committee and more in all CFUG activities. Different literature suggests that from the beginning of the community forestry program, women were involved in CF activities but their involvement in decision making level was always found to be nominal, they were either not in FUC or their role in decision making was not influential enough. But how to involve women in a real sense is a major challenge for decision-makers in a male-dominated society. There are still many questions to be answered in this arena, and this study aims to determine women's roles, knowledge base and their status in CF management, and the things that are a hindrance to their development.

1.3 Research Questions

This study answers the following questions?

1. What knowledge do women possess on the different aspects of Community Forest management?
2. Which class of women (user's category and different age class) are actively participating in major forest management activities?
3. Which class of women (user's category and different age class) are more knowledgeable regarding the Community Forest management?
4. What are the participation modes of women towards major forest management activities?
5. What things/factors have been hindrances in women's involvement or participation in Community Forest management activities?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to find out women's knowledge of and participation rate/role in *Pragatishil* Community Forest management activities of *Lekhanath*, Kaski district. The specific objectives of this study are:

- To find out women's knowledge on different aspects of Community Forest management
- To explore the mode of women's participation in Community Forest management activities
- To explore the factors that hinder women's involvement in Community Forest management activities

1.5 Rational of the Study

Nepal has more than 14,413 Forest Users Groups covering an area of more than 12, 28,016 ha of national forests as community forests i.e. 21.2% of total forest area (Database record of Department of Forest, 2008) of the country is community forests and more than 39.7% of the total populations i.e. 16, 57,904hhs, are benefited by the management of these community forests (Database record of Department of Forest, 2008). The number of CFs is increasing every year and so is the number of households/population. Because of Community Forests society is benefiting too. A marked increase in greenery is one of the most important impact of CF, as is bio-diversity conservation, fulfilment of requirement of timber, daily need of firewood, fodder, bedding materials etc is also an impact of CF. It also helps in raising the livelihoods of the rural people by mobilizing the CFUG's funds, saving time spent on forest product collection (this saved time can be used in other productive work), providing opportunity to grow NTFPs in CF etc. Similarly, equity in benefit sharing, consideration of gender in FUC's and other CF activities are emphasized by the rules/regulations, directives and guidelines. Though the rules/regulations, directives and guidelines give high priority to gender balance in CF activities, in reality women's status is lower than that of men in CF as well as other areas too.

This research explores the knowledge of women in community forestry activities, at the same time it also differentiates the knowledge of general women member and FUC women members, by this it explores the importance of leadership too. Knowledge leads to decision making, if they have good knowledge of CF/UG then they can decide to participate in CFUC and other CF activities. Similarly, this research explores the

participation of women in decision making level as well as CF management activities in recent situation which will be supportive to future action. This research also provides information on the factors which prohibit women's participation in CF activities. It will help to explore more effective measures to increase women's participation in decision making as well as CF management activities in future. This report will be supportive to concern the CFUG to improve their attitude towards women's participation in FUC as well as CF management activities. They will also understand the importance of women's participation in decision making, for development. The research report will be helpful to N/GO to formulate plans and policies to address relevant problems and issues in future.

1.6 Operational Definition of Terms Used in the Study

Forest Users Group's Constitution/Bidhan: Norms prepared by the users by following the Community Forest Act, where roles and responsibilities of users as well as committee members, penalty, fund raising, use, networking etc. are mentioned.

Forest Users Group's Operational Plan (OP): It includes the forest resource capacity with the technical support of District Forest Office, and defines the process of forest protection, methodology of forest product extraction as per the users demand, process for monitoring and evaluation of the forest.

Household: The houses, which are the members in forest user group.

Community /Forestry/ Users Group (C/F/UG): A groups which includes all primary households as a forest user in community forest.

Community /Forestry Users Committee (C/FUC) : A committee formed from users group, comprising of 7-13 (may be more in number) members, who play an active role in implementing the Forest Users Group's Constitution and Operational Plan in a proper way. They are elected from general assembly of CFUG.

Participation: Involvement of the people of the community plays an important role and responsibility in different forestry development activities.

Decision Making: It is a process of meaningful/active participation for developing common understanding in favour of all users and implementing the activities accordingly.

1.7 Limitations of the Study

Due to the time constraints research was conducted in only one community forest users group and focused on micro level qualitative study. Most CFUGs have no or very few instances of handover of the documents and responsibility to the successors after the completion of the tenure of one FUC, this CFUG also has a similar problem so it was difficult for the researcher to observe the trend of women's participation in decision making by scanning the documents.

1.8 Organization of the Thesis Report

This thesis is divided into *Eight Chapters*. The first chapter is a general introduction; the second chapter provides information on literature review, chapter three gives the information of research methodology, chapter four includes description of the study area and general characteristics of respondents. Similarly, the fifth chapter provides the information of women's knowledge on different mode of community forestry, the sixth chapter deals with women's participation in different community forest management activities, the seventh chapter describes the hindering factors affecting women's involvement in CF management activities and finally the eighth chapter has the summary, conclusion and the recommendations.

1.9 Conceptual Framework

Community Forestry Users Group (CFUG) is a group which is formed by the concerned households of the particular community forest (CF) where men and women are considered as users. Community forestry Users Group Committee is formed by the users of the concerned group by election or by consensus, where men and women have equal opportunity to be a member. This conceptual frame work says that if women are aware of and they have knowledge about the CF, CFUG, CFUC, OP and constitution then they can participate in CFUG assembly, CFUC meeting, and their numbers will be increased and they will play active role in decision making. Similarly their participation in forest management activities will be increased too if they are knowledgeable about the importance of FC.

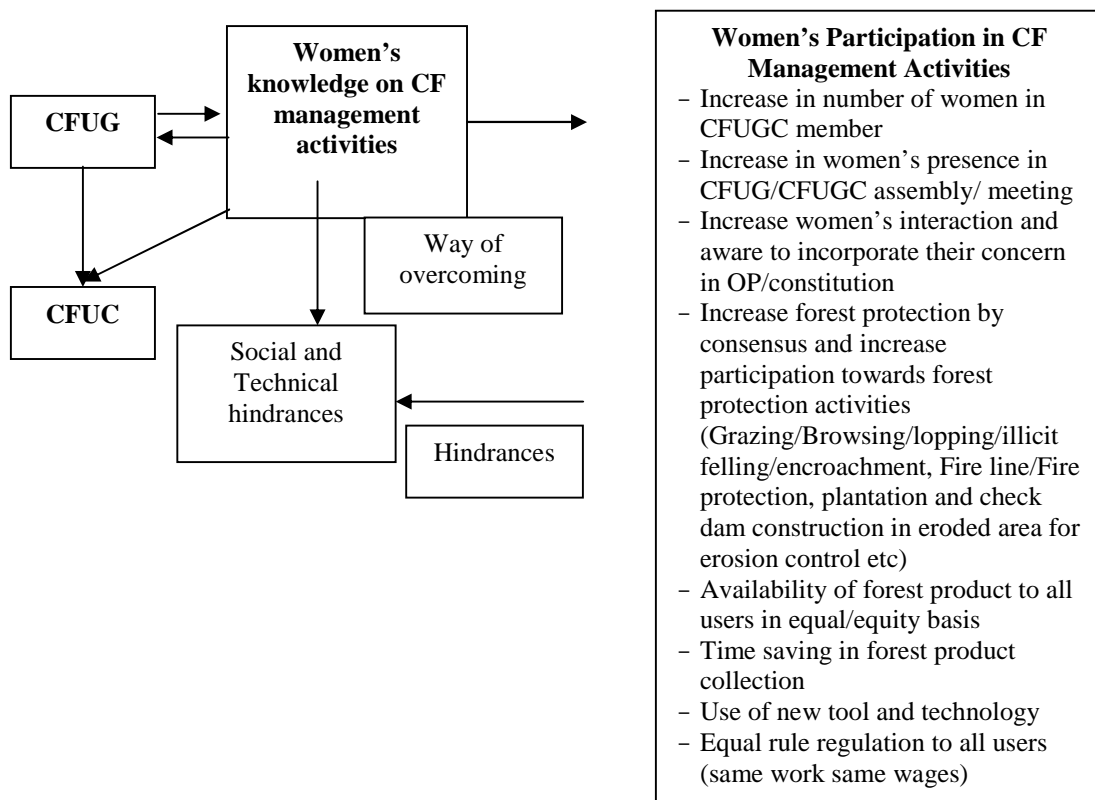


Figure 1: Conceptual Frame Work of the Study

During the CF management work there may come many social and technical hindrances and women have to face them. If women have the knowledge, then they can face it and find out ways of overcoming those hindrances. Because of the social constraint women always hesitate to speak in front of a mass, and so they cannot actively participate in decision making processes of FUG/FUC assembly and meeting. Similarly during the CF management work also women may be suppressed by the men for lack of technical know-how, labor and other reasons. If women have knowledge then they can resist and raise their voice against these kinds of suppressions.

CHAPTER - II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Community Forestry in Nepal

Community Forestry in Nepal is amongst the successful programs of Nepal Government. Nepal has been implementing Community Forestry programme for the last three decades. Community Forestry programme is recognised as a strategy to improve the condition of forests and to satisfy the household needs of forest products in the rural areas. Community Forestry involves handing over the rights to use and manage the forests to local people, who have traditionally used the forests and are willing to accept management responsibilities. Community Forestry process includes the formation of Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs), the preparation of operational plans, plantations where appropriate, and training to strengthen the organisational capacity of CFUGs and to improve the skills of field staff and the users in forest management (Gautam, 2005).

The initial objective of Community Forestry was to foster the relationships between the forests and the local communities by recognising the right use of the forest by the community. As the implementation of the program paved the way, many experiences have been gained and new issues and challenges are emerging. There are good examples practiced in the field and more learning and experiences are also gained during the implementation of Community Forestry.

2.2 Forestry Sector Policies

The forestry Master Plan 1991 is the principal policy document for guiding forestry development in Nepal (Shrestha, 1999). The Master Plan recommended that women should be at least one-half of the members of the users committee in the Community Forest Development Program (CFDP). The directive suggests that women, as the real primary users, will be involved in the decision making and benefit-sharing mechanism (Shrestha, 1999).

There are eight goals in millennium development, among them, “Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger (by 50, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger), promote gender equality and empower women, improve maternal

health, ensure environmental sustainability”, are concerned with women and environment.

The ministry of forest and soil conservation is developing a Gender and Social Equity Vision (The MFSC GSE Vision) for the year 2019: “The ministry of forest and soil conservation is a Gender and social equity sensitive and socially inclusive organization practicing good governance to ensure equitable access to and decision making power over forest resources and benefits of all forestry sector stakeholders” (MFSC, 2004).

The Guideline for community forestry development program (CFDP, 2001) has given high priority to the involvement of women in each and every step of CF activities. According to the guidelines, the column of name of principle users should mention both male and female users and when mentioning the total number of users then both male and female users should be taken into account. In order to gauge the incentives for participation of male and female users, this guideline takes into account the interests of both male and female users and their level of participation (CFDP, 2001). In column 2.3 of same guideline it is mentioned that women often have a key role in forest product collection and utilization. Therefore, women’s participation and interest must be considered equal to, if not greater than, those of men in forest management and forest product utilization, and institutional development activities of the CFUG (CFDP, 2001).

The Guideline for community forestry development program (CFDP, 2001) lays emphasis on having equal number of female and male in Community Forest User Group Committee (CFUGC). In the CFUG assembly also one female and one male from each household is encouraged to participate and the names and addresses of all users should be clearly stated in the constitution, and provisions made for equal voting by indicating the names of one male and one female voter from each household. For the preparation of the operational plan also, poor and marginalized women should be included in the *tole* meetings as their demands need to be incorporated in the discussion.

The Guideline for community forestry development program (CFDP, 2001) emphasizes on giving leadership opportunities in the CFUG to women, the poor and the

disadvantaged and to create an environment conducive to the increased participation of women in forest management.

2.3 Gender and Forestry

Literature suggests that women are the primary collectors and users of resources such as water and forest. However, their share in decision-making in resource management is nominal. One of the reasons for the lack of women's voice in decision-making is due to the past efforts of involving them only in routine jobs. Even when women were made part of the group as demanded by the constitution of the CFUG, most of the decisions continued to be made by men. Since resources have multiple uses and benefits; their management becomes a multi-dimensional business involving multiple partners. As a resource, forest is both a social as well as an economic good. It provides economic benefits to a section of the society and serves as a source of livelihood for many others. As environmental assets, forests need to be protected to maintain ecological balance but at the same time they must be used as a source of revenue. Because forests function as different things to different sections of people, a situation of conflict arises when all parties involved aim to achieve the possible benefits, when bulk of it is primarily achieved by one of the parties, whereas all partners need to be involved directly or indirectly in their protection. Conflicts arising out of it can be resolved by various means but one that is acceptable to opposing parties is by way of negotiation (Graner, 1997).

Ensuring equal share of men and women are of great concern for developers and planners, Natural Resource management and other integrated conservation and Development Projects (Bhadra and Karky, 2002).

Mainstreaming gender especially women have now become a major thrust of any organizations. Krosschell (1997) argues that some misperception in society, lack of access to and control over resources and not enabling policy framework have acted as barriers to mainstreaming gender in Resource Management.

Women in Development (WID) approach has recently transformed into Gender and Development (GAD) , that stress on gender equity and equality so as to ensure equal right to property and equal pay (Bhadra and Karky, 2002). Bhadra and Karky (2002) point out that such equitable social capital can brought through empowering women.

Throughout Nepal, across ethnic and caste groups, women are heavily involved in the collection of forest products needed to maintain the farm economy (Wickramasinghe, 1993). Furthermore depending on the geographic and socio-cultural condition, women contribute to 50 to 80% of the total agricultural labour (Bajaracharaya, 1994), so their role should not be limited to being the passive beneficiaries alone. Instead they should be empowered to play the role of equal partner in planning and management of natural resources. In order to utilize scarce resources optimally for growth and enhanced livelihood, the program has given high priority to gender development, as it is a crosscutting theme in the development paradigm.

In rural societies, there are several things women are not supposed to do physically and mentally. The greater workload amongst the women mean they have less time to attend to issues beyond everyday needs (WWF-Nepal, 2002).

The perception of women as mothers and wives limit their domain to the household and constraint their active participation in wider social, economic and political processes.

Why are trees especially important in the lives of women? Far more women than men, in the developing world, are farmers, cutters and users of firewood, collectors and sellers of minor forest products, and tenders of livestock. Collecting and using the wide variety of forest products commonly found in the tropic demand a great deal of women's time and labour. When these products cannot be grown or collected, hard-earned cash must be used to buy them. Shortages caused by disappearing resources have a severe impact on the lives of women and their children.

In recent years, a growing number of households are headed by women. Adding to their roles as farmer and homemaker, women make up a growing proportion of the paid labour force serving the forest industry and informal sector enterprises (e.g., crafts, extracting fibre, making charcoal). To realise their full potential as agents of development, women need some control over the natural resources they use. They need access to better time- and labour-saving technologies that will improve their productivity. They need solutions that will lighten traditional burdens and ensure that women's vital cash income needs can be met (Raut, 2006).

One of the problems identified by development planners is inequality, which marginalizes a large part of the society resulting in social, economic, and political

discrimination. This inequality is clearly manifested in the fact that more than 50% of the people in developing countries including Nepal have to make ends meet by using less than 10% of the resources (HDR, 2004). Baskota (1989) also noted that decline in resource base and migration of men puts additional pressure on women left in the villages. Easy access to plentiful supply of resources improves the quality of life for the vast majority of people. Lack of access restricts the opportunity and perpetuates the cycle of poverty. Having the forest resources closer to home can lead to a marked reduction in drudgery for women and young girls, who are often deprived of even basic education (Dixit, 2002).

Though firewood is primarily used in the kitchen by women, it is collected by both male and female in the rural setting. Women are interested in firewood that burns better and with less smoke, even if it means going longer distances to collect them. This factor of wood quality may not be of so much importance to men who are more interested in getting firewood of any kind. The division of responsibility between men and women makes it difficult for the community to make decisions suitable for both men and women. As a result, almost all decisions made are primarily in favour of men. If men and women of both the groups were consulted before the forests were handed over to these communities, this problem of discriminated resource allocation probably would have been solved.

Nepalese society is primarily patriarchal where most of the decisions in domestic as well as social affairs are made or influenced by men. Although the constitution of Nepal 1991 guarantees equality on the basis of gender, the equality is yet to be real. Women literacy is below 50% (HDR, 2004). Women do not have rights to own property. Only about 10% of the women are seen to have the liberty of taking decisions on their own. The situation in rural areas is even worse. They do most of the physical work but have no right to decide even on private matters such as choosing their husbands and bearing child. Developmental attention has lately been focused on social capital. No effort has been made for improvement of technology or the steps taken by the state in formulating policies and programmes to address the unjust gender issue which is a vital part of the social capital. Thus, it has become a central focus of development.

The gender issues that have become evident in forestry sector can present anecdotes to understand various issues including strength of Nepali rural women, which had not been understood in the past. Case studies of gender issues are documented more widely in forestry than in other development fields. It is, therefore, evident that participation of women in forestry has also helped other development organizations to bring women close to development because forest provides a permanent base for women's involvement and engagement compared to other development activities. It has become clear that functioning of women groups has been found to be more efficient and transparent. The more women participate in forestry, the more the chances are that they bring benefits of forests to the rural poor. From this point of view, women in forestry, especially, when many of them start getting involved in its true sense (in women-only group or in a mixed group), help in understanding the difficulties and sensitivity that gender equity requires.

2.4 Previous Study on Women

ICIMOD (1998) concluded that the factors influencing women's self esteem and confidence include gender ideologies, state-ascribed roles, cultural taboos and expectations, education and exposure to the outside world, cash earning abilities, role in decision making and their own inner sense of autonomy, identity and strength.

According to the CBS (2003), the educational status of women at 42.5% is way below, both the national average (53.7%) and that of men above six years of age at 65.1%. Women are poor, uneducated, unemployed and so on. According to the population census 2001, in Nepal the number of female headed household is 15%, ownership of land is 10.84%, ownership of livestock is 7.24% and ownership of house stead is only 5.51%, this shows the poor socio-economic status of the women.

Thapa (1999) concluded that traditionally, women's role is to obey her husband and bear and raise her children with little help from their father. These antiquated values and duties prevent women from progressing into more advanced roles as income generators, political activists. He further stressed that men and women are both socially, economically dependent on each other, but women's contributions are less valued.

According to a study conducted by Shrestha (1999) in Nuwakot, men and women do not consider women's position higher or better than men in decision-making, self

image, and organizational capacity. Women's status is always lower than that of men. She further states that women only have access to resources, but actual control lies with men, even the labour, which by definition belongs to the person concerned, is controlled by men which means that women can only sell their labour with the permission of men and even the income from women's labour is controlled by men. Women do not have access to or control over credit as they do not own any property therefore they are not credit worthy. Food is the only area in which women have control, because they prepare and distribute it.

Kharel (1993) writes that if women are involved in every stage of the CF management's planning process, the chances of their voicing their opinion and making people listen to them are increased. When committees are formed without female representation (or even when women are involved, men generally play the dominant role consciously or unconsciously) the decisions usually fail to recognize women's needs and constraints.

Baskota (1987) conducted a study and reported that cultural norms comprise of the major factor affecting the rapid deforestation of middle hill land resources. While women suffer most from the decline in forest, they could not articulate the problem to local planners because the traditional decision making system favours males more than females and the cultural norms allow men to contact and deal with male government officers.

Chhetri and Rana (1995) reported that women's participation in CF has so far been mostly in terms of labour contribution. They are often not involved in decision making or in the formulation of plans. Brahmin and Chhetri women in particular are not expected to attend formal meetings. Invitation to meetings and gatherings are often aimed at the household head, who is generally a man.

Shrestha (1987) pointed out that women's involvement is higher than that of men in household production and collecting fodder and fuel wood. But they were not involved in the approval of the management plan, in the selection of forest watchers. Women also did not participate in any of the users meeting, committee which included political male leaders as members. The writer concluded that if women are not involved in project planning and decision making they may have difficulty in conceptualizing the project or expressing their own needs.

Rai and Buchy (2004) stated that given very unequal power relations between men and women with differential control over resources to fulfil the roles and responsibilities, participation in implementation without any stake in decision making makes women more vulnerable.

Banjade *et al.* (2004) stated that most of the CFUGs are formally led by the local elites. These powerful elites vary from place to place such as local political leaders, particular castes, rich and educated people. Even if some CFUGs involve the marginalized sections particularly the poor, the *Dalits*, and the women of the community in the decision making body, in most of the cases either they hardly ever spoke up or their voices were not heard properly.

Flintan (2003) argues that men and women in Asia and Africa are highly dependent on the natural resources to fulfil their household's needs and contribute to food security. But women's share of decision making power remains low.

The degradation of the environment has already significantly affected women's lives. Continuing deforestation and degrading land fertility further jeopardize the livelihood of households in the community as it increases the daily tasks of women (Bhatt *et al.*, 1994). As deforestation advances and forest products become increasingly scarce, women are the ones who must walk further to collect fuel and fodder, adding hours to their already long work days. Where deforestation is high, time needed to collect one load of fuel wood increase by 75%, less time is spent on agricultural activities.

Nightingale (2002) said that there is a long history of domination by rural elites- although who these elites are varied from place to place. Women and the lowest- castes, however, have not been found to be elites in any part of Nepal.

Yadav *et al.* (2003) found that "All the users were involved in protection and use of the forest jointly, different *toles* kept watch over the forest near them; users patrol forest by rotation; patrolling users have authority and respect; restraint on cutting to preserve the forest; fuel wood selling stopped; alternative income generating activities adopted; no illegal cutting due to effective protection; big tree stealing ceased, no illicit product collection by outsider, cattle under controlled/rotational grazing, illicit cutting apprehended and punished, legal action taken as per rules and regulation against offenders who harm the forest, severe punishment for offenders and no forest fire".

Studies all over the Himalayas have shown how the harvesting of forest resources for daily needs-firewood fodder and leaf litter is done primarily by women (Agrawal 1992; Agrawal 1997; Jodha 1986; Shiva 1988). Other work on gender and forest has shown how forest resources are a critical source of livelihood and security for women by providing access to resources they would otherwise not have on their private lands.

Inserra (1989) argues that if the forests are to be successfully managed by local users, then women must participate; they are responsible for collecting most of the fuel wood, fodder, leaf compost and bedding as well as controlling grazing. They also provide much of the labour for nurseries and tree planting. The men, on the other hand, generally take care of cutting, selling timber and with administrative decisions about forests.

Community forestry program started in Nepal three decades ago with the aim of getting people's participation. During this period many scholars (as mentioned above) carried out many research related to women and community forest. They found that women are the primary users/collector of the forest products like fuel wood, fodder, bedding materials, leaf etc. Some of them said that women were contributing labour towards forest management too. They also found that women's participation in decision making was low. Research is essential to know the current situation i.e. whether it has progressed or worsened. In this context, my research provides the information about the women's knowledge on different mode of community forestry, their participation in different forest management activities (decision making, collection, utilization and protection). This research also helps to find out the factors that have been hindering women's involvement/participation in Community Forest management activities. This research mirrors the difference in knowledge between women who are in Forestry users' group committee and the women as general member of the forestry users group only.

CHAPTER - III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

Success of research is dependent upon the selection of appropriate research methods. Considering this truth various methods and techniques have been used for the collection of data and information required for this study. This chapter contains a rationale for the selection.

3.2 Rational for the Selection of Study Area

The rationale for the selection of this district was: Women's participation in this district was found to be different in different CF activities, 11 CF's are solely managed by women and CF is not only in rural setting but also in urban areas.

Selection of the forest for the study is done keeping in mind that the selected CF be at least five years old and that the Operational Plan (OP) should have been revised at least once.

To select the municipality/VDC and CFUG for the research, CFUGs were listed out from the records of the district forest office Kaski according to the Range post. Shishuwa range post is one of the range post having highest number of CF. There are more than 90 CF in this range post and *Pragatishil* CF is also one of them. Among all handed over CFUGs, one CFUG, *Pragatishil* CFUG was purposely chosen as it was solely managed by women. Initially this CF was not handed over to the women's group but at present this CF is managed by women. This CFUG was situated in Lekhanath municipality so obviously this municipality was selected for the research.

3.3 Research Design

The present study is specially designed to explore women's knowledge and participation in community forest management. This study is based on descriptive as well as exploratory research design. Questionnaires were used to obtain information on knowledge as well as participation. Focus group discussions and observations were

applied as qualitative method. Both closed and open ended questions (check list) were used to gather information.

3.4 Universe and Sampling

There are 370 households in this community forest users group (CFUG) from where 37 households were randomly selected for questionnaire survey. 10% sampling was done for interviewing the respondents. For the analysis, the users of *Pragatishil* CFUG were classified into two broad categories; one was age class 18 to 35 (young age), 36 to 55 (middle age) and 56 years and older (old aged) age and second was status of users as general member of CFUG (general member) and member of CFUGC (committee member).

For the selection of household for interview prior noticed was served informing the respondents of the household interview. The researcher herself visited the research areas with her research assistant and representatives from the concerned range post with the permission of the DFO Kaski. Then the researcher searched for key persons who have an idea about the concerned community. Under the guidance of the representative body of the concerned range post and the key persons of the concerned areas the households to be surveyed were finalized. After that survey was started. During the filling up of the questionnaire care was taken to make the respondents comfortable with the researcher first by rapport building. As respondents were only women, local men were not allowed to be present during the interview.

3.5 Nature and Source of Data

Primary and secondary data were collected using both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection. The study is mainly based on the primary data, collected by field works. The women users of the concerned CFUG were the main source of the primary data. Questionnaire survey and focus group discussions were used to collect the primary data. Local senior citizen, women, farmers, schoolteachers, and former FUC members & staff of local NGOs were considered as key person/informants while secondary data were obtained from the documents of concerned CFUG, DFO, DDC, IOF and other concerned organisations. Similarly various books, journals, national and international conference reports, seminar papers, curriculum, articles dissertations,

project reports etc. related to this research were consulted as the source of secondary data.

3.6 Tools and Techniques of Data Collection

Primary and secondary data were collected by using following tools and techniques.

3.6.1 Primary data Collection

3.6.1.1 Questionnaire Schedule

A set of questionnaire was developed to achieve the research objectives. The questionnaire contains three parts. The first part includes women's knowledge/awareness status on different mode of community forestry, the second part contains women's role/involvement on different CF management activities and the third part contains hindering factors that affect women's involvement in CF management activities (*Annex 1*)

3.6.1.2 Key Informant Interviews

The researcher visited research areas with her research assistant and representatives from the concerned range post. Then the researcher searched for key persons who have an idea about the concerned community and CFUG and CF activities. Individual members of the present FUC, Ex FUC members, teachers, ward chairperson, elderly men and women and other knowledgeable person were considered as key persons. For the interaction they were given prior information by the researcher. As the research team was new to them, first the researcher built a rapport with the key informant, interaction started only when she became familiar with the team. They were consulted for more detailed information about the knowledge and participation of women in CF (*Annex 2.*).

3.6.1.3 Focus Group Discussion

Focus group discussions were carried out to explore the knowledge and participation of women in CF. It was supposed to find out the real reasons for the change and also helped to triangulate the information collected from key informants. The group discussion was mainly conducted with CF women members, male members, and executive members of the FUC, and FECOFUN of the district. For this, selected members were informed in advance, A time and venue for the discussion was decided

upon and the selected participants were informed in advance. The concerned members arrived at the venue at the appointed time and discussion was started by introducing the participants, then the objectives of the discussion were expressed and the discussion proceeded based on the objectives of the research. To guide the discussion a check list was used by the researcher informally. The Check list for focus group discussion is attached in the *annex 2*.

3.6.1.4 Observation

The patterns of forest product collection, women's participation in various CF activities and meeting of *tole* committee were observed. The observation methods were used for collecting more ideas and information about the existing system of forest management or practices, women's involvement style in CF related activities and their functioning, meeting of CFUGC, etc.

3.6.1.5 Pre Test Procedure

The questionnaire was prepared in English first and then translated into Nepali. Before conducting the main research, questionnaire had been tested in another CFUG i.e. *Lewade Thadikhoriya* CFUG which is located in Ward number two of *Dhikurpokhari* VDC, of Kaski district. In this test, 20 individual female respondents were randomly selected from the area for questionnaire test (pre-test). Their response helped in correction/refinement/modification of research materials. Changes were also made in the sequential arrangement of questions and the language used for clarity. After the correction of research materials, the main study was begun.

3.7 Secondary Data Collection

Minutes of the CFUGC meeting, *tole* committee meetings and CFUG's statute and operational plan, as well as financial and administrative records of CF users were reviewed thoroughly. This information was helpful in interpretation and comparison of the results. Secondary data were collected from DFO, Kaski, DDC, Kaski, IOF library and annual reports of DFO, Kaski. Additional information was also gathered to meet the objectives of the study from published and unpublished research reports, journals, literatures and available maps.

3.8 Data Analysis

The data collected during the field work were categorized into two broad variables i.e. age class and status of the users. The data were logically interpreted along with simple tables, charts, and graphs. The mean score (weighted mean) obtained on the three point scale was used to determine the participation rate of the respondents. Mainly Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) was used to analyze the information. Collected information were analyzed by using simple statistical tools like percentage, mean, average, range and standard deviation and it was presented with tables and pie charts.

3.9 Likert Test

Likert test was used to measure the respondent's rate of participation in different CF activities by some statements. Three points scale was employed with the following ratings to measure the rate of participation of the respondents:

Rating Scale:

3-High participation

2-Low participation

1-No participation

The scale 1-3 ranges from 1 in the case of no participation to 3 in the case of high participation, if the number is in the increasing order one needs to understand that rate of participation in different CF activities is increasing.

CHAPTER - IV

DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA AND GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

This chapter deals about the study area and respondents. It includes description of the study area i.e. Kaski district, Lekhanath municipality and the Pragatishil community Forest users group, study unit description and general characteristics of the respondents.

4.1 Description of the study area

4.1.1 Brief Introduction of Kaski District

The study area is situated in Kaski district which is located in the Western development region of Nepal. The district has one Sub Metropolitan, one Municipality and forty three VDCs as its administrative unit and Pokhara as it's headquarter. Forest administration is done by District forest office, under which there is one Illaka forest office *i.e. Illaka Ban Karyalaya Kundahar*. Under this Illaka forest office there are eight Range Posts named *Dhikurpokhari, Hemja, Pumdibhumdi, Shishuwa, Arbabijaya, Nirmalpokhari, Lamachaur* and *Hansapur* Range posts. To support local people NGOs like FECOFUN and HIMAWANTI are also active in the field of natural resource management. Map of the Kaski District is attached in *annex 3*.

Kaski district lies between $28^{\circ} 6'$ and $28^{\circ} 36'$ N latitude and $83^{\circ} 40'$ to $84^{\circ} 12'$ E. Altitudes across the district varies from 450m in the south to 7939m in the north. It is bounded in the north by Manang and Lamjung district, in the east by Lamjung and Tanahun district, in the west by Parbat and Myagdi and in the south by Tanahun and Syanja.

The lower elevated part of the district has a sub-tropical climate; climatic variations range from sub tropical through temperate, alpine and tundra are found across the district, south to north. The average annual rainfall is 3880 mm, which is the highest recorded in Nepal. Snowfall is common in the higher Himalayan and mountainous regions during the winter season. The mean maximum temperature is 33° C in April-May and mean minimum temperature is $5-6^{\circ}$ C during December-January.

According to the population census 2001, the total population of the district is 380,527 out of which 184,995 were male and 195,532 were females. According to the CBS (2003) the literacy status of the population of Kaski, above six years of age is as follows, 58718 female as compared to 21100 male cannot read or write. While the number of male who can read and write is 133569, that of female in this category are 106071, the number of male who can read only is 5815 while the number of female who can read only is 6955. The literacy status of 673 female and 385 male was not stated (NIDI, 2006). This shows that the female population of this district is educationally disadvantaged.

The total area of the district is 201700ha. Of the total land area of the district, 24% is cultivated, 45% is forested, 11% is residential and 20% is non-arable (CBS, 2003). Natural forest area in the district is 89,943 ha of which 15.66% is handed over to 407 CFUG (DFO, 2006) to manage as CF.

According to CBS (2003) 40316 Hhs use wood as fuel for cooking purpose, 15295 Hhs use kerosene, 18896 Hhs use LP gas, 9809 Hh use bio gas, 120 Hhs use cow dung, 262 Hhs use others and 377 Hhs are not stated among 85075 of the district (NIDI, 2006)

4.1.2 Study area Lekhanath Municipality Profile

4.1.2.1 Boundaries

Lekhanath municipality is bounded in the east by Hansapur, Rupakot and Deurali VDCs, in the west by Pokhara sub-metropolitan and Bharatpokhari VDC, in the North by Arbavijaya, Kalika and Majhthana VDCs and in the south by Tanahun district and Bharatpokhari VDC.

4.1.2.2 Population Distribution based on Caste/Ethnic Composition of Lekhanath Municipality

According to the population census of Nepal 2001, the total population of the municipality was 41,369 where the population of male were 19,475 and female were 21894 this shows that population of women was higher compared to the national population. There are 9362 households in the municipality and population density is 34.67 persons per sq. Km, and average life expectancy is 59.7yrs, while population

growth is 2.9 percent. Figure 2 shows the population distribution of Lekhanath municipality based on the caste/ethnic composition.

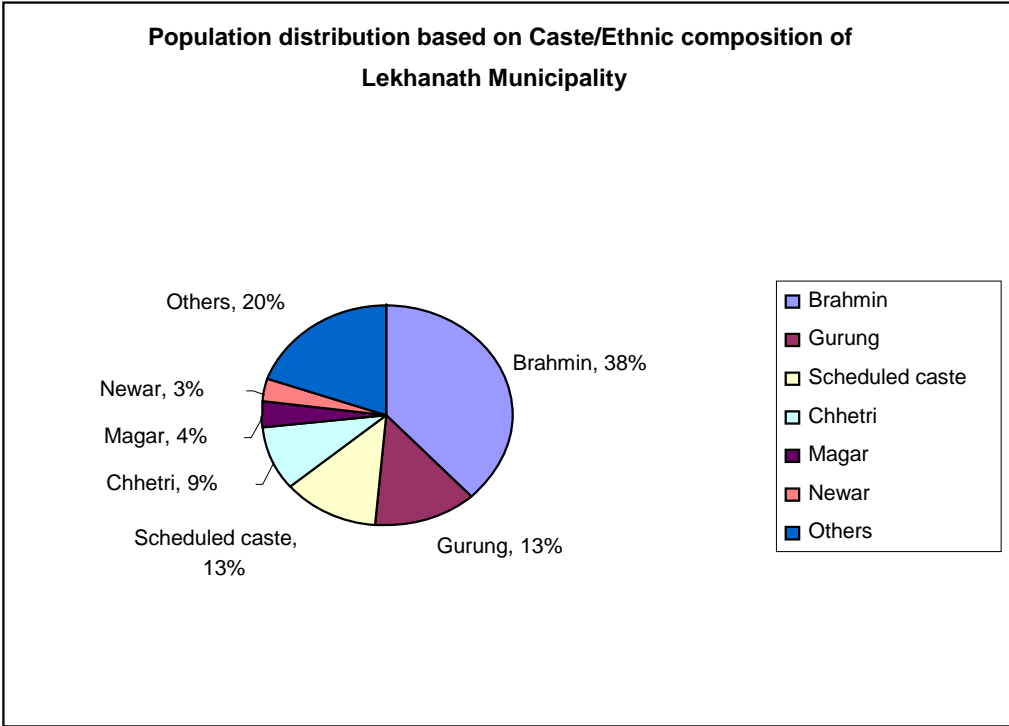


Figure 2: Population Distribution based on Caste/Ethnic Composition of Lekhanath Municipality

In the caste/ethnic compositions Brahmin comprise 38% (15, 720), Gurung 13% (5,378), Schedule caste 13% (5,378), Chhetri 9% (3,723), Magar 4% (1,655), Newar 3% (1,241) and others 20% (8,274) of the total population (Lekhanath municipality, 2007). Thus we see that the Brahmins are in majority. Major religions of this municipality are Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity and Islam.

4.1.2. 3 Socio-Cultural Setting

After the construction of the Prithvi highway and the eradication of malaria this area became favourable for settlement, so people arrived to settle in the flat plains of this municipality from hilly area of nearby VDCs and different district too, this trend is continually increasing. This helped to develop urban settlement in Lekhanath, but the settlement in this area is unevenly distributed as people arrived from different districts and VDCs, the socio-cultural setting of this area is heterogeneous in nature.

4.1.2.4 Physical Facilities

As a newly settled area, physical facilities are being developed according to the needs of the people. Schools, roads, telephone lines, electricity and drinking water supply facilities are available here. Map of the Lekhanath Municipality is attached in *annex 4*.

4.1.2.5 Economic Profile

Majority of the population of the municipality i.e. 87% are engaged in agriculture which is similar to the rest of the country. As primary economic activity of the municipality agriculture includes crops farming, and animal husbandry. The major cereal crops grown in this municipality area are paddy, maize, wheat and millet. Potato, sugarcane, pulses and oilseed are the primary cash crop of this area. Only 9% of the population is engaged in service, it includes private, government, teaching and other professions. Likewise, 4% of the population of Lekhanath municipality is involved in trade and commerce (Lekhanath municipality, 2007). Most of the trading centres are concentrated along the Prithivi highway and sub ways of the municipality. In the roadside of the urban area provision stores, hardware shops, teashop, tailors, and small factories are placed.

4.1.3 Pragatishil community forest user group, *Lekhanath, Sisuwa, Kaski*

Pragatishil community Forest is located in the *Lekhnath* municipality ward number 13 (former *Shishuwa* VDC ward number 6) of Kaski district. *Prithvi* highway passes through the CF. The CF is bounded by the river, *Khudi khola* in the east, *Seti* River in the west, *Lekhnath* municipality ward number 12 in the north and *Kotre khola (Tanahun)* in the south (study area map is given in annex). Sal, Chilaune, Sissoo and Khayar are the main species of trees prevalent in the forest. Total area of this CF is 57.74 hectares and it is divided into five management blocks. Management work is done at the rate of one block each year. The CFUG consist of 370 households, while the total population of the CFUG is 1600, the ethnic groups residing here are the *Brahmin, Chhetri, Gurung, Magar, Nepali, Gayak, Biswakarma, Pariyar, Lama* and *Newar* (Constitution 1993, and Operational plan 2000, of the CFUG).

Following the nationalization of the private forest in 1956 A.D. degradation of the forest started. While on the one hand people started encroaching on the forest area, on the other hand river cutting became a problem in the forest. Considering this,

reforestation work had been done in barren land along the river banks in the forest by the DFO Kaski in 1957. To protect the saplings barbed wire fencing was constructed and one watchperson was appointed for a given period. The locals were impressed by these efforts and they started to protect the forest and Sal regenerated very well in *Kamardhik* block. Because of this local people were very encouraged and so they formed a conservation committee to protect the forest. Protection continued by household rotation and also a gradual increase in awareness amongst the locals caused protection to be done by consensus. Later the government enacted the CF Act 1993 and this forest was also handed over as CF in 1993 (DFO, 2006). Map of the CF is attached in *annex 5*.

Duration of operational plan was for five years but due to various reasons it was revised in 2001 and extended for 12 years duration.

Though in the *Pragatishil* CFUG there were a majority of women member in CFUGC, their attendance in CFUGC meeting was irregular and the participation of all women members' in CFUGC meeting on any given day was found to be rare. In 2006 they formed CFUGC of only women members having a few male advisors. After that women's attendance in CFUGC meeting became regular. This shows that the level of confidence in women has risen as compared to the initial period of CF handover. The fact that the women are now confident enough to take sole responsibility of a very big users group is an instance of the positive impact of CF on rural women (K. C., 2007).

4.4 Study Unit Description in Brief

Name of Range Post	: <i>Shishuwa</i>
Name of CFUGs	: <i>Pragatishil</i> CFUG
Address of the CFUGs	: <i>Lekhnath</i> Municipality, Ward No. 13, <i>Kaski</i>
Forest Type	: Natural and Plantation Forest
Main Species	: <i>Sal, Chilaune, Sissoo</i>
No of households (Hh)	: 370 Hh
Date of CF handover	: 11/3/2049 B. S.
Area of the forest (hac)	: 57.74
Male members in CFUGC	: 0
Female members in CFUGC	: 15
Sample size	: 37
Sample intensity (%)	: 10

4.5 General Characteristics of Respondents

General socioeconomic conditions of the respondents are illustrated in this chapter. Ethnic pattern on the basis of different castes, educational status of respondents, family size of the respondent's HH, etc. are discussed sequentially with presentation in tabular forms as well as on different chart types.

4.5.1 Age Structure

For analysis purpose, the age of the respondents was classified as age group defined and stated by Gautam (2006) in his Masters thesis in forestry sciences. In this study, respondents were found between different groups ranging from 21 to 61 years where mean age was 40.73 years. The age of majority of the respondents was in second class i.e. Middle age, followed by Young age and old aged.

Table 1: Age of the Respondents

Age class of respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Young age (18-35 years old)	12	32.4
Middle age (36-55 years old)	20	54.1
Old aged (56 years & older)	5	13.5

Source: Field survey 2008

Above table shows that majority of the respondents fall into the middle age i.e.54.1%, where 32.4 % respondents are in young age category and 13.5% respondents belong to the old age group.

4.5.2 Ethnicity /Caste of Respondents

The respondents involved in the survey belonged to different caste. *Brahmin* were 24.32%, *Chhetri* were 10.81%, *Gurung* were 43.24%, *Magar*2.7%, *Kami* 5.4%, *Nepali* 5.4%, *Newar* 2.7%, *Gayak* 2.7% and *sunar* 2.7% of the total population sampled.

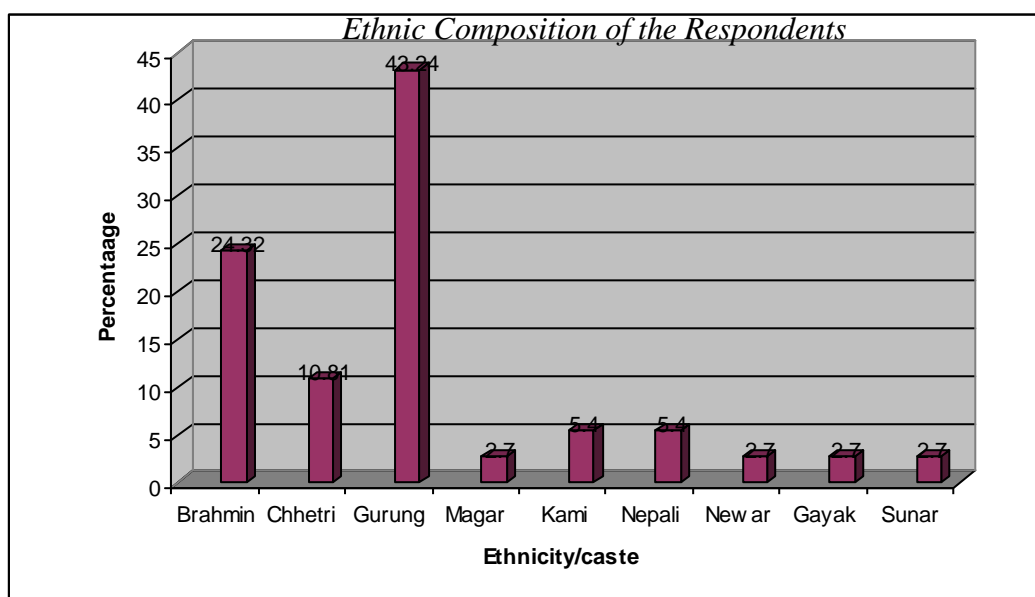


Figure 3: Ethnic composition of the Respondents

Among the 37 respondents majority belonged to Gurung ethnic group and then Brahmin caste. During the discussion it came to light that some of them were migrants from nearby VDCs and districts too.

4.5.3 Ethnic/Caste Composition of Respondents in CFUGC

Out of them 44.4% were *Brahmins*, 11.11% were *Chhetri*, 22.2% *Gurung*, and 11.11% each of both castes *Nepali and Gayak* were in CFUGC as a member. It reveals that *Gurung* was dominant in the study area whereas *Brahmin* community was higher in the CFUGC.

Table 2: Ethnic/Caste Composition of Respondents in CFUGC

Ethnic Composition of Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
<i>Brahmin</i>	4	44.4
<i>Chhetri</i>	1	11.1
<i>Gurung</i>	2	22.2
<i>Nepali</i>	1	11.1
<i>Gayak</i>	1	11.1

Source: Field Survey 2008

In this Community forest users' group committee (CFUGC), a Nepali woman is the chair person. Although there were Brahmin women also in the committee, they had no

hesitation to accept a Nepali woman as chairperson. It shows that they believe in the capacity of the candidate rather than in their caste.

4.5.4 Family Size

The average family size was 5.76 in the study area with minimum 2 and maximum 13 members and standard deviation 2.191. Family size of the surveyed population was found larger than the national average which is 5.4 (CBS, 2003). Also, it was found larger than districts average; average family size of Kaski district, (Total population is 328527 and total number of HH is 85075), is 4.47 (CBS, 2003).

4.5.5 Education status

Education is one of the major factors influencing people’s knowledge, attitude and perceptions. The level of respondents were broadly classified into four categories such as Illiterate, Primary level, Secondary level and College degree.

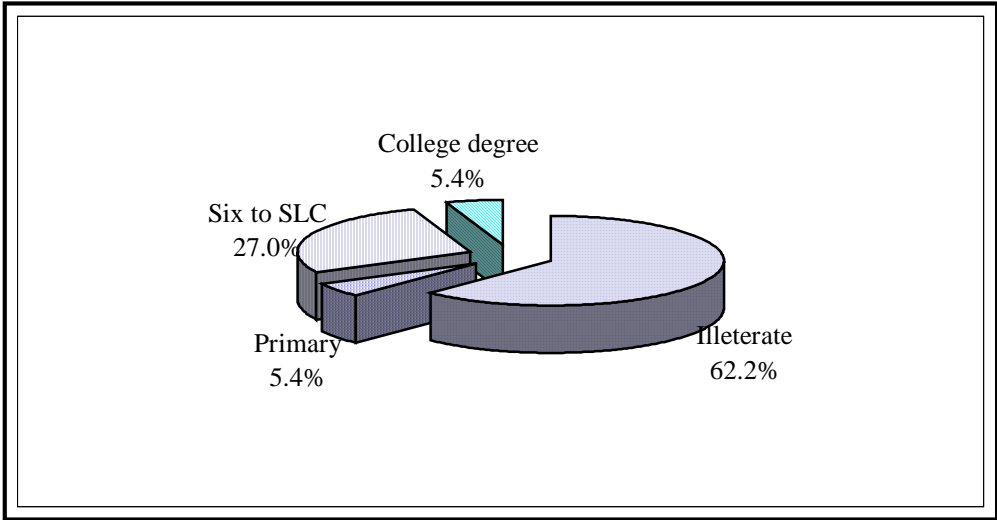


Figure 4: Education level of respondents

Above figure shows that 62.6% respondents were illiterate followed by 5.4% with primary level, 27% with secondary level, and 5.4% with college level education in the study area. This result reflects that most of the people are illiterate in the study area. But in the CFUGC, most of the members (66.7%) had secondary level educational degree i.e. six to SLC whereas only 11.1% members had college degree.

4.5.6 Respondent in CFUGC

Out of 37 respondents, only 24.3% individuals were members of CFUGC while 75.7% respondents were general members of *Pragatishil* CFUG. In fact amongst the fifteen members in the committee, nine members were respondents in the study.

In the initial period of CFUG formation there were five women in the FUC in accordance with the provision of constitution of CFUG (i.e. thirty three percent women should be placed in FUC). Women's participation increased to nine in FUC in next committee formation. According to a former executive member of the FUC women members played just supportive role not an influential role in decision making although they were high in number in FUC (.i.e. nine). They also said that presence of man also suppressed the woman in decision making process, six male FUC members role was vital in decision making rather than nine female FUC members. Women also felt this and tried to form only women's FUC, and as all users agreed upon it and they formed only women members committee which was functioning smoothly. There was no influence of men and they are taking decisions by themselves.

CHAPTER -V

WOMEN'S KNOWLEDGE ON DIFFERENT MODE OF COMMUNITY FORESTRY

Different knowledge and awareness status of the respondents are illustrated in this section. Knowledge basically on CFUG procedure, management of users, and system of decision making, CFUGC and its functioning; different CF management activities, etc. are discussed sequentially with presentation in tabular forms

5.1 Time Period of CFUG Assembly

Most of the respondents from general member (64.3%) and committee member (66.7%) reported that CFUG assembly was held once in a year whereas 21.4% general members of the CFUG were ignorant about the time of CFUG assembly. There weren't similar idea between the committee members where 33.3% said that CFUG assembly was held thrice in a year. Likewise 83.3% young respondent said assembly was held once in a year and 16.7% respondent of young group said that assembly was held thrice in a year. Response of 60% Old age respondent was that assembly held once in a year whereas 55% middle age respondents said it is held once in a year. It shows that in comparison to the general members and committee members, committee members were more knowledgeable in this regard. Similarly young respondents are more aware and knowledgeable about the assembly. According to their constitution, assembly is held once in a year. It also shows that they have not had the opportunity to see or read the constitution, they answered based on the practice held in CFUG.

Table 3: Time of CFUG Assembly

Status of Respondents		CFUG assembly held in (Responses in %)			
		Once in a year	Twice in a year	Thrice in a year	I don't know
Users category	General member	64.3	3.6	10.7	21.4
	Committee member	66.7	-	33.3	-
Age class of respondents	Young age	83.3	-	16.7	-
	Middle age	55.0	5.0	20.0	20.0
	Old aged	60.0	-	-	40.0

Source: Field Survey 2008

The number of times the assembly is held is a simple and fundamental thing of Community Forest management. All users should know the time of assembly but the above table shows that there is difference in the knowledge about it. A committee member is a responsible person of the CFUG but in this research, committee members were also found to be ignorant about the time table of assembly. It is not a new thing in community forestry users group of women members because the members are placed in the FUC to fulfil the quota i.e. at least thirty three percent women member in FUC as needed by guideline of community forestry, for that sometime by force or somewhere as punishment too. In such a situation one cannot expect all FUC members to be aware about it. In this FUC, all members are women, and of them one third committee members were found less knowledgeable about the assembly. The case is same here; here also some members are placed to fulfil the quota. K.C. (2007) also found in her research same type of situation in Lewade Thadikhorla CFUG and Kadani tallobhanjyang CFUG in Kaski district.

5.2 Decision Making Process in the CFUG Assembly

Majority of all variables of users reported that decision was made by the consensus process in the CF whereas 35.7% of the general member of the CFUG said that they were unaware about the process.

Table 4: DM Process in Assembly

Status of Respondents		Decision made by (Responses in %)			
		By the chair person	By the elite person of CFUG	By consensus	I don't know
Users category	General member	-	-	64.3	35.7
	Committee member	-	-	100.0	-
Age class of respondents	Young age	-	-	75.0	25.0
	Middle age	-	-	75.0	25.0
	Old aged	-	-	60.0	40.0

Source: Field survey 2008

But, hundred percent of the committee member of the CFUG had full knowledge about the decision making procedure in the CFUG. Among the age category of the respondents, young and middle age people were more aware than that of old aged on the topic

Discussion with focus group and key person also supported the knowledge of the committee members and the respondents who said that decision is made by the consensus. The decision making process in this CFUG is based on the user's consensus but the constitution allowed 51% members to decide on the matter of CFUG.

5.3 User's Participation in Decision Making Process

Question like- do all users participate actively in the decision making process was asked to the different categories of the respondent for getting participation extent of the users in decision making process of CFUG.

Table 5: Participation in DM process

Status of Respondents		User's participation in decision making process (Responses in %)		
		Yes	Partially	I don't know
Users category	General member	17.9	57.1	25.0
	Committee member	66.7	33.3	-
Age class of respondents	Young age	50.0	50.0	-
	Middle age	25.0	50.0	25.0
	Old aged	-	60.0	40.0

Source: Field survey 2008

According to the responses reported by the general member category respondents, only 17.9% of them said that all users fully participated in the decision making process of the CFUG whereas 57.1% said users were partially involved in the process of decision making. 25.0% general respondents answered that they had no any idea on the asked question. Similarly, 25.0% middle aged and 40.0% old aged respondents responded as "I don't know". While majority of the aged categories of the respondents said that users only participated partially in the decision making process.

5.4 Process of CFUGC formation

Most of the general category of people (85.7%) in the study area said that CFUGC was formed through general assembly whereas 7.1% respective respondents were unaware of the process of forming CFUGC. 3.6% of them said that the committee was formed through elite interest and external force created by vicious bodies of the community. Hundred percent respondents from the committee reported that their committee was formed by organizing general assembly.

Table 6: Process of CFUGC formation

Status of Respondents		Process of CFUGC formation (Responses in %)			
		In general assembly	By elite group	By force	I don't know
Users category	General member	85.7	3.6	3.6	7.1
	Committee member	100.0	-	-	-
Age class of respondents	Young age	100.0	-	-	-
	Middle age	80.0	5.0	5.0	10.0
	Old aged	100.0	-	-	-

Source: Field Survey 2008

Similarly, hundred percent young aged and old aged respondents agreed on the response reported by the respondents from committee member whereas only 80.0% middle aged respondents agreed on this and 5.0% of them said that the process of CFUG formation was guided by an external force and limited elite's interest. 10.0% middle aged respondents were ignorant about the CFUGC formation process. It was found that community forestry users group committee was formed by consensus of the users while discussed with the focus group and key informant too but in the constitution it was mentioned differently. According to the constitution FUG can select the FUC members openly or by secret vote too. All the committee members and youth members and the focus group and key informant shared the information about what is in practice. It shows that the trend of reading the constitution for the knowledge and practice too is hardly there.

5.5 Special Consideration for Poor or *Dalit* Women to Place in CFUGC

Majority of the respondents from user's category as well as age class of respondent's category reported that special provision was given to encourage the poor and *Dalit* women to place in the CFUGC as a member whereas 35.7%, 25.0%, 30.0% and 20.0% respondents from general member, young age, middle age and old aged respectively were unaware on that special consideration.

Table 7: Provision for poor and Dalit in CFUGC

Status of Respondents		Consideration for Poor or <i>Dalit</i> Women in CFUGC (Responses in %)	
		Yes, I know	I don't know
Users category	General member	64.3	35.7
	Committee member	100.0	-
Age class of respondents	Young age	75.0	25.0
	Middle age	70.0	30.0
	Old aged	80.0	20.0

Source: Field Survey 2008

As mentioned in *Ethnic/caste composition of respondents in CFUGC dalit* women is the chairperson of this CFUGC. During the focus group discussion and key informant interview also it was found that this CFUG is aware about the social inclusion so that they are practicing to place poor and *dalit* women also in responsible posts of FUC.

5.6 Time period of CFUGC meeting

Hundred percent and 57.1% respondents from committee member and general member respectively, said that CFUGC meeting was held once a month, and this statement was supported by 66.7% respondents from young age, 65.0% from middle age and 80.0% old aged respondents.

Table 8: Time of CFUGC Meeting

Status of Respondents		CFUGC meeting held in (Responses in %)		
		Once a month	As per need	I don't know
Users category	General member	57.1	10.7	32.1
	Committee member	100.0	-	-
Age class of respondents	Young age	66.7	8.3	25.0
	Middle age	65.0	10.0	25.0
	Old aged	80.0	-	20.0

Source: Field Survey 2008

Only 10.7% general users, 8.3% young age and 10.0% middle aged respondents reported that CFUGC meeting was held as per the need of the CFUG whereas 32.1% general users, 25.0% young and middle aged respondents and 20.0% old aged

respondents had no any ideas on the question and they responded with, "I don't know". According to the constitution of this CFUG, 15th of every month is fixed for the FUC meeting and meeting is held accordingly but it is also mentioned in the constitution that if it is need FUC meeting can be organised as per need too. Above table shows that 2nd information (as per need) is not common to the users even to the committee members. It also expressed that users have less practice to see the constitution.

5.7 Status of Women’s Participation in Forest Protection

Majority of the general members (89.3%), middle aged users (90.0%) and old aged users (80.0%) reported that women's participation in forest protection was in increasing order. Nobody said that it was in decreasing order.

Table 9: Participation Rate in Forest Protection

Status of Respondents		Women’s Participation Trend in Forest Protection (Responses in %)		
		Increasing	Decreasing	I don’t Know
Users Category	General member	89.3	-	10.7
	Committee member	100.0	-	-
Age class of respondents	Young age	100.0	-	-
	Middle age	90.0	-	10.0
	Old aged	80.0	-	20.0

Source: Field Survey 2008

Although 10.7% general users, 10.0% middle age users and 20.0% old aged users had no any idea about the trends of participation, it was found there was a same kind of knowledge on these trends among most of the respondents of all categories in the study area. In the initial period of CF handover there was practice of forest protection by watchman (especially in plantation area), after three years users decided to protect the forest by self discipline. In their operational plan it was mentioned that forest protection can be done by self discipline, watchman, household rotation, fire control, control of forest offence and flood and soil erosion control as per need. Now users of this CFUG are practicing the forest protection by self discipline measure. Respondent response is high in this regard, they have their own logic. They said that women are the primary users of the fodder and fuel wood. They need fuel wood for every day cooking, and

cattle need fodder and grass every day to survive which is usually managed by the women, in this condition if women disobey the rules it would not be possible to implement the rule of self consensus. Women have agreed so it is possible. They also added that women have agreed to stall grazing their cattle in the CF, so that grazing is controlled. Women do not have complete idea about what is mentioned in OP but they are knowledgeable about what is happening in practice and what they have to do in this regard.

5.8 Conflict in CFUG Regarding Benefit Distribution

Only 11.1% respondents from committee member and 8.3% young aged respondents said that there is conflict in benefit sharing; the majority of remaining users of all respondent's categories said that there was no conflict in benefit sharing. In their view conflict means the arguments that arise during benefit sharing when users are not satisfied with what they get i.e. sometimes someone hopes to get a certain pile of product but someone else gets it by lottery, so the person who was interested in getting that pile often argues for getting that pile but since the distribution was done by lottery there was no way to provide the said pile to the interested person. Apart from this there is no other conflict which needs management.

Table 10: Conflict in Benefit Distribution

Status of Respondents		Conflict in CFUG regarding benefit distribution (Responses in %)		
		Yes	No	I don't know
Users category	General member	-	96.4	3.6
	Committee member	11.1	77.8	11.1
Age class of respondents	Young age	8.3	83.3	8.3
	Middle age	-	95.0	5.0
	Old aged	-	100.0	-

Source: Field survey 2008

3.6% and 11.1% respondents from general member and committee member, respectively reported that they were ignorant about the conflict regarding benefit distribution. While according to the different age classes of the respondents, only 8.3%

young aged and 5.0% middle aged respondents were unaware of the conflict concerning benefit distribution.

5.9 The benefits Distribution System among the CF Users

96.4% respondents from general member of CFUG and all sampled respondents from the committee member said that the benefit from the CF was shared on the household basis whereas nominal percentage (3.6%) of the respondents from general member of CFUG had no idea of this arrangement. Similarly, only 20.0% old aged respondents said that they were ignorant about the benefit distribution system of the CF while 80% of old aged and 100% percent of both age categories i.e. young and middle aged respondents agreed that the benefit sharing mechanism in the CF was established on the basis of HH.

Table 11: Benefit distribution System among the Users

Status of Respondents		Benefit distribution system (Responses in %)	
		According to HH	No idea
Users category	General member	96.40	3.60
	Committee member	100.0	-
Age class of respondents	Young age	100.0	-
	Middle age	100.0	-
	Old aged	80.0	20.0

Source: Field survey 2008

Now, many CFUGs practice this type of benefit distribution system and most of the users were satisfied with this arrangement. Dev *et al.* (2004) also found in their study that most user groups have followed an ‘equal’ basis for distribution.

Regarding the knowledge of women on different mode of community forestry, it was found that the women of FUC and young age were more knowledgeable except in conflict. Highest number of women falls in the general members and middle age group who had little knowledge in this regard; it means more women need further awareness activities. In the context of conflict general members and old age women were found to possess wider knowledgeable. In fact there was no big conflict in the FUC except perception so they did not take it as conflict but took as normal phenomenon.

CHAPTER-VI

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN DIFFERENT COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Different women's participation mode and rate are illustrated in this section. Participation of women or activities initiated by women and their roles in various CF management activities are interpreted for achieving the second number objective of the study. Basically, participation mode of women on decision making system, forest protection and utilization are discussed sequentially with presentation in tabular forms.

6.1 Participation rate of Women in CFUG Assembly

For the first time "how many times are you participated in assembly of CFUG" is asked to the respondents. Most of the respondents (32.1%) belonging to the general member of the CFUG reported that they were rarely participating in the assembly while 55.6% committee member said "we always participate in the assembly". In the case of age class, majority of the young age (50.0%) and old aged (40%) users always participated in the assembly whereas only 25.0% middle age users were always present in the assembly

Table 12: Participation extent in CFUG Assembly

Status of Respondents		Participation in assembly (Responses in %)			
		Always	Frequently	Rarely	Not at all
Users category	General member	28.6	25.0	32.1	14.3
	Committee member	55.6	44.4	-	-
Age class of respondents	Young age	50.0	25.0	25.0	-
	Middle age	25.0	35.0	30.0	10.0
	Old aged	40.0	20.0	-	40.0

Source: Field Survey 2008

It reveals that as comparison among the users category, participation trend in the assembly is higher by the committee member than general member where young age people are so active than other aged.

6.2 Women's Participation Style in Decision Making Process

During the household survey, general users were asked about their participation in decision making process of CFUG assembly. In this regard, 35.7% women said that they spoke only when they didn't like the decision made by the group, 10.7% respondents said that they took active part in decision making process of CFUG assembly while 17.9% of them said they just listened to others. 35.7% respondents from general member of CFUG said that they had no idea about the participation style in decision making process of CFUG.

Table 13: Participation Style in DM Process

Status of Respondents		Women's Participation Style in Decision Making Process (Responses in %)			
		Discuss actively	Speak sometimes if women don't like the decision	Just listen others idea	I don't know
Users category	General member	10.7	35.7	17.9	35.7
	Committee member	88.9	11.1	-	-
Age class of respondents	Young age	41.7	25.0	8.3	25.0
	Middle age	25.0	35.0	20.0	20.0
	Old aged	20.0	20.0	-	60.0

Source: Field Survey 2008

According to the response of the different age categories of the respondents, all three aged class respondents said that they participated and discussed actively in CFUG assembly while making decisions. Out of them, 60% old aged respondents were unaware of the style of participation in CFUG assembly.

6.3 Respondent's Participation Rate in Decision Making Process

Responses to the question “ what is your rate of participation in decision making process” were rated on three-point scale and the results showed that in most defined status of respondents (users category and age class of respondents) were found nearly

high level of participation in decision making procedure with average weighted mean score 2.87 and 2.80 respectively.

Table 14: Participation Rate in DM Process

Status of Respondent		Scale in % (Respondent's response)			Weighted mean
		1	2	3	
Users category	General member	7.1	10.7	82.1	2.75
	Committee member	-	-	100.0	3.00
	Average	3.55	5.35	91.05	2.87
Age class of respondents	Young age	8.3	8.3	83.3	2.75
	Middle age	5.0	5.0	90.0	2.85
	Old aged	-	20.0	80.0	2.80
	Average	4.43	11.1	84.43	2.80

Source: Field survey 2008, [1 = no participation 2 = low participation 3= high participation]

Out of the whole respondents only 8.3% young aged and 5.0% middle aged respondents answered that they never participated in the process. It also indicates that leadership makes people responsible too; here women who are in responsible post i.e. FUC members expressed high participation in decision making.

6.4 Respondent's Participation Rate in Forest Protection Activities

This section illustrates women's (as a respondent) participation rate in different forest protection works such as forest patrolling, illegal feeling, grazing, etc.

6.4.1 Participation Rate in Forest Patrolling Works as Watchperson

Women's participation as watchperson in forest protection was found to be very low. 78.6% and 88.9% respondents from GM and CM respectively reported that they never participated as watchperson for forest protection, 11.7% and 11.1% respective respondents said that their participation was very low. Only 10.7% general respondents said that their participation as watchperson for forest protection activities was high.

Table 15: Participation Rate in Forest Patrolling Works as Watchperson

Status of Respondent		Scale in % (Respondent's response)			Weighted mean
		1	2	3	
Users category	General member	78.6	10.7	10.7	1.32
	Committee member	88.9	11.1	-	1.11
	Average	83.75	10.9	5.35	1.21
Age class of respondents	Young age	75.0	16.7	8.3	1.33
	Middle age	85.0	10.0	5.0	1.20
	Old aged	80.0	-	20.0	1.40
	Average	80.0	8.9	11.1	1.31

Source: Field survey 2008, [1 = no participation 2 = low participation 3= high participation]

According to the weighted mean scored of different aged respondents, it was found that all age categories of respondents were absent in the forest patrolling works as watchmen. This result is supported by the expression given by the respondent in the *status of women's participation in forest protection* in women's knowledge on different mode of community forestry (Chapter five). Women's participation in implementation of the rules related to the protection is high but as watchman or household rotation or by patrolling is almost zero.

6.4.2 Participation Rate in Controlling Grazing, Lopping and Illegal Felling Works

According to responses of the users category i.e. general member and committee member, majority of them (80.15%) said their participation was high in controlling grazing, lopping and illegal felling in CF. 12.7% voted in low participation and only 7.15% said they were never involved in these controlling practices.

Table 16: Participation rate in Controlling Grazing, Lopping and Illegal Feeling Works

Status of Respondent		Scale in % (Respondent's response)			Weighted mean
		1	2	3	
Users category	General member	14.3	14.3	71.4	2.57
	Committee member	-	11.1	88.9	2.89
	Average	7.15	12.7	80.15	2.73
Age class of respondents	Young age	-	16.7	83.3	2.83
	Middle age	15.0	10.0	75.0	2.60
	Old aged	20.0	20.0	60.0	2.40
	Average	11.66	15.56	72.76	2.61

Source: Field survey 2008, [1 = no participation 2 = low participation 3= high participation]

The case is more or less similar to the responses of age class category of the respondents. Most of the young age and middle aged respondents said that their participation in these controlling practices was high with weighted mean 2.83 and 2.60 respectively while old aged respondents involved in the practice as low level of participation with weighted mean 2.40. Women's awareness level is very high in this regard so they are highly cooperative to implement the rules and regulations and follow the rules too, because of that also the result is above 60% in each category.

6.4.3 Participation Rate in Collection and Utilization of Fuel Wood

During the informal talks with key users of the CF, ex-committee members and general women users, it was found that the collection of fuel wood in initial stage of CF handover is higher than at present. According to responses tracked in informal talks, in initial period of CF handover they (women) did not stick to the rules strictly and they collected the fuel wood in the absence of watch person. If one woman of one household collected the fuel wood in the absence of watch person then another from another household would also go to the forest for wood in the same manner. In the initial period of CF hand over, CF rules were not implemented strictly so the practice of collection of fuel wood from nearby forests and CFs too was prevalent. When the concerned CFUG and nearby CFUGs also began to strictly implement the rules then all users including

women came under the norms. Although the availability of fuel wood in the forest is increasing, women's movement for fuel wood collection is still controlled. Women are satisfied with this arrangement because they have to go the forest only on those days when CFUG allows collecting fuel woods. They said that their participation during this period becomes higher than men. The time invested in fuel wood collection on a daily basis is saved by this system of organized collection on specific days; this saved time is spent on their family and other household works as well as for their own development also. Roy (2002) also concluded in his study of *Gaukhureshwor* CFUG of Kavrepalanchwok district that the community forest has helped the women to save their time from day to day activities by increasing the availability of fuel wood, fodder, leaf litter, and water in the nearby area. These days, women do not have to walk long distance since they get it from nearby CF. It is clearly seen that the women can perform such activities in less time than they used to spend earlier. The saved time is used in taking extra care of their children and other household activities.

Table 17: Participation Rate in Collection and Utilization of Fuel Wood

Status of Respondent		Scale in % (Respondent's response)			Weighted mean
		1	2	3	
Users category	General member	7.1	60.7	32.1	2.25
	Committee member	-	33.3	66.7	2.67
	Average	3.55	47.0	49.4	2.46
Age class of respondents	Young age	-	50.0	50.0	2.50
	Middle age	5.0	55.0	40.0	2.35
	Old aged	20.0	60.0	20.0	2.40
	Average	8.33	55.0	36.66	2.41

Source: Field survey 2008, [1 = no participation 2 = low participation 3= high participation]

At present, the scenario has slightly changed. According to the response weighted mean, general member's participation in the collection and utilization of the fuel wood was found lesser rate (mean 2.25) than committee members. 66.7% respondents from committee member said that their participation in the collection and use practices was higher with weighted mean 2.67 (but it doesn't mean that they get more benefit than other users, they also get same quantity by lottery system but their mobility for

management work is higher than other general members because of additional work of group management and monitoring work during collection of forest products). Whereas responses responded by the three different aged respondents (young, middle and old aged) shows that users participation in the collection and utilization of fuel wood was low with weighted mean score 2.50, 2.35 and 2.40 respectively. During the discussion with the focus group and key person it was known that the demand of fuel wood of users is higher than the supply capacity of the forest. According to the operational plan also the fuel wood demand of the users is higher than the supply capacity of the forest, so that technician had suggested in their operational plan that to fulfil the need of fuel wood users should plant the trees in marginal land and wasteland of their private land at the same time they had also suggested the use of alternative sources of fuel too.

6.4.4 Participation Rate in Collection and Utilization of Fodder/Grass

The study site is near to the major market or city of *Lekhanath* municipality. Most of the youth have gone to abroad for study and works. Slowly, study area people are getting involved in jobs other than livestock rearing for their subsistence. Now the trees in their CF are taller and their branches are spread so the growth of grasses has reduced remarkably due to the lack of favourable conditions. Due to insufficient grazing sites or and grasses the practice of livestock rearing is decreasing. Ultimately we can say their participation in collection and use of fodder and grasses was also lesser than earlier.

Table 18: Participation Rate in Collection and Utilization of Fodder/Grass

Status of Respondent		Scale in % (Respondent's response)			Weighted mean
		1	2	3	
Users category	General member	85.7	14.3	-	1.14
	Committee member	88.9	11.1	-	1.11
	Average	87.3	12.7	-	1.12
Age class of respondents	Young age	83.3	16.7	-	1.17
	Middle age	85.0	15.0	-	1.15
	Old aged	100.0	-	-	1.00
	Average	89.43	10.56	-	1.10

Source: Field Survey 2008, [1 = no participation 2 = low participation 3= high participation]

12.7% respondents of user's category and 10.56% of age class category said their involvement in fodder and grass collection was low while according to the weighted mean score of different aged category of the respondents, it was found that there was no participation in the practices.

6.4.5 Participation Rate in Collection and Utilization of Timber

According to the participants of informal talks, the availability of timber in the forest is increasing due to the implementation of CF rules and regulation and due to the women's cooperation but collection is done only as per norms. During the allocated forest management time, the product of the forest are gathered and what they get, they use according to their needs. If they need wood for construction work they have to submit a written request to the CFUGC and only if the forest has the capacity to meet their needs, they provide the user with wood as per their norms otherwise they have to make alternate arrangements to solve the problem.

Table 19: Participation Rate in Collection and Utilization of Timber

Status of Respondent		Scale in % (Respondent's response)			Weighted mean
		1	2	3	
Users category	General member	14.3	60.7	25.0	2.11
	Committee member	-	77.8	22.2	2.22
	Average	7.15	69.25	23.6	2.16
Age class of respondents	Young age	8.3	58.3	33.3	2.25
	Middle age	10.0	80.0	10.0	2.00
	Old aged	20.0	20.0	60.0	2.40
	Average	12.76	52.76	34.43	2.21

Source: Field Survey 2008, [1 = no participation 2 = low participation 3= high participation]

The collection of timber from the forest is mostly male prerogative but during the research, women were asked of their participation in this activity. It was found that women's participation in this activity was low. From the responses of general category of the respondents (mean 2.11) and of committee member (mean 2.22), it was concluded that their participation in timber collection and its use was low. Similar

views were found in responses given by different age category of the users. With weighted mean 2.25, 2.0, and 2.4 of responses responded by young, middle and old age, respectively, showed that user's participation in timber collection and its utilization was low.

6.4.5 Participation rate in collection and utilization of NTFPs

According to operation plan of *Pragatishil* CFUG, we can say because of the forest protection, availability of NTFPs in the forest has increased but by HH interview, the collection and use of the same is found to be decreasing. Percentage of respondent of all categories indicate low participation, which has increased at present In fact there was also the practice of collection of fruits by the children but now stall feeding is highly practiced and children go to school so collection and use is low.

Table 20: Participation Rate in Collection and Utilization of NTFPs

Status of Respondent		Scale in % (Respondent's response)			Weighted mean
		1	2	3	
Users category	General member	92.9	7.1	-	1.07
	Committee member	66.7	33.3	-	1.33
	Average	79.8	20.2	-	1.20
Age class of respondents	Young age	83.3	16.7	-	1.17
	Middle age	90.0	10.0	-	1.10
	Old aged	80.0	20.0	-	1.20
	Average	84.43	15.56	-	1.15

Source: Field survey 2008, [1 = no participation 2 = low participation 3= high participation]

This table reveals that user's category i.e. general member (mean 1.07) and committee member (mean 1.33) did not participate in NTFPs collection and its use in the study area. Similarly, young age with 1.17, middle age with 1.10 and old age respondents with 1.20 weighted mean score informed us that there was no participation effort towards NTFPs collection and its utilization in the study area.

Regarding the above findings it can be concluded that the women's participation in decision making level is increasing where young age and middle age and committee members found more active. Similarly, women's participation in forest management activities like: protection, collection and utilization found changed. Women's participation in forest protection by patrolling is decreasing but the forest protection by self discipline is increasing. Their support in implementation of rules and regulations was found remarkable so that women's participation towards grazing, lopping and illegal felling control works was also increasing. Likewise, in the context of fuel wood collection, women were doing the same according to the rules i.e. it happens in a controlled manner, not like in an open access. Fuel supply from the forest is not sufficient for their needs so they are using alternative sources of fuel. Due to the growth in height and the branches of the trees, availability of grasses in the forest is decreasing on the one hand and on the other hand trend of livestock rearing is also gradually reducing so participation of women in grass and fodder collection is found decreasing compared to the past. Timber collection is also done only at the time and quantity fixed by the operational plan not more than given quantity. Timber collection is mostly done by the men so women's participation in this regard is also low. Practice of NTFP collection is also reducing now.

CHAPTER-VII

HINDERING FACTORS AFFECTING WOMEN'S INVOLVEMENT IN CF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Major factors that have been hindering women in their involvement in various CF management activities are illustrated in this section. This section is trying to visualize the answer to the question i.e. why women are back-ward than others? Factors hindering the involvement of women in decision making, discrimination on participation in different forest management practices, discrimination in labour wage, etc are discussed sequentially with presentation in tabular forms.

7.1 Considering Women's Voice during Decision Making Process in Assembly

Hundred percent and 67.9% respondents from committee members and general members respectively said that their voice was considered in the CFUG assembly, 10.7%, 3.6% and 17.9% general respondents said that sometimes, rarely and never respectively their opinion is considered, during decision making in CFUG assembly. Similarly, 15.0% middle aged and 40.0% old aged respondents reported that their voice was never considered. In informal talk with the women users of the *Pragatishil* CFUG, they put their views like, "now the women are more aware than before, we are less hesitant to speak in front of senior male of our home and community too".

Table 21: Hearing the Women's Voice in DM Process

Status of Respondents		Voice of women is heard or not in CFUG assembly (Responses in %)			
		Yes	Sometimes	Rarely	No
Users category	General member	67.9	10.7	3.6	17.9
	Committee member	100.0	-	-	-
Age class of respondents	Young age	83.3	16.7	-	-
	Middle age	75.0	5.0	5.0	15.0
	Old aged	60.0	-	-	40.0

Source: Field Survey 2008

This table reveals that most of the respondents from all respondents' class agreed positively on the statement; voice of women is heard in CFUG assembly. Gentle et al. (2007) also reported the occurrence of similar types of change in the CFUGs of Bardiya.

7.2 Freedom to Put Forward Idea during Initial Period of CF Formation

Majority of the respondents of all categories said that in the initial period of CF formation women had limited freedom to speak and to put forward their ideas in decision making process. Responses given by most of the respondents (66.7%) from the committee members also support it. In this table, we can find that remaining respondents of both broad categories had no initial period's information, and there were also those who had no information of that period, and said, "I don't know".

Table 22 : Women's Freedom for Sharing an Idea in Initial Period of CF Formation

Status of Respondents		Having freedom in decision making in the initial period of CF formation (Responses in %)		
		Yes	No	I don't know
Users category	General member	25.0	25.0	50.0
	Committee member	22.2	66.7	11.1
Age class of respondents	Young age	25.0	25.0	50.0
	Middle age	30.0	40.0	30.0
	Old aged	-	40.0	60.0

Source: Field Survey 2008

As stated by women users, in the initial period of CF formation women had several socio-cultural barriers preventing them from speaking in front of masses and from participating in meetings and assemblies. About the participation of women Springate-Baginski *et. al.* (2003) also said that cultural norms were found to discourage women from participation, both at the household level and within meetings (where contributions could be actively discouraged by comments from some men like 'the hen has started to cluck'). Now the situation is changing slowly. Now there is a gradual realization of the importance of women's participation in community forestry

(ICIMOD, 1999) and decision making. So now women are getting little more freedom in decision making than initial period of CF formation.

7.3 Major Hindrances in Practicing Forest Management Activities

When working in the CF, women suffer from various hindrances, sometimes they share their ordeal with each other and at others they silently bear it. During the discussion and interview with the women it came to light that women are still faced with different obstructions in forest management work. Majority of the general users (53.6%) said that they were dominated due to lack of technical expertise and skill, and because of this they were discouraged from participating in management operations whereas 28.6% respondents of the same category said that they were underestimated by male users. During informal talk with the women, the researcher found that in the opinion of male users women are weaker than men so women cannot perform equal works during the management operation. 22.2% respondents from committee member and 17.9% others felt that low awareness level of users was also a hindrance to the women. Similarly, 25.0% young aged, 15.0% middle aged and 20.0% old aged respondents responded that it was due to the unawareness among the CF users. Due to the low awareness level they had inadequate knowledge about the CF statutes and operational plan and because of that they could not ask for their rights in the CF and hence stood as second grade citizens. Shrestha (1999) found that in *Nuwakot* also men and women do not consider women's position higher or better than men in decision making, self image, and organizational capacity. Women's status is always lower than that of man.

Table 23: Major Problems in forest Management Practices

Status of Respondents		Hindering Factors to CF Management Activities (Responses in %)			
		Lack of technical knowledge and skill	Lack of awareness	Underestimation by male users	Any others
Users category	General member	53.6	17.9	28.6	-
	Committee member	11.1	22.2	55.6	11.1
Age class of respondents	Young age	41.7	25.0	33.3	-
	Middle age	45.0	15.0	35.0	5.0
	Old aged	40.0	20.0	40.0	-

Source: Field survey 2008

According to the responses reported by most of the different age class categories of the respondents, women were dominated due to lack of technical knowledge and skill regarding CF management whereas 11.1% respondents belonging to committee member and 5.0% middle aged respondents answered that, "women are still deprived and being treated as second class citizen as compare with men due to any other reasons", these reasons basically came up due to lack of the feeling of ownership, lack of leadership skills in CFUGC, insufficient technical support from DFO, Hh works, health problems and existing violence and conflict due to instability of government. During the discussion it also came to light that male users undermined women's committee during the management work by saying that women have no idea how to identify and mark the trees for felling but women's committee took it as challenge and performed the work smoothly.

7.4 Forest Product Sufficiency for Respondent's HH needs

Although, the participation of women in forest protection, management, collection and the product use are remarkable and the sufficiency of the forest product to satisfy their needs was questionable. In this regard the respondents were asked whether the products they got from the CF were sufficient to meet their needs.

Table 24: Forest Product Sufficiency

Status of Respondents		Sufficiency of forest products to the family needs (Responses in %)	
		More than six months	Below six months
Users category	General member	-	100.0
	Committee member	-	100.0
Age class of respondents	Young age	-	100.0
	Middle age	-	100.0
	Old aged	-	100.0

Source: Field survey 2008

In response to this, all categories of the respondents said that in most cases it sufficed for two to three months only and if used judiciously it occasionally even went up to six months. This insufficiency is due to the fact that the size of the forest is smaller in

comparison to the number of households, and the households are increasing with time but the area of the CF remains the same. Dev *et. al.* (2004) also found similar result in their study in 20 CFUG s of seven districts that users were not able to fulfil their actual level of need, and community forests only contributed part of their product supplies.

7.5 Ease of Getting Forest Products

The users got forest products from uncontrolled forest in uncontrolled manner before CF hand over. After the CF hand over also the rules were not implemented strictly in the initial period but at present, users are aware about their CF. They wants to use it in a sustainable manner but do women really agree on this? To know this issue woman' were asked if the implementation of operational plan has caused them any discomfort to get desirable forest product now. In reply to this, 71.4% general users and 88.9% committee members said that they had no difficulty in getting desired forest product from the CF. Even 11.1% of committee member of CFUG reported that there were difficulty in getting forest products from the CF. Unfortunately, 10.7% general respondents and 20.0% of old aged respondents did not want to say and they responded like "sorry, I can't say".

Table 25: Easiness to get Forest Products

Status of Respondents		Easiness to get forest products after CF formation (Responses in %)		
		Easy	Difficult	Can't say
Users category	General member	71.4	17.9	10.7
	Committee member	88.9	11.1	-
Age class of respondents	Young age	75.0	8.3	16.7
	Middle age	80.0	20.0	-
	Old aged	60.0	20.0	20.0

Source: Field Survey 2008

Majority of the all categories said that they have no difficulty to get the forest product after CF handover but some of them said it was difficult to get the forest product now, in fact those who do not like to obey the rules felt difficulty to get the forest product now.

7.6 Discrimination in the Wages of Male and Female Workers for Same Work

Although women's participation in labour oriented work was more, people always neglected them by saying that women are weaker than men; women cannot do as much work as men. The respondents were interviewed in this regard too. In the response to this matter, 11.1% and 14.3% respondents from committee and general member, respectively said that women suffered from gender discrimination, where 16.7% young aged and 15.0% middle aged respondents supported to the view of 11.1% and 14.3 % respondents of the users category.

Table 26 : Discrimination in Wages

Status of Respondents		Discrimination in wages to the women (Responses in %)		
		Yes	No	I don't know
Users category	General member	14.3	67.9	17.9
	Committee member	11.1	88.9	-
Age class of respondents	Young age	16.7	66.7	16.7
	Middle age	15.0	75.0	10.0
	Old aged	-	80.0	20.0

Source: Field Survey 2008

But majority of the respondents of all categories of the respondents said that they have not faced this type of discrimination in their CFUG while 17.9% GM, 16.7% young aged, 10.0% middle aged and 20.0% old aged respondent said that they had absolutely no idea on this matter. In this CF, at the time of CF management users are divided into several group by lottery system and in some group number of men was high and low number of women and in some group number of women was high. The respondent who said that there was discrimination between men and women belong to those groups where number of women was high. In such group male members usually said that their group had higher number of women hence there would be no-one to fell the trees and that these women could not do such hard work. Sometimes they even indirectly said that the wages of women and men is not equal. This type of expressions humiliated women members. In fact it happens in agricultural work in the village but there too

different wages were not for the same work but different wages for different work e.g. women plant the rice where men plow the land.

This chapter concludes that women's voice in decision making level is considered these days but it does not mean that it is sufficient, it needs further improvement. Lack of technical knowledge and skill, lack of awareness, underestimation by male users and other similar matters; lack of feeling of ownership, lack of leadership skills in CFUGC, insufficient technical support from DFO, household works, health problems etc. were the hindrances. Forest product is not enough in CF so it can support less than six months but it is more comfortable to get forest product from the forest now than in the initial period because of the rules and regulation. Few women were unhappy because the rules worked as obstruction to collect the forest products whenever they need it. Male user's acid remarks also worked as hindrances among the women. In this CF there was no discrimination in wages but during the management work in the forest male users indirectly said that women were not equal to men. There are many seen and unseen hindrances in CFUGs which discouraged women's participation in decision making as well as forest management works.

CHAPTER VIII

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATION

8.1 Summary

Community forestry, in its thirty years in Nepal has provided many benefits to the people of Nepal; it has made life easier for women especially. It saved them the time they spent on going far and wide in search of fodder, fuel wood and bedding materials for the cattle, by providing it from a nearby forest and they could now use the saved time for their family, kitchen garden and own development. The community forest further helps the poor by providing opportunity for livelihood by employment in CF/UG, loans from CFUG fund for goat, cow, and buffalo and other IGA program, enterprises development etc. It also supports other community development work i.e. road, electricity, drinking water, school etc. In spite of these benefits of CF there are still some issues in community forestry like women's participation in decision making and forest management, benefit sharing mechanism, governance, sustainable forest management etc. All rules and regulations of community forestry encourage women to participate in decision making as well as forest management work but their participation in both areas are still an issue of concern. They are in FUC but their role in decision making is still questionable. Physical presence in FUG/C only is not enough for decision making but voicing their ideas in the meeting/assembly, taking part in discussions and taking a stand on ones decision (either yes or no) is important. Similarly, women are going to the forest for the management work but due to different reasons they get negative response from the male users, this is also an issue of concern. These are the issues which need to be addressed.

The general objective of this study is to find out the extent of women's knowledge and their participation rate/role in *Pragatishil* Community Forest management activities of *Lekhanath*, Kaski district. Similarly the specific objectives of the research was to find out the women's knowledge on different aspect of Community Forest management, women's participation in Community Forest management activities and to explore the factors that hinder women's involvement in Community Forest management activities. This research was conducted in Kaski district of Nepal. For the research three CFUGs were selected from three VDC of Kaski district. *Pragatishil* CFUG was selected from

the Lekhnath Municipality. Primary and secondary data were collected using both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection. Qualitative methods are several RRA tool. Quantitative information was collected using questionnaires. The unit of analysis was women of the CFUG. The total sample size of Pragatishil CFUG was 37 (10%). The questionnaire was prepared in English and translated in Nepali for the interview. The questionnaire was pre tested and corrected as per need.

The data of the study were analyzed using both quantitative and descriptive methods. Mean, frequency percentiles and Likert scale were used for the descriptive analysis of data. The findings and results were interpreted into simple charts, tables and figures

Average age of the users of *Pragatishi* Community Forest is 40.73 (around 48) years. In the study area, middle-aged users are dominant. The percentage of *Baisya* in the study area is highest whereas *Brahmin* caste leads in CFUGC. The average family size of the study area is 5.76; the figure is slightly larger than the family size of the nation. The illiteracy among the users is very high. But in the CFUGC, most of the members have secondary level education.

More than half of the community people are aware about the time of CFUG assembly. Even in CFUGC, the knowledge on CFUG assembly time is not similar among the members. Knowledge variation is also seen in different age classes of the community people, which reveal that there is a lack of communication and knowledge dissemination system. One third of the community is ignorant about the decision making process in the CFUG assembly while in the case of committee member, all are aware about the system. Among the age category of the women, young and middle age women are more aware than that of old aged on the decision making process in assembly. Views on the user's participation rate in decision-making process also vary. Views are different among the committee members too. According to the results, we can say that users are partially involved in the process but around half of the women of old aged group are ignorant about the user's participation rate in decision making. Most of the general members of the CFUG have a good knowledge about the formation process of the CFUGC whereas all the committee members have complete information on it. They know that CFUGC is formed through general assembly. Some middle-aged women are ignorant about the process. It is so interesting that all old aged women have

an exact idea about the process of CFUGC formation in the CF than middle-aged women. One third of the general members are also ignorant about the meeting period of CFUG. Regarding this, old aged women are little more knowledgeable than young and middle aged women. Most of the women of all classes have a good knowledge about the special consideration/ provision for poor and *dalit* to place in their CFUGC. A few general members and middle aged women are ignorant about that provision than other categories of the users. Result of this study shows that trend of women's participation in forest protection activity is increasing. Almost all classes of women are aware about this. A minority of the women's users committee members and few young aged women feel that there is a big dispute in sharing the benefits among the users while according to responses of majority of the remaining users of all classes, it is found that there is no conflict in benefit sharing and they say that benefits are shared among the users according to the number of households. A few elderly women have no any idea about the benefit distribution system.

Majority of the committee members always participate in the CFUG assembly whereas most of the highly educated (college degree general women) ones refrain from getting involved in the assembly meetings. A comparison between the respondents of the age classes indicate the rate of participation in the assembly is higher in younger women followed by middle and only then old aged women. Around half of the elderly women in the old age group were never involved in the assembly meetings.

Way of participation in decision making process is not so active in the study area. Majority of women oppose/speak sometimes if they don't like the decision. Some others just listens to others idea, their own input in the decision is almost zero. Unfortunately most of the old women are ignorant about this style/way of participation. Participation rate of the general users (women) as well as committee members in the decision making process is found to be high. There is also high rate of participation in all three age groups of women in the decision making process. There is no one involved directly in forest patrolling works as watchperson. Except old women, participation rate of all women classes is higher in controlling grazing; lopping and illegal felling works in the study area. Rate of participation of committee member in collection and utilization of fuel wood is higher than that of general member. According to the age classes of the women, participation for fuel wood collection and utilization is low. In

the case of fodder and grass collection and its utilization, overall participation is low, almost zero. Interest of the community users in livestock rearing has gradually decreased in the study area. This may be a cause for availability of fodder and grass in research area. There is a strong rule in timber collection and utilization, therefore, women's participation in it is low, in study area. Also women's participation in NTFPs collection and their utilization is almost zero, although because of forest protection, availability of NTFPs in the forest has increased.

If we assess women's knowledge and participation in CF management activities we can find out the most probable hindering factors that has been affecting women and their participation in CF management activities. Inadequate knowledge, less awareness, elite dominance especially of the Brahmin community, communication gap between the committee and users, less freedom to voice their opinion in CF management decision all these effects women's participation in CF management activities negatively. Although this CF is managed only by women member, women are discriminated and disadvantaged in the development of the community forest even in products utilization.

Majority of the women agree that their voices are heard in CFUG, but elderly women belonging to the *Sudra* community are even discriminated from the decision making mechanism. They couldn't participate to put their own problem and concerns in decision forum. One third of the women agree that they had faced problem while voicing their opinion in decision making in the initial period of CF formation. Now, the situation is changing and women's freedom to talk is gradually rising. So now women are getting little more freedom in decision making than initial period of CF formation.

Most of the women respond that, "women are still deprived and are treated as second class citizen as compared with men due to various reasons such as underestimation by male users, lack of technical knowledge and skill, lack of the feeling of ownership, lack of leadership skills in CFUGC, lack of technical support from DFO, household works, health problems and existing violence and conflict due to instable government". Also due to the insufficiency of forest products to suffice the need of the family, they need to obstruct their participation in CF management activities. This is due to disproportionate size/density of the forest to the family size of the community. Some women respondents did not want to talk about the ease of forest visit for collecting the forest products, as now she could not go at random and collect the wood she needed. This

indicates that there is some discomfort for the woman which prevents her from answering the researcher's question. This may also hinder women's participation in CF management and utilization activities. Some of the users say that there still is discrimination in wages to the women workers which makes their life more complex and creates humiliating situation in family and community too.

8.2 Conclusion

It can be concluded that except in a few cases committee members and young women were more knowledgeable in community forest management than general members and middle aged and older women. But all categories of users had little or no familiarity with the constitution and operational plan of their CFUG and CF respectively.

In the decision making process too participation of committee members and young members was higher in comparison to the general members, the middle aged and the elderly users. Women's participation in forest protection by consensus is increasing so protection by patrolling has decreased. Similarly women's participation was higher in controlling grazing; lopping and illegal felling works in the study area. Forest product collection and utilization was found according to the rules. Fuel wood provided by the CF was not even enough for six month. Livestock rearing, NTFPs collection and their utilization were decreasing in study area. Women's participation in Timber collection was also low.

In the initial period of CF formation women's voices were not considered in decision making process but now, the situation is changing and women can talk freely. So now women are getting little more freedom in decision making than initial period of CF formation.

The study revealed that in most cases women were still underestimated by men and treated as second class citizens, often due to the lack of technical expertise, lack of a feeling of ownership, lack of leadership skills and even lack of technical support from DFO. Moreover the insufficiency of forest products to satisfy the needs of the households prevents their participation in CF management activities. Some women respondents were even hesitant to answer the researcher's question regarding ease of collection and easy availability of resources; because the strict rules now prevented

them from accessing the forest resources anytime they wanted. It also indicates that there are hidden hindrances because of which they could not answer the questions raised by the researcher. It may also hinder women in their participation in CF management and utilization activities. Some of the users even said that there is discrimination in wages of women and men, this makes them feel humiliated.

8.3 Recommendation

-) To improve the decision-making capacity of women, by providing better opportunities for education (Formal and non formal). Good orientation regarding CFUG's constitution, operational plan of CF, and CF related policy and utilization arrangement should be organised for all users. Training and observation tours can also help to develop their confidence and knowledge. To continue the women's leadership in CFUG second generation should prepare by getting involved in CF and CFUG activities.
-) Demand of forest product of the users cannot be met by the supply capacity of CF, causing livestock rearing to decrease day by day. To manage such situation users should be encouraged to plant the trees in marginal land and the waste land of the private land and to make private forest too in unproductive land which will be supportive to produce fodder and grass too. Users should be motivated to substitute improved varieties of cattle instead of low quality cattle. It supports to plant the biogas, biogas supports to solve the fuel wood scarcity as well as produce good quality compost for farming.
-) In this CF benefit sharing is practiced on equality basis, the household are considered as members of the CFUG, not the population of the concerned household because of this all household get same quantity of forest product but the household which has more population suffers by this rule. For the justice to all users, labor contribution for management work and benefit sharing also if they do equity basis will be more practicable.
-) As mentioned by the users that grazing/browsing was controlled and availability of NTFPs in the CF was increasing but NTFPs collection and their utilization were decreasing in study area. In this regard an extension program should be organized to spread awareness about the importance of NTFP. They should understand that it is one of the income generating activities of the CF by which they can earn money to raise their fund.

) To address the problems concerning lack of technical know-how and skills and other problems related to the underestimation by male users co-ordination with DFO office or nearby NGOs or INGOs is essential. They can provide CF management training, awareness and informal education as well as other technical support to the woman users and gather moral support by giving gender knowledge to the male users.

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Questionnaire format for Hh interview**A. General information about the respondents**

1. Questionnaire ID..... Date:
2. Respondent's-
 - a. Caste:
 - b. Age:
 - c. Education:
3. Family size (number):
4. Are you a CFUGC member?: a) Yes b) No

B. Women's Knowledge/awareness status on different mode of community forestry

1. How many times CFUG assembly takes place in a year?
 - a) One's in a year b) Twice in a year c) As per need d) I don't know
2. Do you know how the decision is made in the CFUG assembly?
 - a) By the chairperson only b) By the elite member of CFUG c) Consensus
 - d) I don't know
3. Do all users participate actively in the decision making process?
 - a) Yes b) Partially c) No d) I don't know
4. How is the CFUC formed?
 - a) In general assembly b) Selection by elite group c) By force d) I don't know
5. Do you know that there is any consideration for poor or *dalit* women to place in CFUGC?
 - a) Yes, I Know b) I don't know
6. How many times does CFUGC meeting take place in a year?
 - a) Once a month b) Twice a month c) As per need d) I don't know
7. How do women involve in discussions during the decision making process of CFUGC?
 - a) Discuss actively b) Speak sometimes if I don't like the decisions c) Just listen to others ideas
 - d) I don't know
8. What is the status of women's participation in forest protection at present?
 - a) Increasing b) Decreasing c) No participation d) I don't know
9. Is there any conflict regarding benefit distribution?
 - a) Yes b) No c) I don't know
10. How are the benefits distributed among the users?
 - a) According to Hh b) Family size c) FUC decision d) According to cost shared
 - e) By elite person f) No idea

C. Women's role on different Community Forest management activities

1. Do you participate in assembly of FUG?
 - a) Always b) Most of the time c) Rarely d) No
2. Do you take part in the discussions during the decision making process of CFUG?

- a) Discuss actively b) Speak sometimes, if I don't like the decisions made by others
 c) Just listen to others ideas d) I don't know
3. Give score on your participation rate in decision making process.
 a) 1 = No participation b) 2 = Low participation c) 3= High participation
4. Women's participation in forest protection:

Activities	Level of participation		
	1	2	3
In forest patrolling works			
Grazing/Browsing/lopping control/Uncontrolled felling works			

Note: 1 = No participation 2 = Low participation 3= High participation

5. Availability of forest products and women's participation in collection and utilization:

Types of Forest Products	Level of participation		
	1	2	3
Fuel wood			
Fodder/ Grass			
Timber			
NTFPs			

Note: 1= No participation 2 = Low participation 3= High participation

D. Hindering factors that affect women's involvement in community forest management activities

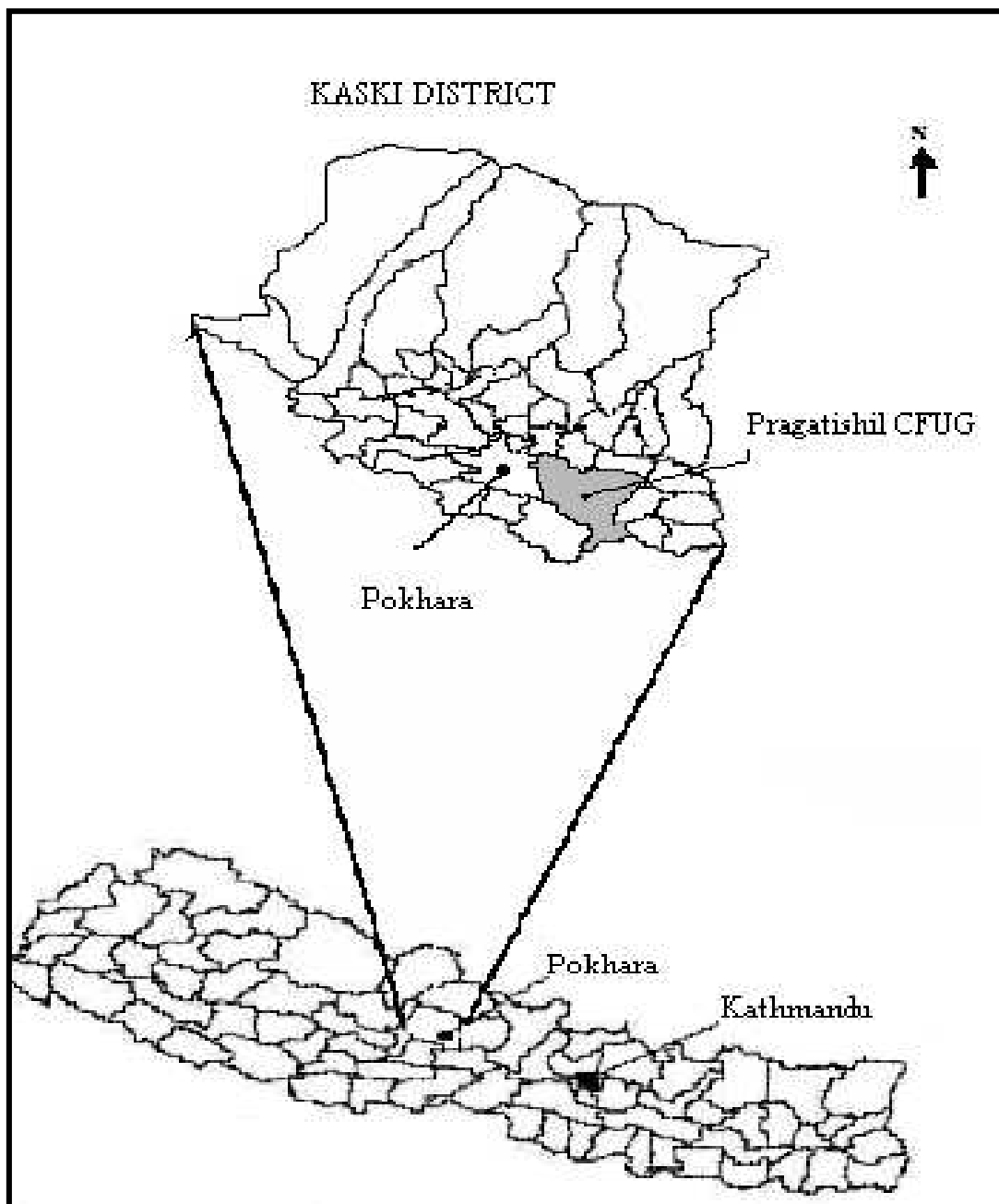
1. Do meeting/assembly considered the voice of women during the decision making process of FUG assembly?
 a) Always b) Sometimes c) Rarely d) No e) I don't know
2. Did you have freedom in decision making in the initial period of CF formation?
 a) Yes b) No c) I don't know
3. Do they consider the voice of women members while making the decisions in FUC meetings?
 a) Yes b) No c) I don't know
4. What are the major hindrances in practicing forest management practices for women users?
 a) Lack of technical knowledge and skill b) Lack of the feeling of ownership
 c) Lack of leadership skills in CFUGC d) Lack of technical support from DFO
 e) Lack of awareness f) Underestimation by male users
5. Is the forest product sufficient for your families needs?
 a) 12 months b) 9 months c) 6 months d) below six months
6. Are you getting forest products more easily than before?
 a) Yes b) No c) I don't know
7. Is there any discrimination in the wages of male and female workers for same work?
 a) Yes b) No c) I don't know

Thank you!

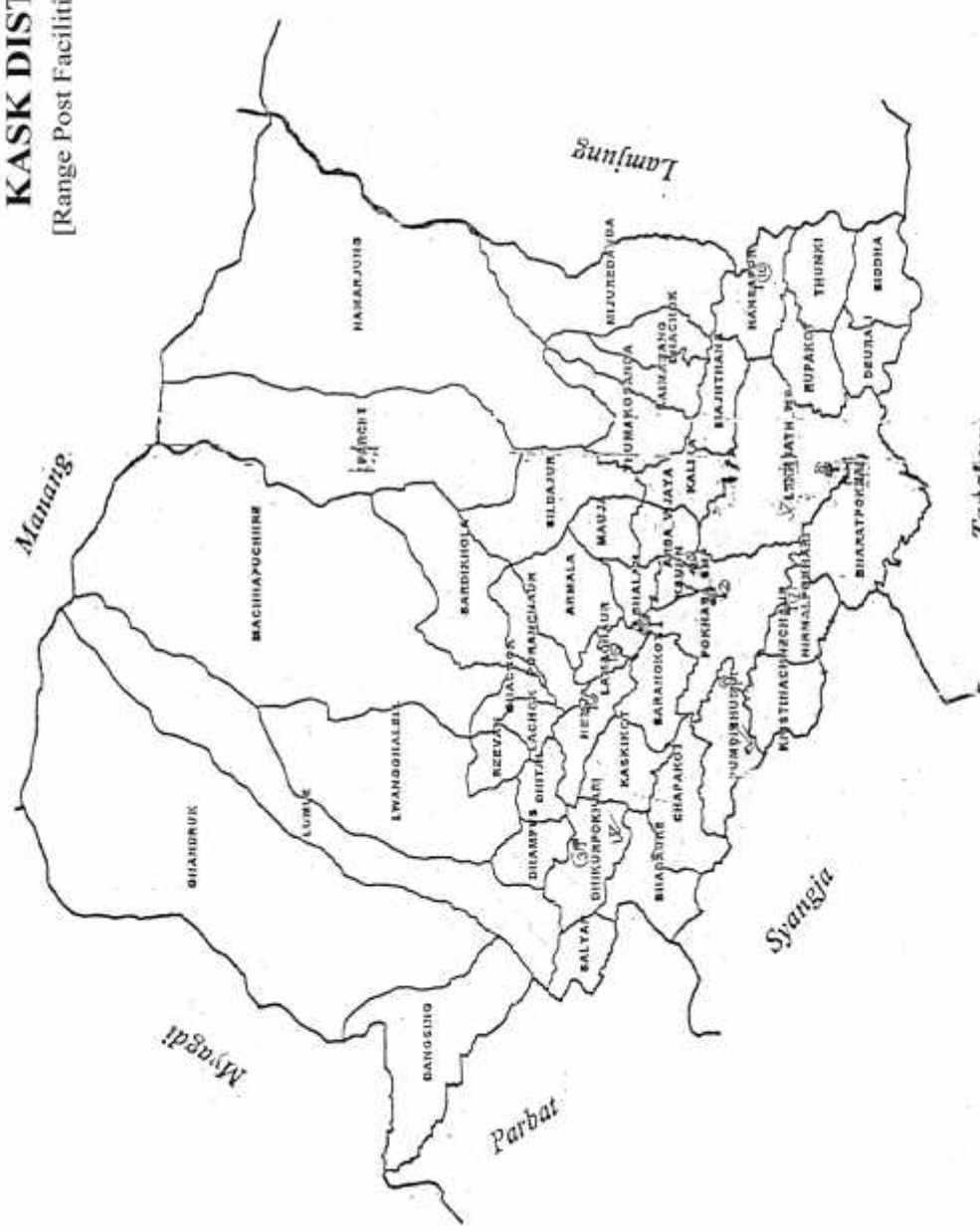
**Check list for Focus Group discussion (FUG-
EC/FECOFUN and Other Key informants)**

1. History of the forest
2. Status of the forest (what spp., condition in the past and at present)
3. Community composition (ethnicity, occupation)
4. CF activities from the beginning to date.
5. Do you find any changes in CF before and after handover?
6. How do you express the knowledge of women towards CF (Op/constitution)?
7. What is the composition of FUG-EC? (Male/Female/caste/ethnicity/rich/poor)
8. Do women hesitate to accept responsible posts in FUC?
9. Do you find an increase in comparison to their earlier participation in FUC?
10. Do you consider the voice of women in FUG/FUC assembly/meeting?
11. Do you incorporate the issues that concern women in OP?
12. What is the status of women's participation in forest management work?
13. Whose involvement is higher in forest protection activities?
14. How do you share the benefit among the FUG members?
15. Is there any discrimination for women users (negative/positive) in benefit sharing?
16. What services have you received from DFO for CF management? If not why?
17. Any suggestions?

Map of study area



KASK DISTRICT
 [Range Post Facilities by Type] Annex -3 b



Datum:
 UTM Everest Spheroid Projection,
 Zone-45

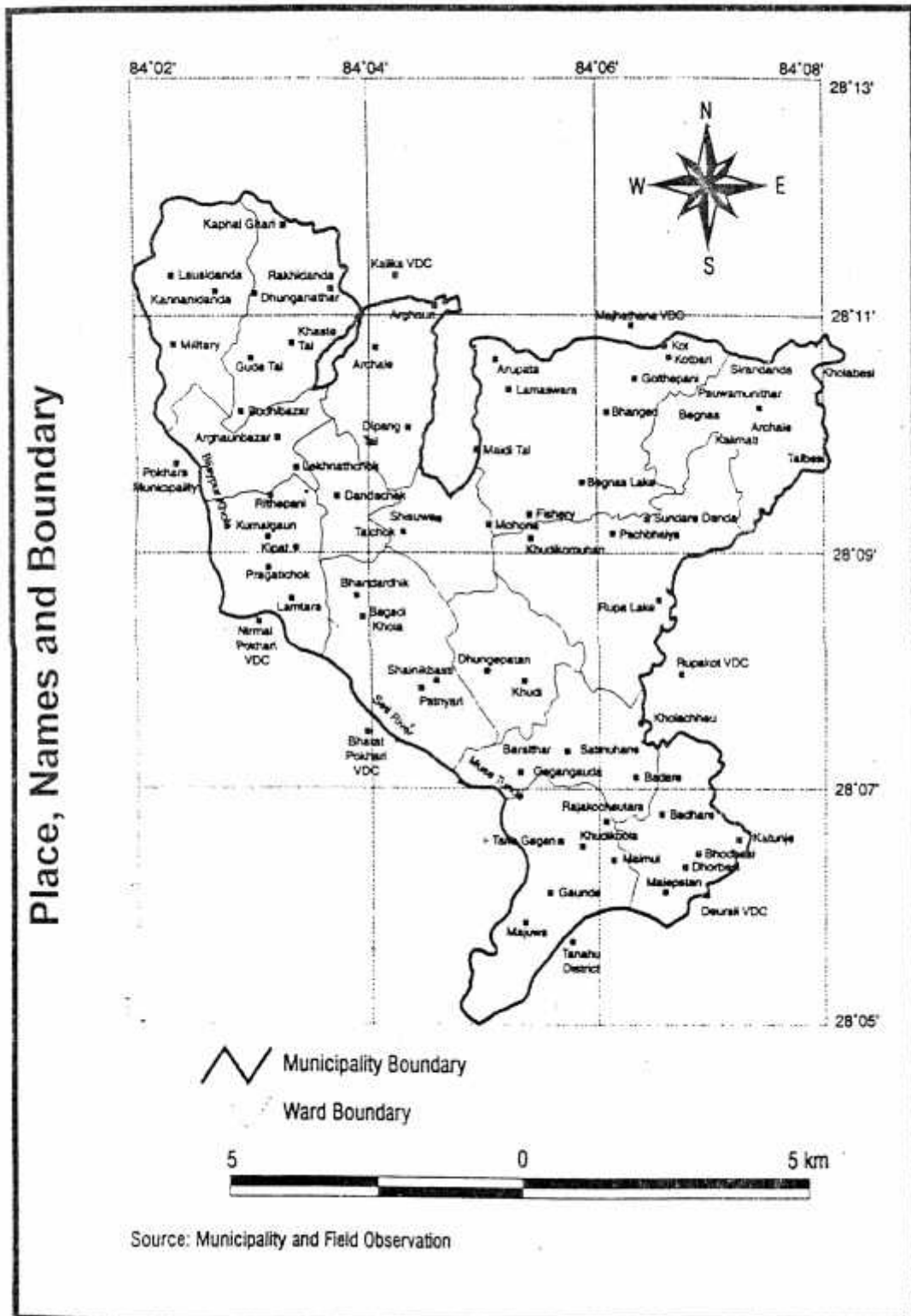
Note : VDC Boundary Partially Field Verified in June-July 2000.
 Base-Map Source: Topographic Map I:25000, Topographical Survey Branch, DOS, HMG, Nepal, 1999 & 1:100000, Nepal Map Series-9 produced by Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Vergleichende Hochgebirgsforsch-1993
 Data Source: District Forest Office, Kaski-2000

LEGEND

- Type of Forest Office**
- (1) District Forest Office
 - (2) Range Office
 - (3) District Forest Post
 - (4) Range Post
 - (5) Range Post
 - (6) Range Post
 - (7) Range Post
 - (8) Range Post
 - (9) Range Post
 - (10) Range Post
- VDC Boundary (DDC 2000)**

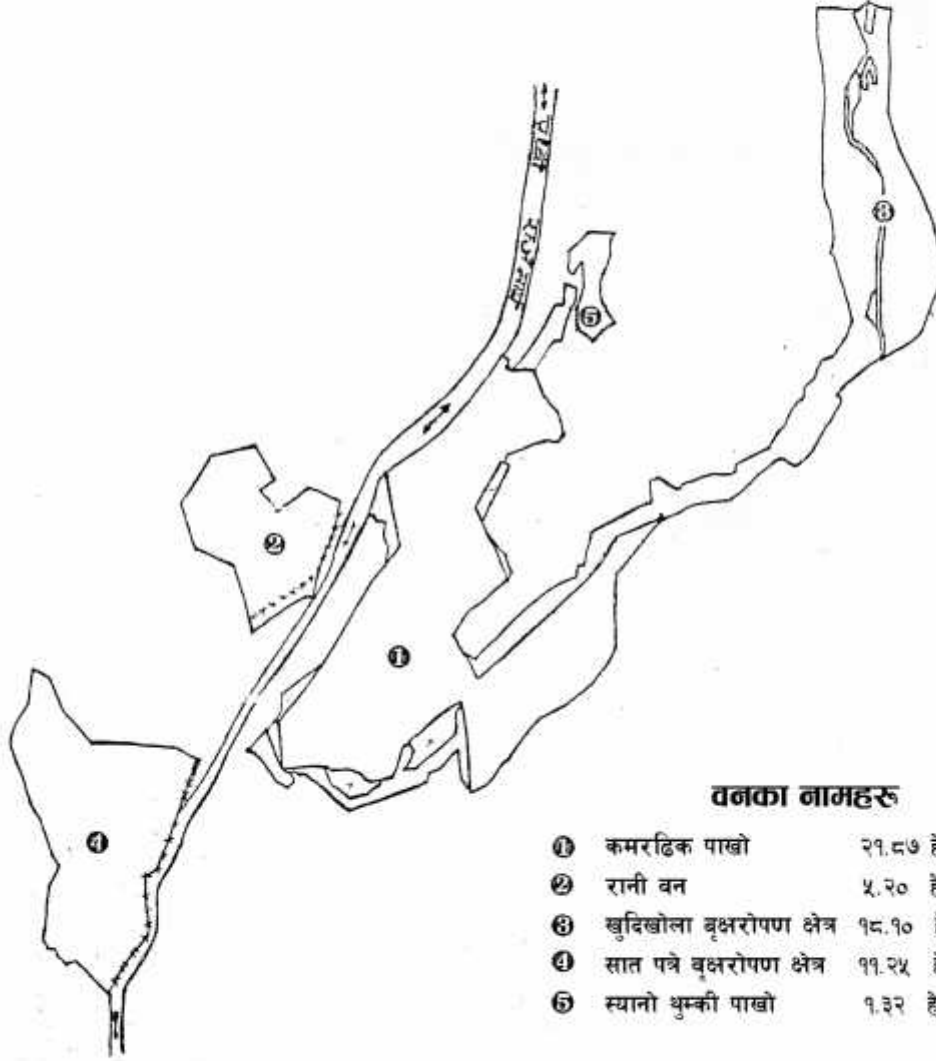


Wormholes & Distortions in Center, DDC, Kaski, 2000



प्रगतिशील सामुदायिक वन भित्र रहेका
वनहरूको नापी शाखाबाट प्राप्त
नक्साहरू

अनुसूची -५



वनका नामहरू

①	कमरठिक पाखो	२१.८७ हेक्टर
②	रानी वन	५.२० हेक्टर
③	खुदिखोला वृक्षरोपण क्षेत्र	१८.१० हेक्टर
④	सात पत्रे वृक्षरोपण क्षेत्र	११.२५ हेक्टर
⑤	स्यानो थुम्की पाखो	१.३२ हेक्टर

श्रोत:

नापी शाखा, कास्कीको सिट नं. १२४८, १२८७, १२८८ र १३२७ बाट उतार गरिएको