

CHAPTER – 1: INTRODUCTION

The term community in its broadest sense may refer to any group of person united by a “Community of Interest”. In this sense a professional group, a residential unit a club or a voluntary association may all be referred to as communities. Forest is a biological community dominated by trees and other wooden vegetation. This community forestry means something like “People’s Forestry”.

This acknowledges that community forestry activities are aimed at providing direct benefits to rural people and that “the people” should have a substantial role in decision making. At this level that is as a statement about the philosophy behind community forestry there is nothing wrong with the term. (Gilmour and Fisher: 1991)

1.1 Background of the Study:

Forest means an area fully of partly covered by trees. It is one of the most important natural resources of Nepal for socio-economic development and people’s livelihood yet the management of forest are still on its primitive stage. Forest degradation and deforestation are the major problems in Nepal since few years.

Forest is one of the most essential natural resources in Nepal. People use the forest for many purposes such as fuel wood, fodder, timber and minor forest product such as fruits, nuts, medicine and honey etc. It is essential to protect soil against erosion providing clear water reducing landslides, floods , maintaining ecological balance and preventing environmental degradation(kayastha:1991).

Before 1957 there was no strict rule and regulation for the protection and use of the forest. Believing that there was enough forest the government paid no attention to develop the forest and allowed forest use to continue at higher rate. Similarly, forest rehabilitation was also ignored. Rapid deforestation has been created a serious problem e.g. Soil erosion, flood, landslides, water scarcity, decreased agriculture and livelihood productivity etc. are some of them. Generally the factors responsible for deforestation are increased demand of forest and forest products due to population growth, clearance of the forest to increase the agricultural land and grazing livestock in the forest.

To solve the increasing problem of deforestation in 1957 the government nationalized all forest. "To prevent the destruction of the national wealth to nationalize private forest for their adequate protection (Regmi: 1978)". Unfortunately, the government was unprepared to assume the technical and administrative responsibilities of the forest ownership. Villagers reacted negatively to nationalization believing that their traditional rights of access and use had been curtailed. As a result responsibility of the local people for forest protection disappeared where as previously there had been communal responsibility for managing the forest. After nationalization no one took responsibility of management of forest. Moreover, there were land record, villagers had a strong incentive to destroy the forest so that land could be claimed as private property after it was cleared and cultivated. As a result of inadequate government control and adverse local reaction to nationalization Nepal's forest effectively became common property (Wallace: 1987).

The forest Act of 1961 and its subsequent amendments and rules became the basic law governing forest administration in Nepal. The forestry Act and forestry Protection special arrangement Act (1967) attempted to establish strong state authority over the forest. Although some provisions were made for transferring GoN forest area to Village Development Committee, no steps were taken to implement these provisions. Many traditional rules, regulation and political system changed, new system came up. None of them were said to be effective to control deforestation problem. As a result government realized the need of people participation for the forest management which was implicitly expressed in the forest law of 1961. Local people participation was emphasized on 1970s by decentralizing authority of forest protection.

In 1978 the government changed the forest policy intended with new categories. The Panchyat Forest (PF) and Panchyat Protection Forest (PPF) and lease hold forest rules. Through the forest Act (1979) community forestry program was initiated to develop and manage both PF and PPF. This program has been launched in 58 Districts under the department of forest (source: Forest Department (CFDP)). In 1977 and 1978 Panchyat forest (PF) and PPF were introduced under the 3 community forest development program (CFDP) with the purpose of handing back the protection and management of the forest to the people (Cheetri and Pandey: 1992). The 7th national plan also emphasized to encourage the maximum participation of the people in the management of the forest resources for fulfilling the needs of daily life (NPC: 1985). In most part of hilly regions numerous local forest management

systems are still found. Many researcher's studies on forest resources and their protection and management have made clear that indigenous system of the forest management are widely distributed through out Nepal (Budhathoki: 1987, Campbell et .al 1989, Chettri 1994, Fisher 1986, Haimendort: 1964, Molnar: 1981 and Tamang: 1990) and these system of forest protection and management have effectively and successfully operated within local environment context. Similarly, community forestry program (CFP) is in operation in most units of Nepal in which user groups are the units of forest management and decision makers in community forestry.

Most notably, the decentralization act,1982 which introduced the idea and participation of "user group" in local community level development activities , the Master plan for the forest sector 1989 the forest Act 1993 and the forest By -laws 1995 together insist on community forest programmed as the basic forest sector policy in Nepal . Now the government and development practitioners have begun to take local people's participation as essential for the assessment, monitoring and evaluating the forest management practices in village communities in Nepal. For this reason, the above mentioned laws and acts together require the empowerment and enhancement of the contribution of local communities to forest resource development.

The master plan for the forestry sector, 1988s emphasized people participation ,community forestry , leasehold and prevention and control policy of the government in order to manage the land and prohibition of degraded lands ,the ninth five year plan (GoN/NPC,1997) of the country highlighted the priorities of integrated watershed management activities and aiming carried out through peoples participation .participatory forestry evolved in Nepal in 1990s with the evolutionary changes in forestry sector. With the financial and technical support of many INGO and NGOS the forest department implemented this policy in many hill districts of Nepal to be successful program.

Community forest development division (1991) states that the prime policy of community forestry is to develop and manage forest resources through active participation of individuals and communities to meet their basic needs and main strategy of all accessible hill forests to the community forest program is phased handing over of all accessible hill forests to extent that they are able and willing to manage them. The division also states that 18, 76000 ha of forested area (32 percent of the total land area of Nepal) can be converted into forestry, and

15, 85,000 ha of non-forested area) can gradually be developed as community forests. The eighth plan states that during plan period (1992-1997) 5,000 forest user groups will be formed through the kingdom and 2, 52000 ha of forest land will be handed over to forest user groups (NPC, 1992; 225). Thousand of FUGS have already been formed over the years in order to meet the target of the government's forest strategy.

K. B. Shrestha (1996) writes that in 1990, with the restoration of democracy, the term Panchyat was replaced by "user group" in forest Act 1961. In 1993, the government published the forest Act 1993, but it has not been implemented yet as the rules are in the final draft stage. The forest act 1993 has categorized into two broad classes;

- A) National forest
- B) Private forest

National forest is further divided into five subs – categories.

- 1) Community forest
- 2) Leasehold forest
- 3) Government-managed forest
- 4) Religious forest
- 5) Protect forest

The tenth plan (GoN/NPC, 2002) and eleventh interim plan have emphasized on forestry sector in order to support national objective of poverty alleviation by ensuring people participation needed for sustainable development for forest sector in the management of forest, plant resources, herbs, watershed management and bio- diversity conservation along with increasing employment opportunities through the development of forest based industries.

1.2 Women's Roles in Community Forest Use

Involvement of women is the succession of community forestry because women are the major collectors of forest product such as fuel wood, fodder, fruits and grass etc. they cook and do most of domestic works, therefore it is they who suffer the social and economic consequences of deforestation, most directly having to spend more and more time and walk longer distances in search of these essential forest product. However they

should not be considered in isolation and total community participation should be effected (Kayastha: 1991).

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. Women are always having been sincere for their work for protection and tree planting. The rules acts, plan, policies and etc related to the forest sector insist on the participation of women in the forest management but it is felt that women's participation in FUGS still needs to be encouraged. In Nepal, women play key role in productive activities as user's of forest resource, for centuries, women have used forest products.

While women are as active in the cash economy as men (and are therefore under represented in the national statistics on participation in the labor force), recent studied employing data on family time allocation have realistic estimates of over all contribution to the household economy.

Theoretically speaking , gender as unit of analysis in development programs an activities began with introducing women in development concept , in the 1970s and early 1980s , the term women in development (WID) has been replaced by the tern gender and development (GAD),the WID concept being one sided and focusing only women in society. Gender refers to the social, cultural and historical construction of male and female roles in society. Women in development concentrated mainly on economy and productive aspects of women's work, gender and development on the other hand focuses on totality of social organization including the economic and political life of both men and women from a holistic perspective. Gender, however, has the advantage of stressing the inconsistency of women's experience – including by class, race, and belief systems and relationship between women's and men's experiences.

1.3 Problem Statement

Deforestation has become a serious problem in Nepal and only the government's efforts are not sufficient to solve the problems. It only depends to solve the forest problem from government if there will increase many serious problems and people's life will be very hard

to mention the life. The major problems are lack of grass, fodder, fallen dry leaves, fuel wood, timber and branch of Sal etc. The other problems are begged off water sources and increasing soil erosion.

In Nepalese context, women are the major user of the forest product and they have main responsibilities for forest protection and development activities. Rapidly increasing deforestation process, only government's efforts are not enough, women themselves should be made conscious for their active participation. In male dominated society females are always dominated by male members for their active participation in community forestry management and other development activities

For timber and fuel wood collection, Forest is the source of livelihood for the poor and marginal people. During dry season people don't have work in farm. So their profession might be changed by employing them in the forestry development activities through community forest rather than poaching timber and fuel wood from the forest. Such employment program should reflect the community forestry strategies that can exactly uplift the livelihood with no hammering.

From the time when the management of forest is transferred to the local community, it has been seen that the deforestation has been controlled and its management is being good .But there may still persist lots of problems within the community people regarding the community forest. Complexities may arise during the implantation of rules as people are uneducated and are not conscious about their roles in community works.

The community forest that has been chosen for the study is totally managed by women. Condition of women in the area is very miserable as majorities are uneducated, poor and the society is male dominant. Women are not allowed to participate actively in the social development activities and are deprived from management works. Men may not have supportive role in the women's management of forest. In the recent years there are lots of NGO's are working in the social development activities. The trainings provided by such organization can be supportive to extend the awareness in the people. District Forest Office has started monitoring financial resources of FUGs. So, DFO can accesses their financial status to support forest, other development activities and sustainable for women's livelihood as well as preservation of forest. This study also tries to identify how the forest is being managed by women in such situation than previous management.

This study has attempt to document the activities of the women's forest committee involved in forest resources management and this study explains ,this participation in some detail the results will also be helpful to the national planners, academicians ,donor agencies ,field workers who are responsible for the development programmer of forest resources.

1.4 Objectives of the study

The general objective of the study is to examine women's participation in the committee's activities. And the implementation of programs designed for the development and management to local forest resources to determine the socio –economic condition of respondents at the study area. The specific objectives are as follows:

- 1) To identify role of women promoting community forestry in their area.
- 2) To describe their involvement in the development of entire community forestry programmed activities and actions.
- 3) To identify the factors affecting in the participation of women in community forest management system.

1.5 Significance of the study

This study on the women's participation in community forest management system has its own importance. It examines the participation of in forest committee and factor affecting their participation. To fill this gap, this study wills effort to document the activities of women involvement in forest resource management

This study shows that how the community forest management system in Bhagwati Mahila Community Forestry, Ghorahi Municipality ward no six in the Dang District works and it also shows how the women are sensitive to the need of managing forest from which they get their forest supply. And it is hoped this study will help to make policy for forest user in forest development activities, for extension and successful way, for similar field workers and agencies (NGOs / INGOs/Gos) who want to work in forestry sector.

1.6 Theoretical Framework

The community forestry programs launched by government and its success and failure

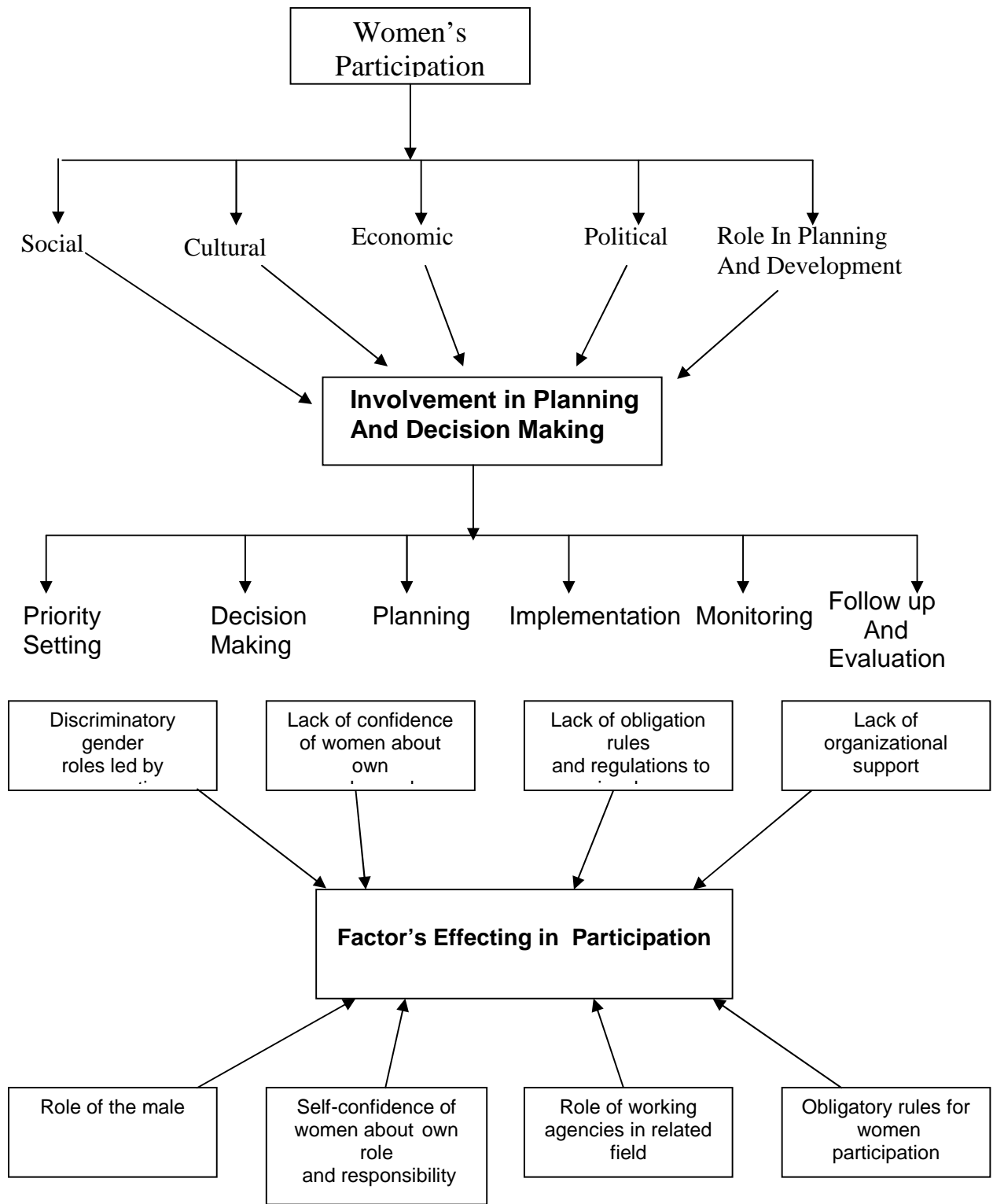
depend upon people's participation for the present study, it should be noted that people's participation needs to be understood within the context of local culture, norms and values as well as people's knowledge and perception about their ecosystem (Chhetri and Panday 1992).

The reason for the failure of any program could be the negligence of planner about people's interest and their religious attitudes. It should be noted that people's participation means to promote people's involvement in a program mentally, physically and economically for their common welfare (K.C.:1995).

The conceptual framework of the study is given below. The figure illustrates the interrelationship among the different factors dependent variables.

1.7 Conceptual Framework:

Women capture half of the population of the world so there is no doubt about the necessity to balance the role of both sexes i.e. male and female in order to succeed in any development program. Although there are some provisions to include women in development activities in Nepal but it is not working in practical life.



Effecting Factors

CHAPTER—2: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Evolution and Emergence of different forest policy in Nepal:

2.1.1 During Gorkha empire (1768- 1846): The period up to 1846 was ruled by Gorkha Empire that united fragmented Nepal. As the Gorkha Empire expanded there were inevitable conflicts between it and East-India Company. The forest of Terai, the plain bordering to India was maintained as a physical barrier against possible invasion from the south by the East-India company. The forests of Terai, the plain bordering to India maintained as physical barrier against possible invasion from the south by East India Company. Hill forests were used by local people to support subsistence needs. The state asserted its ownership of natural resources to institutions and individuals as a privilege. Birta, Khorja and Rakam system existed as a practice. (Hobley, 1996)

2.1.2 Rana Regime (1846-1951): Rana Empire ruled the country for 103 years and forest got severe impacts in these periods. In the first half of the twentieth century, forest exploitation, particularly in the Terai region, appears to have increased greatly. At the turn of the century, the British in India extended their railway network to Nepal's southern border, and the Rana government suddenly found that it could earn more revenue in the region bordering India by clearing forests and producing grain for export. They established a timber administration office, convert later into the timber export office employed British forestry experts from the India forest services in the 1920s to supervise felling and experts of the Terai Sal (*Shorea Robusta*) forests for the construction of the India railways (Hobley, 1996). In the hills of Nepal different system of forest management operated in conjunction with the Birta and Talukdari system in the eastern Nepal and Kipat system in the rest parts on Nepal.

At the end of the Rana rule in 1951, at least one – third of the forests of Nepal were under Birta tenure and three quarters of this land belonged to the Rana family (Regmi, 1978, cited from Hobley 1996).

2.1.3 Nationalization of forest 1957: In the people's movement overthrew the Rana regime and democratic government did exercise for 10 years. The first forest nationalization act was published in 1957. Under this act all the forests of Nepal were

nationalized and act regulated access to and use of the forests in an attempt to regularize the revenue flow and control of forest land previously under this tenure now. Although, nationalization act was published, many people were not aware of this and continued to practice Brita system.

2.1.4 Forest under Panchyat political system (1990): The failure of the democracy movement and the reassertion of monarchical rule in the early 1960s, a new party less Panchyat system was introduced which was to remain in place until 1990. Many forest acts were passed and amended during the periods. Some of them were forest laws (1961), forest protection special laws (1967) and Panchayat (small administrative units of the district) forest (PFs) and Panchayat protected forest (PPFs) (1978). PFs and PPFs policy was considered to be a positive moment for forest protection as the rights of protection and utilization was decentralization to local level administrative unit. Under Panchayat forest system, any government forest or part of it, which has been kept barren or contains only stumps, may be handed over by government to the village Panchayat for plantation for the welfare of the village community on the prescribed terms and conditions .similarly under Panchayat protected forest, patch of natural forest may be handed over to the Panchayat for protection and management purpose, In both system, ownership of forestland remained with the government.

2.1.5 The new forest policy (1993): Nepal's forest sector policy was first declared in the sixth plan (1981 which emphasized community participation in the management, conservation and utilization of forest resources. The government prepared a Master plan for forestry sector in 1987. This placed greater emphasize on community forestry program. Based on this policy and precious PF and PPF policies, a new community forestry policy was derived after democracy in Nepal in 1990. the main principal of that policy was to meet the basic forest product needs of local through community forestry and private planting by phased handing over of all accessible hill forestry to the local communities to the extent that they are willing and able to manage them (Hobley,1996). The emphasis on users group rather than Panchayat of Village Development Committee emerged from the experiences gained from the implementation of community forestry between mid 1980s and 1990 s. the user groups as an organizing concept was formalized in 1990s in legislation and policy statement.

1.1.6 The concept of community forestry: Development planning for the third world came onto the western political agenda after the Second World War. The process of development was seen as one of the economic reform which as characterized by ‘development from above (‘top down ‘). This approach assumed that development in a few geographic centers, to a few progressive farmers, would trickle down to other areas. By the late 1960s this assumption was being seriously questioned – mainly because it failed to meet the needs of the rural poor and other disadvantaged groups, including women. Now concept of development began to emerge in the 1960s. These new concepts aimed to involve local people as active participants in the development process and used a ‘development from below’ (bottom –up) approach. The basis of this approach was a concern with equity, the provision of basic needs, the quality of life and the natural environment. People’s participation especially women is the most essential feature in community forestry.

According to the new forestry policy of 1990s and area of forest can be handed over to local community for its management; conservation and utilization in which land is still owned by government and trees are owned by community. The community has full authority to control over resources and to decide conversation, management and utilization plan. Community has to prepare a simple operational plan in collaboration with District Forest Offices where major decision are made users group themselves except some technical knowledge are borrowed from forest go to the community fund. Community can decide income and expenditures for various development purposes without any approval of local authorities.

Women’s participation: If the forest is to be successfully managed by local users, women mostly participate, they are responsible for collection most of the fuel wood, fodder, leaf compost and sheet, as well as controlling grazing. The men, on the other hand generally take care of cutting and selling timber, and of administrative decisions about the forests. Involvement of women is vital for the success of community forestry; women are the major collectors of forest products.

Kharel (1993) reveals that if women are involved in every stage of community forestry management planning process; the chances of their voices, giving their opinion and making people listen to them are increased. When committees are formed without female

representation decisions usually fail to recognize women's needs and constraints.

2.2 Some Facts on Forestry Sector of Dang District

Dang Divisional Forest Office was established in Dang in 2012 BS, coverage of the office was Salyan, Pyuthan, Rolpa and Dang districts. Dang Divisional Forest Office was the regulatory body of the government for the four districts of Rapti and on that time most of the forests were government managed. Divisional forest office has changed to District Forest Office Dang in 2040 and coverage was limited to Dang district only.

The major products identified on the time were fuel wood and timber though the people were using NTFPs to meet their basic needs like medicine and others. Medicinal use of the forest products is proved since ancient time for the human health but the marketing was not found remarkably on the period. After the forest Act 1990 community forest has started to be handed over to the community and currently there are:

Registered no of Community Forests:	444
Handed Over Community Forests:	436
Handed Over Forest Area:	92295.02 Hectare
Total House Holds involved:	84853(Some House holds are duplicated)
Number of Women CFUGs:	59
Women Involvement in Committee:	40%

Now the purpose of the forest has been changed and that has clearly maintained that the community forest are for the utilizations of forest resources environmentally friendly, economic viably and social acceptably. Sustainability is the major concern of the current community forest management system; sustainability is in terms of use, conservation and protection.

CHAPTER –3: Research Methods

Site Selection: Bhagwati Mahila Community Forestry User Group is selected for the study. That Forest lies in Ghorahi Municipality at 6 Masina Dang District. The researcher is also an inhabitant of that district so it is easy to collect the reliable information from the existing socio-cultural structure

3.1 Research Design

This study has been adopted descriptive, exploratory and analytical research design. Descriptive research is used to describe and mention historical practices and related former, studies. It is helpful to describe the phenomena of this study. Explorative research design is used to find new information about specific problem of the study.

This study also tries to explore new information about the affecting factor in women participation in the study universe. So exploratory research design is useful in this study, collected data has been analyzed to reach the conclusion.

3.2 Study Universe

The user group taken for the study is Bhagwati Mahila Community Forest User group, Ghorahi Municipality -6, Masina Dang. The user group consists of 178 households and the total population is $\{178 \times 4.95 = 881\}$ 881 from where 55 house holds has been taken for collecting data and information regarding women's participation in community forestry management.

3.3 Sampling Procedure:

Bhagwati Mahila Community Forest User Group (BMCFUG) is consists of 178 house holds. Among them, 55 house holds has been chosen for the study. Those households are randomly selected. The caste / ethnicity distribution of households are Brahman, Chhetri, Thakuri, Janajati Dalit and Chaudhary. Among them, 18 households from Brahman family, 15 households from chhetri family, 9 households from Thakuri family, 3 household from Janajati family, 5 house holds from Dalit family, 5 households from chaudhary families. Majority are from Brahmin and chhetri, so the populatin is not proportionate. (See in Annex-5)

Selection of the respondents of BMCFUG

Table: 1

S.N.	Caste/ Ethnicity	Total households	Percentage
1	Brahmin	18	32.7
2	Chhetri	15	27.3
3	Thakuri	9	16.4
4	Janajati	3	5.5
5	Dalit	5	9.1
6	Chaudhary	5	9.1
	Total	55	100.0

Source: field survey, 2008

3.4 Nature and source of data:

In this study primary as well as secondary data and qualitative and quantitative data were used. Primary data were used to prioritize to find the objectives of this study or primary data have been collected through unremarkable observation, household survey, focus group discussion, interview, questionnaire in the study area. And secondary data obtained from VDC, District Forest From, Center level library, published, unpublished books, journals, documents, CBS reports, LFP Dang. In this study quantitative data were used to present the socio-economic condition and present condition of women's participation in forest management activities and forest product collection. Qualitative data were given in priority to present the affecting factor for participation and the overview of the study area.

3.5 Data collection Technique

Various techniques are used for data collection, like house hold survey, key informant view, focus group discussion, field observation and semi- structure questionnaire etc.

3.6 House holds Survey:

House holds survey is most important technique for data collection. It is one of the good methods for reliable information about respondents of that community forest and dependency upon community forest to find out the total demand of forest resources, to know the cast ethnic composition of Bhagwati Mahila Community Forest User Groups. In total 178 house holds are involved in user groups. Among them, 55 house holds were surveying for the study.

3.7 Key informants Interview

When doubt arise in the data collection and gathering; the information from the different respondents of user group then unstructured interview becomes important to be clear. So the unstructured informal interview has been done with the village development committee's secretary, local people, and chairperson of the committee, social workers and District Forest Office.

3.8 Interview Schedule

Interview Schedule questionnaires were used to gather the information about the various aspects of women's participation in community forest and women's view about uplifting and hindering factors for women's participation in community forest. The interview questionnaire was used according to appendix-2.

3.9 Field observation

In the time of data collection , field observation also done .To know the condition of forest, user group and women's role in the meeting of user group and women's role in the meeting, and women's participation on forest products collection were observed in this study. House construction and condition of firewood storage also observed. So the observation was proved more fruitful to find the reality in the study area.

3.10 Focus group discussion

Two focus group discussions were done for this study, first focus group discussion was held in the involvement of lower cast women and second group discussion was held in the upper cast women. Or female were divided in two groups to know the reality about community forest management and group discussion was fruitful to find out women's perception about themselves, and male's role for women's participation.

3.11 Data editing

Data collected from the above mentioned technique are separated and categorized according to the need of the study. Collected data were edited for presentation and analysis of the study.

3.12 Data analysis and presentation

Collected data are analyzed to make them meaningful and to meet the objective of the study. Analysis of data is not just a statistical method. It is an approach and a way of thinking (Kerlinger: 1978). Edited data are quoted, tabulated and analyzed to meet the objectives of the study. Data are presented using frequency, percentage, average, qualitative information are analyzed and mentioned.

CHAPTER – 4: GENERAL INFORMATION OF THE STUDY AREA

4.1 General - Information

The study was conducted in Mid Western development Region, Dang district Ghorahi Municipality ward no-6 at Masina Nepal. Forest and human life have close relationship and with out forest human life couldn't be predicted. The selected forest user group is Shree Bhagawati Mahila Community Forest User Group (CFUG) and it's purely women managed forest group. CFUG is situated in Ghorahi Municipality ward no-6, Masina and it is about 4 km north from Ghorahi Bazaar.

4.1.1 Historical Background Of the Bhagwati Mahila Community

Bhagawati Mahila Community Forest (BMCF) lies in Ghorahi Municipality -6, before 2052 B.S it was protected and managed by government itself. At that time it was not protected well and the trees were being cut down for timber, firewood and other purpose. The forest has been protected by forest user group members and guard system. So the local people thought for the necessity of community forest and it was handed over in 2052 B.S. Total area covered by the forest is 17.18 hectare. To protect it, plantation activities were initiated and accomplished by the active participation of women rather than the men in the support of different Government Organizations (GOs) and International / Non Governmental Organizations (INGOs). BMCF is totally women managed and developed forest. It has eleven member executive committee and current chairperson is Mrs. Dilla Malla.

4.1.2 Location and climate

Bhagawati Mahila Community Forest is located in Ghorahi Municipality -6, surrounded by Dhan Chaur tole in the east, Kalika Community Forest in the west, Masina-Saiga road in the north and Saraswati Community Forest in the south. Its climate is neither hot nor cold or tropical mid-temperate. Ghorahi Municipality lies between latitude of 27 37'- 28 21' and longitude of 82 2'- 85 54'. The vegetation found in the forest are Sal, Asna, Baidaro, Cheuri, Dabdabi , Harro, Barro, Dhouti, Sishau as timber products and Amleiso, Harro, Barro, Gangigugro, Kurilo, Sarpandha, Bamboo, Dhairofool, etc as non timber products.

4.1.3 Educational Status

Education is an important social indicator in society, plays dominant role in creating well off society. It helps to create consciousness, awareness and analytical capability in the community. In the study area primary, secondary, and higher secondary schools are running. According to C.B.S. report 2002 out of total population 2258 of Ghorahi Municipality -6 Masina, 1301 are male and 956 are female. Below table shows the literacy rate of the study area.

Table: 2
Population that have completed educational level of

Municipality	Ward	Sex	Total	No schooling	Primary	Lower Secondary	Secondary	SLC	Intermediate	Graduate	Post graduate	Others	Level not stated
Name	Ward	Sex	Total	No .SCH	Primary	Low. sec	Secondary	SLC	Inter	Gradt	PGradt	Others	Not std
Ghorahi Municipality	6	Both	2258	144	963	484	228	251	117	51	8	1	12
Ghorahi Municipality	6	M	1302	77	516	270	134	157	92	43	8	0	6
Ghorahi Municipality	6	F	956	67	447	214	94	94	25	8	0	1	6

Source; CBS report, 2001

The table above shows that 144 people out of 2258 do not go to school. The no schooling

population consists of the children below school age and illiterate adult population. Though the percentage of literate female population is very close to male, the number of graduate and post graduate female is remarkably less than that of male. Out of 51 graduates only 8 are females and out of 8 post graduates, there no female representation.

4.1.4 Institutional Arrangement of User Committee

Bhagwati Mahila Community Forestry user group have executive and advisory committee for forest management. There are 11 members in executive committee and 5 members in advisory committee. The executive committee is responsible for enforcing rules and regulation for operational plan, calls meeting and assembly of CFUG, make decisions regarding the forest management and distribution of forest resources.

4.1.5 Executive Committee

BMCF is totally women managed community forest, having 11 member executive committee. The present executive committee's ethnic composition is mixed and includes all groups in that community. The committee consists of 3 members from Brahmin, 3 member form Chhetri, 1 from chaudary, 2 from Thakuri, 1 from Janajati and 1 from Dalit. The present chairperson is Mrs.Dilla Malla and other Name list of the executive committee elected in 2062 for five years is maintained in Appendix -5

4.1.6 Cropping pattern of the study Area

Land is one of the main physical properties of the people of study area. Most of the people are involved in farming occupation but only for subsistence and nobody of them is doing agriculture in scientific and modern way. Public land is mainly used for forest resources, schools, roads VDC office and irrigation etc. Private land is used for private farming. Here private land is classified into three categories; Khet, Bari and Kharbari. Khet is useful for paddy, wheat, maize, potato and mustard. Khet is a cultivate land with irrigation facilities. Bari is useful for grass, maize, vegetables and fruits. Kharbari is slope land and it is useful for fodder and khar production. Khar is a kind of grass which is used for constructing roof of local house. Cropping period of this area is divided into two time periods. In irrigated area people grow rice in summer and wheat in winter. Main crops grown in this area are rice,

wheat, maize, mustard and other different vegetables. Maize and rice are grown by all people as their basic requirement.

4.1.7 Demographic situation of study area

The total population of Ghorahi Nagarpalika ward no-6 at Masina is 4682. among them 2235(47.75%) are male and 2447(52.27%) are female. The average household size of Mashina is 4.49. In case of BMCF average population in the households is 4.95 (178*4.95= 881). Below table shows the population of Ghorahi municipality Dang.

Table: 3

Population of Ghorahi Municipality

.S.N.	Ward no.	House Hold	Male	Female	Total
1	1	458	1227	1243	2470
2	2	500	1344	1378	2722
3	3	319	906	879	1785
4	4	407	1097	1168	2265
5	5	446	1043	1119	2162
6	6	1032	2235	2447	4682
7	7	427	1051	1169	2220
8	8	563	1394	1474	2868
9	9	389	1105	1169	2274
10	10	2004	4794	4753	9547
11	11	2400	5380	4751	10131
Total	Total	8945	21576	21550	43126
Density of population					579.26
Area Total population-					74.45
population- @ 3.95					53347

Source: Population Census, 2001/CBS

The table above offers wards wise male and female population and number of households of Ghorahi Municipality. The study area BMCFUG situated in the ward no 6 Masina of Ghorahi Municipality. There are 1032 house holds in the ward no 6 out of 8945 of the municipality. The total population of this ward is 4682. The study universe selected from the population is 881 from 55 households. Lies situated

CHAPTER - 5: SOCIAL AND ECONOMICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS

The socio-economic characteristics of the forest user groups have direct and indirect effects on community forest management. Important among such characteristics are educational level; caste/ethnicity; land holding, educational level, live stock population's, age structure and occupation. Social characteristics, such as high literacy percentage, small household size and less ethnic diversity among forest user groups have generally positive impacts on the process of forest management (Karki,et.al.1994:113-114). Economic characteristics such as small land holding have a negative impact on forest (Gasural et. al 1987). The section therefore describes and analysis the socio- economic characteristics of the sampled FUGs and respondents.

5.1 Caste/ Ethnic Group Composition of Respondents

Caste and ethnicity is an important social and cultural identification of an individual, which is ascribed by birth. Each caste and ethnic group has its own cultural norms and values. In rural society, caste ethnicity is not only an important social identification of the people but also it occupies an important position in social hierarchy. Below table gives the real identification of the respondent's about study area.

Table: 4
Ethnicity or Cast distribution of the community forest

Ethnicity/Cast	sex					
	Male		Female		Total	
	No	Percent	No	Percent	No	Percent
Brahmin	70	4.79	66	47.14	136	47.55
Chhetri	37	2.53	34	24.29	71	24.83
Thakuri	10	0.68	8	5.71	18	6.29
Janajati	21	1.44	24	17.14	45	15.73
Dalit	8	0.55	8	5.71	16	5.59
Total	146	10.00	140	100.00	286	100.00

Source: field survey, 2008

The table above has been mentioned about distribution of population according to the ethnic

and caste groups of respondents in the community forest. According to the cast distribution Brahmin, Chhetri, Thakuri, Janajati and Dalit are 47.55%, 24.83%, 6.29%, 15.73 and 5.59% respectively. Community forest is dominated by Brahmin and Chhetri.

5.2 Educational status of the respondents

Education plays an important role in the life of an individual for betterment of livelihood as well as some other aspects of the living. Education is one of the most important components of human development index, which itself highlights the important of education in one's life. The educational status holds an important place in society. Below table shows the educational condition of respondents of the study area.

Table: 5

Educational Status of Respondents House hold's in CFUG

Level of education	sex					
	Male		Female		Total	
	No	Percent	No	Percent	No	Percent
Unable to read & write	10	0.68	23	16.43	33	11.54
Able to read & write	3	0.21	6	4.29	9	3.15
Primary	44	3.01	53	37.86	97	33.92
Secondary	32	2.19	37	26.43	69	24.13
S.L.C. pass	21	1.44	6	4.29	27	9.44
Certificate	14	0.96	4	2.86	18	6.29
Bachelor & above	3	0.21	3	2.14	6	2.10
Non schooling	19	1.30	8	5.71	27	9.44
Total	146	10.00	140	100.00	286	100.00

Source: field survey, 2008

The table above shows majority of the respondents are literate or primary level. Unable to read and write respondents are 11.54%, 3.15% just able to read and write. Majority of respondents are primary level, 33.92%, secondary level 24.13%, SLC 9.44%, Certificate level 6.29%, bachelor and above and 2.10% and 9.44% respondents are non schooling Or age below 5 years.

5.3 Economic condition of the BMCFUG households

Economic condition was measured in the basis of annual household cash income, land holding condition and sufficiency of food by their production.

5.4 Condition of Cash Income in BMCFUG

Cash income is one of the factors that show the expenses capability of a family and it is reflected on other indicators like education, health and other resources. Thus, income helps in determining the economic status of the family in a society.

In the study area, levels of income source were categorized into 7 classifications according to their annual cash income. In income, any types of sources to earn cash are included. Distribution of household in study area according to their annual cash income is given below.

Condition of Cash Income

Table: 6

Category	No. of Respondents	Percent
10-15 thousand / yrs	8	14.55
16-20 thousand /yrs	6	10.91
21-25 thousand /yrs	7	12.72
26-30 thousand /yrs	8	14.55
31-35 thousand/yrs	6	10.91
36-40 thousand/yrs	9	16.36
41 and above	11	20
	55	100

Source; field survey, 2008

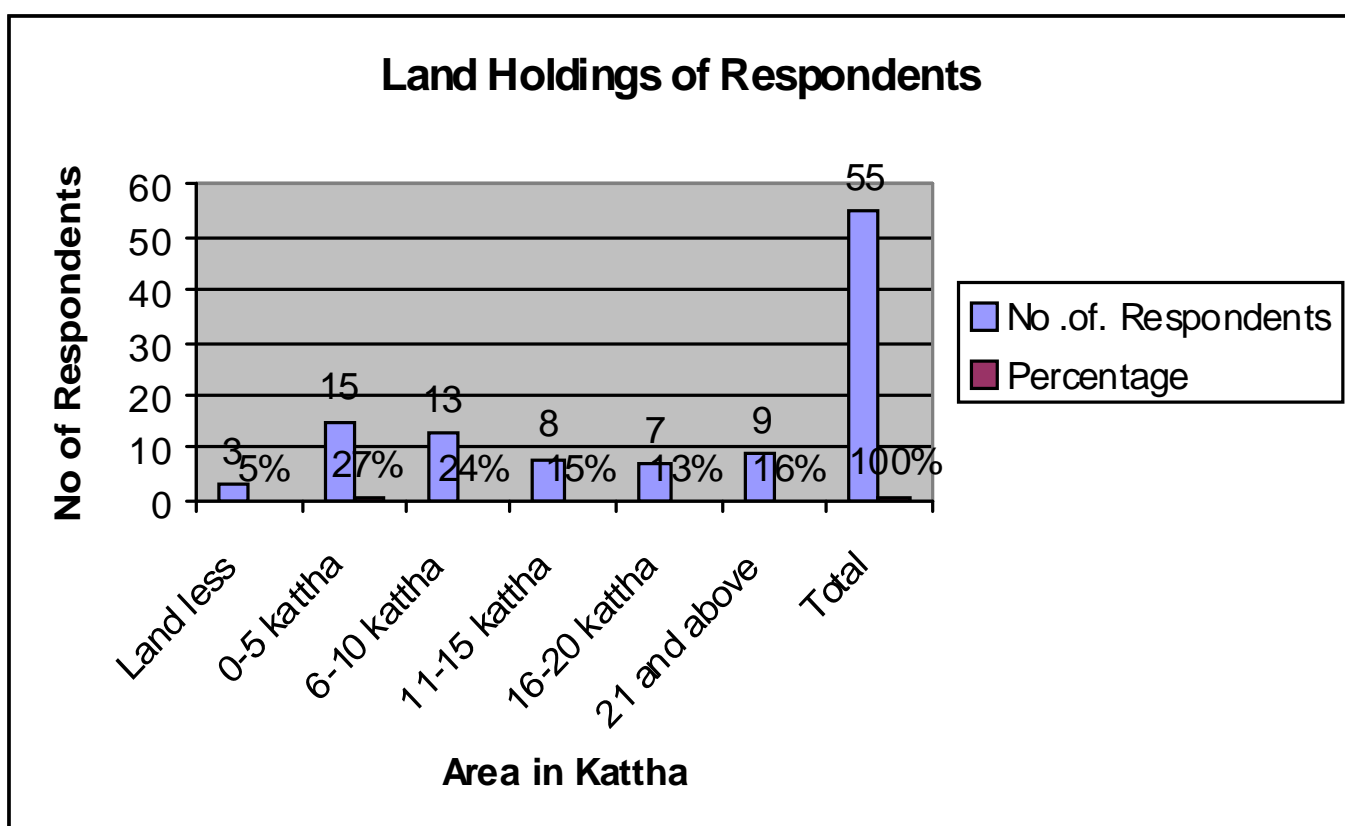
The table above shows that 14.55% population's annual income is between 10-15 thousand Nepali rupees. 10.91 % population's annual income is between is 16-20 thousand rupees 12.72% population's annual income is between 21-25 thousand, 14.55% population' or people's annual income is between 26-30 thousand , 10.91% population's annual income is between 31- 35 thousand , 16.36% population's annual income is between 36- 40 thousand and 20% population's annual income is 41 thousand and above.

5.5 Land holding size

All the respondents have more or less except three having none of the land. The land holding size of the respondents has been classified into six different categories as below bar graph.

Graph: 1

Land Holding Sizes



Source: field survey, 2008

The chart / bar graph above show three respondents who haven't their own land but they live in Ailani, other fifty two have their own land. Among the respondents 5% do not have land, 27% have 0-5 kattha land, 24% respondents 6-10 kattha, 15% respondents 11-15 kattha, 13% respondents 16-20 kattha and 16% respondents have 21 kattha or above land.

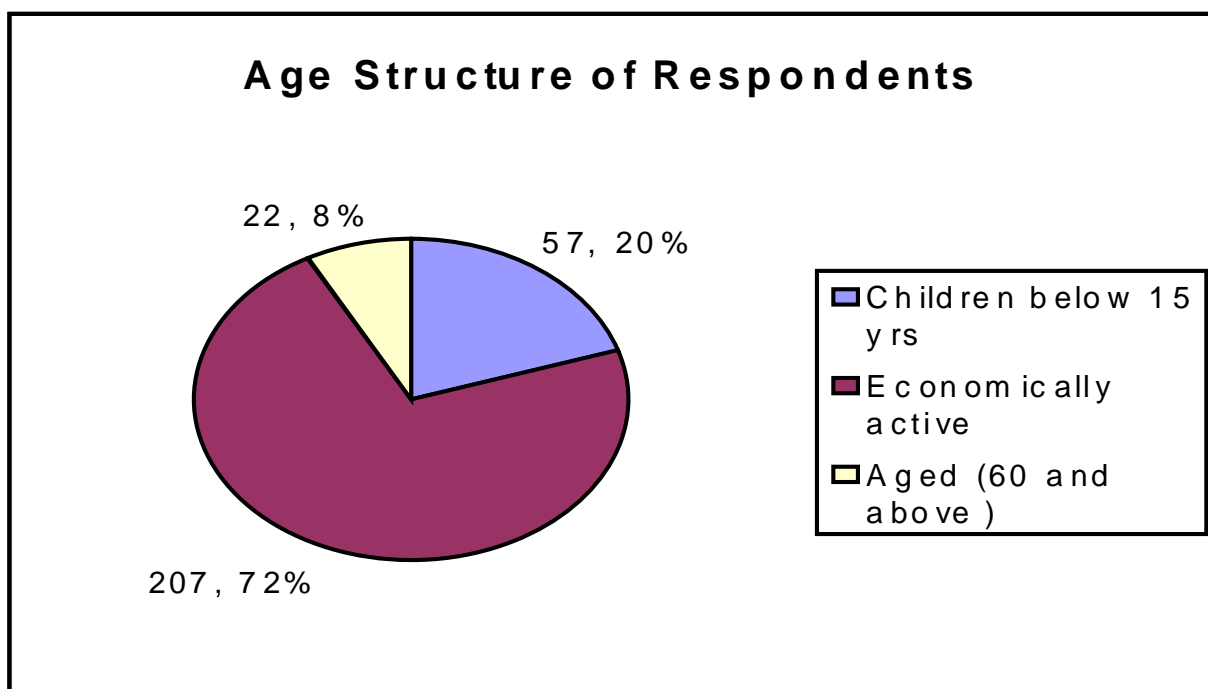
5.6 Age structure of the respondents

Age distribution of population has an important role in planning, economic and social development activities. Age characteristic of population describes the social aspect of community like dependency, health service requirement, employment, schooling and economically active population. According to age composition social responsibilities are often different in respect to their age. The table below shows the age composition in different three category children, economically active and aged.

Here, respondent's age has been classified into three categories. Age below 15 are categorized in children, 15 to 59 age group are economically active and aged (60 and above). Here out of total population 286; children, economically active and aged are 57, 207 and 22 respectively.

Graph: 2

Age structure of the respondents



Source: field survey, 2008

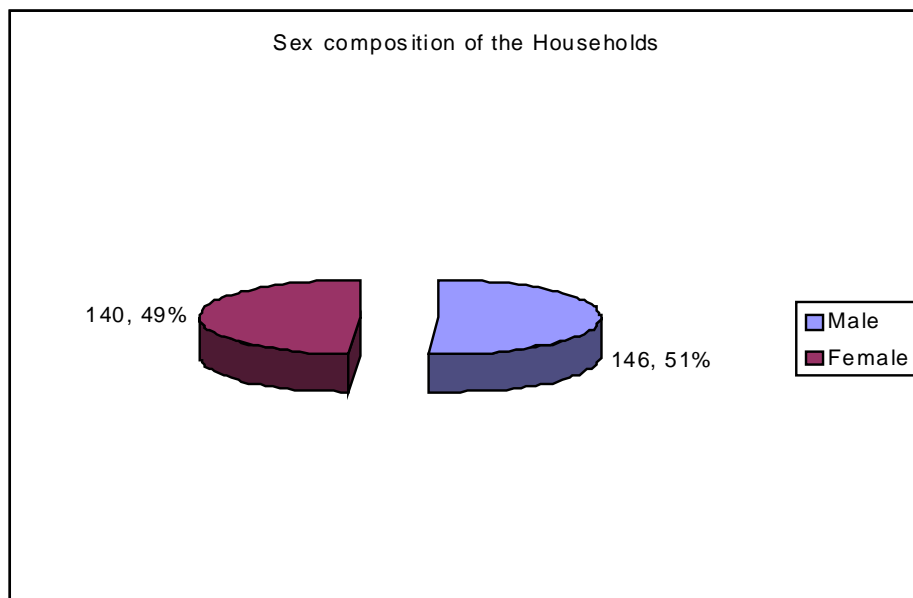
5.7 Sex Composition

The Pie Chart below shows the Sex composition of the respondents out of total 286

populations in 55 households, 140 are male and 146 female; which is 49% and 51% in calculation.

Graph: 3

Sex Composition of the respondents



Source: field survey, 2008

5.8 Marital Status

The table below shows the marital status of the respondents of studied area, and the information was provided by the family head / member in household survey. The data is classified into three categories; married, unmarried and widow. As per the information given married male are 49.30% where as it is 50.71% in case of female. Unmarried male are 50% and female 43.43%, there are 0.7% male and 2.86% female widows.

Table: 7

Marital Status of Respondents

categories	sex					
	Male		Female		Total	
	No	Percent	No	Percent	No	Percent
Married	72	49.30	71	50.71	143	50.00
Unmarried	73	50.00	65	46.43	138	48.00
Widows	1	0.70	4	2.86	5	2.00
Total	146	100.00	140	100.00	286	100.00

Source: Field survey, 2008

5.9 Occupational composition

Main occupation of Ghorahi Nagarpalika ward no 6 at Masina is farm or agriculture. Occupational composition is given in the table below.

Table: 8
Occupation of the Respondents

occupation	Sex					
	Male		Female		Total	
	No	percent	No	Percent	No	Percent
Agriculture	50	3.42%	85	60.71%	135	47.20%
Trade and business	10	0.68%	5	3.57%	15	5.24%
Service in Nepal	15	1.03%	2	1.43%	17	5.94%
Foreign employment	13	0.89%			13	4.55%
Wage/ labor	7	0.48%	4	2.86%	11	3.85%
Study	32	2.19%	36	25.71%	68	23.78%
Child below 5 years	19	1.30%	8	5.71%	27	9.44%
Total	146	10.00	140	100.00%	286	100.00%

Source: field survey, 2008

The table above shows that the majority of the people are involved in agriculture because Nepal is predominantly subsistence farming country with almost 85% of its total economically active population engaged in agriculture. Agriculture is the main source of livelihood for the people and backbone of the economy.

The respondents have adopted one or more occupations to sustain their lives. The occupation has been divided into two categories primary and secondary occupation. Primary occupation of the people of Masina is agriculture and secondary occupations are trade and business, service in Nepal, foreign employment, wage labor and study.

Above table shows that 47.20% people engaged in agriculture, 5.24% people engaged in trade and business, 5.94% people engaged in service in Nepal, 4.55% people engaged in foreign employment, 3.85% people engaged in wage labor, 23.78% are engaged in study and

9.44% people are child below 5 years.

5.10 Livestock Farming

Livestock are essential components of rural livelihoods and agriculture in rural areas depends on livestock. Most of the respondents were found to possess of one type of another. Below table shows the livestock holding situation of respondents. In the study area cows, buffalo and goats were most common livestock. Most of the respondents found having 1-2 goats. Some respondents having one buffalo, some respondents do have one to two cows and a pair of ox & pigs and some does not have any livestock.

Table: 9
Respondents According to Livestock Population

Livestock Type	Category A, no livestock	Category B, one livestock	Category C, 2 and above livestock	Total House Holds
Buffalo	27	24	4	55
Cow	41	10	4	55
Ox	48	2	6	55
Goat	20	17	18	55
Pigs	51	1	3	55

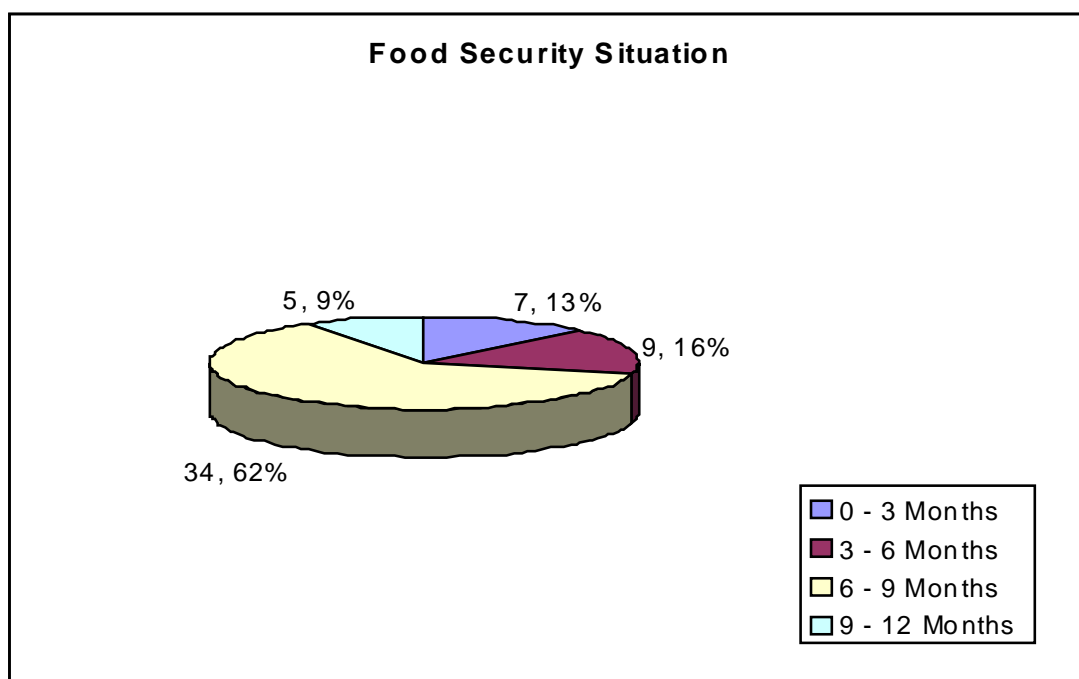
Source: field survey, 2008

The table above shows majorities of the people do have livestock but in small number. House holds not having any livestock are 4 (Field Survey). Households having one buffalo, cow, ox, goat and pig are 24, 10, 2, 17 and 1 respectively. Households not having any buffalo, cow, ox, goat and pigs are 27, 41, 48, 20 and 51 respectively. There are 4, 4, 6, 18 and 3 households having two and above Buffalo, Cow, Ox, Goat and Pigs among the 55 respondent households. The distribution shows only 7.2% households do have pigs and 14.54% do have Ox, People having buffalos are high around 51%. People having buffalos and cows are use to carry milk for sale into Ghorahi Bazaar.

5.11 Food Security Situation of the Study Area

Most of the villages in Dang District do have practice of subsistence farming, that's because of traditional type of farming and land holding sizes are too small. In the studied area only 5.9% people do have sufficient food for 9 – 12 months. 7.13% people have sufficient food for 0 – 3 months and 9.16% people have sufficient food for 3 – 6 months, where as it is 34.62% in case of 6 – 9 months food sufficiency.

Graph: 4
Food Security Situation

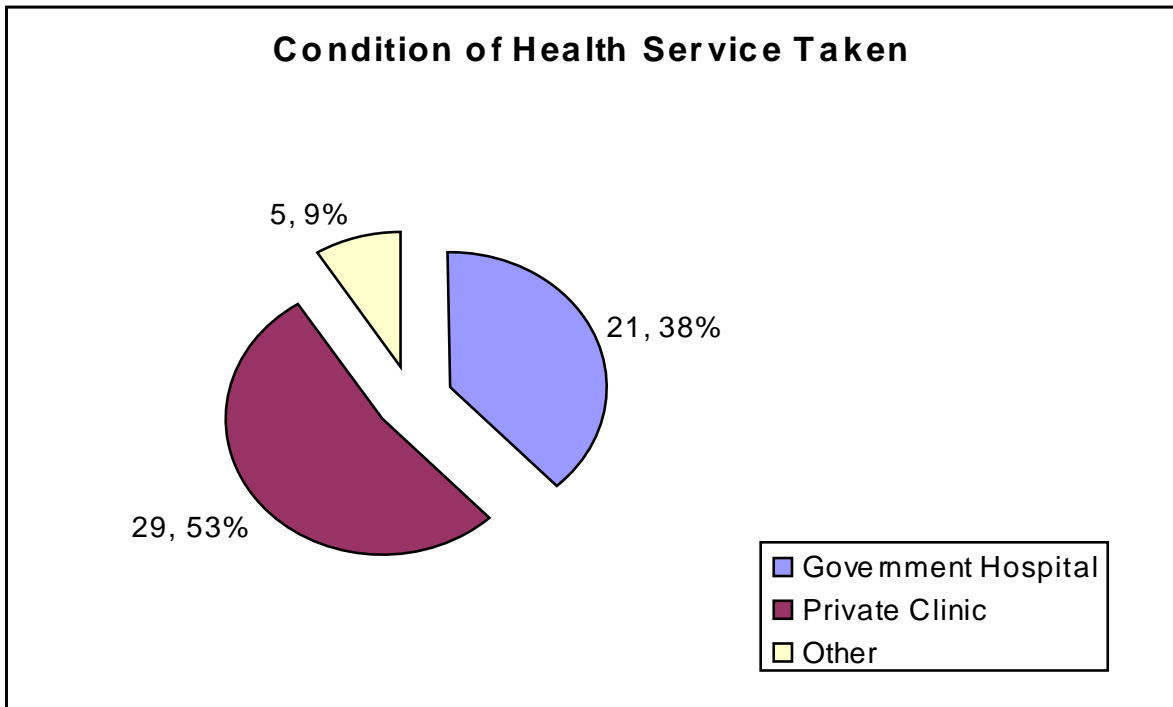


Source: Field survey, 2008

5.12 Condition of Health Services

Health is wealth for human being. If we are not healthy, we can't do any thing. Health is main property for each and every person. In Ghorahi Municipality ward no.6 Masina there is not availability of any health services except one district hospital and some private clinics. Health services can be classified into three categories as in the below pie chart.

Graph: 5
Condition of Health Services



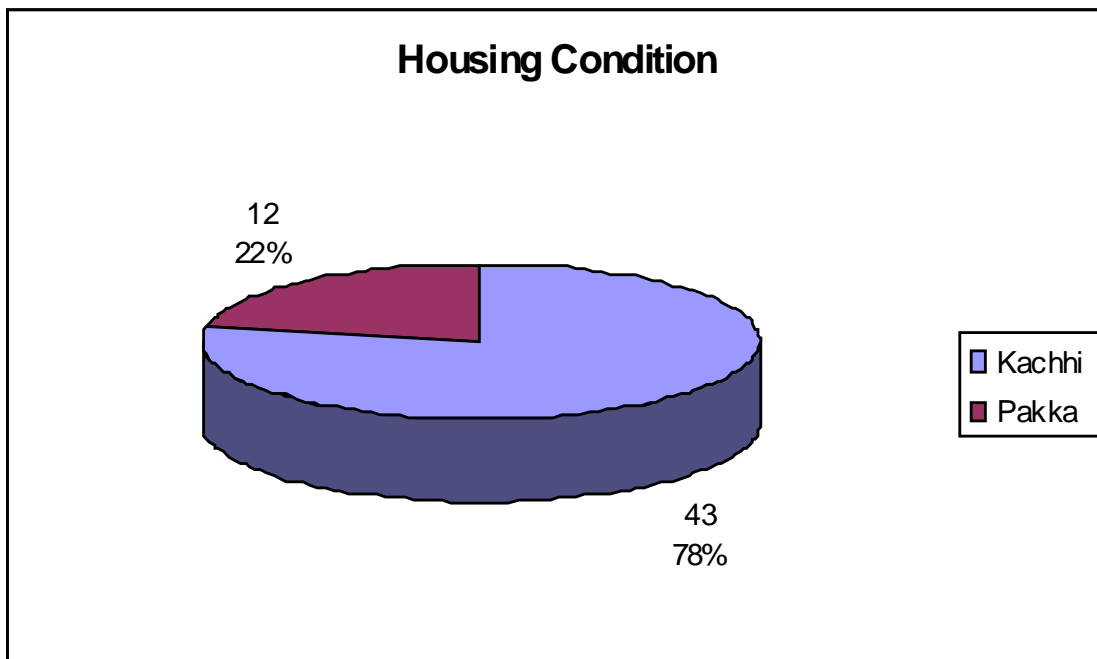
Source: Field survey, 2008

The above pie chart shows that People’s attraction is greater in private clinic than government hospital because some of the private clinics are providing free services for all check ups except pregnancy in Ghorahi. So people’s attraction to the private clinic is 53%, and government hospital is 38%. 9% people are still using traditional type of treatments by local Baidhaya and Dhami Jhankris. Though private clinics are expensive, people prefer them due to fast and better services.

5.13 Housing Condition

Housing condition shows the economic & social status and living standard of an individual. In the studied area, most of the houses are Kachhi. In the village; out of 55 households, 43 are Kachhi and rests 12 are pakki. Housing can also be classified into two categories as kachhi and pakki which is given as under:

Graph: 6
Housing Condition



Source; field survey, 2008

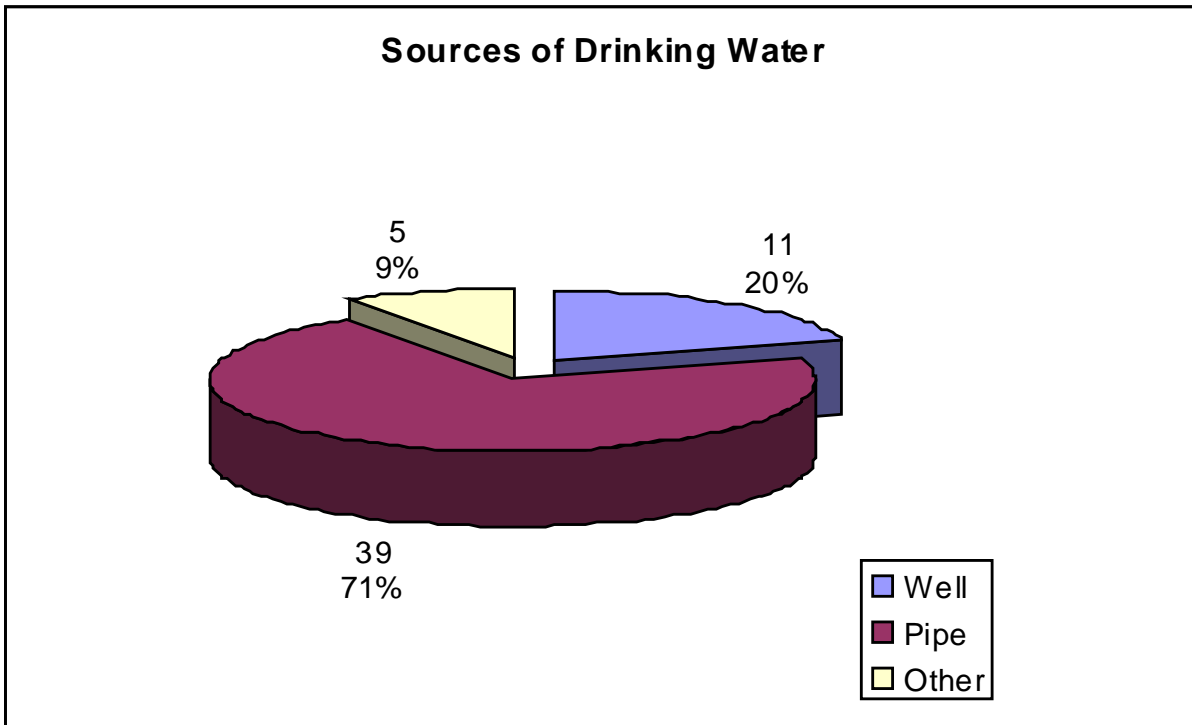
Above pie chart shows that 78% of the houses are kacchi and rest 22% of the houses are pakki. On the account of low economic status, migration to urban areas and conflict etc; more houses are kacchi.

5.14 Condition of Drinking Water in the Area

The main water resources of Ghorahi municipality, ward no. 6 Masina are Adhire khola and Kattua khola. These resources are useful for drinking water and irrigation facility for khet and Bari. Situation of drinking water in the CF area is being presented in the below chart.

Graph: 7

Source of Drinking Water



Source: Field survey, 2008

According to the respondents, 71% households use drinking water from pipe line supplied from small drinking water projects, about 20% do have their well in their own house compound and 9% people are using drinking water from ponds, rivers etc. Almost people are using safe water except 9% who use the water from other sources.

CHAPTER – 6: WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

6.1 Historical system of Forest management

Previously Ghorahi Municipality -6 at Masina's national forest was managed by chitarder system. Chitredar was practiced to appoint by the conference of villagers and they used to pay grain for forest watch man 1 - 2 pathi per year. Although people are doing the management and use of the forest they don't have ownership on the forest in that time because ultimately the forest was government managed or national forest. Users were permitted for grazing and collect grass (fodder), bedding and dry woods for all over the years they were not given the right to take timber without the permission of district forest office. Due to the lacing in the ownership and rights of local users the whole system of forest management was not properly used and the condition of forest was degrading year to year. Users used to stole timber according too their need.

After the handover of community forest to the local people; ownership as well the management transferred to the users and that caused to be more responsible for the sustainable management, use and development of the forest to the users. Currently people are motivated to forest land management, NTFPs cultivation, plantation of different trees for timber and fodder, active forest management and other income generation activities for poor and excluded peoples. They used to appoint the forest guard or forest watch person from the conference for controlling the irresponsible activities within the CF like grazing in protected area, over exploitation of fodder and fire woods, stole the timber etc. The watch person receives salary in monthly basis form income generated by selling the forest resources (Timber, Fodder, Fire wood etc). Usually the payment is very low for the watch person in CFUGs and in the studied CFUG they are paying NRs 1500.00 per month. Forest management activities are guided by the CF Operational Plan (OP) prepared by CF and approved by the DFO. Forest management activities involve the sustainable management and use of the forest resources and the forest OP include the activities to be conducted in the CFUG round the year. Usually DFO approves the OP for User has permission to collect dry wood twice in a year, once in September and March for one week. Of the CFUGs Mass meeting of CFUG has decided user couldn't have timber without the permission of district forest office. They used to collect certain fund and they pay money for forest watch person

from that fund.

6.2 Establishment of BMCFUG

Bhagwati Mahila Community Forest was handed over to the community in 2052 B.S. according to the operational plan and constitution has indicated following objectives of the CFUG. District forest office has approved its operational plan and constitution according to the forest act and regulation.

6.3 Objectives of the BMCFUG

- a) Conservation of forest resources (development, management and utilization of the forest).
- b) Supply of timber, fodder, firewood and other forest resources to the users.
- c) Revenue generation by selling of surplus forest resources.
- d) Conduct forest development activities for sustainability of forest resources.
- e) Keep balance on supplying forest resources on the basis of equity.
- f) To conserve water resources.
- g) To control soil erosion.
- h) Conduct socio-economic activities for poor and excluded users (35% fund should be used).

6.4 Constitution Procedure and Term of Committee Member

There are 11 members in executive committee and all members are women because it is women handled forestry. The term of committee member is of 5 years generally. Users committee is used to select by the coordination of the general meeting of the user group. If any opposition rises there, members must be selected through election among the member of the user group.

6.5 Level of Awareness

The CF programmer assumes that people (especially women because women are the main users of forest such as fuel wood, fodder and grass) should have a higher degree of understanding and clarity on CF concept and process and their roles and responsibilities.

Below table shows the quite interesting as well as surprising result and conforms that the level of information's poor among the CFUG members. Most of the respondents are familiar with name of CFUG, which is about 90 percent. About 50 percent people knew the area of the forestry, 30 percent people knew no. of house holds and year of hand over of their community forest from district forest office.

6.6 Basic Knowledge of Female Respondents about Community Forestry

Among the four questions asked to the respondent about CF name, its area, number of house holds in the CF and forest handed over 96%, 93%, 89% and 82% answered with out any hesitation and confusion. The data shows users do have general information regarding their community forest and they have participated in the development and management activities jointly.

Table: 10
Level of Awareness on CF

S.N.	Particular	No	Percent
1	CF name	53	96
2	Area	51	93
3	No. of house holds	49	89
4	Year of forest hand over	45	82

Source: field survey, 2008.

The table above shows that the respondent among 55 that answer the CF name is 53, Area of Forest is 51, No. of households 49 and year of hand over 45. The percentage of respondent has been depicted in the table. The number shows that more than 80 % of the user is aware about their Forest. Since, the respondents that could not answered area and year of forest hand over were illiterate. 2 respondents that could not answer had never attended the group assembly of the group. It shows that illiteracy and absence in group discussion can be main cause of lacking in awareness about their forest.

6.7 Distribution system of forest resources at BMCFUG

The information given below comes from the background of the statutory of BMCFUG

6.7.1 Fuel wood

In BMCFUG fuel wood used to distributes generally two times per year from November to February. Dry wood is provided without tax and green firewood used to provide taking 5 rupees per bhari for the household of users group and 60 rupees for external user. One bhari fuel wood is measured for 3ftlength firewood by 6ft length rope. There is no permission to bring wage labor to collect firewood. Family size is ignored in forest resource distribution. In practice it is found that field observation firewood is distributed by the chatta system (covered by 18-ft length rope). The length of firewood was found 3ft to 8ft length of firewood also ignored in practice and of someone couldn't collect firewood up to his/her right he/she couldn't have even up to his/her right

6.7.2 Timber

According to the need of user, timber used to provide by the decision of committee. Timber used to extract by cutting and thinning according to the advice of technician, being aware about forest condition. Twenty rupee used to take per cubic ft Sag and Asana timber and 10 rupee per other species of timber. Maximum 40 cubic ft timber might be providing for one user household.

6.7.3 Grass

According to the operational plan, user may collect grass in Bhadra, Aswin, Magh, and Chaitra one week per month without tax. Other forest resources are used to distribute according to the need and demand of users. No permission to collect leaf.

6.8 Prohibition in community forest

- a) Deforestation to keep in deposit and mortgages to hand over the ownership of the land of community forest.
- b) To cultivate agriculture products.
- c) To make house or huts.

- d) To keep or killing of wildlife illegally.
- e) To do any work, this may cause of soil erosion.
- f) To take and bring rock, soil, concrete, sank etc.
- g) Forest encroachment.

6.9 Penalties

On the basis of Act 2049, the operational plan of BMCFUG has some provision of penalties to control the activities against the operational plan.

Below table shows the rates of penalties about the main forest.

Table: 11

Penalties rate to user according to operational plan of study area

S.N.	Forest resources	Penalties for first time (RS)	Second time (RS)	Third time (RS)
1	Grass cutting	20	40	100
2	Sal for vata	100 per piece	150	200
3	Timber	200	400	600
4	Ballaballi	30	60	90
5	Green wood	100	200	300
6	Dry wood	30	40	50
7	Leaf litter	5	10	15
8	Bedding	5	10	15
9	Grazing	50	100	150
10	Coal making	100	200	300
11	Asna for ballaballi	100 per hand	150	200
12	Firing and hunting	According to law		
13	Absent in forest development activities	20	30	40

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Above table shows the penalties rate is low in the first time and provision of penalties

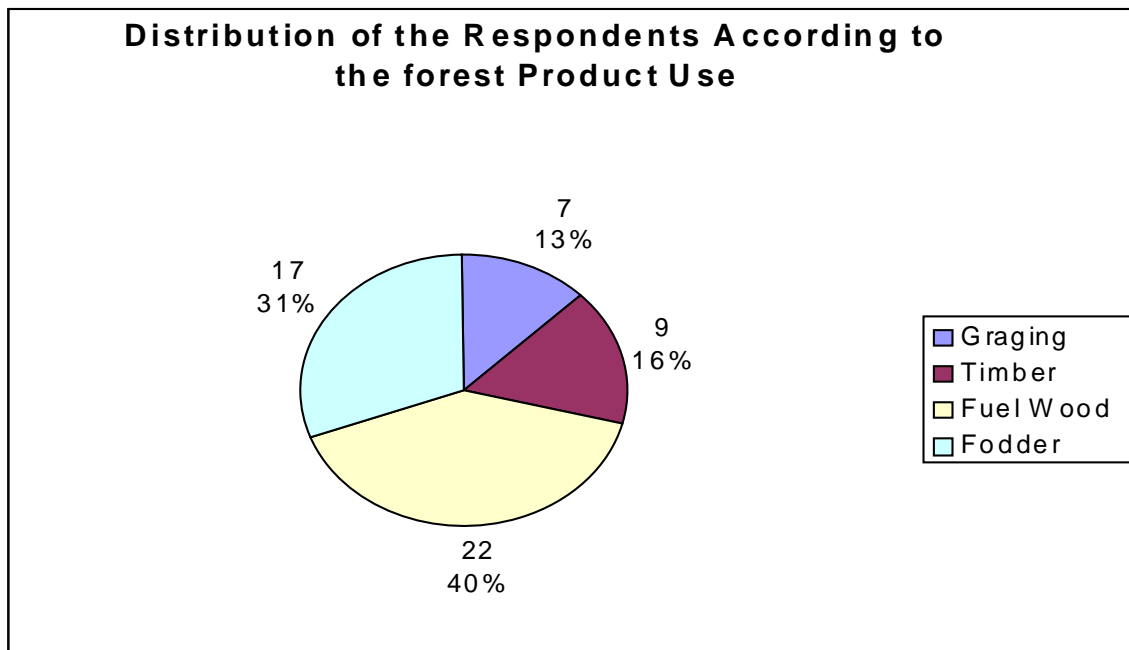
increased in second and third time. The rising condition of penalties according to occurrence of crime is useful to control the forest crime. According to the respondents, the penalty charged to the user holds equity for all members. There is no discrimination on the basis of caste, economic status or in any other basis.

6.10 Use of forest Products Prioritized by the Respondents

Villagers have easy access to the forest resources. The major economic activities of the respondents are agriculture and livestock for which they are fully dependant on forest resources. Mainly fodder and fuel woods are used villagers as their daily requirements. Cattle are taken for grazing in side and near by the forest area, they use timber when needed, with the prior concern of the project, especially for construction purpose. Fuel woods are taken as per the requirement of the household. Small hotels and tea shop also use fuel wood from the forest for their business purpose which helps in saving their costs for fuel consumption. Out of the total respondents 40% prioritized fuel wood as major forest product they use; 31% fodder, 13% grazing and 16% timber respectively.

Chart: 8

Forest Product Use Prioritized by Users



Source; field survey, 2008

The pie chart above shows that the major forest product consumption is fuel wood since the main fuel for cooking is wood in that community. Fodder is useful for composting and hut for cattle. The dried leaves are used as fodder. This takes the second major part in the consumption of forest product. Only the fully matured trees are used as timber and timber cutting requires authorization from the forest user group and District Forest office so it takes the minor part in the consumption of forest product.

People use their own land for grazing and not all the households own the cattle. So, the use of the forest for grazing is least.

6.11 Involvement in forest resource collection by gender

In Bhagwati Mahila Community Forest User Group households used to collect grass and fuel wood annually. Timber is collected according to their need and availability according to the OP. Below table shows the involvement in forest resources by gender.

Table: 12

Involvement in forest resources collection by gender

S.N.	Household involved in forest resource collection				No of respondents	
	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	No	Percent
Fuel wood	15	27.27	40	72.73	55	100
Grass and fodder	21	41.18	30	58.82	51	100
Timber	9	100	--	--	9	100

Source: field survey, 2008

Above table shows the involvement of gender for collection of forest resources in the CF. According to the information given by the respondents out of 55 households 27.27% male and 72.73% female are involved in collection of fuel wood, where it is 41.18% male and 52.82% female in case of fodder and grass. Timber is used only by the households increased

or migrated so the trend analysis of three years shows only 9 households have taken the benefit of timber annually (Calculation was made in average), usually male are involved in cutting and carrying timber.

The data shows that the involvement of women is higher in fuel wood collection and Grass and fodder collection where as in the works of timber there is total involvement of men. Most of the women spend their time in domestic works like cooking, raring, caring that lead to the collection of fuel wood, grass and fodder. Generally, men do the earning job and heavy works so they involve in timber works.

6.12 Participation in General Assembly of BMCFUG by age and sex

General meeting of user group held two times per year. There is compulsion to attend the meeting for all households. Since this CFUG is female managed CFUG, most of the people participate in CFUG are female; due to the unavailability and other internal problems man also participate in general assembly of the CFUG. Attendance in the last general assembly by age and sex given is as below.

Table: 13

Distribution of household members participated in general Assembly by age and sex

Meeting attend by age	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Total	Percent
15-25	5	2.81	15	8.43	20	11.24
25-35	7	3.93	35	19.66	42	23.59
35- 45	15	8.42	55	30.9	70	39.32
45 and above	9	5.06	20	11.23	29	16.29
Not participated			17	9.56	17	9.56
Total	36	20.22	142	79.78	178	100

Source: field survey, 2008

Above table shows that female participation is high in the comparison of man because the community forest is women managed. Male participation is low because of the female managed nature of CF. Generally man used to participate in spite of availability of women in the HHs due to the busy ness.

6.13 Role of women in general Assembly

In the field study fifty five households were taken for sampling. Here decision is more important than physical attendance. All women should be active in decision making and planning. Below table shows the role of women in general meeting.

Table: 14

Role Played by Women in General Assembly

Women's role in meeting	No. of respondents attend	percent
Like audience	7	12.73
Giving suggestion	15	27.27
Discussion	10	18.18
Decision making	18	32.73
Non participate	5	9.09
Total respondents	55	100

Source: field survey, 2008

Above table presents the role of women in general meeting. 7 member 12.73 percent respondents were just listen like audience. 15 member 27.27 percent respondents are giving suggestion. 10 member 18.18 percent were participated in discussion. 18 member 32.73 percent respondents were participated in decision making. Among them, 5 member 9.09 respondents were not participated in general assembly.

6.14 Affecting factor for Women's Participation in CF Management

Being a women there are several affecting factors in society. Various factors are affecting for women in CF management such as family, society, culture, education, psychology, time, economy etc. Factor for women especially for study area is divided in two categories; obstacles for women's participation and motivational factor. Factors supporting to increase the women's participation are included in motivational factors, which are the barriers for women's participation are mentioned in obstacles.

6.15 Motivational Factors for Women's Participation

There are several motivational factors for women participation in CF management such as opportunity of leadership, self motivation, empowerment program, government policy, and family factor.

Training, Tour, observation, listening to government official and extensions are strong motivating factors for women participation.

Table No: 15

Motivational Factor for Women Participation in CF Activities

S.N	Motivational Factors	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Opportunity of Leadership	9	16.36
2	Self Motivation	8	14.55
3	Empowerment Programmes by I/N/GOs/	20	36.36
4	Government Policy	11	20
5	Family Factor	7	12.73
Total		55	100

Source: field survey, 2008.

Above table shows several motivational factors for women participation. Among them, 9 respondents 16.36 percent respondents were motivated from opportunity leadership. 8 respondents 14.55 percent respondent were self motivated. 20 or 36.36 percent respondent were motivated from INGOs /NGOs /GOs awareness program . 11 or 20 percent respondent were motivated from government policy to make minimum one third female member must be in all development work. And government policy to focus on advertises and communication about community forest model motives for women community forest actives. 7 respondents or 12.73 percent respondents were motivated from family factor or husband advice. Majority of the respondents were motivated from INGOs/NGOs awareness programmed.

The table above shows that opportunity of leadership, self motivation, and empowerment programme by INGOs/NGOs/GOs, government policy and family are motivational factors for women's participation. In field survey 55 households women were collected for listen their voice among them,9 respondents16.36 percent were motivated from opportunity leadership.8 or 14.55 percent were self motivated.20 or 36.36 percent respondents were motivated from INGOs/NGOs/GOs or awareness program to motivate women involve in development activities.11 or 20 percent respondents were motivated from government policy because government policy make minimum one third female member must be in participated in all programme. 7 respondents or 12.73 percent were motivated from family factor or husband advice. Here the majority of the respondents were motivated from awareness program launched by NGOs/INGOs.

6. 16 Social Obstacles for Women's Participation in CF Management Activities

Women have different obstacles for participation in community forestry management activities and other local development activities in study area are briefly mentioned following topics.

6.16.1 Traditional male dominated culture

It is true that Nepalese women are dominated from male. In study area, there is existing Hindu cultural system. In Hindu culture women are fixed in household work and they have restriction to go and stay away from the home without male member permission. The concept of purity and pollution of female make limited to do house hold work. They feel odd or hesitation to speak with unfamiliar person. According to the culture, meeting attend, decision making and participate in public sphere are only right for male not for female. It is major problem for women.

6.16.2 Feeling of incapability

In the study area women themselves feeling incapability or females have humiliation feeling. They feel that they are not able then male for discussion, decision- making and other development activities. They could not make good relation with district forest staff, staff of forest related NGOs/INGOs and they are not capable to do systematic managerial task than

male. Due to the humiliation feeling makes the women passive in CF management and other developmental work.

6.16.3 Less opportunity for women in every development works

Nepal is patriarchal country or here is rule of male members so female of Nepal are always dominated by male members. In study area also male are playing dominant roles in every development activities. In every developmental works male do careless and minimize for female members. So this cause woman makes unwilling to participate and didn't want to put their views in meeting.

6.16.4 Lack of time

Most of women's time used up in child rearing, caring, feed household members and livestock, agricultural works makes the women busier. If they participated in meeting and other development activities, they must left their household's works. So lack of time is also major obstacles for women in public sphere.

6.16.5 Low economic condition

In the study area most of the households are low economic condition. They spend most of the time for sustain economic activities. Due to the poor economic condition they have lack of time and education. The poor women always dependent with rich person so they have no time for share their ideas with each other. Women couldn't share their ideas if the views were against the view and interest of rich person. So that poor women have many obstacles to participate in public activities and have many problems to share their views.

6.16.6 Lack of permission to attend meeting

It is reality that in Hindu culture, women are fixed for their household duty like clean the house, to make food, wash clothes, child and old person rearing, caring livestock care and agricultural works. Especially newly married bride, daughter- in law and daughters of family are lack of permission to go public activities because of the concept of purity and pollution. If any women like to participate, it may be problem of permission for her to attend meeting.

6.16.7 Illiteracy

Illiteracy is also another barrier in the smooth administrative function of the committee. The majority of the CF members are illiterate. Only two members are educated and capable to writing minutes but they did still not have necessary administrative skill or experience to do the work. The majority of the respondents are illiterate. They require help from male. Lack of education was seen as problem by these committees and was given as a reason to include men". (Parsai: 1987)

Women are more illiterate than male in study area. Illiterate women have many problems to read and write the rules, regulations and minutes of the CF meeting. Due to the illiteracy they have problem to learn forest management skills also so that illiteracy is one of the causes of women participation.

Table: 16
Social Obstacles for women participation

S.N.	Obstacles for women	No. of respondents	Percent
1	Traditional male dominance	10	18.18
2	Illiteracy	12	21.82
3	Lack of permission	7	12.73
4	Low economic condition	5	9.09
5	Lack of time	6	10.91
6	Feeling incapable	7	12.73
7	Less chance for women in every development activities	8	14.54
	Total	55	100

Source: field survey, 2008

Above table explains the affecting factor/obstacles for women participation in development and management activities of community forest. Respondents gave their views in different way according to their understanding. The table mentioned obstacles are responsible for

women participation not for a single cause. 10 respondents 18.18 percent viewed main obstacle for traditional male dominance culture. 12 or 21.82 percent respondents viewed illiteracy is major cause for less participation. 7 or 12.73 percent respondent's indicated lack of permission to participate in the CF activates. Where it is 5 or 9.09 due to the low economic condition of women, 6 or 10.91 percent viewed they lack of time to participate. 7 or 12.73 percent respondents are feeling incapable and they hesitate to go front and participate; 14.54 percent respondents or 8 respondents viewed less chance for women in every development activities is major obstacles for participation.

6.17 Women's attitude towards community forest arrangement

According to the view of 55 respondent, female key informant and field observation; it was found that the forest condition is being better than past .Total 55 respondents and other key informant also agree about good condition of forest than the past and they were satisfied. In 55 respondents, 85% female respondents were satisfied with the behavior of committee member and female committee member selection process. And 15% respondents views that the committee member makes not so good relation with other general user member. They feel themselves superior and they did misuse their authority. They were not satisfied with the female committee member selection process.

6.18 Supportive Organization

supportive organization as perceived by the respondents are: DFO Dang, LFP Dang , WDB Dang , NTFP Dang and Range post Dang has providing technical and financial support in enterprise development , nursery establishment, seedling production group house construction, and protection and development of forest discussion with CFUG members reveals that they can manage their CF on their own method.

Table: 17**Training Attended by the users of BMCFUG**

S. N	Title of the Training Program	Provided by	No. of Participants
1	Forest Management Coaching	LFP/ DFO Dang	15
2	Pro-poor and Social Inclusion	LFP/ DFO Dang	5
3	Social Mobilization and Women Empowerment	WDB Dang	7
4	Account Training	LFP/ DFO Dang	6
5	NTFP Cultivation Training	LFP/ DFO Dang	4
6	Vegetable Farming Training	DADO	11
	Total		48

Source; field survey, 2008

The table above shows the level of information of respondents for requirement of training in community forest activities. 15 respondents had participated in forest management coaching, provided by LFP/DFO Dang. 5 respondents had participated in pro-poor and social inclusion, provided by LFP/DFO Dang. 7 respondents had attended social mobilization and women empowerment, provided by WDB Dang. 6 respondents had taken account training which was launched by LFP/DFO Dang. 4 respondents had taken NTFP Cultivation training which was provided by LFP/DFO DANG. 11 respondents had participated in vegetable farming training provided by DADO.

6.19 Performance of committees as perceived by respondents

The table below shows that the performance of committees as perceived by female respondents in community forest management system. In the study area, most of the user groups agreed that they are satisfied with the performance of their committee and functions in a transparent way, responsibilities are spelled out in daily life. The existing CFUGs are still

immature and not fully institutionalize and lack of experience. Information flow among CFUGs activities is rescued in favor of few elite members. According to respondents, the committee has been functioning in a transparent way and accountability between executive committee and CFUGs and female committee member selection process.

Performance of committees

Table: 18

S.N	Particular	Respondents	Yes	No
1	Do you satisfied with the performance of the committee?	55	51	4
2	Does the committee function in a transparent way?	55	50	5
3	Is the committee accountable?	55	53	2
4	Does committee make feel to users on their rights?	55	52	3
5	Does the responsibilities spelled out in a daily life?	55	53	2

Source; field survey, 2008

The table above shows that a big majority of the respondents are content with the performance of the committee. Only 5 respondents answered with ‘no’ about the transparency of the committee. 53 respondents out of 55 found the committee to be accountable. 52 respondents said that the committee made feel to users on their right and in the same way 53 respondents felt to have been responsible in their daily life as well.

6.20 Views of local people about women role and community forest

In the period of data collection, group discussion program, local people and key informants view were collected and consulted informally. Different views were found about the women’s role toward the community forest management and other development activities. Views of local people were divided into two parts. They are positive and negative views which are given below.

6.21 Positive views get from group discussion program, local people and key informants about women's committee

- a) Women can be actively worked if they have chance.
- b) Women are follows the rules and regulation systematically.
- c) Women used to help for forest watch person.
- d) Women have good skill to manage the community forest activities.
- e) Women used to participate in CF meeting and share their feelings and ideas in discussion and decision making process.

In the study area, local people found positive with women and community forest management system. Although they are busy in their household work and they are helping to manage the forest. Most of the women are actively participate in general meeting and they followed rule and regulation about CF management system. They helped the forest watch person for forest rearing and caring. They have no experience to take part in discussion and decision making, are trying to keep their views in meeting. If they have training, awareness programs and other support and encourage of male they can play active role in forest management and other development activities. So they must be included in development activities with out gender bias.

6.22 Negative views obtained from group discussion program, local people and key informants about women's committee

In study area local people and key informants gave some positive as well as negative views. Some negative views are mentioned in the following.

- a) Women didn't want to participate in CF meeting because they are weak in decision making and discussion.
- b) Women couldn't able to be actively play dominant and creative roles if they have chance.
- c) Women have not wide concept to manage development activities in public sphere.
- d) Women don't care about public concerns.
- e) Women have no idea and ability to forest management.
- f) Women must manage their internal household task, it is not a duty of women to attend meeting and be active in social development activities.

Above list shows that the negative views of local people about women, according to the local people views, women don't interest in public concern, they don't want to participate in development activities and they are not capable to do social development activities including community management and work if they have chance, all are the causes of traditional, task of male dominated society. All causes are the practice of patriarchal society, where the rule by male members. The strong support of traditional male dominant cultural system has negative views about role towards public concern. The next group of local people believes that social development is not possible without proper involvement of women in local development activities including the use and management of resources.

6.23 Success and Failure Programs obtained from group discussion, local people and key informants

6.23.1 Success Programs

Income generating activities implemented targeting to poor and excluded people with involvement of wider stakeholders seen as success programs. Basically these income generating program are targeted to uplift the livelihoods of the poor and excluded people with in Community Forest Users Groups (CFUGs). Forest based enterprises promotion, livestock, non-timber forest product (NTFPs) cultivation and processing marketing through land allocation to poor and excluded communities of CFUGs. While promoting micro and small enterprises for the communities need to be supported in package (in the level of marketing, production and services delivery).

Program related to good governance in CFUGs level are also example of successful programs. These programs include participatory planning process, resource allocation in the benefit of total community, self-evaluation, public auditing and voice influence of marginal people. These programs caused CFUGs towards self-reliance in relation to optimum resource mobilization and allocation to the benefit of CFUG members.

In case of Dang Livelihoods and Forestry Program (LFP is one of the major donor in forestry sector has implemented different income generating, livelihoods and good governance activities in collaboration with District Forest Office (DFO) and other stakeholders in

livelihoods and forestry sector. In Dang around eighty hectare of land has been allocated for poor and excluded people for income generating activities to poor and excluded and other CFUG members for NTFP cultivation. Major NTFPs cultivated in allocated lands of CFUGS in Dang are Kurilo, Sarpagandha, Bojho, Ashogandha, Mehandi, Sandal Wood, Bamboo, Kalmegh, Lemon Grass, Citronella, Chamomile etc. These NTFPs do have remarkable contribution in the livelihoods of rural poor and excluded people. In the studied CFUG also Gos, NGOs and Donor has supported for cultivation of Kurilo, Dalchini, Sarpagandha and Mehandi for 27 house holds of the CFUGs in one and half hectare land. LFP is also supported on sustainable harvesting of different NTFPs and marketing for maximizing the benefit to community.

While promoting the NTFP cultivation demand driven and market lead approach should be adopted because Nepalese NTFPs market is totally depended on Indian market (around 95% of NTFPs are exported crude from India – Source: Prakash Subedi, Enterprise Development Officer, LFP Mid-west Coordination Office, Ghorahi Dang) and abroad markets are also highly competitive. It needs to go for processing and product development for maximizing the benefit to real collector and cultivators of NTFPs.

Achievements as the Success Programmers in Community Forest

1. Sustainable Forest Management
2. Users more benefited in comparison to before
3. Women involvement in forest management (40% involvement in executive committee)
4. Users awareness
5. Fund mobilization increased for the poverty alleviation of poor and excluded users.
6. Tole group's formation initiated.
 -) Leadership development.
 -) Participation.
 -) Planning and implementation.
 -) Communication
7. Transparency (improvement of technical part in forest management).
8. Initiated to incorporate sufficient provisions in operational plan or OP and Constitution for inclusion and equitable distribution of resources. Inclusion especially of the following

users:

-) Dalit
-) Women
-) Users from different ethnic groups.
-) Poor
-) Helpless and disables
-) Disaster victims etc.

9. Self – dependency of users high initiated.

10. Objective oriented management

11. User’s concerns to object oriented management.

12. Male dominant society

13. Hesitation to participate due to awareness, literacy, and self motivation (refused to participate even when the floor is open)

6.23.2 Failure Programs

Programs lunched with out need assessment of the community or participants seen little bit failure in comparison to other programs. It has been learned that program should be on lunched in demand driven rather than supply driven. Skill training conducted to different CFUGs does not work if participants are not properly selected through social mobilization and need base. In some cases Infrastructure development programs also have ownership problem because of rung area selection, lacking in social mobilization, and supply driven approach while delivering the projects in CFUGs.

According to the forest Act and regulation CFUGs should allocate 25% of their revenue from forest resources in forest development activities beyond that CFUGs are not doing so because of lacing in proper monitoring system. Thus the policy should also develop some system for the effective implementation system for effective implementation of the program and their success.

People do not have entrepreneurship culture with in the CFUGs; implementing the micro and small enterprise development activities it need to be develop entrepreneurship culture through counseling, training and backstopping. Package support while developing community-based

enterprise seems must. There is still dominance of elite and upper cast in the forest resources; it need to be special attention while lunching the program targeted to poor and excluded in CFUGs. Public Private Partnership (PPP) approach is one of the must successful approaches for promoting the income generating and enterprise promotion activities to uplift the livelihoods form the sector.

Causes for failure Programs in community forests

1. Unfair distribution of resources
2. Male dominance
3. Elite dominance on the major resources like timber
4. Illiteracy in remote village caused women less participation in CF management and development activities
5. There is still need of some intensive programmers for women in community forestry
6. Land allocation for NTFP cultivation still seems having very low contribution to poor.

6. 24 Comments obtained from group discussion, key informants and local people

- 1 Biasness among rich and poor towards the use of forest products.
- 2 The local people felt that there is biasness among rich and poor while providing services and timber contract to the local people. Poor's voice was not heard.
- 3 They felt that natural forest was destroyed and new species were planted.
- 4 Corruption among the forest officers. Corruption is being among the officers while timber collection.
- 5 Forest watchperson is careless in his/ her duty which led to increase in illegal cutting.

6.25 Suggestions obtained from group discussion, key informants and local people

- 1 Awareness programmer about forest should be organized.
- 2 Village development and other development activities should be promoted.
- 3 Illegal cutting should be minimized.
- 4 Use of indigenous knowledge in collaboration with major technical parts that can't be ignored.
- 5 Sustainability is a prime concern now a day.

- 6 Use of local resources as well as possibility.
- 7 Community based management system /CF operation plan preparation and implementation in the government managed forest.
- 8 Forest protection actives should be promoted, such as creating awareness among the people, forest patrolling, case filing to the offenders.

sCHAPTER–7: STATUS / IMPLEMENTION OF FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE STUDY AREA

Implementation of OP for the management of the forest is the most important aspect of community forest. The forest act 1993 requires the all FUGs follow approved OPs for managing their CFs. Implementation of Ops requires that aspect to be covered: forest protection, forest development, and forest utilization. Ignorance in the implementation of OP leads either to over -protection of the forest with no development and under -utilization of forest products or to over- harvesting leading to non-sustainability. Both situations are unacceptable in forest management. Thus it is necessary that all FUGs posses adequate knowledge and skill i implementation of their OPs. In terms of forest protection, forest development forest utilization and identify and analysis the areas of weakness while discussing the forest management activities.

7.1 Duties and Responsibilities of Forest User Group and Executive Committee

User committee has to perform some duties and responsibilities which will be mentioned in later topics. But if user committee needs to formulate the new rules or if they want change the formulated rules, they have to decide any they can implement after the permission of DFO. Duties and responsibilities of the forest user committee are as follows:

- 1- To discuss on forest management and other causal problems and call the meeting.
- 2- To take the necessary steps for the development of forest such as choosing the spot, planting, curing the plants, bedding, pruning, thinning etc.
- 3- To collect the forest product, use it properly and take the necessary steps for its sale and distribution.
- 4-To punish and fine, the individual who is against the rules and regulation of operational plan and get necessary help from DFO
- 5- To conserve the forest and protect the plants from being harmful illegally.
- 6- To prevent it from cattle grazing firing.
- 7- To talk DFO, take necessary technological advice and other helps if needed.
- 8- To write the DFO for permission, if anything changed in working plan of forest or new rules formulated.
- 9- To notify the users once a year about the decision.

10-To send one duplicate copy of decision effect by the forest user committee to DFO.

11- To announce publicity, income and expenditure of the committee every year.

12- If the chairman of the committee wants to resign he/ she should submit the resignation to the committee and chairman. In both cases, the letter will be accepted by the meeting and some users from the region will be elected for the vacant post.

7.2 Operational plan, Implementation and forest management activities

7.2 Forest protection

Forest Protection includes any action that is helpful in protecting forest from harmful activities. In the context of community forest in Nepal, such harmful activities may include encroachment for agriculture, unauthorized removal of trees and other plants, excessive grazing and setting of fire in the forests. These are human activities and women's participation in CF management is important about these matters.

Women are really aware to protect the forest because they are the main user of forest product. The protection system adopted by the women users is largely effective, indicating their participation in protection activity. For protection they have made many rules and regulations. Which are given below?

- Forest Development
- Forest Utilization
- Rules of using the forest product
- Rules for Fuel wood
- Rules for Timber
- To increase Income of Group Surplus and Sell the forest product
- Protect the plants and herbs which are disappearing
- To increase the opportunity of employment and income generating activities
- Encourage to plant fast growing and Improved Grass
- Mobilization of income fund
- keep environment good and green
- provision of fodder and forage grass
- Timely available of wood/timber

For forest development and forest protection, forest user members have made many rule and regulations for all user groups which are given above points. These Rules and regulations followed strictly and day to day life for all members, not for only individual. If any person doesn't follow this rule, user committee members should punish him/ her.

7.3 Forest Development

Forest development encompasses all those activities that lead to increase in forest or improvement in the quality of existing forests. In Nepal, the term is used sinuously to cover all forest related technical activities. Thus, nursery operation, plantation, weeding , tiding operations such as thinning, pruning, singling and all other silvi cultural treatment are included in forest development is therefore developing their interest and participation to develop forest resources to fulfill their needs.

Women participation in development practice through community forest is found active but not satisfactory. To increase women's participation in CF management, it must be necessary to develop their interests in forest development activities because the forest development is the most important management aspect of OP implementation and women's participation can play vital role in forest development activities. FUGS conducted most of the technical activities indicated in their Ops. However, in spite of government's financial support for seedling production, plantation and weeding, achievement in these activities was mostly poor because users lacked both time and skills to carry out those activities. Similarly the cultural operations such as thinning, pruning and singling were not conducted satisfactory even though some user's male and female both have received in forest management. Women participation in development activities is seems below now it is necessary to think how women's feelings can develop towards forest development practices.

7.4 Forest utilization

Forest utilization refers to the harvesting of both wood and non-wood forest product. Ops indicate that main forest product to be harvested including timber, firewood, grass, fodder and life-litter, although other products such as medicinal herbs are also sometimes harvested. Women's participation in FUGs in forest utilization will be required in

systematic harvesting of the product as prescribed by the Ops.

Forest utilization is third and final aspect of Op to be discussed. FUGs harvested timber fuel wood and NTFPs as indicated in their Ops. However, utilization patterns were not found to be sustainable. The areas of weakness were contradicting in government policy on timber transport and sale, and lack of knowledge and skill among FUGs for volume estimation, economical maintenance sawing and tree stand manipulation, which is affected all type of forest products and utilization. Thus, women's participation and utilization is inadequate. Removing this hindrance is essential if the participatory women's are enhancing their ability to utilize their forest properly.

Which are the main objectives for forest management but there are other issues in implementation Ops. But our study site they were not so applicable. There were some rules for forest utilization which are described below.

7.5 Rules Related for Fuel wood

Forest user committee has formulated the rules about fuel wood. Women are only allowed to cut the branches like unhealthy, dry, pest attacked fallen dry branches, dead plants, and unnecessary shrubs and so on. The collected wood is divided for all user groups in a nominal cost.

7.6 Rules of using the forest product

The forest products like dry leaves, timber and wood, litter, dry branches, fodder and forage grasses etc. can't be used as a personal interest and desire.

The user committee has formulated ruled to utilize the forest product for all members of the groups. If any person does not follow the rules he| she will be punished according to rules to discourage these types of activities.

7.7 Rules for Timber

The tree can't be cut without taking permission from forest user committee. They have fixed the rate regarded the cubic foot for public welfare and personal. The wood for timber purpose is providing on priority basis like those houses, which have poor

economic condition. Before cutting the wood for timber purpose all official process should be completed. They have the application, approval process from user group, identification of tree etc.

7.8 To increase income of group surplus and sell the forest product

To increase income in CFUG they have sold their forest product but which is not surplus product. Because they compulsion to sell forest products without sufficient consumes. Main source of the income of the group is forest product.

7.9 Protect the Plants and Herbs which are disappearing

In CFUG it is necessary to protect the plants and herbs because in Bhagwati Mahila Community forest has old types of plants and herbs are disappearing. So it will be very serious matter in future. It is inevitable to protect those disappearing herbs. In both FUGs, women users were conscious about herbs because it is very important for herbal medicine. There have been made many rules and regulation for protection of herbs.

7.10 To increase employment opportunities and income generating activities

In CFUG, without much success committee members and users were consulting DFO and other organization to provide fund to increase forest activities and employment opportunity. But they have developed some employment opportunity through their CF and support from DFO.

For income generating activities, they have selected the poor people, among them who are marginalized group, women etc. They have distributed goats; poultry for the enlistment of living condition those who have not their own low and upland areas.

7.11 Support to plant quick increasing and improved grasses

Quick growing plant is one of the important forest resources to fulfill the demand of grass which will give the output after 3-4 years. It is also important to fulfill user's other needs like to make roof of the house, cattle's house etc. It is also useful to fulfill small type of fodder. In study area plantation of quick increasing plants was not attractive but they were

still in traditional manner. They think that old type of trees were useful for grass.

7.12 Mobilization of income fund

The income from forest product, donation from the visitor or other organization, grant agency are saved in bank under the present and treasure account.

The money is mobilized in different community development activities. They invest money in social works and community development activities.

7.13 Keep environment healthy and green

Fresh air is extremely required for human being to remain healthy who is possible only keep environment healthy when if we were able to protect forest.

7.14 Provision of fodder and forage grass

In study area is recognized as a resident area of farmers. They have to rare cattle, cow Buffalo, goat and other livestock from there. They have been taking fodder and forage for the livestock from there. As a result they have got more production from the livestock by keeping them healthy through nutritional diet from the forest product.

7.15 Timely Available of Wood or Timber

Before registering the community forest there was no sufficient wood and timber for people. They had destroyed the jungle for personal interest and desire. As a result, the jungle has slightly converted into desert. But now the condition is improving. There is sufficient wood and timber for them.

CHAPTER – 8: SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

8.1 Summary

The term community in its broadest sense may refer to any group of person united by a “Community of Interest”. In this sense professional group, a residential unit a club or a voluntary association may all be referred to as communities. Forest is a biological community dominated by trees and other wooden vegetation. This community forestry means something like ‘People’s Forestry’.

This acknowledges that community forestry activities are aimed at providing direct benefits to rural people and that the people should have a substantial role in decision making. At this level that is as a statement about the philosophy behind community forestry there is nothing wrong with the term. (Gilmour and Fisher: 1992)

Forest means an area fully or partly covered by trees. It is one of the most important natural resources of Nepal for socio- economic development and people’s livelihood yet the management of forest is still on its primitive stage. Forest degradation and deforestation are major problems in Nepal since few years.

People use the forest for many purposes such as fuel wood, fodder timber and minor forest product such as fruits, nuts, medicine and honey etc. It is essential to protect soil against erosion providing clear water reducing landslides, floods, maintaining ecological balance and preventing environmental degradation (Kayastha : 1991)

Dang District is one of the inner Terai District lies in Midwestern Development Region of Nepal. There are 2 Municipalities and 39 Village Development Committees. Among them, Masina is VDC which is situated in Ghorahi Municipality, ward no –6 and Bhagwati Mahila Community Forestry User Group (BMCFUG) is selected for the study. That forest also lies in ward no. 6. It is purely Women’s handled Committee and women’s participation committee. BMCFUG has consists 178 households, among them 55 households are taken randomly for the study.

Deforestation has become a serious problem in Nepal and only the government’s efforts are not sufficient to solve the problems. It only depends to solve the forest problem from government if there will increase many serious problems and people’s life will be very hard to mention the life. The major problems are lack of grass, fodder, fallen dry leaves, fuel

wood, timber and branch of Sal etc. The other problems are begged off water sources and increasing soil erosion.

In Nepalese context, women are the major user of the forest product and they have main responsibilities for forest protection and development activities. Rapidly increasing deforestation process, only government's efforts are not enough, women themselves should be made conscious for their active participation. In male dominated society females are always dominated by male members for their active participation in community forestry management and other development activities

For timber and fuel wood collection, Forest is the source of livelihood for the poor and marginal people. During dry season people don't have work in farm. So their profession might be changed by employing them in the forestry development activities through community forest rather than poaching timber and fuel wood from the forest. Such employment program should reflect the community forestry strategies that can exactly uplift the livelihood with no hammering.

From the time when the management of forest is transferred to the local community, it has been seen that the deforestation has been controlled and its management is being good .But there may still persist lots of problems within the community people regarding the community forest. Complexities may arise during the implantation of rules as people are uneducated and are not conscious about their roles in community works.

The community forest that has been chosen for the study is totally managed by women. Condition of women in the area is very miserable as majorities are uneducated, poor and the society is male dominant. Women are not allowed to participate actively in the social development activities and are deprived from management works. Men may not have supportive role in the women's management of forest. In the recent years there are lots of NGO's are working in the social development activities. The trainings provided by such organization can be supportive to extend the awareness in the people. District Forest Office has started monitoring financial resources of FUGs. So, DFO can accesses their financial status to support forest, other development activities and sustainable for women's livelihood as well as preservation of forest. This study also tries to identify how the forest is being managed by women in such situation than previous management.

This study has attempt to document the activities of the women's forest committee involved in forest resources management and this study explains ,this participation in some detail the results will also be helpful to the national planners, academicians ,donor agencies ,field

workers who are responsible for the development programmer of forest resources

The general objective of the study is to examine women's participation in the committee's activities. And the implementation of programs designed for the development and management to local forest resources to determine the socio –economic condition of respondents at the study area. The specific objectives are as follows:

- 1) To identify role of women and promoting community forestry in their area.
- 2) To describe their involvement in the development of entire community forestry programmed activities and actions.
- 3) To identify the factors affecting in the participation of women in community forest management system.

This study has been adopted descriptive, exploratory and analytical research design, primary as well as secondary data and qualitative and quantitative data were used. Primary data were used to prioritize to find the objectives of this study or primary data have been collected through unremarkable observation, household survey, focus group discussion, interview, questionnaire in the study area. And secondary data obtained from VDC, District Forest From, Center level library, published, unpublished books, journals, documents, CBS reports, LFP Dang. In this study quantitative data were used to present the socio-economic condition and present condition of women's participation in forest management activities and forest product collection. Qualitative data were given in priority to present the affecting factor for participation and the overview of the study area.

Bhagwati Mahila Community Forestry User Group (BMCFUG) is selected for the study. That Forest lies in Ghorahi Municipality at 6 Masina Dang District. This study has been adopted descriptive, exploratory and analytical research design.

BMCFUG is consists of 178 house holds. Among them, 55 house holds has been chosen for the study. Those households are randomly selected. The caste / ethnicity distribution of households are Brahman, Chhetri, Thakuri, Janajati Dalit and Chaudhary. Among them, 18 households from Brahman family, 15 households from chhetri family, 9 households from Thakuri family, 3 household from Janajati family, 5 house holds from Dalit family,5 households from chaudhary family.

Unstructured informal interview has been done with the local people, chairperson of the committee, social workers and district forest office.

In the time of data collection , field observation also done .To know the condition of forest, user group and women's role in the meeting of user group and women's role in the meeting, and women's participation on forest products collection were observed in this study. House construction and condition of fuel wood storage also observed. So the observation was proved more fruitful to find the reality in the study area.

Two focus group discussions were done for this study, first focus group discussion was held in the involvement of lower cast women and second group discussion was held in the upper cast women. Or female were divided in two groups to know the reality about community forest management and group discussion was fruitful to find out women's perception about themselves, and male's role for women's participation.

8.2 Main Findings

Following are the main findings of the research as the research has been conducted on management of women and in remote and deprived part of the country.

1. It has been found that the main factor that motivates women for the conservation and active involvement for the management of forest is Empowerment Programs by I/N/GOs. Among 55 respondents 20 respondents i.e. 36.36 percentage of the respondents are found motivated by the program.
2. It is found that the main hindrance factor that causes the obstacle of women participation in community forest management is illiteracy. 21.82 percentage of the respondent give that illiteracy is the main cause of obstacle for them in the participation of forest management.
3. If the management of the forest is transferred to the locals, they are more responsible to it. Among the four questions asked to the respondent about CF name, its area, number of house holds in the CF and forest handed over 96%, 93%, 89% and 82% answered with out any hesitation and confusion.
4. It has been found that the training programs have empowered women in decision making. 32.73 % of the respondents answered
5. Users response to the executive committee is found good as 85 % of the respondents are satisfied with the behavior of the committee member.

6. In the management of women, the committee members are more devoted in their job. More than 90% of the respondents answered that they are satisfied with the performance, transparency and accountability of committee.
7. According to the key informants, women are more committed to follow the rules and regulation and they are more dedicated to do their job if they are allowed to perform their job freely.
8. Women are really aware to protect the forest because they are the main user of forest product. It has been found that women are the main user of forest products fuel wood, grass cut and fodder collection than men but men are more involved in timber works.
9. It has been found, the penalty charged to the user holds justice for all members. There is no discrimination on the basis of caste, economic status or in any other basis. That has led to follow rules and regulation more responsibly.
10. Community forest management has given women an opportunity to work sociably and in development works. The study reveals that 79.78 % of the participants that are used to present in the general assembly of CF are women.
11. It is seen that the condition of forest has been improved after the management has given to women. According to the view of 55 respondent, female key informants and field observation; it was found that the forest condition is being better than past.
12. Most of the users are satisfied to the management of women and few expressed that the committee members are misusing their power. In 55 respondents, 85% female respondents were satisfied with the behavior of committee member and female committee member selection process. And 15% respondents views that the committee member makes not so good relation with other general user member. They feel themselves superior and they did misuse their authority.

8.3 Direction for the future research

The facts about the women participation in forest management that were taken into consideration are only based on the information provided by the respondents. The respondents are only the user of the forest. If the research would have been conducted by considering all the concerned body then the fact will reflect the more accurate condition of the study area.

The forest area contains lots of herbal medicine. But they are not farmed professionally. So researches on possible economic progress of the user by the cultivation of herbs can be done.

From the study it is found that the income source of the CF is low. In the future study regarding the fund raising possibilities can be done.

Only female's consciousness and awareness is not enough to succeed in community forestry programmed. There must be necessary for male's consciousness in community to rise above the social barriers between men and women so we need to make good environment where male and female listen to each other their voices.

Participation of women in resources management should be encouraged through publication of photograph , posters , pamphlets, tour , training and demonstration illustrating the role of women as resources manager because it will be helpful for improvement the socio- economic condition of the CF management.

8.4 Conclusion

The study about community forest management trace out that woman can play important role in the forest protection, development and management activities. The research reveals that women can participate in social development activities if they are given opportunities like trainings and education.

According to the key informants, women are more committed to follow the rules and regulation and they are more dedicated to do their job if they are allowed to perform their job freely. It is found that illiteracy is the main affecting factor for women's participation. . 21.82 percentage of the respondent give that illiteracy is the main cause of obstacle for them in the participation of forest management. The study finds that the study area is deprived; people have low economic status and they have backward livelihood condition. So, the potential forest products that contribute in economic development have not been identified due to lack of knowledge.

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Appendix -1

Household Survey (Family information) form

1. Name of the Respondent:
2. Age:
3. Occupation:
4. Caste/ Ethnicity:
5. Ward No:
6. Religion:
7. Family member's information:

S.N.	Name	Relation with household head	Sex	Age	Marital Status	Education	Occupation	
							Primary	Secondary

Code

7.1. Relationship with household head:

1 Husband occupation:			Marital status	Education	
2 Wife	Sex	1 Married	1 Unable to read and write	1.Agriculture	
3 Mother	1 Male	2 Unmarried	2. Able to read	2.Bussiness	
4 Father	2 Female	3 Divorces	3.Primary level	3Wage labor	
5 Son		4 Separated	4.Secondary levels	4.Foreign employment	
6 Daughter		5 Never married	5. Certificate		
7 Daughter in law		6 other	6.Bachelor and above	5. Other	

8. Land holding size:

Land type	Area in kattha	Rented in	Rented out
-----------	----------------	-----------	------------

Khet			
Bari			
Kharbari			
Private Forest			

9. Livestock Population:

- a) Cow b) Buffalo c) Goatd) Sheep
e) Pig f) Other

10. Household's Income (per year)

- a) 10 ---- 15 thousand per year
b) 16 ---- 20 thousand per year
c) 21 ---- 25 thousand per year
d) 26 ---- 30 thousand per year
e) 31 ---- 35 thousand per year
f) 36 ---- 40 thousand per year
g) 41 and above

11. How many months do your food security long from your land?

- a) 0-3 month b) 3-6 month c) 6 month and above

12. Housing condition is.

- a) Kacha b) pakka c) deplorable

13 Economic statuses

- a) Higher b) middle c) lower

14 Social statuses

- a) Higher b) middle c) lower

Health:

15 How do you use the drinking water?

- a) Pipe b) well c) hand pump d) any other

16) Do you have toilet in your home?

- a) Yes b) No

17) From where do you take health service?

- a) From government hospital b) private clinic c) any other

Role of women in community forestry:

6 Do you know your role in participation in community forestry?

- a) Yes b) No

7 What's your role in community forestry management system?
 a) Executive member b) general member c) any other d) no role

8 How do you see your role in comparison to other women

9 How much time do you spend for the forest management system?
 a) 3 month b) 6month c) 1 year d) above 2 year

10 In your family have you taken part in any forest training?
 a) Yes b) No

11 If yes, who have?
 a) Male b) Female c) Both

12 If you are not participated, what are the obstacles?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

13 Do you attend meeting regularly?
 a) Yes b) No

14 How many times in a month you attend meeting?
 a) 1 - 2 b) 2 - 3 c) 3 - 4 d) 5 and above

15 What is the status of decision making?
 a) High degree of participation b) low degree of the participation c) poor participation

16 What is the best way of influence decision making?
 a) Social status b) caste c) gender

17 Do you attend meeting regularly?
 a) Yes b) No c) some times attend

18 Are the responsibilities spelled out in daily life?
 a) Yes b) No c) Don't know

19 Who pay the forest watchers?
 a) Forest office b) villagers c) projects d) any others f) don't know

20 Do you know forest coverage area?
 a) Yes b) No

If yes, please specify

Causes of success and failure of community forestry

Success	Failure
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4

Comments	suggestion
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

Factor effecting participation

1 Do you know about effecting factors?

- a) Yes b) No 2

If yes, specify

2 Are there any factors which are effecting in your participation?

- a) Family b) society c) culture d) education e) psychology f) time g) economy h) any other

3 Are you able to complete your duty?

- a) Yes b) No

If yes /No, specify reasons.

I

II.....

III.....

Iv

4 Do you get support from your family?

- a) Yes b) No

5 Are your team members supporting?

- a) Yes b) No

6 Is there a good unity in your team?

- a) Yes b) No

If Yes / No give reasons.

I

II

III

Iv.....

7 Does their occur any disagreement among team members?

- a) Yes b) No

If yes / No areas of Agreement / Disagreement

Agreement	Disagreement
-----------	--------------

I	I
---	---

II	II
----	----

III	III
-----	-----

Iv	IV
----	----

8 Are the male members of the community supporting?

- a) Yes b) No

If Yes / No, Specify

9 Have you felt any problem while working being women?

- a) Yes b) No

10 Women participation seems very less than male in every public work because

- a) Lack of knowledge b) lack of organizational support c) Discriminatory gender role
d) lack of confidence of women about ownership e) any other

11 All members of committee attend meeting regularly?

- a) Yes b) No

If yes /No, Specify

12 What do you think about forest condition?

- a) Increase b) decrease c) as it is d) don't know

Causes of success and failure

Success

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Failure

- 1
- 3
- 4
- 5

Comments

- 1
- 2
- 3.
- 4
- 5

Suggestion

- 1
- 2.
- 3
- 4
- 5

Appendix -2

Focus Group Discussion with General Public

- 1 Knowledge about Forest user group.
.....
- 2 Coverage of forest area.
.....
- 3 Benefit derived by people.

-
 4 Co-operation and conflict among villagers.

- 5 General people Involvement forest management.

- 6 Relation between forest user groups and general public

- 7 women's role in promoting and protecting forest resources.

- 8 People view regarding forest user groups and forest department

Comments	Suggestion
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

Appendix – 3

Checklist for UGS:

- 1 Year of registration and community forestry hand over.
.....
- 2 House hold's involved in community forestry.
.....
- 3 Area of community forest.
.....
- 4 Female members are involved in forestry user groups committee.
.....
- 5 The method of and mechanism of information flow in forest user group.
.....
- 6 Opposition by males /females.
.....
- 7 Management works done by women users.
.....
- 8 Who most participate in management work
.....
- 9 Rule and regulation for protection.
.....
- 1 Committee accountability to the users.
.....
- 11 The income generating source.
.....
- 12 Committee's make their rights.
.....
- 13 Attendance in the meeting.
.....
- 14 Coordination between forestry user group village development.
.....

Success / failure role in making people to fell their rights.

Comments	Suggestions
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

Success stories

1

2

3

4

Failures

1

2

3

4

Appendix – 4

Interview schedule for key informant

1 History of forestry and Forest resources.
.....

2 Number of community forestry user groups are registered in the area.
.....

3 Major forest productions.
.....

4 Method of managing the forest resources.
.....

5 Key informant’s service and contribution forest management related activities and action.
.....

6 Information on existing forest user group community
.....

..7 Role of user group in the forest management efforts and achievement.
.....

8 Social obstacles to increase to the women participation.
.....

9 Women’s committee participation in forest management system.
.....10

Present forest user’s committee participated in varies activities.
.....

11 Forest consumer committee’ powerful to manage forest resources.
.....

12 Female’s participation and it’s positive impact on forest conservation and management system.
.....

13 Women participation in the committee’s energy activity , main factor affecting participate/nonparticipation.
.....

14 Social and cultural invasion for the management of forest resources.
...../

Success and Failure

Success

1

2

3

4

5

Failure

1

2

3

4

5

Comments

1

2

3

4

5

Suggestion

1

2

3

4

5

Appendix -5

Executive Committee of BMCF

S.N.	Name	Position	Remarks
1.	Dila Malla	Chairperson	
2.	Ram kali Pariyar	Vice Chairperson	
3.	Saraswoti Aryal	Secretary	
4.	Lal Sari Chand	Vice Secretary	
5.	Deva Pandey	Treasurer	
6.	Jiva Kanwar	Member	
7.	Tulsa Kanwar	Member	
8.	Tila Giri	Member	
9.	Suntali Chaudhary	Member	
10.	Deva Chettri	Member	
11.	Goma Lamsal	Member	

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Appendix -6



Respondents of BMCFUG



Researcher with the people taking rest while carrying fuel wood from BMCFUG



Researcher taking information with executive committee



Bhagwati Mahaila community Forest