

CHAPTER-1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

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 products such as fruits, nuts, medicine etc. It is essential to protect soil erosion, provide fresh water, reduce landslide, control floods maintain ecological balance and preventing environmental degradation. The natural forest has been increasing due to the management of community forestry programme.

Up to the Rana regime, Nepal had extensive forest resources that government itself used to export timber and other forest products to India to earn revenue (Regmi, 1978). The prime minister used to grant land as a "Birta" to relatives and other employees too. Till 1950, the government had turned the condition forest resources by encouraging maximum exploitation. It is perhaps in this context that Bajracharya (1968) viewed deforestation as a result of "Revenue oriented government policy." After that time depletion of forest was increasing rapidly.

In 1975 government launched nationalization of private forest to protect the forest. But this policy was unsuccessful. In 1961 forest act as well as number of rules and regulations were launched to protect forest. The intention of all these acts seemed to be keeping peoples out from the forest. People ignored all rules and met their need by forest products. Ultimately government realized the genuine needs of the people and started to involve them in forest development activities. In 1978 government launched community forestry programme in the form of Panchayat and Panchayat Protected Forest at all local village.

Till now Nepal has been a pioneer and leading country in managing forestry resources through the participation of communities.

The government has formulated enabling policy space to accommodate the needs and capacity of the people in overall management of the forestry resources of the country. The community forestry has been successful in improving the greenery of the country.

The community forestry has gained its popularity as it involves the people in forest conservation and management. The community forestry process involves the participation of people in very beginning of identifying problems, setting priorities and opportunities, identifying roles, responsibility rights and duties of each members and interest groups in managing the forestry resources. The operational plan is prepared and approved from the district forest office to legitimize the activities undertaken in community forest. The forest is handed over to the constitutionally organized forest users with full authority of conserving and managing to meet the local needs like fuel-wood, fodder, leaf, litter and various other non-timber and other forests products.

The community forestry seeks to be more inclusive, democratic and transparent in its decision and activities. The forest user group is responsible for obeying and maintaining the rules and terms manifested in their own operational plans and constitutions. For this the participation of all male, female and occupation group is necessary.

In our countrywomen are usually excluded from public activities. There are many issues and problems related to women in participation. Community forestry is not free from these problems. Women are primary users of community forest but they are not participated properly in the management, development, benefit sharing and decision making. Thus, in this study I will try to find the condition of women's participation in community forestry user's group.

For the purpose, I have chosen Baikhola Community Forest of Namjung -3, Gorkha District. The features of the study area has been briefly described below.

1.1.1 Location

The study area Namjung VDC lies to the eastern part of Gorkha District with the area of 12 sq km and the population is 5249. It is about 20 k.m far from the district headquarter with the seasonal motorable track. The holy Budhigandaki River snarls at the foot with great potential of promoting the place through tourism. There are 9 wards within the VDC. The study area 'Baikhola Community Forest' expands within 25.81 hectors of area, situates in ward No. 3 comparatively with smaller but divers population size.

1.1.2 Climate

The climate of this area is mild i.e. neither hot not cold with swift cool bridge of the panoramic white range favorable for citrus fruits. The summer lies between April-May and winter lies from November to February. The maximum and minimum temperature of this area is 28 degree and 8 degree respectively. The type of rainfall is monsoon, which comes especially from July to September.

1.1.3 Natural resources

Namjung VDC is rich in natural resources like forest and water. Forest is the most renewable natural resources, which is mainly based on the physio-climatic condition area. The condition of the forest to the people of the area-mainly includes firewood, timber, fodder, herbal plants, leaves and litters which will be described later. Water is also valuable natural resources of that area. The river Budhigandaki flows at the foot of the VDC deserving high potential of hydroelectricity, tourism and others.

1.1.4 Population

The total population of the Namjung VDC is 5249, in which 2489 are male and 2760 are female (according to VDC record). The total household of Baikhola community forest is 46 and total population of that area is 341. 151 are female and 190 are male. 15% out of 341 inhabitants were randomly selected for the study.

1.1.5 Ethnic composition

Different cast and ethnic group live in Namjung VDC. Most of people of that area are Hindu. Brahmin, Chhetri, Gurung, Magar, Kami, Damai are the Major caste of this VDC.

The study area has multi cast society most of the major is ethnic caste groups.

1.1.6 Class and categories

A wealth ranking technique was used to classify the economic status of the household. The result showed that 5% of the total household belongs to rich categories. 15% of them belong to medium category. 40% belong to lower medium category but only 40% are ranked as the poorest who have to do wage labour for their livelihood. 5% people who are in rich class can earn around 6000 a month. 15% who are in middle class can survive from agriculture and sometimes they buy the products. 40% who are in lower middle class can not survive from their products. They have to do wage laboring. 40% poorest have very small piece of land, they have to survive from wage labour and occupational caste service. Activities like farming, grazing animals, fetching water, washing cloths and cleaning the dishes are done by women. Like other women in the study area female who are committee member also involved in agricultural as well as household works.

1.1.7 Family system

Family is basic unit of society. There are three types of family by definition. A couple with their one or more unmarried sons and daughter is called a nuclear family. A couple with their one or more married sons and their unmarried grand children and unmarried daughter is called a joint family. The other couple with their one or more married sons with their married and unmarried grand children is extended family. In this area most of the families are joint family. Mostly they depend on agriculture, so they need joint family.

1.1.8 Community forestry in Namjung VDC

Deforestation is increasing day by day. To prevent the problem of increasing destruction, community is better to protect the environment and its greenery. Realizing the potential threat of deforestation and the increasing label of consensus of the local people from the shortage of fodder, firewood and timbers, they set a commitment for the process of community forestry programme.

Even though Baikhola community forest is the only registered community forest in the VDC, there are other, ward wise unregistered forests, which have been set up inspiring from the pioneer programme.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In the Nepalese context, the gender-based problems have been common in all public activities. The community forestry is also not free from this gender-based discrimination. To make the community forestry programme successful, the role of gender is not only crucial but also concluding and leading. Results of studies conducted in Nepal have shown that Nepalese women's activities related to forest resources such as fuel-wood and fodder collection, fetching, water, farming, grazing as well as rearing animals are more or just as equal to male. 84% of total fuel

wood is collected by women in Nepal (FAO 1991). These studies have also shown that women are primary users of forest resources.

The inclusion of women, however has not yet acknowledged fully and they are treated as the follower of what their male partner do and decide about the management of forest. The role of women is usually over looked as they are assumed to be the actor of in-door affairs and have little knowledge about the public affairs. Since the women have been spending and interacting with forests for ages, the knowledge, skill and other potentiality of them may be the important clues for management of the forests in more sustainable and equitable ways. The exclusion of women in decision-making processes of community forestry is not desired and their active participation is necessary for the success of the programme.

Though the policy and guidelines are not itself gender biased, the practice has discouraged women to participate in community forestry activities. In many cases, the awareness of women is the most important factor for keeping them back in decision-making and management of the forest. It has also been observed that women are more indifferent towards such activities because of their general ignorance towards the rights and responsibility over the local resources. In other hands women are busy in household affairs round the clock and have no time for such activities. Their faith in male partner keeps them back in any public activities. Women would follow what their male partner decides and asks to do. Usually male discouraged them in public affairs. Therefore female participation has been less than male. So I will try to female activities by gender in community forest.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to analyze gender participation in forest resource management. However the specific objectives of the study are:

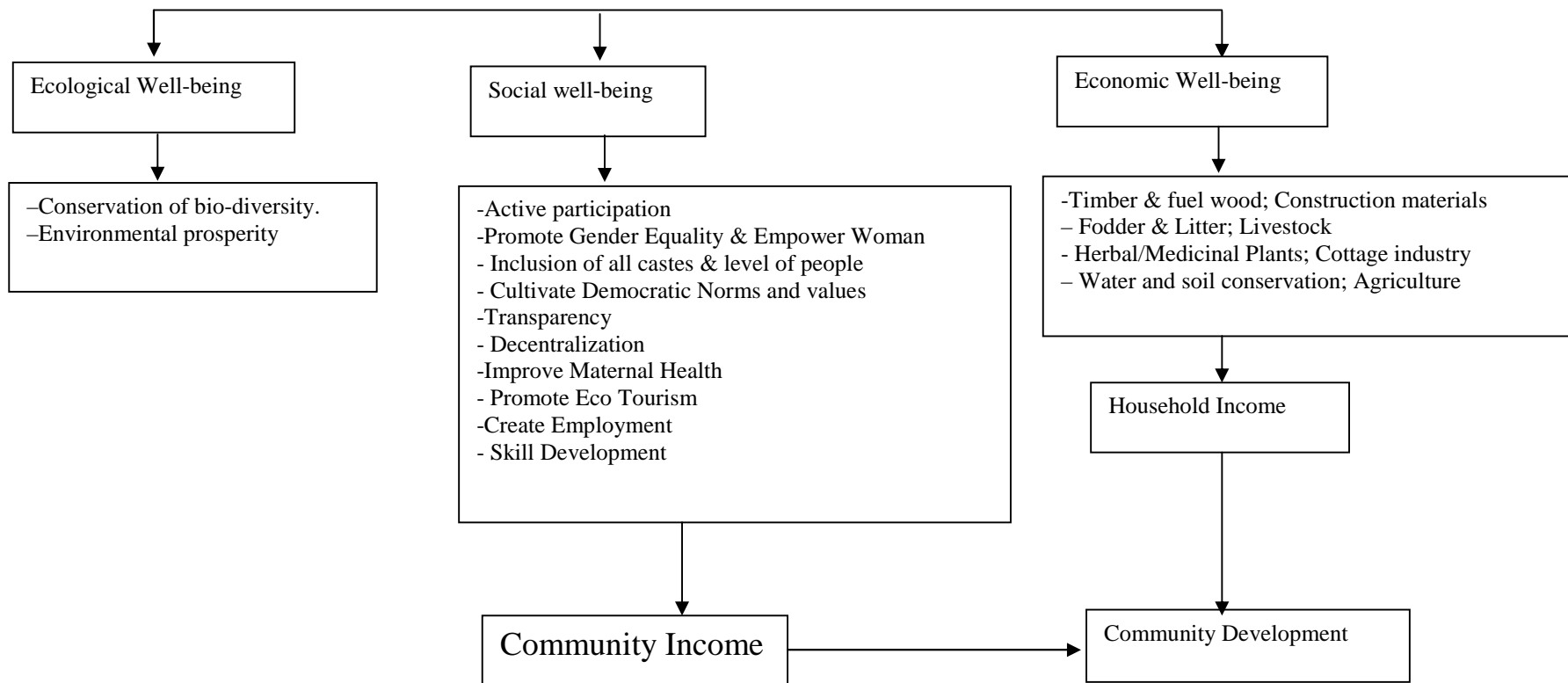
1. To analyze gender's role in community forest resource management
2. To identify the constraints and enhancing factors of Women's participation in community forestry
3. To understand the attitude of local people on women's role in forest management.

1.4 Significance of the study

It is since long time the forest has been haphazardly destroyed resulting to desertification at large extent. Many forest management plans have been introduced and implemented but very few positive results of sustainable forest management were observed. Management roles have been shifted from government to the community and people (men and women). The involvement process of target population is still under consideration. Government's target and the digestion process of the community is unmatched each other. Since women are the key factor to interact the forest products on daily basis, they have a significant role for the success of the programme. On the contrary, they are always suppressed by the social codes or practices, as the society is the male dominated. They are the illiterates, in poor-health, financially weak, packhorse, isolated and hence vulnerable. But the social system is to be towed by them. Therefore, to inspire them towards such programme through the opportunity to express their feelings and emotional, it is necessary to take gender perspective as the main subject of the study. Aiming to accumulate considerable information regarding participation of women on management and use of forest resources. This study will provide a depth management experience, constraints and achievements of community forest by women that can be generalized for better management in other areas also.

1.5 Conceptual Framework of the Study

Community Forestry



CHAPTER-2

LITERATURE REVIEW

Literature review is one of the important parts of any research work that helps the researcher to clarify the concepts and formulated new ideas and better way of looking at the study topic. For this different books, journals, previous research works, reports, acts, articles, plans and policies, other published and unpublished documents related to the subject will be reviewed.

The term participation is defined as a process in which the people are directly and actively involved in programmes and projects. It was indicated that the success of community forestry programme (FP) in Nepal is related to the higher level of people participation on many programme's activities (Banko Jankari, 2000).

The late 1960s were challenging with the conventional development models like the top down. It was believed that the fruits of development could trickle down to the grass root level. The approach was questioned because it failed to meet the needs of the poor. This top down approach failed because the planners and the experts could not design the plans in accordance with the need of the local/targeted group and the lack of recognition in the locally available resources. Hence the gap between the haves and the have not contended to become wider than before.

In response to these problems, new concept of development began to emerge and these concepts were collectively called bottom up development approach. This new paradigm emphasized the participation of the local people in identification of the problems and decision making in local development planning which would be able to meet their basic

needs. The new approach holds the nation of planning for the people and by the people (Bhattachan K.B. Mishra, Chaitnya).

When development approach of bottom up arrived, many community development programmes were launched. In 1978 community forestry programmes were implemented when community forestry rules had been enacted. Deforestation of forest was increased when nationalized act 1975 was launched. Based one survey 1964 (USAID) the total area of the forest excluding the high Himalayan area was estimated to be 6.4 million hectares. These were 1.8 million hectares in Terai and 4.6 million. hectares in hills. (Wallace, M.B.) 1,88,000 hectares forest reduced in Nepal during the period of 1978 to 1986, which comes 0.5 percent annual rate. In 1986-1998, the annual rate of deforestation of forest was – 0.4 percent (Sharma Neelamkunar P. 137).

The above data shows that deforestation was less increasing when community forestry programme was launched. Since 1995 the community forestry programme has been spreading widely because of it's popularity. Forest users groups have been established rapidly and forests have been handed over to forest user groups for the sustainable management and use of forests under the C.F. rules 1995 (community forestry in Nepal, 2002).

Now, according to the Department of Forest (DoF) by May 2002, 14,260 FUGs have been formed and 1187184 hectares of national forests have been handed over as community forests (CFD). Despite the fact that the increasing areas of community forest and increasing number of CFUGs, intended objectives of community forestry including local people participation in all activities, empowerment of women, marginalized and pro-poor groups and their control over and access to forest products and services are hardly improved.

Community forestry's activities in Nepal have emerged in four main phases. Firstly- in terms of realizing the primacy of people in relation to management interactions with forest and trees. Secondly- through acknowledging the importance of the farm forest cycle of resource generation and use in meeting basic needs for household subsistence strategies. Thirdly-by recognizing emerging income generation activities and the need for equity in distribution and remuneration between individuals, households and markets, and fourthly- by endorsing steps to increase communication between forest users and to use new emerging forest user networks at platforms for communicating new ideas, disseminating information, sharing productive material and collectively voicing concerns about resources related policies and activities (Gurugharana, K.K.).

Nepal has successfully implemented community forestry programme with the active participation of local people. Forest committee formed by user groups; take responsibility of protection plantation and conserving natural forest. People participate in all stages of decision making, planning and sharing benefits. They also show interest in nursery and plantation works. Even the poor are willing to participate in community forestry programmes because they can collect fuel-wood and fodder from the forest and save their time for earning wages (Kayastha 1991).

People-friendly changes in policies and practices have encouraged the endeavor of community-oriented initiatives in forest management and rural development. A central component of this has been the development of a user group formation process. This process seeks consensus through dialogue and informal exchanges, and by increasing informed

understanding about resource- related activities and possibilities. (Shrestha Dr. N. Kazi and Britt Charla).

For the management of forest participation of the local is very important. Local peoples involvement in the forest management activities has been acknowledged as the main strategy of the sustainable and effective management of the forest. Forest for the people by the people and to the people is what the community forestry programmes are targeting (Chhetri and Paddy, 1992).

Indigenous forest management systems have become the basis for the present day community forestry programmes. Officially, community forestry programme has launched in 1978. All the 75 district forest offices prepared the district management schemes in 1988/99 to fulfill the requirement of the master plan. The objective of the plans was to increase productivity of the forest. In 1994/95 many of the offices revised and updated and prepared five-year plan aiming to meet basic needs and reducing poverty, which come under socio-economic goals of sustainable development (Jackson, W.J., Ingles A. 1995). Jackson and Ingles suggested introducing planning at the range post level. The authors mentioned that the aim of the range post planning is to link the capacity and interested of local people with national objectives for forest development.

The community forestry programme in Nepal is an innovative programme being used by HMG to build capacity with in communities to manage local forests in a sustainable way for their own development. In this programme there is a direct link between community development and forest conservation.

The community forest user group prepares an operation plan (OP) to fix the rules of the management of their community forest. The plan is

an important document to ensure sustainable development of the forest. The following conservation measures are commonly found in the plan.

-) Conservation of depleting plant and animal species in CF.
-) Prohibition to wildlife hunting.
-) Control of forest fire.
-) Control in forest encroachment.
-) Conservation of soil erosion in inclined area.
-) Conservation of source area of drinking water.

Besides these common measures some especial provisions are made by users in their operation plan in order to conserve forest resources to maintain biodiversity indirectly. The forest management practice is involving from protection oriented to production-oriented management with diversification of species.

Community forestry refers to management by the local villagers who depend on the forest for fuel wood, fodder, timber, foods and raw materials for the use in cottage industries. The term implies a holistic approach to resources management that concerns with ensuring adequate supplies of forest products to include other matter that affect the rural community such as control of soil erosion and protection of the source of water. The concept of community forestry is the idea that those who utilized it should manage the forest. Local users should be involved in every aspects of forest management, from determining forest related priorities and needs of designing and implementing projects themselves (Gurungs, 2002).

Women users have main role in implementing community's forest activities, as the participation in the utilization of forest commodities is

usually more. There fore, new rules and regulation of community forestry of HMG/N has made a provision to include at least one third of women member in community forestry (Bista S. 1997 P. 1-9).

In making law, rules and regulation women must be participated in any activities. But in practice women, participation is less than men. Many studies has shown cause and consequences which hinder female participation.

The local socio-cultural practices and men dominant society marginalized their inputs on the community forest management role. The heavy work burden of village women that they get very little spare time to participate in community and village level development activities on a regular basis. In general their participation in community forestry (CF) is limited to labour such as carrying seedlings, pitting planting, weeding and forest clean-up activities, few women have the time to attend user group assemblies and meeting during the day time. Although major decisions among forest user group (FUG) are made not by the FUG committee alone but by the assembly of users, in many places women are still marginalized in discussion at FUG meeting and assemblies where decision are made (Gurung Jeanetle D. ICIMoD 1997, P-10).

Dhakai, (1994) a case study on women's participation in forest management for income generation in Dardagaun of Kavre Palanchowk district. The general objective of this study was to answer basic questions as to how and why the deforestation has been gradually increasing in Nepal and what so roles women can play in checking this rate and improving forest resource management. She found that there were many factors which hindered women in the participation in forestry. Illiteracy, ignorance, unemployment, lack of knowledge on new technology and heavy dependency on males in the economic sector are the main

constraints so that women can not participate and perform role in extra activities. This study recommended that, the government should provide skill development training to local women to do such activities as book rack making, based on local raw material like forest products: (i) Provision of adult literacy classes for the improvement of their knowledge, (ii) Involvement of women in income generation activities, based on forest and forest resources, should be promoted in order to make them aware of the importance of forest and its conservation and (iii) the government should provide the market facility especially for the commodity produced by women using local raw materials.

Kharel (1989) conducted a research in Kabhre Palanchowk district. The objective of the study was to find out the level of men and women with regard to the value of forest resource management, factors which determine the level of women's participation in forestry activities and to explore and suggest the procedures for improving the involvement of women in forest management and development activities. The finding was that regarding to the forest development activities individually in community men have taken the major role in decision making but in case of private plantation of trees, women take part in decision-making and their inspiration is always found towards the protection of the forest. The social system yet does not provide the full authority on decision making to a woman. However, to some extent women are found participating in decision-making. The study also found that most (90%) of the forest related activities such as cutting grass, collection of the forest litters and dead branches and twigs were performed by the females whereas the remaining 10% of the activities were done by the males only when the females were in maternity period. The study recommended that the female members of the community should not be sidelined from the

sphere of decision-making but must be involved in the main stream for conservation activities.

K.C., (1995) studied women's participation on community forest management in Sima Village Baglung district to examine women's participation in the forest related activities and in the implementation of programme designed for the development and management of local forest management. The study found that women's participation is comparatively more active than the man in forest related activities but the rate of participation in decision-making process in forest management is lower. This study recommends that the female members of the community should be involved in decision-making regarding conservation.

Baskota (1995) had studied on women's in community forest, issues in participation. The objective of the study was to examine women's participation in the FUG/committee's activities and the implementation of programmes designed for the conservation, management and development of community forest and forest nursery. It showed that women's FUG were found to be highly participative in completing all their tasks successfully. He said that women's involvement in FUG could definitely help the Nepalese government to solve the problems of deforestation in the country. The study also found that the traditional, cultural and societal norms, misbehavior of forest officials, local conflicts between two groups, gender discrimination and illiteracy of women lack of operational plan etc. were the factors hindering women's participation in development programme.

Acharya 2003 did a study in the topic women's participation in community forestry management. In this study two objectives such as: the task identifiable and the activities of the women for forest

management were to be explored. This study found that despite their responsibilities for child care together with all households chores, women's involvement in various activities related to forest mainly in decision making to fuel wood collection, fodder and other material collection water fetching, livestock management, tree plantation activities, is a more leading than their male counterparts. Similarly in discussion held within the family the women have remarkably participated but on the other hand discussion held with technical personals and outsiders, the women have showed very little participation. This study showed that only 25% of women have taken part in making decision regarding forest and 5% of women out of total have taken part in discussions with technical personnel afterward. The study found that the participation of women in community forestry activities are hindered by various factors.

Rokaha (2001) had studied in the topic women participation in community forestry management. In this study he found that due to the lack of education, awareness and social causes women are backward to achieve employment and income properly. They are also far from political and administrative policymaking level. Life expectancy of female is 53.4 while male is 55.9. Total literacy is 49% while women literacy is 30% and men literacy rate is 66% (census 2001) Due to the economic and social variation of male and female, female can not participate in the development activities till now.

In Nepal women are primary user of community forestry, such as collecting fuel wood, fodder, fetching water, farming, grazing animals etc. They spend significant portion of their times to pressure and conserve the forest but their participation in forming rules and regulation and

decision making as well is not countable or justifiable not taken any countable

According to (Baskota 1997) poverty is another problem of poor and land less women's participation in committee and other dissident activities. Due to the poverty, poor and land less women spent more of their time to provide daily needs of the family.

Domination is another hindrance to women's participation in meeting -:" Women are more occupied with the time consuming work of their homes and farms. If meeting is held, one member mainly the male represents their family by tradition (Werrer marit cited by Baskota 1997 P. 89.)

Not only low representation of women in FUG, there is also very low representation in the professional work. Family pressure, and safety considerations, and unwillingness of male bosses to allow working in the field are special factors that inhibit the performance of women working in biodiversity related sectors (ICIMOD 1991).

The plans and programme should provide equal opportunity for women and men to participate in forest activities. "Women as primary users and protectors of forest, they must be involved from bottom to top levels of the programmes as they have the high potentiality for the effective and successful protection and management of the forest resource (ICIMOD 1991). Otherwise the efforts of the government will go in vain.

Various available literatures were consulted for this study. Most of the literatures were found more related with the management describing purposive participation in community forest management. It is well accepted by all that the participation of women in decision making roles are rather low even among the active studies show that women's

participation is important in forest management. The involvement of women must be recognized as an enacted element for achieving success in any development work including community forestry. In community forestry, women's involvement in all activities, rights from the formation of user groups to the distribution of forest products is necessity for its success. We can truly say that if women involvement in all stages of community forestry is accepted the target of forestry programme is achieved. So the importance of women in forestry activities is acknowledged by policy makers and all men and women of society are aware of the policy. (Werner Merit 1981.)

CHAPTER -3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction to Study Area

The study area Namjung VDC lies to the eastern part of Gorkha District with the area of 12 sq km and the population is 5249. It is about 20 k.m far from the district headquarter with the seasonal motorable track. The holy Budhigandaki River snarls at the foot with great potential of promoting the place through tourism. There are 9 wards within the VDC. The study area 'Baikhola Community Forest' expands within 25.81 hectors of area, situates in ward No. 3 comparatively with smaller but diverse population size.

Realizing the significance role of forest in supporting the livelihood of the rural community, holistically the national economy, different forestry programmes have been flourished for decades. For the development and dissemination of any kind of technology, research studies play an important role. As the selected site is the only and sample programme in the VDC primarily handled by the women with fruitful outcomes, the site was selected to provide real information and impacts of such programmes on users to make relevant recommendations to the plan and policy makers for the further development of the programme in the VDC.

3.2 Research Design

This study was carried out on the basis of exploratory as well as the descriptive research designs as the study focused on to investigate the role of women in handling the programme successfully. Besides, the study has made an attempt to describe the things related to the forestry programme such as: group formation, size, existing conditions etc. and

the investigated or explored findings has been presented in a descriptive forms with tables.

3.3 Sampling Procedure/Technique

The universe of the study was the Forest User Groups from gender perspective of Baikhola community forest, Namjung VDC-3 of Gorkha District. From the 46 HHs with 341 inhabitants, 15% user groups was sampled. Quota sampling and random sampling were used for household survey. The sampling structure is presented in the following table:

Caste	Total HHs	CFUs	Sampled CFUs (15%)	% of Sampled CFUs
Brahmin/Chhetri	175		26	50%
Ethnic Group	137		21	40.38
Scheduled Caste	29		5	9.61%
Total	341		52	100%

3.4 Source of Data Collection

Aiming to explore the role of women in promoting the community forestry programme, the primary data was collected from the CFUGs of the study area. Similarly, the secondary data was collected from different sources such as population census book, published and unpublished written documents from individuals, experts and organization related to this programme.

3.5 Data Collection Tools and Techniques

3.5.1 Questionnaire Survey

Structured questionnaire was prepared to generate the realistic and accurate data from the survey of the CFUGs. In case of those who could not fill up the questionnaire, the questions were asked to them and the answers were filled up to collect the required data.

3.5.2 Key Informant Interview

Using the semi or unstructured interview the data was collected from the key informants such as: community forest users, woman activists, policy makers and the people involved in community forestry programme through cross checking.

3.5.3 Field Visit and Observation

Observation visit was made for the present condition and management practices of community forest, local settlement patterns and system of using the forest resources.

3.5.4 Focus Group Discussions

Discussion was held among the members of forest user groups, policy makers and local development practitioners emphasizing the women participants on the past and present condition of the community forest, the distribution/supply patterns of the forest product and the challenges they have been facing along with the mitigation process.

3.6 Data Analysis

The collected information has been categorized and classified on the basis of women role in major activities. Both logical as well as statistical methods like diagrams, measure of central tendency etc. were be used for the analysis of data.

3.7 Limitation of the Study

This study is small-scale study concentrating to particular village of Gorkha district-Namjung VDC ward no 3. This research is concerned with men and women participation in decision-making, especially in planning and benefit sharing in terms of forest resource management. So it may not be generalized in other natural resources management process.

CHAPTER-4

4.1 Use and Management of Community Forest

4.1.1 Collection and consumption of community forest product

As other Community Forestry Baikhola community forest is used mainly for firewood, fodder grasses, leaf litter, other grasses and timber. The forest products are collected from the Baikhola forest for the FUG's domestic purposes. The collection and distribution rules for these products are outlined in the FUG constitution and forest operation plan. However, the use of community forest by user group is given in table 1.

Table-1: Use of the community forestry

Forest products	Respondents (percentage)
Fodder, litters	18 (34.62%)
Firewood	17 (32.69%)
Building materials	10 (19.23%)
Wild beauties	02 (03.85%)
Others gathering meeting	05 (09.61%)
Total	52 (100%)

Source: Field survey, 2006

The above table shows that 34.62 percent of respondents took fodder, leaves and litters and 32.69 percent firewood. Generally women are carrying enough litters from the forest for making compost and animal bedding. Likewise 19.23 percent of respondents talked about timber for construction. Only 03.85 percent of respondents mentioned about wild beauties whereas 09.61 percent of them mentioned about the opportunities of gathering and meetings.

As per operational plan the user group identified some system and distribution pattern at the beginning. However table 5 illustrated the using system and distribution pattern of community forest product. The table is a self-explanatory.

Table-2: Using system of forest product

Forest product	Time for taking	System	Distribution
Firewood	All months except the rainy season	<ul style="list-style-type: none">) Can be taken from dry branches.) Green branches during thinning) Old trees, dry fallen trees 	Per person one Bhari (bundle) in one day.
Fodder	All round the year	As per FUG decision. But not for out side people as well as could not cut main steam of the tree	As when needed
Grass	All round the year	As per user's requirements	As per user's requirements
Leaves and litters	All round the year	As per user's requirements	As per user's requirements
Beam for housing	As per FUGC direction and user's requirement	As per the decision by the FUGC meeting but not for out sides	As when needed
Fencing materials	All round the year	As per FUG decision. But not for out side people	As when needed
Timber	During the winter	As per FUG decision	Cost per cubic feet Rs. 20 per household

A part from collecting forest products people used to collect red-clay free of charge for household use without damaging trees, stones are taken mainly for building construction and walling. Initially, users are able to collect stone from the forest for construction purpose in exchange

for payment of Rs. 10 per Bhari. However for conservation reasons, the FUG has recently decided to band all collection of red clay and stones except for the religious purpose..

4.1.2 Women's involvement in community forest product collection pattern

Intensive farming roles of women and their inherited roles of managing, collecting and using of various plants and animals from the forest and pasterland is vital. Their responsibilities for caring for the household members, livestock, and croplands have provided them with an extensive knowledge of uses, usefulness of plants, and therefore made them key factors in managing forest product and agricultural plant resources. However, the table 3 gives the methods of supporting community forest management in the study area.

Table-3: supporting in community forest management

Supporting C.F. management	Sex		Total
	Female (Percentage)	Male (Percentage)	
Nursery preparation	3 (15.79%)	8 (20%)	11(18.64%)
Seedling plantation	3 (15.79%)	5 (12.5%)	8 (13.56%)
Thinning	7 (36.84%)	12 (30%)	19(32.20%)
Cleaning	5 (26.32%)	8 (20%)	13(22.04%)
Taking care of forest	1 (5.26%)	7 (17.5%)	8 (13.56%)
Total	19(100%)	40(100%)	59(100%)

Source: Field survey, 2006

The above table shows that more than one-third of women are involved in preening and thinning activities whereas 55 percent of women respondents are involved in nursery related activities. 50 percent of respondents mentioned about the seedling plantation. It is very interesting

that only 20 percent respondent are taking care of forest. The same data is shown in the following charts:

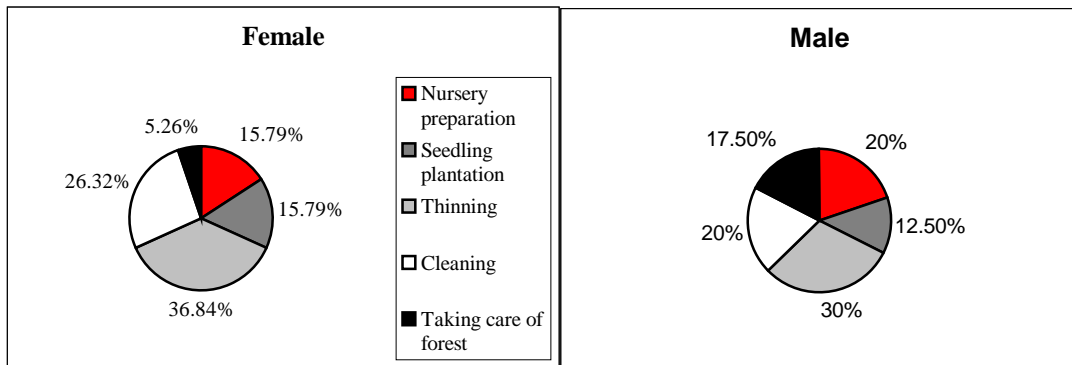


Fig. 1: Supporting in Community Forest Management

People are using the forest for many purposes such as firewood, fodder, leaves and litters, timber and non timber products (fruits, nuts, medicines, etc.) The major uses of the community forest are elaborated below.

4.1.2.1 Firewood

Firewood is collected from, pruning and thinning operations that are carried out in the 8-9 years old chirr pyre plantation. According to the operational plan, each household is required to send one person to carry out Silvi cultural operations. The firewood is distributed equally, free of charge to each of the household. In addition, users could collect dry twigs and branches from the forest throughout the year free of charge. Due to the lack of other alternative source of energy, majority of people depend on firewood as a principal sources of energy. However the using pattern of community forest was presented in table 1. According to the same table, 32.69 percent of respondents took firewood. From the community forest for domestic purpose.

The community forest is the major source of firewood in the study area. Along with this, the firewood is obtained from Shrub lands,

agricultural and other private lands in study area. However, the source of firewood can be presented as follows as in table 4.

Table –4: source of firewood

Sources	Respondents (percentage)
By cutting trees of private land	11 (21.16%)
By cutting trees of good forest	-
By cutting trees of community forest	30 (57.69%)
By using agricultural residues	8 (15.38%)
Other sources	3 (5.77%)
Total	52 (100%)

Source: Field survey, 2006

Above table shows that about 58 percent of respondents are cutting the branches of trees from community forest for the fulfillment of firewood requirement whereas 21.16 percent of respondents are using firewood from their private land trees. Similarly, 15.38 and 5.77 percent of respondents fulfill the requirement of firewood from agricultural residues and other sources respectively.

4.1.2.2 Time spent for firewood collection

The varied time spent by the respondents for the firewood collection in the study area is summarized in table 5.

Table-5: Time spent for firewood collection

Time spent	Respondents (percentage)
1 hours	5(10.64%)
2 hours	15(31.91%)
3 hours	23(48.94%)
4 hours	4(08.51%)
Total	47(100%)

Source: Field survey, 2006

The above table shows that about 50 percent of respondents spend 3 hours which is comparatively not much time than they used to spend before the forestry programme. Similarly about 32 percent of the respondents spend only 2 hours to fetch firewood. Those who live in the periphery need not to worry for the firewood, as it is available around the settlement. Only the 8.5 percent of the respondents spend 4 hours to fetch firewood.

4.1.2.3 Timber and poles

Some times timber and poles are available from over mature trees and the older plantations of the Baikhola Community forest. The FUG committee carries out a need assessment of the uses and can provide up to 40 cubic feet of timber and a few poles to those who particularly need timber and Rs. 10 per pole.

These prices are set by the FUG to be lower than those of the free market on the understanding that members use the materials for their domestic needs rather than selling them on.

Timber is used for house construction household tools and farm implements. Except very few houses, almost all the houses are made of the timber and forest products. Usually the new houses are made by separated members (especially sons) from the parent's household to live independently. It was estimated that 120 cubic feet of timber is required for a medium size house. However the trends of how respondents use timber is presented in the table 6.

Table-6: Use of timber for domestic purpose

Use of timber for domestic purpose	Respondents (percentage)
Building house/sheds	33 (63.46%)
Furniture	10(19.23%)
Agricultural tools	5(09.61%)
Not clear responses	2 (03.85%)
Other	2 (03.85%)
Total	52 (100%)

Source: Field survey, 2006

The above table shows that 63.46 percent of total respondents use timber and poles for building and house construction whereas 19.23 percent respondents use for furniture. 9.61 percent of them use timber for agricultural tools. 3.85 percent use for other purposes. Such as: making stand to store straw, stall etc. But other 3.85 percent of respondents did not clarify their purposes.

4.1.2.4 Tree fodder

Users could collect fodder from trees free of charge all year round. Cutting grass and bedding materials for cattles can collect free of charge from the forest.

Fodder is the main feed component for the livestock in the study area. Community forests shrub lands and down land are the sources of such fodder. People use these fodder for stale feed which is important for animal husbandry of this area. Along with this, crop residues are dried and stored for the dry period when the fodder supply is in extremely short. In winter fodder has become shortage in the study area. Animals do not get the fodder sufficiently during the dry season, they should depend upon agriculture residue.

Usually morning time is considered suitable for fodder collection by the people in the study area as elsewhere regions of the country and used whole morning to collect one bhari of fodder from the forest. The time required for the fodder collection in the study area can be summarized as shown in table 7.

Table 7: Time required for collection of one bhari of fodder

Time spend for a bhari fodder	Respondents (percentage)
0-3 hours	29(61.70%)
3-5 hours	18(38.29%)
Total	47 (99.99%)

Source: Field survey, 2006

The above table shows that 61.70 percent of respondents spend 0-3 hours of a day collecting tree fodder from the community forest. 38.29 percent of them spend 3-5 hours.

According to the respondents the time requirement for fodder collection is not comparatively much than they used to spend before introducing of community forest programme in the study area.

4.2 Women's participation in forest management

Women participation in community forest programme has been noticed through three activities such as: development, protection and management of community forestry. During the period of development women have attended community forest related meetings and given their consensus by informing other women about the decision taken in the meeting.

4.2.1 Women's participation in community forest management

Women's participation is important in many activities of community forest as during the formation of forest user's group

committee, selection of leader and community forest sites, planting, seedlings and protection. However, nature of women's participation is given in table 8.

Table 8: Women's participation in community forest management

Sex	Participation		Total
	Executive committee	General membership	
Female	2(15.38%)	17(36.96%)	19(32.20%)
Male	11(84.62%)	29(63.04%)	40(67.80%)
Total	13(100%)	46(100%)	59(100%)

Source: Field survey, 2006

The above table shows that total 32.20 percent of women are participated in two categories of community forest related activities, such as involvement in executive committee member and general membership is honored. Information is communicated and shared among women as they are encouraging other women to join meeting.

Table 3 previously shows that how women take part in community forestry programme. The Baikhola community forest is also male dominant area as other part of Nepal. Therefore, the number of women's participation is low as mentioned in table 3 and 9.

4.2.2 Frequency of women's participation in community forest management

Due to heavy work pressure of rural women they get a little time to participate in a village level development activities. In the study area, women's participation in community forest is found limited. Very few women have time to attend user group assemblies and meetings. Major decisions are made in the presence of committee members during the regular meeting and the annual assembly. However, women are still confined in discussion at FUG meeting and assemblies. Women's participation pattern in FUG meeting is shown in table 9.

Table 9: Participation pattern in community FUG meeting

Community FUG meeting	Sex		Total (percentage)
	Female	Male	
Attend all	2(10.53%)	11(27.5%)	13(22.03%)
Attend only few	10(52.62%)	11(27.5%)	21(35.60%)
Once a year	5(26.32%)	14(35%)	19(32.20%)
Never attended	2 (10.53%)	4 (10%)	6(10.17%)
Total	19 (100%)	40 (100%)	59 (100%)

Source: Field survey, 2006

The meeting includes community forest user's group committee regular meeting and general assembly. The above table shows that 53 percent of women are attending community forest user's group committee meeting regularly whereas another 10.53 percent of women have never attended community forest related meeting. In total 89.47 percent of women has been attending annual assembly regularly. Which is in fact an excellent participation of them.

The above data can be presented in the form of chart as follows:

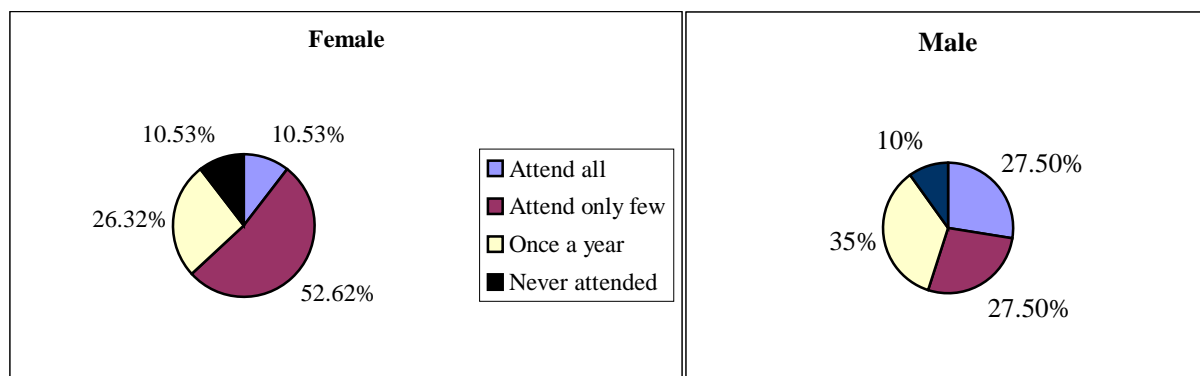


Fig. 2: Participation Pattern in Community FUG Meeting

4.2.3 Women's role in the community forest management decision-making process

As table 9 previously mentioned that 32.20 percent of women are participating in community forest; they are involving in some kinds of decision-making process. During the seedling protection, they forced other members to fence barbed. The committee members contributed all necessary materials for all activities.

4.2.4 Types of women's participation in decision making process

Self-motivated participation is considered as the real participation. Community forest management and protection are fully impossible without the participation of women. Although, women's representation is very low but they are the key agents in the management of community forest. They are the primary users and protectors of forest or the forest products as already mentioned. However, the rational of participation in community forest management by respondents is given table 10.

Table 10: Rationale of participating community forest management

Reasons for participation	Sex		Total (percentage)
	Female (Percentage)	Male (Percentage)	
Moral support	2 (10.53%)	4 (10%)	6 (10.18%)
Giving suggestion	5 (26.32%)	10 (25%)	15 (25.42%)
Discussion	10 (52.62%)	15 (37.5%)	25 (42.37%)
Decision making	2 (10.53%)	11(27.5%)	13 (22.03%)
Total	19 (100%)	40 (100%)	59 (100%)

Source: Field survey, 2006

The above table shows that 52.62 percent of women are participating for group discussion whereas 26.32 percent of women are giving suggestion. 10.53 percent of women said that they participate for making decision. Thus, the percentage of responding for decision-making purpose is found very low. The same data is shown in the following chart:

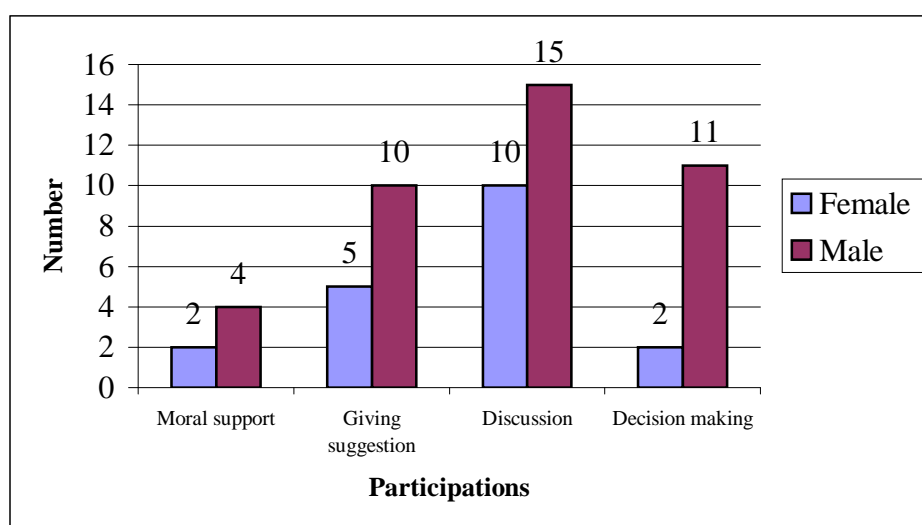


Fig. No. 3: Rationale of Participating Community Forest Management

4.2.5 Women participation protection and management of community forest

Women members have participated actively in the management process of community forest. They started encouraging other women to

do so. They follow the scheduled forest activities particularly involving in pruning and thinning.

The forest is protected from cattle grazing, felling of trees and collection of forest products. Through a strict system, the forest user's group oversees forest watching. Every day one household has to patrol the forest on a rotation basis. Failure to take one's turn at patrolling leads to a fine of Rs. 20.

Grazing is also one of the important methods of animal husbandry in the study area. The livestock are moved freely in search of green twigs and group grass in most of the months in a year. Usually they take the livestock in the government forests for the grazing purpose and also agricultural land after crops are harvested. However the place where the respondents take their livestock for grazing purpose can be summarized as shown in table 14.

Table 11: Grazing places for livestock

Grazing place	Respondents (Percentage)
Common grazing land	13(25.0%)
Near by forest with care	27(51.93%)
Own agricultural land	4(07.69%)
Private grazing land	-
Never taking to grazing	8(15.38%)
Total	52(100%)

Source: Field survey, 2006

Table 14 shows that the profile of grazing places where the respondents take their livestock for grazing purpose 84.62 percent of the respondents take their livestock for grazing purpose. Among them 55 percent respondents their livestock in near by forest for grazing purpose

but 7.69 percent respondents take in their agricultural land after harvesting the crops. 22 percent of them take their livestock to common grazing land. whereas 15.38 percent of respondents reported that they never took animals to graze but stall feed them.

4.3 Enhancing and constraining factors on women's participation in community Forestry

Women's participation in forest management is socially in built involvement from the beginning. The farming roles of women in the farming system of Nepal in hill and mountain areas have necessitated. Their involvement in the whole cycle of crop production from seed selection to consumption and the collection and use of various plants and animals from forests and pasture lands, their responsibilities for caring for the household members, livestock and crop lands have provided them with an extensive knowledge of the use and usefulness of plants, and therefore made them key actors in the management of bio-diversity of forest and agricultural plant resources. However some of the enhancing and constraining factors for women's participation in C.F. management are still in existence found. These factors can be categorised as committee level factors, physical and social factors, structural factors and political factors.

4.3.1 Committee level factors

User group performances has been found uneven. The formation of Baikhola community FUG's date back to December 1994. Some of the respondents said that sufficient attention has been paid to identify users and informed them about their rights and responsibilities. Elite's dominants on decision making issue are seriously taken into consideration. In other instances the situation within user group is more alike to committee forestry rather than community forestry. Furthermore,

the marginal groups such as women, scheduled caste and the poor are incorporated. As earlier table show that 2 women are in the executive committee. Increasingly, user group exchanges (training, meetings, networks or assemblies) are helping to raise the awareness of the rural poor. In the earlier table shows that about 33 percent of women are involved in executive committee and user committee. This indicated that the dominance of male member is still a national phenomenon besides several efforts have been introduced.

Under the committee level factors, the issue of women's participation depends upon the degree of familiarization between villagers and the activities of (FUGC i.e., how the beneficiaries are involved and participated in the initiation and operation of community forest programme. Do they really know the values and usefulness of community forest ? As women are highly busy involving household chores and household level forestry activities. They hardly get time to meetings and gatherings although, they are the primary users and managers of the forest product. Women are highly busy involving in planting trees, weeding, pruning, thinning, collection of firewood and fodder, grazing animals etc.

The participation fluctuates as per the requirement of community forest management. Respondent participated because of their willingness to work in the community forest users group committee as an executive member. It is a self-valued and maintaining status among the community people. Another concrete point is being a FUGC member, they do not have to provide any substantial input such as: land capital. According to the close observation the present executive women members are ready to pay time and labour to CFUG. All of the women members are middle income group. Therefore they can even contribute nominal cash also.

FUGC required lots of time for community forest operation and management on the volunteer basis. From this it could be stated that, lower the contribution of cash from villagers, higher would be the women's participation.

The degree of participation depends on how the clearly prospect of benefit after joining FUGC is designed. Generally there was high participation at the beginning as they thought they would be able to fulfill there several needs, such as: spent loss time for collecting firewood, fodder and grazing animals, continual drinking water supply from forest, enough rainfall for crops. Interest on participation gradually decreased as they are confined by the community forestry programme. More attraction could be seen when there are opportunities to attend training and workshop. Thus, uncertain of benefits lowers the women's participation in CF management.

Another factor for participation is the opportunity to make linkage with HMG officials and exposure and opportunity to receive development roles. Opportunity to attend workshop, meeting, seminar, training outside of village and receiving outside visitors are also the factors affecting to the participation. From this description we can conclude that higher the chances of support for other activities from committee, higher would be the women's participation. However, the pattern of women's participation in CF related and other meeting is less effective than men as shown table 15.

Table –12: Information in community FUG meeting

Community meeting	FUG	Female (percentage)	Male (percentage)
Weekly, monthly		-	-
Yearly		14 (70%)	13 (81%)
Does not know		6 (30%)	3 (19%)
Total		20 (100%)	16 (100%)

Source: Field survey, 2006

Above table shows that 70 percent of female respondents are informed about yearly meeting of executive committee and 30 percent of women are unaware of the CFUGC meeting. The system of sharing benefit among the executive members also plays a vital role on women's participation. The example of equal sharing of benefit could be taken from the distribution pattern of firewood per household level. The environment of community forest as a common property among the group also plays vital role for increasing women's participation. Thus, it is found that, lower the conflict between members higher would be the women's participation in community forest management.

4.3.2 Physical and social factors

The location of the CFUGC, size of equality and participatory orientation play a vital role in the nature of the women's participation in C.F. management. Most of member are unable to attend regular meeting. The house of present secretary, who kept FUGC document with him also, situated in far distance from the majority of users. Thus, it is concluded that, closer the place for committee meeting, higher would be the women's participation.

Local cultural understanding between Gurung, Magar also plays a vital role. Majorities of women are involved in pre-defined social-role. It is very difficult to work out and get spare time to attend new developmental activities as well as attending community forest meeting.

4.3.3 Structural factors

The structural factors has equally played important role in determining women's participation in C.F management. This includes the size of the committee, composition of committee, rights and authority of the committee and decision-making and implementation of the decision. There are 46 households in Baikhola Community FUG area. They formed CFUGC of 5 members out of 13 which is smaller in size. Smaller the size of the committee, easy to notify and meet each other. Quick communication could happen within the time limit. Smaller size is considered as the best and there would be less conflict between members. Thus, smaller size of CF management team, greater would be the chances of mobilizing the women's participation.

The degree of participation depends upon the composition of committee also. This includes the marital status and age. The main reason found by the study was that most of the women member are married. Married women do not leave the village, as there is high chances of young women leave the village after they get married. They take many responsibilities with in the household as well as collecting firewood, fodder, fetching water, grazing animals, cooking for all of the family members and caring animals. They are supposed to be more willing than men to accept the responsibility.

Education is necessary factor for completing important paper work, making contracts with concerned officials and building up strong relationship with local people. More over it empowers, build

understanding and create awareness. Thus, the higher the educational status of the women, higher the chances of participation.

Women's participation in CF management depend on the process how the selection of women for the committee are performed. In this study area, some people say that there is open communication among the FUG members, but the number of the women's participation is low. The selection of the women members of the FUG has done by general consensus of the ward people among the representative from different localities of the ward. Assured that the committee is the real representation of the community. According to the committee they have given full support and authority to carry out the activities.

The present FUGC member said that they have selected those who are interested to join the FUGC and those who are not going to create any problem for the group. But some people in the community argued this statement as they feel the present FUG committee is no longer representing the community.

Groups meet to discuss community forestry's rights and responsibilities. Participation depends upon how many villagers understand the rights and authority of the FUGC members. Preparation of the role, rights and authority to both FUGC and villagers are considered important factors. The levels of understanding FUG role is depend upon the process of its development. Thus clears the rights and authorities of group the greater will be the chances of mobilizing women's participation.

Another factors for enhancing women's participation depends upon how the decisions are made and implemented. This could be the case deciding fines and punishment for illegal users. Some situation like who takes decision-making roles and who lead the group are vital. On the

other hand, rules and regulation described in OP hardly read by all members. The frequencies of meeting, assembly and people's participation also affect the women's participation. From above description we can summarize that more programme incorporated the ideas of village women and men there would be the greater chances of women's participation.

4.3.4 Political factors

Political factors plays a significant role for women's participation in CF. This includes, social norms, local politics and government support and resources availability. Women's participation depends on traditional norms, power in decision making process and benefit sharing. Villages keep close watching on who participate and why. They are always keen to know what decision are taken and how it is taken for whom.

The system of utilization of local human resources, knowledge and resources also plays vital role in the pattern of women's participation in CF management. Regular income sources, open and participatory decision making roles and professional development opportunity thrust the degree of women's participation.

4.4 Local people attitude on women's roles in forest management

4.4.1 Views of FUG about women's role in forest management:

To assess the women's role in forest management, five female and three male users were interviewed. In response to the query of women's representation in executive committee, the majority of them 6 users said that "Women are kept in executive committee to make them active in forest management activities". Similarly 4 female and all of male (3 users) said that "Women are active in forest conservation management" and the remaining one female users said "there is satisfactory". According

to them, lack of education training opportunities and household burden are hindering factors for their active participation in forest management activities.

4.4.2 Views of male of FUG about women's role in forest management

To assess the women's role in forest management five males of executive members were interviewed. In response, to reasons for women's representation in executive committee, all of them said that "women are kept in executive committee to make them active in forest management activities." This finding confirms that the role of women in community forest management is well accepted by them. To increase women's active participation in community forest management, they advised to increase women member in committee. The provisions of training, field trip, seminar and workshops should be organized and men should help in domestic work.

4.4.3 Views of female of FUGs about women's role in Forestry Management

Two female executive members were unanimously elected in the executive committee interviewed to evaluate their, role in forest management activities. In response, their reasons for representation in executive committee is to enactive themselves in sustainable forest management. They have participated the meetings. In respect to their role of implementing decisions they were actively involved. They need training informal educational programmes, field trips, opportunities to participate in seminars and workshops to promote their active participation in community forest management. If their male counter parts were to help them in domestic chores, there would be more available time to be active in this process.

4.4.4. Key informant's view about women's role in forest management

As mentioned in methodology chapter informal interviews were taken with five key informants to collect more information about women's role in forest management

According to the chair person of Baikhola Community forest user groups, women of forest user committee are active in forest management activities and they are also taking part in the decision making process. The majority of the women are participating actively. He said provisions of field trips, training and workshops would make women's active participation in forest management activities more effectively.

According to a local a teacher of Bhimsen Primary School, Chitra Kumari Thapa, women do most of the forest related activities. Due to increasing awareness, women were willing to handle the forest themselves; therefore the forest was granted to them. She argued that women could not work properly because of the political division including the insurgency as a result nobody dares to stretch their legs to the forest alone even though near the chopping/falling sound of trees, see forest fire and as on, household works, economic problem and internal conflict. She suggestively further added that group meetings should solve political and internal conflicts and VDC should provide economical/financial support to them. Similarly, training and field trips should be made accessible to women as well men should share household works, then they can work actively in the process of sustainable forest management.

CHAPTER-5

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

Nepal is widely known as the country of unity in diversity. It is spread from the southern lowland of about 60m. to the highest peak of the world of 8848m. The elevation differs the climatic condition consequently the natural vegetation. Hence the diverse biodiversity is one of the special features of the country.

Forest has a crucial part in the nation economy as it helps to shape of the development fund from different dimensions. Needless to say, forest is the source of living for those who have been living a miserable life, in the Terai, the hills and the mountains. Forest has the both direct and indirect advantages to support the mankind. However the encroachment process leads to limit it only in patches resulting to the devastation hence the country's economy well as the existence of those dependent groups becomes critical.

Considering the fact, the government has set up different policies with different forestry support programmes. As the programmes are especially for the people, they must be aware of them. From identifying the problem to the sustainable development of the project, the beneficiaries must contribute in whatever way they can. Hence the government has handed over the forestry programme to the community.

As the women are the key actors to supply the forest related products daily, they have a significant role for the management and sustainable use of the forest. Therefore aiming to explore and analyze their role in different levels, along with to find out the constraints and enhancing factors of women's participation in Community Forestry Programme, the study is held as the case study of Baikhola Community Forestry.

5.2 Conclusion

In the Nepalese context, the gender-based problems have been common in all social activities. The community forestry is also not free from huge gender based discrimination. Therefore, the number of women's participation in community forest management is very low. Women get a little spare time to participate in the village level development activities.

The level supports given to the women by the male counterpart determine the participation of women in such local development programmes. Poor attitudes of male towards women made the situation worse. Traditional norms, powers in decision-making process and benefit sharing also affect their participation. Thus, greater the support from male counterpart, greater would be the chances of active participation of women in community forest management.

The level of women's participation depends upon the composition of FUG executive committee. Generally an adult committee member participates actively. Usually married women do not leave the village, as there is a high chance of unmarried women leaving the village after they get married.

Regular income sources and participatory decision making roles and professional development and opportunity thrust the degree of women's participation. The system of utilization of local human resources knowledge and resources also plays vital role in the pattern of women's participation. Educational status of the people plays a key role for better involvement of women. Higher would be the participation of line agencies and provided professional development opportunities among

FUG members are available, greater would be the chances of generalising women's participation in Community Forestry management.

5.3 Recommendation

Based on the findings of study, the following suggestions can be formulated:

1. Provision of adult literacy classes for the improvement of their knowledge.
2. Involvement of women in income generating activities based on forest and forest resources in order to make them aware of the importance of forest and its conservation.
3. The government should provide the market facility especially for the commodity produced by women using local raw materials.
4. Awareness building activities on community forest management from the beginning should be emphasized.
5. Assistance to the community forest users group executive committee, especially in book keeping, financial management and information management should be provided.
6. Focus should be made on to generate men and their creative support for women's involvement in the decision making process.
7. Focus should be given to introduce alternative strategies to bring women in to main stream of development in general and their role in decision making process in Community Forestry management in specific for gender equity.
8. Focus could be made on delivering non formal education to women of the area so that the importance of community forestry

management for the present and for future generation as well could be well understood.

9. Training such as gender equity could be organized to increase women's involvement in community forestry and decision making process.
10. Several studies could be made on this subject with more explanation and emphasis on ethnic perspective.

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ANNEX-I

Questionnaire for the Member of FUG

1. Name of the member:

Age: Namjung VDC-3

Caste: Gorkha, Nepal

2. Household Information

Male	Female	Total

3. Literacy Level:

Male	Female	Total
Literate		
Illiterate		

4. Number of Cattle:

- (i) Buffaloes:
- (ii) Cows
- (iii) Oxen
- (iv) Goats/Sheep

5. Land ownership of the family (in ropani):

Total land	Cultivated land	Uncultivated land

6. Who encouraged you to be the number of FUG?

Family () Neighbour () Self () Other ()

7. How long have you been involved in this programme?

1 year () 2 years () 3 years ()

8. What advantages of CF programme attracted you the most?

Environment () Livestock () Time saving ()

Fuel wood/Timber ()

9. How much fuel-wood do you require per week?

1 Bhari () 2 Bhari () 3 or more Bhari ()

10. Where do you collect the fuel wood?

In the jungle() In the private land() Both() Others()

11. How much time did it require to collect one bhari of fuel wood?

Before the Forestry Programme **After the Forestry Programme**
..... hours minutes hours minutes

12. How much fodder do you collect from the forest in a day?

1 Bhari () 2 Bhari () 3 or more Bhari ()

13. How much time does it take to collect one bhari of fodder?

Less then 1 hour () 1-2 hours () More than 2 hours ()

14. Number of cottage:

For housing	For cottage	Other
Number:	Number:	Number:
Type:	Type:	Type:

15. How often do you attend the meeting?

Monthly () Quartely () Annually() Never attends ()

16.. Have you ever been participated in decision making process?

Always () Occasionally () Never ()

17. Are you Satisfied with the Distribution pattern of forest product?

Yes () No ()

18. How often was the forestation programme held ?

Only once () Frequently () Never ()

19. Do you think that CF programme helps to raise the living standard of the people?

Very much ()

Some extent ()

Not at all ()

Can't say ()

20. Do you find any adverse effects of CF programme?

Yes ()

No ()

21. Finally I'd like to offer my gratitude to you for giving me the time and help. Is there anything else that you would like to add?

.....

Thanks

ANNEX-II

NAME OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. Mr. Dharma Jung Thapa
2. Mr. Khadananda Gotame
3. Mr. Thakur Man Shrestha
4. Mr. Shambhu Ramtel
5. Mr. Ram Prasad Regmi
6. Mrs. Chitra Kumari Thapa
7. Mrs. Mangali Gurung
8. Mr. Kanchha Bhai Gurung
9. Mr. Thaneshwor Amgai
10. Mr. Rajan Gotame
11. Mr. Dip Pratap Thapa
12. Mr. Krishna Prasad Pokhrel
13. Mr. Prakash Lamichhane