

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background

Nepal is one of the poor countries in the world. The total area of the country is 1,47,181 sq .km and out of that Hills and Mountains covers 68 percent of the area. Geographically, it is divided into three distinct regions namely High Himalayas, Hills and Terai. More than 86 percent of the total populations are inhabited in rural areas and majority depending on agriculture. Most of the rural areas of the country are far-out of minimum basic development requirements. Quantity of land holding per family is decreasing, that is why, and the rural poverty is spread tremendously. Thus, poverty has become a main constrain of development.

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

Forest is one of the important natural resources of Nepal. Forest is complex ecological entities with a multitude of productive , protective and regularly function as for the production function of forests, the most important forest production include logs, timber, firewood, fodder, fruits, flower, fibers, medicinal herbs etc. firewood from the forest is the most important energy resources for about 85 percent of the Nepalese people who live in rural areas. The protective function of forest include the role of forestry in preventing soil erosion and

landslide prevention, protection and conservation of plant diversity, and an enhancement of scenic beauty in the countryside. The regulatory function of hydrological cycle of water regime, minimization of air and water pollution by absorbing carbon dioxide as well as other harmful elements, moderation of adverse effects of light, heat, wind and other climatic process. Forest, which is a renewable resource, performs multifarious function by providing various valuable services and products. It conserves watershed, protect from flood and soil erosion, help to regulate climate and is also habitat for various animal and plant species. Also, the forest provides fodder forage and litter to the livestock, wood for domestic use and trade, composting and thatching materials, farm implement fruits, honey, oils and medical herbs. In brief the forest has been playing crucial role in sustaining the farming system in Nepal since long (Devkota and Joshi, 1991).

The forest is directly linked with the economy of the country and the rural people's livelihood. So, different options have been implemented in different time and period for the protection and management of the forest in Nepal. Community forest (CF) is a major program of Nepalese forestry sector. The concept was formally launched in Nepal in 1978 with the promulgation of Panchayat forest Rules and Panchayat protected forest Rules in 1978. Nevertheless, the concept was incorporated earlier in Nepal's first National Forestry plan 1976 and related legislation 1977 (Gilmour and Fisher, 1992, Chapagain et,al 1999). In 1989, the Master Plan for Forestry Sector (MPFS) was published which placed highest priority on CF recognizes the importance of need of people's participation in protection, production management and utilization of forest (Gilmore and Fisher 1992 cited in Tembe, 2061).

Nepal is a multi-ethnic society and equity issues one very important in any development process including community Forest. Moreover, gender issues are of particular importance in forest management as women and children mainly do fuel wood and fodder collection. Women are the principal fuel-wood and fodder collector in Nepal. Therefore, they are the most adversely affected population by the process of deforestation.

Community forest emphasize a gradual shift from a highly technical “Classical forestry management approach to a “Participation approach” which is people oriented (Gilmour *et al.*, 1988).

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

CF is defined as “the protected, managed and utilized by local forest user group;” The community forestry is a small scale, village level forestry practice where decision and action are often made on a community/collective basis. And where the rural population participates in planning, establishment, management and harvesting of forest crops and receives a major proportion of the socio-economic and ecological benefits from the forests (Kayastha, 1991).

In Nepal, out of the total territory, 14.7 million hectares forest covers total 5.5 million hectares (ha), which equals to 37 percent of the land area. Only 11 percent

of natural forests are in Terai and High Himal Zone, the remaining area is evenly distributed across the Middle hills and Siwaliks of this land area 3.5 million hector 61 percent has been identified as potential community forests, which could be handed over to local people for management. According to Department of Forest (DoF, 2002), the total area of handed over CF is about 925,089 hector to about 11,749 user groups and it has benefited about 12, 92,184 families from the implementation of Community forestry operation Plans in Nepal (Neupane, 2005). Present day forest management is moving towards a participatory model, where foresters are supposed to provide technical and other advisory services to the local people regarding the management of forests. Resources scarcity is one of the prime motivating factors for user groups to participate in the management of community forests.

From the early 1980, however the community forest programs were introduce in Nepal to mobilize the local people in grass root level. But not much evidence is available for its successful results.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Forestry sector plays a central role in economic and social life of Nepalese people. Forestry encircles many objectives: economical, rural development (poverty alleviation, employment and empowerment creation, self-reliant) tourism, natural biodiversity conservation. Majority of Nepalese people depend on Nepal's immense natural resource for their livelihood. Once green forest was national wealth of Nepal, but now the situation has greatly changed. With the growing population the need and demand of forest have greatly increased. At present the

area of forest has estimated about 37 percent only (Neupane 2005). Subsequently, there are very few forest that are not under severe pressure from the nearly population. The responsible causes for this are rapid deforestation, weak conservation system, unscientific cultivation and management system and uncontrolled population growth.

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

Considerable efforts have been made to conserve forest in the Hill of Nepal, but in the end use , we find ourselves cutting trees is not bad in itself as a forest is resource which should be utilized regularly in a managed way. Forest provides numerous benefits to the people and to support economic growth. The present trend to utilizing to the point of total destruction in the hills of Nepal has become a major problem. The reason is the lack of proper management system. In effect, a renewable resource is being treated as a non-renewable resource. Therefore, the main concern of the forest sector in the hills of Nepal is to stop this trend and for this purpose the preparation and implementation of management plans are essentials (Karmacharya, 1978).

The procedures of transferring forest ownership from DF to the FUGs have not yet been systematized. It needs further requirement based on the lesson learned from different part of the country (Karki, 1994).

Deforestation is the main problem in our country and people were the main users of forest and to stop the illegal activities, it is very necessary to participate people on community forest management. This potential activity helps the people of that particular area in community development. In this study, it is felt that in order to develop the forest or even to stop the rapid increasing deforestation process, only government efforts are not enough, people themselves should be made conscious for their active participation in community forest promotion. So people participation plays vital role of the forest product. The procedures of transferring forest ownership from District forest to the forest user groups have not yet been systematized. It needs further requirement based on the lesson learned from different part of the country (Karki, 1994).

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study:**

The general objective of this study is to assess the people's participation in the user committee's activities in the Parsan VDC.

The specific objectives are:

- To understand people's participation in community forest management system.
- To analyze the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents.
- To identify problem related to the well functioning of the FUG in Parsan VDC.

### **1.4 Importance of the Study**

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

However, most of area in Nepal has not been studied which examines the participation of people in the user committee and some recommendation to improve the organization and participation of people in forest resources management. So to fill the gap this study plays a vital role for management. In Kanchanpur district, very limited studies have been carried out about the people's participation in community forest user group. The major contribution is providing valuable information issues of participation, equity and management in community forestry development in district and national level.

This may be helpful to policy maker, planners, and professionals in journey to consider people's participation, equity and management in community forestry development in district and national level. The study also helps to promote the role and importance in forest management, role of people in community forest user group and also their action towards community development.

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

## **1.5 Conceptual Framework**

The overall conceptual framework will guide this research. The conceptual framework has been developed to investigate the factors which are mainly responsible to make people participate in community forest management. In this study, people participation is taken as an independent variable. People participation in different CF activities has its impact on CF management. The economic status also affects the CF management. Indicators that are considered to ensure people participation in 5 different management aspects of this study are general assembly and meeting, formation of users group, selection and structure of executive committee, collection of grass/fodder/timber, forest and forest products, penalties/reward, silviculture practice, plantation, sharing of benefits etc.

## **1.6 Organization of the Study**

The present study consists of all together seven chapters including introduction, literature review, research methodology, socio-economic status of the area, community forest management system, people's participation in community forest management, summary, conclusion and recommendations respectively.

First chapter is about the introduction including background of the study, statement of the problems, importance of the study, objective of the study, conceptual framework of the study, and organization of the study and limitation.



The second chapter discusses the review of literature including general review, development history of community forest at present, community forest management and people participation in community forestry.

Third chapter is about the research methodology including study area, research design, nature of sources of data, universe and sampling, data collection technique and tools.

Similarly, chapter four explain about the socio-economic status of the area such as population structure, education, occupation and fuel type.

In chapter five, community forest management system discusses the overall management system of Jana Jagaran Forest User Group and also the conflicts within the user group.

The chapter six discusses the sources of forest products, collection of forest product, people's participation in community forest management and community development activities and also the women's participation in community forest management. It also analyses the participation of people in different level of community forest management and impact of community forest on the local users and community.

Like this, summary, conclusion and recommendation are presented in the chapter seven.

### **1.7 Limitation of Study**

There are following limitation on the study

- The study is focus on only one community forest FUG.
- Due to time and budget constraint only 300 of the respondent will included.
- The study will only focus on forest product but not in other natural resource available from forest.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 General Review**

Forest management has traditionally been a major public policy issue in Nepal, although historically forest has been shaped by political and economic motives rather than by ecological consideration. The tradition of governmental control and protection of forestry resources dates back to ancient times when dense, malaria-infested forests were seen as an important buffer and defense against marauding invaders from the southern plains. Feudal lords imposed rigorous controls upon the use of strategically placed forests although in certain localities forest of particular religious significance were also accorded special protection. In a study of community and forest management in south Asia, Poffenberger has discussed the different transitions in forest management paradigms in South Asia. Accordingly while population and forest exploitation levels have expanded dramatically over the past years, fundamental shifts in human resources management systems have also played a part in shaping the fate of forest. These

changes in social forestry result from the competition of different paradigms or models of management paradigms exit contemporaneously (Poffenberger, 2002).

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

The history of Middle Hills' forests followed a different course. While sophisticated cultures were developing in Kathmandu valley, the hills remained sparsely populated by tribal communities of Tibeto-Burman speaking people. Most of the hill tribes of Nepal held all their lands under a form of Kipet (communal control) system. Responding to pressure from new waves of Islamic rules moving into the Indian Plains from the northwest, a steady stream of Hindu people settled

in the middle hills from the eleven century onwards. With superior weapons, wet rice technology and greater literacy, high caste Hindus with their lower caste retainers, began subordination the existing Mongoloid society, influencing their crops and cultivation practices. Indigenous systems of communal forest and land management were gradually supplanted by feudal systems of control. Nepal began developing a national identity in the middle of the eighteen century, when Prithvi Narayan Shah, founded the present line of monarchs and began uniting the country. Shah made alliances with Gurungs, Magars, and other hill tribes, allowing them to retain communal *kipat* system of land tenure. Nonetheless, over the next two hundred years, the hierarchical caste-based social structure favored lowland Hindu migrants, while the nobility sought to extend their influence and territorial control through making acquiring land grants (*Birta, Guthi, Jagir*). *Birta* is an ancient land-tenure system under which lands grants were made usually to the nobility or senior office holder. *Guthi* grants were made to support the temple, monasteries, religion foundation and charitable institution. *Guthi* land endowments included both crop land and forest. *Jagir* land grants were made in lieu of salaries, especially to army, officials and other government employees. In *jagir* system, jagirdars (grantee) received all the benefits of the land (Mahat et.al, 1987).

The history of forest management in the Terai differs sharply from the experience of the hill forest. The dense Sal forests of the Terai resisted settlement and logging for centuries due to the prevalence of malaria throughout the region. Only the *Tharu* and several other tribal communities resided in the area practicing hunting, gathering and farming. As early 1793, with the realization of the resources of Terai as important source of revenue for the government, the

government had established administrative regulation centralizing the timber trade, with new orders in 1799 controlling the selling wax and certain other forest product (Mahat et. al,1987).

The land in Nepal was traditionally seen by the state as its as important resource. Cultivated land was of prime importance as its products could be taxed in one way or another. Forest, on the other hand, was seen as virtually wasteland, a view doubt encourage by the great surplus of forest resource that must have existed centuries ago. It was therefore in the interest of the state to encourage conservation of to agriculture land and thus policy was pursued energetically and coercively over a long period, the Rana policy of agriculture development after 1845 also mainly involved expansion of the area of agriculture land. They also argued that the deforestation of the middle hills of Nepal has been caused mainly by this land-use policy of the government, which promote the conservation of the forestland to agriculture land. During Rana regime, the forest of Nepal have been strongly affected by the different external influences, such as land grants, exploitation of forests for the purpose of building and smelling for national purpose, have all had profound influence on land use, and deforestation in particular. Further, the forest land is an integrated part of the agro-ecosystem but a significant proportion of this land, both government and privately owned is being over used or used sub-optimally. This is leading to severe ecological imbalances, which threaten the continued viability of the agro-ecosystem and could contribute to a major ecological disaster. The possible solution was the adoption of community based forestry activities as a means of raising the

productivity of all the non-cultivated land and also for more drastic restructure of the society to become one less dependent on the fragile ecosystem. By the time of Rana Government was over thrown in 1951, one-third of the country farmland and forest and were held under *Birta* with 75 percent belonging to members of the Rana family. During the same period, private forest nationalization Act of 1957 strengthens the Nepal's forest. All the private forestlands of the country especially the Birth and jaggiar land grants, became public domain and were largely nationalized and placed under the jurisdiction of Forest Department. A major goal of the forest Nationalization policy was end the feudal system of resource control that had evolved over a century of Rana government administration. Elimination feudal tenure authority created opportunities for grater control by local communities (Mahat et.al; 1987).

Traditional management of forest by specific local group was common especially among the hill communities .To recognize these traditional users and the traditional use practices of the forest , His Majesty's Government of Nepal {HMG/N} realized the need of involving local communities in the forest management in 1961. However, Community Forest program was; initiated in Nepal in the late seventies. In the1970's, the community Forest Development program (CFDP) introduced the concept of Panchayat Forest {PF} and Panchayat Protected Forest {PPF}, Leasehold forestry with the purpose of handing back the protection and management of the forest to the people. In the 1980s, decentralization regulation were introduced in the forest sector to further establish and foster local people' and local organizations participation in the management and development of PF and PPF. In the 1990, the end of Nepal's Panchayat system of government brought a change in the status to PF and PPF.

Today, the term “Community Forest (CF)” is used to refer to any forest under group’s protection and management.

The community forestry policy focused mainly on:

- Handing over accessible forest to the forest user groups (FUGs) irrespective of political boundaries. FUG is made up of households living nearby who have been traditional users of the resources.
- FUG income generated from the community forest resources. As the FUGs start management they get forest products from cleaning, pruning and thinning operations. They are distributed among the users and surplus is sold outside the FUGs.
- Orientations of the entire forestry department staff to cater for change of their traditional role as a policeman then extension worker (Neupane, 2005).

In Nepal, current forest policy puts great emphasis on community forest management. Community forest is based on the notion for people’s participation of the forest users to manage their resources. Consequently, the management of national forest is being systematically handed over to identify community of users (Bhattarai, 1997). The focus of the Master plan is on the basic needs of the Nepalese people and on the requirement to meet those needs. The main policy of the community and Private Forestry Programs is to develop and manage forest resources through the active participation of individuals and communities to meet their basic needs. The main Component and Private Forestry programs are:



- Establishment and management of community forestry in open and degraded areas.
- Distributions of free or subsidized seedlings to encourage the establishments of private forests (MoF, 1989).

Nepal's most recent modification of legislation, the forest Act 1993 aims at securing basic needs for forest products by forming user groups for joint forest management giving "priority to poor communities, or to the poorer people in a community" (Tembe, 2061). Thus, community forestry is generally praised as a community based process of empowerment of local groups. The new forestry legislation, Forest Act 1993 and Forest Regulation 1995, is supportive and conducive for community forest development in Nepal. Accordingly DFO, it is authorized to hand over any part of accessible national forests to the communities, in the form of community forest for protection, management and utilization of forest, who are traditional users of the forests, if they are interested to manage the forests. Any amount of national forest can be handed over to FUGs if they indicate that they are capable of managing the forests. FUGs are autonomous and corporate bodies with succession rights. FUGs can plant long term cash crops such as medical herbs, without distributing main forestry crops and can fix prices of forest products irrespective of the government royalty. DFO can take community forest back from FUGs if they go against the operational plan. However, the DFO must give back the forest back to newly reformed FUG as soon as possible once the problem is resolved (Neupane, 2005).

## **2.2 Development History of Community Forestry**

The forest Act of 1978 has introduced the concept of Panchayat forest and Panchayat protected Forest, Based on that concept the forest was managed at village level by village Panchayat. The forest user Group concept was introduced in the Decentralization Act of 1982 where the concept was promoted as the most effective approach for development and management of natural resources in local communities. Village Panchayat was the part of governmental structure, the user groups are autonomous legal entities, and significant devolution of power to the user groups has taken place in the forest sector (shrestha and shrestha, 2002).

The community forestry program in Nepal was official initiated in late 1970s. Since then, a movement has been evolving to involve local communities in the management and utilization of forest (Kandel et.al. 2003). Particularly, the National Forestry Plan (1976) the Decentralization Act (1982) and Master plan of forestry Sector (1989) specify the importance of local control over forest the local needs. On this ground the forest Act of 1993 and the forest Regulation Act 1995 has reaffirmed that the government's responsibility of forest protection and management has develop to the local communities (Bhattraï, 2002). In Nepal, along with the decentralization, devolution of power in use and management of forest resources, especially through community Forestry (CF) is remarkable (Subedi, 2002).

### **2.3 Community Forest Management**

In the forest Act 1993 and Forest Regulation 1995, provisions relating to the community forest are fully defined. The main features of the forest Act are:

- District Forest Office has been empowered to hand over any patch of national forest directly to the forest Users Group along with operational plan prepared by users themselves.
- Users Group has authority to fix the prices of the forest products independently to sell the products, to transport the products freely anywhere within the country and to use the fund partly for the forest development and partly for the village development.
- Users Group can appeal to the Regional Forest director if the Districts Forest Office decides to resume the community forest cancel its registration.

Community forestry was initially defined by FAO as any situation which intimately involves local people in a forestry activity. It embraces spectrum of situation ranging from wordless areas, which are short of wood and other forest product for local needs through the growing of trees at the farm level of provide cash crops and the processing of forest products at households artisan or small industry level to generate income to the activities of forest dwelling communities (FAO,1998).

Community Forestry is seen as control, management and use of forest recourses by villagers. It seeks to increase the level of awareness of local people and actively to involve them in all aspects of forestry activities (Fishwer 1988).

To involve women in community forestry we first learnt that we have to identify the priorities of women, which may not necessarily be directly related to forests. Secondly these priorities are to be set as goals. Thirdly prescription of action to achieve the goals needs to be developed. Then through such activities the action

involvement of women can be realized within the community forestry (Kharel, 1993).

Nepal's community forestry program involves the transfer of responsibility for management of forest resources to local people. As these resources are to be managed collectively by the community. The effective management of common property by a collective is not the theoretical problem that is asserted to be simply because the theory assumes that economic behavior is played out as if it were a game disembodied from social relations in general. The reason why people conform to practices, which are against their short-term economic interest, is that they have other interests besides narrowly defined economic ones, including the desire to maintain social relationships(Fisher,1988).

Nepal has successfully implemented Community Forestry Programme (CEP) so that Nepal is also recognized as a world leader in the field of community forestry. CF has not only influenced the economic development of rural people but also has influenced the community life. According to one of the founder of FUG, community management of forest has changed the concept of community life. Villagers do not think in terms of personal benefits. Rather, they think in terms of collective benefits. The money earned from the forest can be spent in community development works like widening of trail roads and supplying potable water (Poffenberger, 2000).

Community forestry has received the highest priority in the forestry sector program of the government as reflected in both the Master Plan for the forestry sector (HMG, 2004) and the Eight Five Year plan(NPC,1992).the main thrust of the community forestry policy of the government is the phased transfer of

management and utilization of community forest to the actual users based on simple operational plans, which are prepared and endorsed jointly by the forest users and the assistant users in preparing the operational plans. The operational plan is a simple document, which describes the rules schedule, and other institutional arrangements made for forest production, management, and utilization (Acharya,*et al.*.1993 Cited in Neupane 2005).

It seems to be likely that sustainable management can occur when management plan are develop by the people most closely concerned with the individual patches of forest the users themselves with assistance provided by forest Department or other NGOs. Participatory approach that emphasized the importance to defining problem and developing solution in participatory fashion with user involvement is the most appropriate approach to develop a sustainable management system. The focus on user groups as the most appropriate groups for implementing forest management is recent and an appropriate one (Karki *et al.*, 1994).

“Wise utilization is conservation” and for wise utilization a proper management system is essential. Only through proper management system will be achieve the goals that have been set and obtain the yields that have been prescribed in the management plants. A management system in community forestry should be based on the fact that a forest needs tending to ensure that it delivers the optimum sustainable yield, and that it is regenerating. The aim is for the communities to be self reliant in forest management and also to ensure that the benefits from the forest are equitably distributed. Forest management must also be concerned with controlling environmental degradation (Karmarcharya, 1978).

It is necessary to involve users in starting of management plan and clearly in identified the users who are responsible for management and will be benefited from forest. The management plan therefore should be able to respond to the particular situation, ecology as well as Socio-economic of the people where the forest patch is situated (Khadka, 1991).

The success of community forestry program in Nepal is contingent on the local communities or user groups of forests becoming confident enough to carry on the protection, management and utilization prescriptions in their operational plans in order to meet their requirements of forest and tree products. Thus, implementation of the operational plans is essential for an effective implementation of community forestry itself (Chhetry and Baral, 1992).

Community forestry is not just a special technology but rather a process of socio-economic change that requires continuous participation of the community in planning, implementation and problem solving. Community forestry is not just planting trees; it is a bundle of activities which generate supplementary flow of income to the community by utilizing either unutilized or ill-utilized land (Kayastha, 1991).

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they have other interests besides narrowly defined economic ones, including the desire to maintain social relationship (Neupane,2005).

#### **2.4 Community forestry at present**

Community Forestry has been a major program of the forestry sector of Nepal. In the last 26 years, it has made impressive achievements. Thus, it is widely celebrated as one of the most progressive examples of developing control over forest resources to community based user groups (Britt, 2001). At present, we can proudly say that Nepal has moved away from being a country of ecological doom to a community forests(Shrestha, 2001).

Community Forestry policy is recognized as one of the most progressive policies in the world (Kanel et. al, 2003 and Shrestha, 2001). The policy has transferred the responsibility of managing government forest to the communities and provided right of using the forest products in a sustainable way and the with the ultimate policy objective of improving livelihood of rural communities (Kanel et. al, 2003). This program promets the control and use of forest resources by the local people. To ensure their legitimate right, the Forest Act 1993 defines the forest user group as an autonomous and corporate bodies with perpetuate succession. The FUGs are legally authorized to sell and distribute the forest products independently fixing their price (Kanel et. al, 2003 and chapagin et. al, 1999).

**Table -2.1: Community Forest National Database**

Total area of the Community Forests handed over	1,077,71
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Total number Community Forest User Group	13,185
Total number of household involved in FUGs	1,484,591
Average size of the community Forest	81 ha
Average Forest area per household	0.72 ha
Average household per community forest User group	122.50
Number of Women only Community forest User Group	663

Source:-DoF FUG national database, 2003

## 2.5 People's participation in Community Forestry

People's active participant in forest resources development which would be stimulated by their own thinking and deliberation and over which they control. An effective way for achieving people's participation is through community organization which local people will themselves set and manage (Barlett and Nurse, 1992).

The new participation approach and participatory silviculture to improve dynamic linkage between forest management and rural livelihood in the community forest in the middle hills of Nepal. As he found that the existing mixed (indigenous, diverse, specialized) type of silviculture systems CF were more complex than generally considered and also identified several issues and challenges in the interface between silviculture practices in CF and rural livelihood. He started that



the exiting overall strategy of the community forest management is timber-oriented, which may be harnessed by an innovative approach to silviculture that consist of new conceptual, methodological and substantive element to give to practices that better ecological and social standards (Ojha,2001).

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

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

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

According to Verma, in the extreme, participation can be "forced or imposed" on a group of people. In this case, they are forced to donate their labour to plant

trees on government land. The second level of participation is “induced participation” in which people are convinced that they should plant certain types of trees or protect the forest. The third level of participation is “guided participation” where the forester’s work with the user groups who may have formed their own, but the forester’s field staff makes many decision in the process. The people are guided in the direction that the fields’ staff determines. Real “participation” means the users are empowered to direct their own project. The users make make the decision; they initiate the process and the use forestry staff for technical help and advice. With true participate, the Forest Department does not make decision for the people, its staff does not have to convince the people to do activities, instead the foresters provide support for the user’s chosen activities. Participant will really only happen when people are aware of and exercise their rights (cites from Neupane, 2005).

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

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

- More accurate and representative activities information about the need, priorities and capabilities of local people.
- Adaptation of program activities to meet local conditions so that scarce resources can be employed more efficiently.
- Local cost of access to the public for extension programs through local institutions and organization.
- Tapping of local (indigenous) technical information that can otherwise be costly to obtain.
- Improved utilization maintenance of government facilities and services.
- More reliable feed back on the impart of the government initiatives and programs.
- Active co-operation of local on new programs (Uphoffr, 1992).

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

The active participation of villagers should be encouraged in the different activities of community forest. Accordingly, implementation of the operational plans, which were developed by the users in conjunction with Forest Department field staffs, has shown that there is a continuing role of the Forest Department field staff after the plan has been approved. Where the villagers do not have experiences in harvesting green forest production training may have required. When conflicts arise the field staff or DFO may be requested to act as an arbitrator. It is preferable that the villagers be given the opportunity to solve their

own conflicts before the field staffs taken an active role. It must also be recognized that in many cases the first Operational Plan negotiated with the users groups may not be perfect and it may need to be modified as the users gain experience. The composition of the user group may change over time and the user may wish to vary the rules and management prescriptions (Acharya and Barlett, 1991).

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

### **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

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

### **3.1 Study Area**

This study is carried out in Parasan VDC of Kanchanpur district named as “Jana Jagaran Forest User Group”. The main reason for the selection of this group is that this community forest is located in the accessible area closed to motor able road; the study also aim to include different ethnic groups and it is considered as the best FUG in its protection system and implementation of operation plan among other forest in the Kanchanpur, because of good safeguarding of the forest by its user from fire protection, wood cutters and timely performed the Silviculture activities(Thinning, Pruning, Weeding and Cleaning of the Forest Area ).

Parasan VDC is one of the 19 VDC’s of Kanchanpur district. It is located in the south eastern part of this district, lies on the border of India. It is bounded by Tribhuwan basti VDC in western and north western part and by India in remaining sides. The area lies in about 160m above mean sea level. The climate is tropical with monsoon dominated in June to September. It roughly lies in 28°37’30”N and 80°30’0”E. There was a river called Doda, which flows through the VDC. The community forest lies on the sides of the river. There are various water sources

such as nala, lake etc. in the Parasan VDC. It lies on tropical climate. Summer monsoon dominated in this area. Sal and Sissoo is major flora of this area. In the figure below the circle indicates the study area.

### **3.2 Research Design**

Descriptive and exploration research design will be used in this study. The emphasis will be given on the qualitative rather than the quantitative aspects of the information relating to the management condition of forest as well as role and activities of people's participation in forest management system.

### **3.3 Nature and Sources of Data**

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

### **3.4 Methods of Data Collection**

Both primary and secondary data collection methods will be used in this study. Primary data is a major factor it fulfills the objectives of the study. Some of the standard tools and technique will be used in order to collect primary data from

the study area. Interview schedules, observation, focus group discussion will be especially take as tools for the study.

#### **3.4.1 Household Survey**

Household survey will be used to collect information regarding personal information, family background, and socio- economic status, relation to the forest, people's participation in different activities and its role in community forest management as well as in utilization of forest product. A sample of survey questionnaire is annexed to this report. There are 2454 households in study area and my questionnaire cover 300 households i.e. sample size was more than 10percent.

#### **3.4.2 Observation**

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

#### **3.4.3 Focus Group Discussion (FGD)**

Focus Group Discussion will conduct to obtain basic information regarding community forest condition, management, protection, development and conflict

with the beneficiaries, households and executives committee members. 6 to 10 persons were in focus group discussion and 3 focus group discussions carry out in the field work.

### **3.5 Data Presentation and Analysis**

The data collect will through various sources using different data collection technique will put together, processed and analyzed manually. The study attempts to present or describes the data in very simple and communicable terms and language as far as possible. The presentation of quantitative information in tabulation form is carry out by simple statistical/mathematical tools such as percentages, graphs; charts etc. whereas qualitative data will be analyzed and presented in descriptive manner. Maps, diagrams and photographs are prepared as far as possible.

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE AREA**

#### **4.1 Population composition of Parasan VDC**



The VDC comprises the total population of 16050 with the slightly domination of female as of the national figure. The male population numbers to 7970 that is 49.66 percentage and female population tallying 8080 or 50.34 percentage. The total number of households of the VDC comes to be 2554. The population distribution according to the age groups is illustrated on the following table.

**Table 4.1; Population composition of Parasan VDC**

S.N.	Age Group	Male	Female	Population	Percentage
1	0-5	1301	1309	2610	16.26
2	6-15	2241	2273	4514	28.12
3	16-59	4034	4015	8049	50.15
4	60+	394	483	877	5.47
Total		7970	8080	16050	100

Source; Parasan VDC office Database, 2011

## 4.2 Education

There are altogether 1 higher secondary schools, 2 secondary schools, 2 lower secondary school, 4 primary schools and 8 boarding schools, running. Education status of the community people has an important role for the participation in different CF activities. In this subject the researcher has tried to show the education status of the respondents. Here the levels of education have been divided in four categories like illiterate, literate-5 class, and class 6-SLC,

intermediate and above. Table below shows the educational status of the respondents.

**Table 4.2: Educational status of respondents**

<b>S.N.</b>	<b>Academic Qualification</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
1	Illiterate	18	48	66	22
2	Literate-5 class	60	63	123	41
3	6 class-SLC	54	24	78	26
4	Intermediate and above	24	9	33	11
	<b>Total</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The above table shows that educational status of the respondent is not bad. About 78 percent of the respondents are from literate to SLC. Where 22 percent from illiterate and 11 percent are in intermediate and above class.

### **4.3 Occupation**

Economy is the pre-dominant factor of any society. Without the study of economy in any society we can not understand the whole system. The study area is very near to the market area. Thus, it can be said that, there is a good opportunity of business or service. Directly or indirectly most of the people are engaged in agriculture. The table below shows the population composition of sampled households to occupation.

**Table 4.3: Occupation status of Respondents**

<b>S.N</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Total Households</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
1	Service	75	25
2	Business	96	32
3	Agriculture	129	43

	total	300	100.00
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Source: Field Survey, 2011

#### 4.4 Cooking and Lighting

The house survey shows that electricity is used in all households for lighting in the study area. For cooking, different materials like gas, kerosene and firewood is used. The table below shows that about 78 percent of the households use firewood for cooking. Similarly, about 11percent of the households use bio-gas; about 2 percent and 9 percent of the households use kerosene and LPG gas respectively.

**Table 4.4: Cooking Materials Currently Used By the Respondents**

S.N.	Cooking materials	Samples households	Percentage
1	Firewood	234	78
2	Bio-gas	33	11
3	Kerosene	6	2
4	LPG	27	9
	Total	300	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2011

From the field survey it was known that 78percent respondents used firewood, 11percent use bio-gas, 2percent used kerosene and 9percent used LPG for cooking

food and other materials. From this data it was known that the area is dominated by medium economic class people. Most of people depend on community forest for cooking purpose because they use firewood.

## **CHAPTER V**

### **COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT SYSTEM OF JANA JAGARAN FOREST USER GROUP**

The chapter discusses the over all management system of community forestry in Jana Jagaran Forest User Group through the use of various methods.

#### **5.1 General Overview of Management System in JJFUG**

The Jana Jagaran Forest User Group was formally registered in District Forest Office of Kanchanpur on 2055/3/30 for forest conservation, utilization, management and development by the user group. As per discussion with the executive committee members, key persons and review of relevant documents during the field survey following objectives are found included in JJFUG.

- To conserve and to promote the existing forest within the CF area resulting a healthy and worthy forest.
- To provide different forest products to the entire members without any disturbances to forest status.
- To decrease the land-slides and erosions by conserving the forest.
- To perform plantation in the open area of the CF.

- To communalize the forest by improving the degrading environmental pollution.
- To disseminate the communal feeling.
- To conduct various services oriented as well as money oriented programs.
- To disseminate the appropriate conservation system to the wildlife available in CF area.

Since the time of establishment, the JJFUG has been managing the forest according to operation plan. They are following the same guideline, legal rules and regulations as stated in the approved operation plan of for the forest management. Besides, it was found that the user to give priority to things according to deed assessment. According to DFO staffs and local users, the condition of the forest is becoming glorious after community had started to manage the forest. Most of the entire members stated that the scarcity of the forest products has decreased since the inception of the community forestry programs. However, the improved forest conditions have also simplified the demand for the forest resources. The water resources also have improved with increased and dense forest cover as well as increased a numbers of wild animals like Hare, Jackal, monkey others. Hence it is a good signal of the JJFUG that it initiates its movement protection regime to production regime.

The overall forest management system in JJFUG can be described as:

Operational management

Protection management

Utilization management

Promotion and development management

### **5.1.1 Operation Management**

The operation management includes the overall operation process for management. It includes user group and its formation, executive committee, other general rules of community forest, office management and financial status etc.

#### **5.1.1.1 Formation of Forest User Group**

The forest user group includes all the members of a community that regularly use a particular of forest for grazing and collection of forest products and from themselves into a group to protect, manage, and utilize that area of forest Nepal Government (then HMG/N) Master plan for the forest.

#### **5.1.1.2 Selection and Structure of Executive Committee**

According to Nepal Government (then HMG), Master plan for the forest, all the members of community that regularly use a particular area at forest for grazing and collection of forest products and from themselves into groups to protect, manage and utilize that area or forest for the forest, the executive committee is defined as a group of people elected by the users to represent the forest user group. The user group decides the responsibilities of the committee and its chairperson.

The forest executive committee is formed by the General assembly of the forest users groups through the exercise of democratic election as per their constitutional norms. Table below shows the forest executive committee structure according to sex wise.

**Table 5.1: Sex wise Structure in Executive Committee**

<b>S.N</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1.	Male	18	90
2.	Female	2	10
	Total	20	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The present executive committee was formed by the mutual understanding of the entire community members with the involvement of men and women under the chairmanship of Krishna Bahadur Tamang with Twenty members including two women member. As mentioned on operation plan, executive committee serves the service for 3 years.

Education plays an important role in development and management of the community forest. Education is promoting factor for people participation in different CF activities like decision making participation in meetings etc. Educational level of the present executive committee member is broadly classified under four headings as literate, school level, intermediate level and



graduate level/above level. Table below shows the education status of the executive committee members.

**Table 5.2: Educational Status of the Executive Member**

<b>S.N.</b>	<b>Level of Education</b>	<b>Number of Member</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	Literate	6	<b>30</b>
2	School Level	7	35
3	Intermediate Level	4	20
4	Graduate Level	3	15
	Total	20	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2011

From the above table educational status of the executive committee is quite good. No one member is illiterate. Maximum number in intermediate level e.g. 4 followed by literate 3. The study area is highly dominated by Brahmin, Chhetri, Tamang, Dalit, Tharu and others caste.

The executive committee of FUG has tried to include the members from each caste and ethnicity as far as possible.

### **5.1.1.3 Membership**

As stated in constitution of JJFUG, people living permanently within the boundary of working area of the forest are the permanent member of the user group and people living temporary (migrated and rented ) within the working area of the forest are called the temporary member of the user group. All the interested family who wants to be the member within the area has to follow some legal process. First the individual have to submit application for membership with entrance fee Rs 250.00 for permanent and temporary or migrated members. The eligible members have to pay Rs. 100.00 for permanent membership and Rs. 50.00 for temporary membership to use the forest products specified in the operational plan of this community forest. The entrance fee and membership fees are non-refundable. There are some criteria for eligible member.

- Household owner or representatives living within the working area of CF.
- Person who has agreed to follow the rules and regulation of CF.
- Person who is mentally health and without any immoral habits.

Membership can also withdraw or rejected by executive committee in following cases;

- If any member does not allow the objectives, rules and regulation as stated in constitution
- If any member betrays the user group regarding its operation, promotion, and financial aspect.

#### **5.1.1.4 General Assembly and Meeting**

During the course of data collection in the field researcher had opportunity to observe monthly committee meeting once where he discussed with members and reviewed meeting minutes and other records/documents of the FUG.

The user group organizes the general assembly once a Year. They disseminate the message of general assembly to the members through committee members. In general, most of the member households attend the general assembly.

The committee meeting generally held every month. They discuss about the activities and progress in this meeting. About 95 percent members are attending the committee meeting. Generally, women members always attend the committee meeting. There is a well management information system regarding activities of executive committee, management activities and new programs on forest. This information is well distributed among the entire members by the committee members to their respective areas. Local people are made aware of the meeting and new development projects through pamphlets, letters and sharing information among each other.

#### **5.1.1.5 Office Management and Financial Status**

For the better management JJFUG has also established own office room. They have also appointed two forest guards among entire members who look out all of the forest regularly. They are paying Rs.3500.00 per month to the person.

The FUG has systematic account keeping, record keeping system and auditing system. So, there is a transparent financial system to the members. The FUG has its own bank account for saving the income.

The major source of income of FUG is the forest products. They earn much money from the sell of timber and firewood. The other sources of income are entrance fee, membership fee, identity cards cost and penalty cost. The revenue from community forest is used different forest management, employment of forest guard, boundary wall and fencing. Besides, they have also invested the revenue, in community development activities such as secondary school development, road construction, rural electrification etc.

## **5.2.2 Protection Management**

The protection management includes the activities regarding conservation and protection of forest, forest products, wildlife and encroachment etc. it includes forest plots, forest guarding system, rules and regulation, penalty system etc.

### **5.2.2.1 Forest and Forest plots**

JJCF covers a total area of approximately 246.75 hectares including 47.47 hectares conservation Forest. According to operational plan, the forest has single management units or blocks, which can be distinguished permanently. These blocks are scattered in different location. So, the size of the blocks varies. The forest of JJPF is predominantly Sal and Sissoo forest.

### **5.2.2.2 Forest Guard**

The forest should be protected from fire, grazing encroachment and illegal cutting and collection of forest products. They have appointed and arranged two Forest Guards to protect and watch the forest every day. They are paying Rs 3500.00 per month to Forest Guard.

### **5.2.2.3 General Rules for Protection of Forest**

- To protect the fire in forest they have made 2m board fire-line according to the geographical division of the plot. Moreover, the things that can cause fire are strictly prohibited to take within the forest area.
- Grazing is strictly controlled to those plots and areas where recent plantation is made and also to those areas production has just started. Besides these areas, the other barren areas of the forest areas are open for grazing. But it is strictly prohibited to kill wildlife and birds within the forest area.
- Besides the recently planted area, grass cutting is open in other forest areas. In this area the small herbs are allowed to cut. Generally, it is prohibited to collect green branches. The other forest product i.e. firewood, fodder, timber, wood, coal etc. are allowed to collect only in the prescribed dates and prescribed amount.

### **5.2.2.4 Penalties and Rewards System**

The operational plan of the group it has mentions punishing the violators of the rules in accordance with the nature of the crime and the level of destruction. The levy imposed on the user in initially at a normal rate but gradually increases if the

offense is repeated. Finally she/he can expel form the group. In the case of a non-user, the charge is double than of the users and tools are sized.

The operational plan has some provisions regarding penalties and rewards in the context of the forest management. The following provision has been written:

Any person who will be involved in any destruction activities like animal grazing in prohibition area of forest will be punished as per the numbers of animal grazing. From the discussion and interaction with respondents and executive committee, the lists of penalties are shown in table below.

**Table 5.3: Animal wise Details of Penalties**

S.N.	Animal	First time	Second time
1	Goat, Sheep	25	50
2	Buffalo	50	100
3	Others	40	80

Source: Field Survey 2011

If this is carried more than two, then cattle is captured and action taken. In the case of non-users the penalties charge is double then of the users. Individual who

helps to carry out different activities regarding forest protection, management and development will receive various prizes. Therefore, users are motivated to protect and participation in forest management for the prizes and not misuse or avoid the forest rules due to the fear of penalties.

### **5.2.3 Utilization Management**

#### **5.2.3.1 Grass/Fodder Collection**

Grass cutting is not strictly controlled in forest area besides recently planted area. But green branches are strictly prohibited to collect. During the period of *Jhadi Safai* users can collect green leaves of trees and branches at free of cost. If any users need green leaves in off time then they have to take permission from the committee and have to pay a certain amount. During ceremonial function they can take these products at free of cost.

#### **5.2.3.2 Fire wood Collection**

When the forest open for firewood collection the entire users can collect dry firewood at free of cost. Generally, forest is open during the special festival like *Dashain* and *Tihar* for firewood collection. The distribution of firewood is not depending on family size.

During the social occasion like Marriage, Saptaha puja, funeral function etc. the entire members can easily get the required amount of firewood at free of cost. Besides ceremonial occasion, if any users need large amount of firewood they had to take permission from the committee and to pay certain amount per load (Bhari).

### **5.2.3.3 Timber Collection**

According to operation plan, committee harvest old and damage trees. Generally, Sal and Sissoo trees are used for timber wood. The entire members have to drop application to buy timber wood from community forest. Because of status of forest, the amount of timber in community forest is very limited. So the committee selects the household according to the need assessment. They give first priority for those who have to build up the house and then only other purposes are considered. The rate of timber also varies according to their type and amount.

### **5.2.4 Promotion and Development Management**

The promotion and development management includes all the techniques that are used for development of community forest status i.e. silviculture practices, plantation, nurseries etc. It also includes awareness and training among users and also the future plans for CF development.

#### **5.2.4.1 Silviculture Practice**

Since the beginning of the community forest, several new management practices were implemented in JJFUG for better management and development of forest, the JJFUG has performed different silvicultural practices (Ban godne) i.e. Jhadi Safai (cleaning ).Thinning, Pruning, Singling etc.



Silviculture is defined as a practice of cleaning and cutting of undesired tree species for improving the forest condition thereby increasing the quantity and quality of products. The silviculture activities are generally based on operational plan but sometime they used to change the timetable and strategy on the basis of need assessment. According to DFO staffs, the technical supports for different silviculture activities are also provided to this FUG. This FUG is following the same cutting, thinning and pruning procedures as prescribed in operational plan. According to executive committee members and monitoring from DFO, it was found that the silviculture activities in this CF are satisfactory.

The activities of Ban Godne run once a year. All the member households must attain in Ban Godne. Due to security problems, they usually from small group of people and also divide the work during Ban Godne. It was also found that women members equally participate in Ban Godne activities.

#### **5.2.4.2 Plantation**

Most of the forest area of this CF is natural Sal and Sissoo forest. Thus, the major process of promoting this forest is Sal and Sissoo generation. Besides, they had performed different plantation program in open area of CF like; Eucalyptus, Kurilo and other medicinal herbs. Generally DFO provides the seeds and seedling to the CF for plantation.

#### **5.2.4.3 Training and Awareness Programs**

The executive committee frequently conducted various training and awareness programs to the entire members and users of community forest. Besides, DFO and other line agencies also provide various types of training to executive members and FUG for better management, protection, development and utilization of the forest products.

#### **5.2.4.4 Future Plans for Development of Forest**

The FUG has to plan as to develop the community forest as the model community forest of the district. In the study area FUG has implemented some income generating activities and empowerment activities for the improvement of socioeconomic status and level of the awareness of the beneficiaries especially of the beneficiaries especially for the target group for this purpose, they have some future plans;

- To develop a part of forest as bio-diversity conservation area.
- To support for the other income generating activities for the target group.
- To support for the establishment of small- scale industries.
- To support for the livestock and bee keeping program.
- To develop the forest as demonstration plot of medicinal plants and research centre.

### **5.3 Conflict within JFUG**

Conflict is an integral part of human condition, which differs in its scope and scale from culture to culture. The term is derived from the Latin word “*conflictus*” meaning striking together with force, (Kharel, 1993) conflict can occur when

people have different views or perceptions on an issue, when someone interest is not considered or fulfilled when a decision is made or when others interest is encroached upon, (Shrestha, 1995).

It was found that in JJFUG there exist very few conflicts regarding management of forest, decision- making, and conflict between entire members, conflict with neighboring groups and conflict with DFO. But still various conflicts exist in this group. The conflict within this FUG can be described as:

- Conflict over access
- Conflict due to resource availability
- Conflict in sharing of benefit

Most of these conflicts are managed by executive committee members, local leaders and the educated people of the community through indigenous dispute management technique.

Similarly, when grazing and grass cutting were prohibited in some parts of CF then women of the community were about to create physical fight with them. But later when they convinced they started control others form grazing, firing and cutting grass and young shoots. Still some users are unsatisfied due to limited grazing lands. They also claimed that green grasses are decreasing of controlling the fire in the forest.

Benefits sharing mechanism is one of the major factors for sustaining community forest. Forest products, particularly firewood are distributed more or less equally among the user. The conflict may arise during the time of product sharing Families, whether large or small receive the same quantity of firewood, while those who have small family will have surplus. This has caused conflicts in FUG.

The users living far from the forest usually used to blame the users living in nearby forest that they are getting the maximum benefit from the forest. Whereas the nearby users explained they used to give up more time to forest protection and management activities. This has also created conflicts in FUG.

The major conflict in this user group is the distribution of timber wood. During the interview, it was found that most of the users were not satisfied with distribution of timber wood, as they did not get the sufficient wood. On the other hand, the committee member said the amount of wood is very limited and also they are tightened by the rules. Moreover, there are no more damaged and old trees, which can be collected. As they claimed, despite of insufficient amount of wood they are distributing the timbers were equally to the member according to need assessments.

## CHAPTER VI

### PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT

This chapter discusses participation of people in community forest management and community development activities. It also analyses factors affecting the women participation in forest management and impact of community forest.

#### 6.1 Sources of Forest Products

The people of the study area have been utilizing forest and forest products to fulfill some parts of their basic needs such as fodder, firewood, leaf-litter and timber. It was observed that both community forest and private land are used to satisfy the requirement of forest products. Most of the people also use forest area for animal grazing. According to field survey, it was found that about half of the population of user group depends on CF for grass and firewood where as all of the population of user group depends on CF for timber.

**Table 6.1: Sources of Forest Products (Grass and Firewood)**

S.N.	Collection	Total Household	Percentage (percent)
1	Private land only	48	16
2	Community forest only	102	34
3	Private + community forest	129	43

4	Other	21	7
	Total	300	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The above table shows that 16 percent of population collects grass/fodder and firewood from private land, 36 percent population depends on community forest, 43 percent population depends on both private and community forest for grass and firewood. It was also found that 7 percent population neither depends on community forest nor private land for these forest products. This population collects these either from other nearby CF/National forest or buys from market. It was found that the firewood and other products collected from the CF are only used for domestic consumption.

## 6.2 Forest Products Collection

Forest resources is one of the most essential natural resources and the people depend on the forest resources for fuel wood, fodder/ grass, herbs, timber etc. timber is widely used for house construction, shed for animal, furniture agriculture tools and other various purpose. Fodder / grass need in the rural area to feed the livestock. Fuel wood is needed to cook food and other various purposes. Table below shows the forest production collection according to sex wise.

**Table 6.2: Forest Products Collection (Sex wise)**

<b>Collections</b>	<b>Grass/fodder</b>	<b>Percentage (percent)</b>	<b>Firewood</b>	<b>Percentage (percent)</b>
Women	114	38	123	41
Women+Men	102	34	117	39
Women +Children	81	27	48	16
Hired Labour	3	1	12	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2011

It was found that both males and females collect the forest products. However, women collect more grass, fodder and men typically collect timber and firewood. The above table shows that 38 percent of women collect grass and fodder, 41 percent of women collect firewood. On the other hand, none of the men alone collect the forest products. The timber was not collected by user. It was collected by committee and sold to the user. The children of age above 5 years also collect grass fodder and firewood occasionally to help their family. Children do these works generally in their leisure and holidays in school. Some of the rich households also hire labors to collect grass and firewood. Generally, men carry out the cutting tress and making firewood pieces where as women bring the firewood to the house.

### **6.3 People Participation in Community Forest**

People's participation is the main important part in community forest management program. Without people participation CF cannot be success properly and sustainable way. The principal aim of CF is to involve beneficiary in all stages beginning from planning, decision making to benefit sharing. People are essential factor for the sustainable management and development of the community forest. The community forest program itself defines the participation of people in management, utilization and development of their local forest. Thus participation of people in community forest indicates the involvement of the entire member of FUG in all levels i.e. form planning formation process to benefit sharing of management.

In the study are active participation of people was identified in three different community forest activities:

- Participation in executive committee and meeting
- Participation in Silviculture (Ban Godne) activities and
- Participation in other (extra) community forest activities.

The people's participation in these activities was found to be different in degree and frequency according to the nature of activities.

### **6.3.1 Participation in Executive Committee and Meeting**

The executive committee has to pay a significant role in the planning management and development of the forest. As explained in the chapter-V, there are 11 members in executive concerned for the use of forest and its products (timber, fuel wood fodder etc). Women are found encourage taking active part in



the executive committee. Table below shows the people's participation (respondent participation) in different levels of community forest activities.

**Table 6.3: People's Participation in Different Level of CF Activities**

S.N	Level of participation	Male	Percentage (percent)	Female	Percentage (percent)	Total	Percentage (percent)
1	Meeting Attendance	135	45	105	35	240	80
2	Not Attending Meeting	15	5	45	15	60	20
3	Discussion	129	43	156	52	285	95
4	Giving Suggestion	180	60	99	33	279	93
5	Decision Making	90	30	24	8	114	38
6	Silvicultural Activities	141	47	126	42	267	89
7	Other (extra)CF activities	114	38	159	53	273	91

Source: Field Survey, 2011

From the household survey, four different levels of participation were identified. The first level of participation is attendance in general and monthly meeting, which was found to be 80 percent where as women's participation constitutes 35 percent. The second level of participation is discussion, where certain individual discussion the issues in the community forest. The participation in discussion was found to be 95 percent where women's participation constitutes 52 percent.

The third level of participation is giving suggestion relating to the development of the community forest. The participation in giving suggestion was found to be 93 percent where women's participation constitutes 33 percent. The fourth level is in decision making for the implementation of rules and regulation for the forest users group. The participation in decision- making was found to be 38 percent where women's participation constitutes 8 percent. It was found that 20 percent of respondent do not participation in any activities of general meeting where women's participation constitutes 8 percentages.

The table 6.3 shows that most of the respondent attends the general meeting only for attendance, participation decreases as the responsibilities of the task increases. Therefore, at the level of decision making only a few executive members who are influential individuals in the community are participating. It was found that the women's participation is lower than the men in all the levels and also the number women's not attending the meeting is higher than the male. This is because of different factors i.e., educational roles, social values and norms which hinders the participation of women in decision-making and other activities of the CF. It was found that generally women from the deprive group only take part in all levels of CF activities where as women from the deprive group only take

part in the silviculture and extra activities like plantation and only attend the general assembly. They generally participate in the meeting just to know the future plans and rules. Due to their illiteracy and social bound they do not move their steps in discussion and suggestion, they are actively involved in the protection of forest by stopping the illegal collection of forest products because they are highly depending on the forest products like; firewood and fodder for their livelihood.

### **6.3.2 Participation in Silviculture Activities**

The basic forestry products needed by the local people include none other than firewood, timber and bedding materials. These are harvested from forest by applying silviculture practice, which is often called as “Ban Godne” in Nepali this literally means weeding, cleaning and shrub cleaning. In fact, it is defined as a practice of cleaning and cutting undesired tree species for improving forest condition, thereby increasing the quantity and quality of products (Pokhrel, 2000).

Generally, Ban Godne is carried out once a year particularly during the agriculturally slack period. The activities of Ban Godne run for two weeks in each time. As explained earlier, the entire member households must attend in Ban Godne. Table 6.3 shows that 89 percent people participated in the Ban Godne where as women participation constitute 42 percent. The high percent participation in Ban Godne is due to the penalty system and also the motivation towards the condition of forest. From the household survey, it was found that in Ban Godne and village cleaning, which includes physical labour and much time, the participation of women is high. This is because women are mostly involved in household works

rather than in official work and have managed leisure time to work in community forest. Moreover, it was also realized that usually women are concern in sharing of firewood and fodder for their daily domestic work. Whereas it was found that some man are not interested in silviculture work, as it is not related to them.

### **6.3.3 Participation in other (Extra) CF Activities**

The development and protection of the forest condition depend on the activities likes, plantation, nursery establishment and guarding system performed by the FUG. Community forest is also play a vital role in economic and community development. Participation during plantation was found to be high in the study area.

Table 6.3 shows that 91 percent people participated in extra activities in CF where women participation constitution 53 percent. According to community member, they used to provide some seedling to the participants during plantation, which has caused increased in participation. Moreover women participation was found to be comparatively high during plantation; this may be due to the closed interrelationship between women and forest

According to committee members, the women were the main forest offenders before CF has started. Since CF has started, it has help the women to save their time from day to day activities by making available of firewood, fodder, grass, leaf litter, water in the near by area. The women who have to spend a lot of time walking just to get a bundle of firewood and fodder now they get it from near by community forest. The save time could be used for other purposes, i.e. taking care of children or houses involving in social function. Such activities can help

them to keep their environment healthy (Pokharel, 2000). Thus, nowadays they are the guard of forest. Generally women are conscious about the status of forest than men. They often control firing and illegal cutting of forest.

#### **6.4 Factor Affecting the Women Participation in Community Forest Management**

In Nepal, more than 50 percent of the total population is female and they are lagged behind in almost every activities and opportunities. Unless women are empowered and provided equal opportunity, the Nepalese socio-economic situation will not gain momentum in obtaining higher equitable growth (Maharjan, 1997). As certain women are found to be involved in different activities of forest management in the study area, there are still some constraints affecting the extent of women participation in CF management. The major factors, which promote and hinder the women's participation, were bond as:

Traditional roles of women and social norms

Educations

Composition of FUG

##### **6.4.1 Composition of FUG**

The size of FUG is also affecting the participation of women in CF management. It is a mixed and large users group but the size of executive committee is small where women's involvements are not more than 10 percent. Due to big voice of males, female voice is often avoided. Besides, women rarely participate in the official works, which deprives the women from the important official status of CF like; decisions, financial status, grants and donation from different agencies etc.

### **6.5 Participation in Decision Making and Profit Sharing**

Participation in decision making and profit sharing among the beneficiary was examined during the observation in their committee meeting. In the observation we observed that who are the voice raisers and whose voice taken into account also give participation level for decision making. Participation in decision-making was also found by reviewing meeting minutes, agenda discussed and decision on the respective agenda. Women Participation in decision making was found 8 percent.

Benefit sharing has done irrespective of the family size but in the equal basis for all members. There were no major disputes found in this issue however timber distribution required need assessment. Beneficiary expresses their satisfaction on grass/fodder, firewood collection.

### **6.6 Impact of Community Forest**

Each and everything has its positive and negative impacts as two sides of a coin. Similarly, CF program has also both types of impacts in community. During the

time of interview, it was observed that CF program has now become a part of life of rural community. It was found that the member households of the user group are directly or indirectly benefited from the community forest. It was found that the direct benefit is the forest products i.e., grass/ fodder, leaf-litter, firewood and timber. The indirect benefit from the CF are increasing greenery of the forest, increasing water resources, wildlife and bio-diversity, decreasing soil erosion and landslide, decreasing in encroachment of forest area, participation in different community development works and increasing leadership pattern among villagers. Despite some negative issues, CF is providing different facilities to the people of the community. The major negatives impacts are conflicts between user groups due to boundary and traditional rights, fear of wild animals to the users living nearby forest.

## **CHAPTER VII**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **7.1 Summary of the Major Findings**



Forest is renewable natural resources, which provides a wide range of socio-economic, environmental and cultural benefits and services. The rural people are dependent on forest for various products to fulfill their basic needs such as grass/fodder, leaf-litter, firewood, timber etc. Forests have multiple uses for farmers. They are not only the source of timber and other forest products, but also satisfy people's religious, social and cultural norms. Social and cultural norms, values and sanctions reflect people's attitudes towards conservation of forest resources (Chhetri, 1994).

Rural communities depend on forest for their day-to-day essentials. Due to which the forests of Nepal are often fragmented into small patches, particularly in hill District. With these constraints the only realistic option is Forest managed by local community. Community forestry considerable effort is now directed at forest user group involvement in forest management. Equally important to forest resources. Economic status and landscape stability is the encouragement of individuals into forestry activities. Encouragement of on-farm planting is objective of community and private forestry program for the forest on Nepal to have a future their management should be community based. To benefit many has been given priority than to benefit few.

Nepal government (then HMGN) approved a comprehensive Master Plan for Forestry Sector (MPFS) in 1989. The plan recommended reviewing the existing forest legislation so that most of the accessible government owned but user-managed forests could be handed over to defined user group for sustainable forest development and utilization. The responsibility of managing, these

community forest lies with the user group. The district forest office has to hand over and provide technical assistance in the management of these forests.

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

Descriptive and exploratory research design was used in this study. The emphasis is given on the qualitative rather than the quantitative aspects of the information relating to the management condition of forest as well as role and activities of people's participation in forest management system.

The study area is homogenous due to all the inhabitants are the entire members of Jana Jagaran Forest User Group (FUG). A systematic random sampling has been used for selection of the respondents. The study focused to both the male and female respondents.

Both primary and secondary data collection methods have been used in this study. Primary data is a major factor to fulfill the objective of the study. Some of the standard tools and technique has been used in order to collect primary data from the study area. Interview schedule, observation, focus group discussion have been especially taken as tools for the study.

In JJFUG there are 2454 member households. The average family size of the study area is about 6 persons. The economically active population, i.e. age between 16 and 60 years is about 57 percent of the total sampled population which indicates that active population of the area is higher than other.

In the study area, there are Brahmin, Chhetri, Tamang, Tharu, Damai and Sharki and Kami caste/ethnic group.

The educational status of the household sample shows the about 83 percent of the total population are literate and about 17 percent are illiterate. Out of total literate population, 58 percent are male 25 percent are female. Most of the populations are engaged in agriculture. The demographic summary of the household sample shows that about 26 percent population is engaged in service, about 26 percent in business, about 48percent in agriculture.

Since the time of establishment, the JJFUG has been managing the forest according to operation plan. They are following the same guideline, legal rules and regulation as stated in the approved forest operational plan for the management besides, it was found that the user groups usually used to give priority to things according to need assessments. According to DFO staff and local users, the condition of the forest is becoming glorious after community had started to manage the forest. The overall forest management system in JJFUG can be described as: operation management, protection management, Utilization management and promotion/ Development management.

It was found that in JJFUG there exist very few conflicts regarding management of forest, decision-making, and conflict between entire members, conflict with neighboring groups and conflict with DFO. But still various conflicts exist in this

group. The conflict with this FUG can be described as: conflict over access, conflict due to resource availability, conflict in sharing of benefit.

The major conflict in this user group in the distribution of timber wood. During the interview, it was found that most of the users were not satisfied with distribution of timber wood, as they did not get sufficient wood. On the other hand, the committee member said the amount of wood is very limited and also they are tightened by the rules. Moreover, there are no more damaged and old trees, which can be collected. As they claimed, despite of insufficient amount of wood they are distributing the timbers were equally to the member according to need assessments.

In the study area active participation of people was identified in three different community forest activities: participation in executive committee and meeting, participation in Silviculture (Ban Gonde) activities and participation in other (Extra) community forest activities. The people's participation in these activities was found to be different in degree and frequency according to the nature of activities.

The executive committee has to play a significant role in the planning, management and development of the forest. As explained in the Chapter- V, there are 20 members in the executive committee out of them 2 are women members. Both men and women are equally involved and concerned for the use of forest and its products (Timber, fuel wood fodder etc).

From both the household survey and key persons, four different levels of participation were identified in forest executive committee viz., attendance, discussion, suggestion and decision making. The first level of participation is

attendance in general and monthly meeting, which was found to be 80 percent where as women's participation constitutes 35 percent. The second level of participation is discussion, where certain individuals discussion the issues in the community forest. The participation in discussion has been found 95 percent where women's participation constitutes 53 percent.

The third level of participation is giving suggestion relating to the development of the community forest. The participation in giving suggestion has been found to be 93 percent where women's participation constitutes 33 percent. The fourth level is decision making for the implementation of rules and regulation for the forest users group. The participation in decision-making was found to be 38 percent of respondent do not participant in any activities of general meeting where women's participation constitutes 8 percentages.

It has been found that the women's participation is lower than the man in all the levels and also the number of women not attending the meeting is higher than the male. This is because of different factors i.e. education, traditional roles, social values and norms which hinders the participation of women in decision-making and other activities of CF. It was found that generally women from the educational background take part in all levels of CF activities where as women from the deprive group only take part in the silviculture and extra activities like plantation and only attend the general assembly. They generally participate the meeting just to know the future plans and rules. Due to their illiteracy and social bound they do not move their steps in discussion and suggestion. They are actively involved in the protection of forest by stopping the illegal collection of

forest products because they highly depending in the forest products like: firewood and fodder for their livelihood.

From the household survey, it has been found that in Ban Godne and village cleaning, which includes physical labour and much time, the participation of women has been recorded high. This is because women are mostly involved in household works rather than in official works and have managed leisure time to work in community forest. Moreover, it has been also realized that women usually are concern in sharing of firewood and fodder for their daily domestic works.

## **7.2 Conclusion**

The community forestry plays a vital role in conservation, protection and regeneration of forest resources of the country. Moreover participatory approach in community forest not only satisfies the basic need of the rural people but also enhances the rural livelihood. It also empowers people towards team buildings, group dynamism as well as self- motivation in community development. As the local resources are effectively managed and utilized, it helps the country for being self-dependent.

As observed during interview, the work division in the household works is quite systematic among respondent. Due to awareness among the respondents because of education and most of them were migrated from other parts in the study area, the male and female sharing the domestic works. However in few households of the lower status (uneducated) families, there exist much

discrimination and tension. With a few exceptions, the invisible energy and labour of women within the households are comparatively counted because of small family size in the study area. Male and female have the equal role and responsibility in the collection of forest products after the inception of the community forest because of the limited opening days for collection of firewood.

As the lower cast women are illiterate and have to do hard labour for family income, seemed to be very passive in community forestry and development related works. Whereas it will be very unfair to say that they could not walk ahead. Thus, it was realized that the principal need of the women should be fulfilled to draw them in the mainstream of the development. Based on the fact of the present study, it can be said the Jana Jagaran community forest users group is one of the good user groups, which is utilizing its own local resources for betterment. But the existing community forest management system is more protection oriented rather than productive oriented. For this reason, the poor people may be deprived from day to day use of forest product, which may affect their economy.

It can be said that the leadership among the women of this FUG is also increasing, despite the fact that the participation of women is very low in decision making.

It has been realized that, there is a need of various training and technical support regarding utilization of forest products, record keeping, benefit sharing, monitoring, new methods on silviculture practices, selection of plantation site according to plan species etc. for the better efficient, effective as well as productive management. However, there must be transparency in product sharing among entire users, which reduces the conflicts in FUG.

As we know, each and every thing has its positive and negative impacts on the community. Similarly, community forestry program has also both types of impact in community. During the time of interview, it was observed that CF program has now become the part of life of the rural community in the study area. Despite some negative issues, CF is providing different facilities to the people of the community. The direct and indirect benefits from the community forestry have played the great role in the social life of the people in the study area. Less time consumption in performing the different activities by women has made them use the leisure time in taking care of children and house, involving in different social functions, and also encourage them to identify their strategic needs and right in development. As the revenue from the community forest is used in different community development activities like, road construction, construction of water taps, temples and resting places etc, the livelihood of villagers is become easier. CF helps for the promotion of the local tourism from which some community people can run their small business as income generating activities. It is also a good opportunity for the government to enhance the livelihood of the rural people by developing the skill oriented training program in the study area.

### **7.3 Recommendation**

Basic on the fact observed and mentioned in the present study, some point were identified which should be improved for the betterment of The Jana Jagaran Users Group in coming days. Thus the present study has following recommendation:



- FUG should involve more women and member from economically disadvantage group in users committee so as to make plan and policy to meet the requirement of the mentioned group.
- Users committee should do survey and systematic need assessment prior to timber distribution so as to decrease the conflicts and biasness.
- FUG should consult technicians to select the plantation site according to the plant species to fit with the local climate so as to check failure in the plantation.
- User's committee should be productive oriented rather than protective so as to take maximum benefits from their available resources for sustainable development.

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