

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COMMUNITY FOREST :
A Case Study of Jamunbari Community Forest User Group of Jhapa
District

A Thesis

Submitted to The Tribhuvan University, Faculty of Humanities and Social
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of Rural Development in Partial Fulfillment
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By

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

The thesis entitled **Socio-Economic Impact of Community Forest: A case Study of Jamunbari Community Forest User Group of Jhapa district** has been prepared by **Pemba Sherpa** under my guidance and supervision. I hereby forward this thesis to the evaluation committee for final evaluation and approval.

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Date: 14/02/2021
02/11/2077

Approval Letter

The thesis entitled **Socio-Economic Impact of Community Forest: A Case Study of Jamunbari Community Forest User Groups of Jhapa District** submitted by **Pemba Sherpa** in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master's Degree (M.A.) in Rural Development has been approved by the evaluation committee.

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled **Socio-Economic Impact of Community Forest: A case study of Jamunbari Community Forest of Jhapa District** submitted to the Central Department of Rural Development, Mahendra Ratna Multiple Campus Ilam, Tribhuvan University is entirely my original work prepared under the guidance and supervision of my supervisor. This work has not been previously submitted in whole, or in part, for the award of any degree. It is my own work.

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ABSTRACT

Community forestry program is based on people's participation and ownership. Resource management is a fundamental part of community forests. The study has shown that the management of the resources available in the forest area through community forest user groups has not only added important dimension to the sustainable and ownership management of the resources but has also shown unimaginable improvement in the conservation and promotion of the forest area.

The purpose of this study was to examine what is being done in accordance with the prevailing law on resource management in Jamunbari community forest and what is affecting it. Particularly, the study sought to understand whether the implementation of Operation plan and Constitution has helped to achieve nature conservation and natural resource management inside the Jamunbari Community Forest. The specific study objectives were as follows. First, the study seeks to assess the factors that influence community in natural forest resource management in the study area. Second, the ways in which individuals and community people involve in natural resources management was assessed. Third, socio-economic impact of community forest was evaluated. From field survey and interaction with community forest and government authorities, the resource management Jamunbari Community forest have been under the guidelines that mandated by general assembly, operation plan other acts and regulations. Eco tourism program launched by Community Forest is running well and fund collected through eco tourism have created job opportunities and reduced exploitation of other forest resources.

Finally, this case study in Jamunbari Community Forest confirms that community forest plays vital role in social and economic changes. So, the existing laws should be strictly imposed and needs to ensure whether it's been implemented in a right way or not. Awareness programs should be conducted on a regular basis by related governmental and non governmental agencies for user group to provide information and ideas as well as to create awareness regarding various issues related to conservation, resource mobilization and development programs.

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ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

AFO	Assistant Forest Officer
CBS	Central Beauru of Statistics
CF	Community Forest
CFOP	Community Forest Operation Plan
CFDP	Community Forestry Development Program
CGUG	Community Forest User Group
DFO	Division Forest Office
DOF	Department of Forest
DOFSC	Department of Forest and Soil Conservation
DRMP	Dhading Resource Management Practice
ERA	Educational Reform Associates
FAO	Food Agriculture Organization
FUC	Forest User Committee
FUG	Forest User Group
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
INGO	International Non Government Organization
JCFUG	Jamunbari Community Forest User Group
MPFS	Master Plan for Forest Sector
NGO	Non Government Organization
NAFP	National Forestry Plan
NWFP	Non Wood Forest Product
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
WWF	World Wide Fund