

# **Social Inclusion in Community Forest Management (CFM)**

**(A Case on Marginalized Group's Participation in Decision Making and  
Benefit Sharing in CFM)**

**Kaski District, Nepal**

Thesis Submitted to the  
University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences  
in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of  
**Master in Forest Science (Mountain Forestry)**

By

**Sita Aryal**

**Research Supervisor**

**Ao. Univ. Prof. DI. Dr. Reinhard Christian Vogl**

Institute of Organic Farming, Department of Sustainable Agricultural Systems  
University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna, Austria

**Co-supervisor**

**Univ. Ass. Dipl.-Ing. Michael Hauser**

Institute of Organic Farming, BOKU, Vienna, Austria

**Vienna, August 2008**

## **ABSTRACT**

Community Forest is one of the nationally prioritized forestry programmes in Nepal. The Study entitled “Social Inclusion in Community Forest management (CFM): A Case on Marginalized Groups Participation in Decision Making and Benefit Sharing in CFM” was carried out in two CFUGs of Kaski District with the main objective to analyse the degree of inclusiveness of marginalized groups in CFM. The study is based on both qualitative and quantitative data. Household survey, key informant interview, focus group discussion and review of users’ constitution and operational plans were the main methods used. 67 randomly selected households were sampled in both CFUGs. SPSS, Microsoft Excel and Microsoft word were used for data analysis and presentation.

The study indicates difference results between two study areas. In Sukla Gandaki CFUG the representation in the executive committee is dominated by upper caste people, the participation of poor and lower caste (DAGs) people is low. The presence of marginalized people in meetings and the assembly is lower than the upper caste and the rich. The voices of the marginalized groups are not heard in meeting and assembly of CFUGs. Lower castes and poorer households were found to benefit less than wealthier and upper caste households, although the participation of poorer HHs in CFM activities is higher compared to rich HHs. The main factor affecting the participation of marginalized people was due to unequal social relationships. Similarly, in Mulban CFUG inclusiveness in committees and equal participation in meeting/assembly was found across all caste and class people. All FUGs were satisfied with the benefit sharing process. The main factor affecting the participation of marginalized people was unemployment. Finally this research concludes that Mulban CFUG is comparatively more inclusive than Sukla Gandaki CFUG.

**Key Words:** Community Forestry, Inclusion, Marginalized Group, Participation and Benefit Sharing

## **KURZFASSUNG**

Gemeinschaftswälder sind ein Schwerpunkt des nationalen Forstwirtschaftsprogramms Nepals. Die vorliegende Studie über marginale Beteiligung der Gesellschaft an Entscheidungsfindung und Gewinnverteilung aus der Bewirtschaftung von Gemeinschaftswäldern wurde in zwei Gemeinschaftswaldbewirtschaftungsgruppen (GWBG) des Kaski Bezirks durchgeführt. Ziel war es herauszufinden, in wie weit die Gesellschaft in die Bewirtschaftung dieser Wälder integriert ist. Zur Analyse dienten qualitative und quantitative Methoden wie Befragungen, Einzelpersoneninterviews, Gruppendiskussionen und die Bewertung von Nutzersatzungen und Bewirtschaftungsplänen. Hierfür wurden 67 zufällig ausgewählte Haushalte in beiden GWBG's herangezogen. Aktuelle Studien zeigen, dass der geschäftsführende Ausschuss der Sukla Gandaki GWBG von Mitgliedern der höheren Kasten dominiert wird. Auf Versammlungen sind Vertreter von Randgruppen deutlich seltener als die höheren Kasten, auch haben deren Stimmen kein Gewicht in GWBG Versammlungen. Trotz eines starken Anteils an der Bewirtschaftung dieser Wälder, ist die Gewinnbeteiligung von Haushalten aus niedrigeren Kasten deutlich geringer. Die Hauptursache für die Einbeziehung in Entscheidungen kann in einer ungleichen Gesellschaftsstruktur gesehen werden. Auch die Mulban GWBG weist ähnliche Versammlungs- und Entscheidungsorgane auf, welche aber eine ausgeglichene Beteiligung aller Kasten an Versammlungen, Entscheidungsfindungen und Bewirtschaftungsaktivitäten zeigt. Beide Gruppen waren zufrieden mit der Gewinnverteilung aus der Bewirtschaftung ihrer Wälder. Der Hauptgrund für die Beteiligung von Randgruppen kann in der Arbeitslosigkeit gesehen werden. Das Ergebnis dieser Studie zeigt, dass die Integration von Randgruppen in Mulban besser ist, als in Sukla Gandaki.

**Schlagwörter:** Gemeinschaftswälder, Beteiligung, Randgruppen, Beteiligung und Gewinnverteilung

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The study on “Social Inclusion in Community Forest Management: A Case on Marginalized Groups Participation in Decision Making and Benefit Sharing in CFM” in Kaski District” has been accomplished with the encouragement, cooperation, guidance, support and suggestion received from various esteemed organizations and distinguished individuals.

First of all, I feel privilege to express my cordial thanks and sincere gratitude to Professor Dr. Reinhard Christian Vogl and Dr. Michael Hauser my thesis supervisors for their outstanding support, constant encouragement, feedback, guidance, and valuable suggestions throughout this endeavor.

I am fortunate to express my utmost regards and deeply acknowledge to Austrian Exchange service (OEAD), branch office Vienna, Austria for providing me the financial assistance to complete this research work. I am thankful to Katharina.engel, Elke Stinnig, Heike Kernbauer, Martina Rahberger, Barbara Hiebler, and all the OEAD staff, Vienna branch office for their good co-operation and kindly support during the of study period.

My heartfelt thanks are due to Ms. Sudha Subedi Ranger, Mr. Dayaram Kandel Reanger, District Forest Office, Kaski and Mr. Madhav Baral Ranger Ilaka Forest Office Kaski, for helping me site selection, providing related reports, literatures, guidance, cooperation, Nobel suggestions along with their co-ordination during the field study period. My special thanks goes to Mr. Nabin B.K. Ranger, Nirmal Pokhari Range Post, Narayan Thapa Forest Guard, Mr. Maha Prasad Ojha Ranger Sisuwa RP and all the staff of Nirmal Pokahri and Sisuwa RP for data collection, good co-operation, provided me more information about the study area and their warm support in my fieldwork. Moreover I am thankful to DDC; staff Kaski for providing me district information, co-operation and topographic maps for this research study.

I am also highly grateful to all the respondents household, committee members and all user groups in Sukla Gandaki and Mulban especially Mrs. Bishnu Maya Adhikari, Mrs. Papita Paudel, Mr. Samanta Giri for their full support, active participation, homely environment, kind cooperation and provided timely information during the field work.

Their information supported for vital role to prepare this report as per the distinct objectives. I am also very much thankful to Ghan Shyam Pandey, Chair Person (FEFOFUN), Suvas Chandra Devkota, Policy Analyst, Suman Ghimire, Program Officer, Ram Paudel, Accountant and all other staff of FECOFUN Nepal for their critical reflection in inclusion in CF and providing me related literatures and information.

I would like to convey my sincere thanks to lecturers and professors of Mountain forestry, especially Prof. Prof. Hubert Hasenauer, Prof. Gerhard Glatzel, Prof. Hartmut Gossow, Prof. Harald Vacik, Prof. Manfred Josef Lexer, Dr. Michael Pregernig, Dr. Reinhard Christian Vogl and Dr. Michael Hauser for the ease of professionalism that they shared with us. Furthermore, my special thanks go Ms. Judith Weiss (MF International coordinator) for all kinds of help during my study period. My cordial thanks go to my colleagues Ananta, Clemens, Cathy, Enideg, Nagdrel, Nawang, Semahugne, Sony, Sushma, Sarad, Sisir, Binod and Sushila for their suggestion and friendship during the study and research period.

My heartiest thanks go to my husband Mr. Sudip Adhikari for his aspiration and right direction from the research planning to production phase. His support and encouragement during the fieldwork, research and study period is indescribable. I shall remain ever indebted to Dr. Binod Mani Dahal, Mr. Yam Prasad Pokharel and Mrs. Bhawani Dhahal for their aspiration, valuable suggestion and appropriate direction during the research period.

Last but not the least, my cordial and affectionate regard goes to my father Mr. Gita Dutta Aryal and my whole family members who always encouraged me to promote my academic career, any type of support, providing valuable suggestion and guardianship. I greatly owe all my success to them.

## ACRONYMS

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| BS      | Bikram Sambat                                  |
| CBS     | Central Bureau of Statistics                   |
| CF      | Community Forestry                             |
| CFM     | Community Forest Management                    |
| CFMUG   | Community Forest Management User Group         |
| CFMUC   | Community Forest Management User Committee     |
| DAG     | Dis-advantage group                            |
| DDC     | District Development Committee                 |
| DFID    | Department for International Development       |
| DFO     | District Forest Office/District Forest Officer |
| DoCF    | Department of Community Forest                 |
| EC      | Executive Committee                            |
| FAO     | Food and Agriculture Organization              |
| FECOFUN | Federation of Community Forest Users Nepal     |
| FP      | Forest Product                                 |
| FUG     | Forest User Group                              |
| FUGC    | Forest User Group Committee                    |
| GA      | General Assembly                               |
| Ha      | Hectare  |
| HH      | Households                                     |
| HMGN    | His Majesty's Government of Nepal              |
| IGA     | Income Generating Activities                   |
| ITTO    | International Tropical Timber Organization     |
| IUCN    | International Union for Conservation of Nature |
| LFP     | Livelihood and Forestry Programme              |
| MPFS    | Master Plan for Forestry Sector                |
| MCFUG   | Mulban Community Forest User Group             |
| NAF     | National Academy Foundation                    |
| NPC     | National Planning Commission                   |
| NGO     | Non-governmental Organization                  |
| NTFPs   | Non-timber Forest products                     |
| NUKCFP  | Nepal UK Community Forestry Project            |

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| OEAD     | Austrian Exchange Service                 |
| OP       | Operational Plan                          |
| PPF      | Panchayat Protection Forests              |
| PRA      | Participatory Rural Appraisal             |
| RP       | Range Post                                |
| Rs       | Rupees                                    |
| SGCFUG   | Sukla Gandaki Community Forest User Group |
| S. L. C. | School Leaving Certificate                |
| Spps     | Species                                   |
| SPSS     | Statistical Package for Social Survey     |
| UNDP     | United Nation Development Project         |
| VDC      | Village development Committee             |

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| ABSTRACT .....  | I      |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENT .....   | III    |
| ACRONYMS.....   | V      |
| TABLE OF CONTENT.....   | VII    |
| LIST OF TABLES.....   | IX     |
| LIST OF FIGURES.....  | X      |
| LIST OF MAP .....   | X      |
| LIST OF ANNEXES .....   | X      |
| <br>CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION.....  | <br>1  |
| 1.1 BACKGROUND .....  | 1      |
| 1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT AND JUSTIFICATION .....   | 4      |
| 1.3 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY .....  | 6      |
| 1.3.1 General Objective.....  | 6      |
| 1.3.2 Specific Objective .....  | 6      |
| 1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS.....   | 7      |
| <br>CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW.....   | <br>8  |
| 2.1 COMMUNITY FORESTRY .....  | 8      |
| 2.2 PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY FORESTRY.....  | 8      |
| 2.3 PARTICIPATION OF MARGINALIZED PEOPLE’S IN DECISION MAKING AND BENEFIT SHARING ..... | 10     |
| 2.4 PROBLEM AND CHALLENGES OF COMMUNITY FORESTRY.....                                   | 11     |
| 2.5 FACTOR AFFECTING PARTICIPATION .....  | 13     |
| <br>CHAPTER THREE: METHODS AND MATERIALS.....   | <br>14 |
| 3.1 STUDY SITE .....  | 14     |
| 3.2 RESEARCH PROCESS.....   | 16     |
| 3.3 SAMPLING DESIGN .....   | 17     |
| 3.4 DATA COLLECTION PROCESS .....   | 18     |
| 3.4.1 Primary data collection.....  | 18     |
| 3.4.1.1 Field Visit (HH and Forest).....  | 18     |
| 3.4.1.2 Household survey by using a set of questionnaire .....                          | 18     |
| 3.4.1.3 Focus Group Discussion .....  | 19     |
| 3.4.1.4 Key informant interview.....  | 20     |
| 3.4.1.5 Informal discussion .....   | 20     |
| 3.4.2 Secondary data collection .....   | 20     |
| 3.5 DATA ANALYSIS .....   | 21     |
| 3.6 CONCEPTUAL/ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK OF THE THESIS .....                                 | 22     |
| 3.7 OPERATIONAL DEFINITION .....  | 23     |
| 3.8 SCOPE AND LIMITATION OF THE STUDY .....   | 25     |
| 3.8.1 Scope of the study.....   | 25     |
| 3.8.2 Limitations .....   | 26     |
| <br>CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION .....  | <br>27 |
| 4.1 OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY AREA .....  | 27     |
| 4.1.1 Sukla Gandaki Community Forest User Group.....                                    | 27     |
| 4.1.2 Mulban Community Forest User Group.....   | 27     |
| 4.2 SOCIO – ECONOMIC STATUS OF CFUGS.....   | 28     |
| 4.2.1 Socio – economic status of respondents, their HHs and within CFUGs .....          | 29     |
| 4.2.1.1 Cast/Ethnicity Composition of CFUG.....   | 29     |



|   |    |
|---|----|
| 4.2.1.2 Household size and gender structure .....   | 31 |
| 4.2.1.3 Economic Status .....   | 32 |
| 4.2.1.4 Educational Status of the Respondents .....                                       | 33 |
| 4.2.1.5 Occupational Status of the Respondents HH .....                                   | 36 |
| 4.2.1.6 Age of the respondents .....  | 36 |
| 4.2.2 Food sufficiency condition of Respondent HH .....                                   | 38 |
| 4.3 PARTICIPATION OF MARGINALIZED GROUPS IN DECISION PROCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING .....    | 38 |
| 4.3.1 Degree of inclusiveness of marginalized people in executive committee .....         | 38 |
| 4.3.2 Participation of CFUGs in decision making process in different CF activities .....  | 40 |
| 4.3.2.1 Participation of forest users in the General Assembly (GA) .....                  | 40 |
| 4.3.2.2 Participation in CF Protection and Management Activities (CFM) .....              | 42 |
| 4.3.2.3 Participation in Different Discussion Forum of CFUG .....                         | 43 |
| 4.3.2.4 Participation in meeting of fixing the rate of FP and membership fee .....        | 44 |
| 4.3.3 Degree of expressing views, receptiveness and satisfaction in CF programme .....    | 45 |
| 4.3.3.1 Expressing views and raising issues on purposed agenda in CF meeting .....        | 45 |
| 4.3.3.2 Respecting views on meeting between committee members and groups .....            | 47 |
| 4.3.3.3 Users satisfaction in CF program and decision making proces .....                 | 47 |
| 4.3.4 Factor Affecting for participation of marginalized people in decision process ..... | 48 |
| 4.3.5 Benefit sharing system adopted by CFUGs .....                                       | 50 |
| 4.3.5.1 Forest product used by users .....  | 50 |
| 4.3.5.2 Forest product distribution system .....  | 52 |
| 4.3.5.3 Fund mobilization system .....  | 54 |
| 4.3.5.4 Respondents views on more benefited group from CF .....                           | 56 |
| 4.3.5.5 Respondents satisfaction in overall benefited sharing system .....                | 57 |
| CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATION .....  | 59 |
| 5.1 CONCLUSIONS .....   | 59 |
| 5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS .....   | 61 |
| 5.2.1 Recommendation for Community Forest User Groups .....                               | 61 |
| 5.2.2 Recommendation for the District Forest Office/Range post .....                      | 62 |
| REFERENCES .....  | 63 |
| ANNEXES .....   | 71 |

## **LIST OF TABLES**

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Table 1: Scenario of Region wise handed over CF in Nepal.....                            | 3  |
| Table 2: A glimpse of the selected groups .....  | 17 |
| Table 3: Sampled size of SGCFUGs on the basic of caste/ethnicity and wealth status ..... | 19 |
| Table 4: Sampled size of MCFUGs on the basic of caste/ethnicity and wealth status.....   | 19 |
| Table 5: Participants list in focus group discussion .....                               | 20 |
| Table 6 Important of the operational definition of described terms .....                 | 23 |
| Table 7: Sampled Household size and gender structure in different study area.....        | 31 |
| Table 8: Education Status of Respondents HHs of Suklagandaki CFUGs.....                  | 34 |
| Table 9: Education Status of Respondents HHs of Mulban CFUGs .....                       | 35 |
| Table 10: Main occupation of respondents in study sites.....                             | 36 |
| Table 11: Age of the respondents of Sukla Gandaki CFUG .....                             | 37 |
| Table 12: Age of the respondents of Mulban CFUG.....                                     | 37 |
| Table 13: Representation in EC by Economic Status and Ethnicity in SGCF .....            | 39 |
| Table 14: Representation in EC by Economic Status and Ethnicity in MCF.....              | 39 |
| Table 15: Degree of Participation in GA by respondents.....                              | 40 |
| Table 16: Degree of Participation of respondents in GA by Economic status .....          | 41 |
| Table 17: Participation of CFUGs in CF management activities by economic class.....      | 42 |
| Table 18: Presence in meeting of fixing the rate of FP and membership fee.....           | 45 |
| Table 19: Expressing views on purposed agenda in CF meeting/assembly .....               | 46 |
| Table 20: Respecting views on meeting between committee members and groups .....         | 47 |
| Table 21: Satisfaction in CF program and decision making process .....                   | 48 |
| Table 22: Forest products used by the respondents from Sukla Gandaki CF .....            | 50 |
| Table 23: Forest products used by the respondents from Mulban CF.....                    | 51 |
| Table 24: Activities done by mobilizing CF fund .....                                    | 56 |
| Table 25: Respondents views on benefited group from CF .....                             | 57 |
| Table 26: Satisfaction of respondents in overall benefit sharing system .....            | 58 |

## **LIST OF FIGURES**

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Figure 1: Flow chart showing research process.....                             | 16 |
| Figure 2: Conceptual/Analytical Framework of the Study.....                    | 22 |
| Figure 3: Ethnic Composition of Total HHs .....                                | 29 |
| Figure 4: Ethnic Composition of Respondent HHs .....                           | 29 |
| Figure 5: Ethnic Composition of Respondent HH in SGCFUG.....                   | 29 |
| Figure 6: Ethnic Composition of Total HHs .....                                | 30 |
| Figure 7: Ethnic Composition of Respondent HHs .....                           | 30 |
| Figure 8: Ethnic Composition of Respondent HHs in MCFUG.....                   | 30 |
| Figure 9: Economic Status in Total HHs.....                                    | 32 |
| Figure 10: Economic Status in Respondent HHs .....                             | 32 |
| Figure 11: Economic Status in Total HHs.....                                   | 32 |
| Figure 12: Economic Status in Respondents HHs.....                             | 32 |
| Figure 13: Food sufficiency condition of Respondent HHs .....                  | 38 |
| Figure 14: Participation in different discussion forum in SGFUG.....           | 44 |
| Figure 15: Participation in different discussion forum in MCF .....            | 44 |
| Figure 16: Affecting factor for the participation of marginalized people ..... | 49 |
| Figure 17: Respondents awareness about fund.....                               | 55 |

## **LIST OF MAP**

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Map 1: Showing Kaski District in map of Nepal ..... | 15 |
|---|----|

## **LIST OF ANNEXEX**

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Annex – I: A Set of Questionnaire for Household Survey .....    | 71 |
| Annex – II: Checklist for Focus Group Discussion.....           | 76 |
| Annex – III: Well being ranking criteria adopted by CFUGs ..... | 77 |
| Annex – IV: Photographs taken in Sukla Gandaki study area ..... | 78 |
| Annex – V: Photographs taken in Mulban study area .....         | 79 |

# **CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION**

The case studies on Social Inclusion in Community Forest Management studied in Kaski District of Nepal, particularly limited on the comparative study on two community forest user groups. Qualitative as well as quantitative approach applied for the analysis. This paper specially focuses and describes on the marginalized groups (poor and disadvantage Group's (DAGs)/ lower caste) participation in decision making process and benefit sharing in community forest management activities.

## **1.1 Background**

Nepal is a small mountainous country in the central Himalayas between India and China. The total area of the country is 14.7 million hectares. The total population of the country is 23 million, with 2.2 percent annual growth rate, according to the census of 2001. The population density of the country is about 157 per square kilometre (CBS 2001). Nepal is a country with diversity both in natural and socio-economic features. Different races, castes and indigenous population live in three different ecological regions like Mountain, Hills and Tarai. Nepali society is patriarchal where religious, geographical, class, caste and gender exclusion is prominent and obstructs the development efforts, intensifying further exclusion in the society (Banjade et.al. 2004). In late 1970's community forest evolved as the solution to improve forests by addressing the issues of people's livelihoods. It expressed an explicit concern for meeting the subsistence need of local people for fuel wood, fodder, leaf litter and small timber for livelihood and to develop farmer's rights and responsibilities towards the forest. Nepal's consecutive five year national development plans and forestry policies reinforced the government's commitment to people's participation in forestry in Nepal. The Decentralization Act of 1987 tried to address some of the issues by introducing the concept of the "forest user group" and amending the panchayat Forest and Panchayat protected forest rules implemented in 1988. In 1980 the sixth five year plan defines the target for the CF programme as the protection and improvement of 82,189 hectares of forestland. CF was closely linked to the afforestation program and both programs were to be implemented in the hills to meet the urgent need of people for forest products like timber, firewood, and fodder for cattle and other domestic animals. The government forestry sector policy in the Sixth Five-Year plan (1981–85) also emphasized community participation in forest resource management. The Seventh five

year- plan (1985-1990) emphasized (a) fulfilment of people's basic needs for forest products as the prime objective of forestry sector (b) people's participation in afforestation and forest management to ensure that their subsistence needs were met. These all led for development of the key community forestry policies the master plan for the Forestry Sector. Main development imperatives of the master plan for the forestry sector were to (a) meet basic needs (b) include local user in decision making and benefit sharing (c) Improve socio-economic growth and (d) encourage sustainable utilization of forest resources. According to CF in Nepal (2000), during the 1970's many reports predicted that the hill forest of Nepal was endangered and disappear soon. Until the sixties, foresters of Nepal were familiar only with terai forests, which were managed in order to generate revenue for the government. During the seventies, Hill District Forest Offices were established, and forestry officials were appointed to manage the hill forests. In the hills, forests are scattered therefore, large-scale management by the government as in the terai was not possible. As the same time, the hills had limited access to markets for forest products since there were no roads. Therefore, the government concluded that the best strategy for protecting the scattered and degraded hill forests would be to have the forest managed with people's participation and changed to community forests managed by Forest User Groups. The Master Plan for Forestry Sector (MPFS) Nepal 1988 established the Community Forestry (CF) program as one of the major forestry components and decided to hand-over all accessible hill forests to Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) for their protection, management and utilization (HMGN 1988). MPFS also strongly advocated the participation of communities in forest management and emphasized the need for reforms in government policies, institutional structures, and legal base to support community forestry.

The Forest Act (1993) and forest regulation (1995) further strengthened community forestry by repealing all previously existing forests legislation, producing a legal basis for implementation of community forestry. The act gave legal status to forest user groups (UGs) and recognized them as “autonomous and corporate institutions with perpetual succession,” with a right to sell and acquire forest products. The 1995 Rules provide the procedural guidelines for implementation of the Forest Act of 1993. The government's principle strategy for the national development programme is expressed in its Ninth Five-Year Plan (1997-2002). This plan follows the master plan for the forestry sector in making a commitment to continue with the principle of the people's participation in forestry. First,

when CF was conceived, protection not production has high priority. Community forestry has been a priority programme of the forestry sector in Nepal for over last two decades in which local communities have use rights of the resources and are organized as grass-root level institutions for the proper management of these resources. It is understood as an umbrella term denoting a wide range of activities which link rural people with forests, trees, forest products and benefits to be derived from. More specifically, it refers to a component of participatory forestry that focuses on local communities as key stakeholders for sustainability. The Third National Community Forestry Workshop, held in 1998, recommended the vision of CF as achieving elements of social justice, equity, gender balance, good governance and sustainable forest management for rural development.

The potential and present status of CF, a survey made by the Department of Forest (DoF) (2002), total forest area of Nepal is 5.5 million ha and Potential community forest area is 3.5 million ha. By the end of September 2007 about 12,19,272 hectares of forests were given to 14337 FUGs which is about 25 % of the total potential CF area of Nepal. 16,47,717 HHs are reported to be benefited from this programme (DoCF, 2007). User Groups have begun to play a significant role in local development and central middle hills indicate the positive effect of the CF programme. According to DoCF (2007), women handling community forestry user group is 784 FUGs out of 14,337, having total forest area: 22,880 ha. and total HH: 64,103. Total CFUGs in Kaski district found 409 among them only 9 CF are managing by women.

**Table 1: Scenario of Region wise handed over CF in Nepal, (23 September 2007)**

| S.N                | Region            | No of FUG     | Total CF area (ha) | No of HH.        |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1                  | High Mountain     | 2,586         | 238,403            | 263,665          |
| 2                  | Middle Mountain   | 10,421        | 812,703            | 1,099,879        |
| 3                  | Terai/Inner Terai | 1,330         | 168,166            | 284,173          |
| <b>Grand Total</b> |                   | <b>14,337</b> | <b>1,219,272</b>   | <b>1,647,717</b> |

(Source: FUG database, DoCF 2007, Kathmandu)

According to Subbha et al. (2002), historically, marginalized peoples have a very special relationship with forest resource so they had actively participated in forest protection and management activities. However, overtime marginalized community faced several imposed political, economic and legal interventions, which created several problems for

them in using the forest resources and marginalized them through exclusionary or other practices that curtailed their access to traditionally used resources and violated their rights. UNDP (2004) reflected the different marginalized peoples in Nepal constitute 37.2% of its total population. Still marginalized people are also dependent upon forest resources for the fulfilment of their daily subsistence need.

## **1.2 Problem statement and justification**

Community Forestry initiated “People centered forestry” in Nepal. It was geared to rural institutional building, greater self-reliance, management flexibility, emancipation, and empowerment of deprived and poor. In Nepal, community forestry was established with the expectation of poverty alleviation because it can fulfil the basic needs for forest products, especially for the poor people of the societies. But this most popular participatory programme has been unable to reach to the poor (Chhetri et. al, 2001). Similarly participation of the marginalized people like poor and disadvantage group was found low in decision making and benefit sharing processes. Rich and elite users hold most of the key position of the executive committee as well as they get opportunities for awareness and empowerment in the related activities like training, workshop, and observation tour. The participation of the marginalized groups was seen lower than influential persons during the preparation of constitution and forest operational plan, committee formation and general assemblies. Although they participate, the majority of them could not speak in the assemblies and if they spoke, others do not response their voice. The lower participation of the poor and disadvantaged groups in decision - making processes has resulted less representation with interest in decisions of CF activities (Gentle, 2000). Bista (1991) concluded that rich people and those of a so-called higher caste have a hierarchical attitude and feeling of superiority towards the poor and people of other ethnic groups.

Following findings published by Uprety (2006), it can be concluded that In CF, *Dalit* and poorer households were found to benefit significantly less than wealthier and so-called upper caste households. They may even be directly disadvantaged by CF management practices. The voices of the disadvantaged groups and poorer HH are not heard in CFUGs. Although, the participation of poorer and disadvantaged groups has increased in CF activities but these people are still marginalized. According to Dangol (2006), Marginalized participation in decision-making process has been limited because of their hand mouth problem, increased workload and patriarchal nature of the society they have

been compelled to extract firewood and fodder resource to fulfil their subsistence needs. The rich people in the village are in favour of protection of forests rather than its sustainable use. Therefore, the poor people may suffer from availability and access of forest products when the forest to which they previously had free access, is handed over as CF (Bartlett and Nurse, 1991). According to Kanel et. al. (2005) although the decision-making should take place at the grassroots level by involving marginalized and DAGs in the process and also important to remember that participation of all levels is routinely emphasized in theory but in practice poor and lower caste people are frequently marginalized, whether due to their own hesitation, ignorance, illiteracy or the dominance of upper caste and elite groups.

Recent research suggests that marginalized people like poor and DAGs, only to a minimal degree are involved in the decision-making processes and benefit-sharing activities in the communities in regard to community forestry (Kanel, 2006; Pandit, et al, 2006). There can be several reasons for this but it, nevertheless, indicates a lack of clear guidelines for how to involve poor and DAGs in the CF programme, but also lack of information on the necessity for creating an inclusive environment in forest management. Although the CF is successful programme in Nepal there is still these emerging issues have made more challenging for concerns stakeholders crucial to identify the major activities conducted to CFUGs that have a direct effect in improving the environment for marginalized groups in CFUG. Thus, in-depth study to analyze the marginalized people's participation in decision making and benefit sharing process is carried out.

Most of the literatures clearly deal about CF activities concerning forest's protection, management and utilization practices, which are most likely to be achieved through a fair sharing of forest product distribution, decision- making, and fund mobilization. Similarly some of research focused on women participation dealing about gender issues. However, not much research so far has been done to develop the social inclusion focus on marginalized people like poor and DAGs participation in decision making process in CF was found. Hence this current issue of marginalized people in CF is to access how it has been practiced and how it has been influenced in CFUG. Therefore, this research aims to explore the existing situation of degree of inclusiveness of marginalized group's in CFM in Sukla Gandaki and Mulban CFUGs. Furthermore, it also helps to empowerment of marginalized people.



In this pretext, there are some important questions emerging on for who benefits to what degree from the CF programme in Nepal? Who influence the decision in planning process and whose participation is more in implementation level? If the poor and disadvantaged groups are not deriving much benefit compared to other groups of people, what can be done to increase their share? What are the factors responsible for less participation of marginalized people? And what is the system of benefit sharing within CFUGs? The study will also find the different real status of inclusion scenario, with comparative study between women managed and mixed gender managed CF. The findings would be useful in developing new strategies to increase the marginalized groups in CF and fact generated from the careful analysis of the gathered data may be concern not only to the CFUG but also the recommendation as well as guidelines for the government, policy makers, planners, forestry professional, NGOs, other user groups and institution for the making inclusive democratic CFUGs.

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

#### ***1.3.1 General Objective***

- To analyse the degree of inclusiveness of marginalized group's in Community Forest Management.

#### ***1.3.2 Specific Objectives***

1. To study the socio-economic status of the Community Forest User Groups in study area.
2. To analyse the extent of participation of marginalized user in decision making forum and benefit sharing process in Community Forest User Group

#### 1.4 Research Questions

| Objectives | Research Questions   |
|------------|--|
| 1          | <p>1.1 What are the socio-economic status of respondents, their HHs and CFUGs?</p> <p>1.2 What degree of food sufficiency condition existing in respondent's HHs that affect to CFM programme?</p>   |
| 2          | <p>2.1 What degree of inclusiveness of marginalized people in Community Forestry User's Committee?</p> <p>2.2 What type of Participation of CFUGs in decision making process in different CF activities?</p> <p>2.3 What degree of expressing views, that receptiveness and level of user's satisfaction in CF program and decision making process.</p> <p>2.4 What are the influencing factors that affect to marginalized people's participation in decision making process?</p> <p>2.5 What is the system of benefit sharing? Who are the most beneficiary people within CFUGs?</p> |

## **CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 Community Forestry**

Community forestry (CF) is one of the nationally prioritized forestry programmes in Nepal. Thousands of state controlled forest patches have been handed over by the Forest Department (FD) to the local forest user groups (FUGs) for their protection, management and utilization in accordance with a work plan. And in another term “Community Forest (CF) means a national forest handed over to a user group pursuant to section 25 for its development, conservation and utilization for the collective interest (Forest Act, 1993). Community forestry is based on the principle of devolution of power and authority to local communities which work in partnership with the Forest Department on the basis of mutual trust and cooperation (Belbase & Regmi, 2002). CF is as important mechanism for addressing social equity while pursuing the sustainability of the resources (ITTO 2005). Authorization is given to freely fix the prices of forest products and to sell and distribute the forest products for the collective benefit and welfare. Traditionally, the people of Nepal are dependent on forests for supply of fuel-wood, fodder, timber and Non-timber Forest Product (NTFP). As long as there were no population pressures the local supply of forest products was sufficient. The pressure of increased human and livestock population and the effects of government policies on land registration resulted in the gradual depletion of forest resources (Pandit and Thapa, 2004). Due to the forest depletion caused losses of biodiversity, soil erosion, flooding and other socio-economic impacts. Therefore participation of people is recognized in community forestry became essential after the failure of conventional approaches, where attempts to manage forest resources were carried out without people’s participation.

### **2.2 Participation in Community Forestry**

The term participation is the heart of good governance. All men and women should have a voice, for instance, in decision-making, either directly or through legitimate intermediate institutions that represent their interests (UNDP, 1997). Participation is defined as being combination of involvement in decision making, implementation, benefit sharing and evaluation of the development activities in questions (Regmi, 1992). Participation evokes a sense of inclusion of each of these diverse sets of actors. It has become an integral part for enhancing the quality of life and results to benefited community. Oxford dictionary defines participation as to take part in an activity or program or have a share in it.

Participation is often determined by rules, norms and perceptions of communities and societies, and these factors may disadvantage women or other social groups (Agarwal, 2001). Furthermore People's participation means that the target beneficiaries of a project or programme take part in all stages of the development process - decision-making for planning, in the process of implementation, in benefits sharing, and monitoring and evaluation (Bhusal 2001). Women constitute half of the population of our country, but only about one fourth of the total members on community forest management executive committees are women. The guideline for community forestry has highlighted that there should be equal representatives of male and female in executive committees so that they can make their decision suitable to themselves but still poor, women and disadvantaged groups are not adequately represented in executive committee (Kanel and Kandel, 2004). On the other hand (Pokharel, 2003) reports involvement of women in forestry related activities has facilitated a change in males' attitude towards female and gain power in the society as well. Further he has added holding posts in the forest management committee encourages women to make their voices strong.

Community forestry aims to alleviate poverty, for that reason there should be more representation of poor people and women in executive committees so that their access to resources will increase. However, poor and lower caste groups are still excluded from the decision-making level (Maskey et al., 2003). Groups such as the poor, socially or politically outcast, and ethnic minorities often are the most marginalized having limited access to decision-making power over how ecosystems and resources are managed. (Regmi, 2007) So, major portion of inclusion is participation and this is linked with safety net of poverty. Participation may include only involving in the activities in question. Involvement may be passive consultative, activities specific, active and interactive (Agrawal, 2001). Active participation of poor and disadvantaged groups in decision making is critical for effective community forest management and equitable benefit distribution among the users (Kanel and Kandel, 2004). So, representation only is not enough; listening to their voices and incorporating them in decision is necessary to make CF program more effective. Furthermore Local people participation in forest management has found its strongest expression in the promotion of CF around the world (Brown et al. 2002). The voice of all users in decision-making, either directly or through legitimate intermediate institutions that represent their interest (UNDP, 1997).

### **2.3 Participation of Marginalized people's in decision making and benefit sharing in CF**

Participation in decision-making, management, extraction and benefit distribution system within the user group is a key to collective action. However, participation is dependent upon many socio-economic factors as Nepal's social structure is still based on a caste-system, gender and wealth with prevalent discrimination.

According to (Dalton et. al, 2003), all members of the community group need to have equal participation in management in order for economically disadvantaged groups to receive benefits. Equal participation is necessary to create effective and equitable management for collective decision-making, which ensures equal benefits for all user groups. According to Devkota (1998), demand for forest products also affects participation in community forest management. Involvement in community forest management practices is necessary to have access to desired forest products and to bring success to the community forestry project.

Following findings published by Bhattarai and can be concluded that the two key decision-making forums, annual general assembly, and the executive committee (EC) meetings were dominated by upper caste elites. Decisions in many meetings were taken beforehand by the EC and approval is sought at the general assembly. Participation of poor and marginalized in key decision-making forums is very low. Ironically, the poor do not have the time to participate in formal meetings, as they do not have free labor to sacrifice for community wellbeing. Even if they participate they are unaware of the CFUG process and associated political implications. Finally, the poor are not accustomed to participate in formal meetings, which can embarrass them due to the prevalent social structure. One of the many barriers faced by the ethnic group is the language of communication. Similarly, Poor people cannot express their views and therefore the rich villagers influence the decision, which often results due to the ignorance of the poor (Hobley, 1996).

Agrawal (2000), illustrate that poor households do not benefit from community forests as much as affluent households and are not very interested in community participation. Poor households also have a high opportunity cost of participation as the time spent on participation could be used as labor for cash income. Medium class households benefit the most in comparison to high and lower class households. Upper class households are

indifferent as they have low opportunity cost of participating in the management. According to Sharma (2002), there was no caste and wealth discrimination within the distribution of forest products and that the benefit from the community forests was equally distributed to all user groups. Most of the poorer HHs could not receive services and benefits from community forestry on an equity basis (Maharjan, 2004).

## **2.4 Problem and Challenges of Community Forestry**

Forestry plays a central role in the economic and social life of the rural people contributing 35% of the of livestock nutrition equivalent to 5-6 million tons of dry matter/year (LSMP, 1993). Fuel-wood contributes about 80% cooking energy, most of which comes from forest (Ghimire, 1999). The achievements of the community forestry can be seen in terms of better forest condition, better social mobilization and income generation for rural development and institutional building at grass root level. Important of forest because of providing timber for construction, supply fuel-wood for cooking and heating, and fodder for domestic animals (NUKCFP, 1999). Similarly, CFUGs and the coverage of CFs have significantly increased in the last twenty-five years. Except above achievement, there are also social relationship between CF and different class and caste people. Moreover, the disadvantages groups' dependency also is extremely high for the fulfilment of their basic and partial requirements by community forestry. DAG's are the primarily involved in destruction of forest, as they are involved in coal and firewood work. So, they play a major role in the management of CF. But still these marginalized groups are excluded from equitable access of benefit from CF.

Although CF is a successful program having lots of positive aspects (like above) in Nepal, there is still some problem, difficulties and challenges regarding unscientific management of natural resources, lack of knowledge in value addition, high population growth, unequal distribution of resources, no proper market access, no access to transportation, lack of institution putting sustainable forest management practice and livelihood sector, lack of transparency of the community forest fund, weak guidelines for fund mobilization, gender inequality, poverty of local people, illiteracy of forest users and issue of equity to benefit sharing system and the most vulnerable group of the society are the main challenges that need to be debated and addressed collectively etc.

One of the major challenges in CF of Nepal is to ensure poor people's meaningful involvement in its process, their access, rights and benefits for livelihoods (Pokharel and Niraula 2004). Furthermore, Pokharel et al. (2007) list the following as some of the major challenges in CF- an issue of exclusion of the poorest in power and positions; inclusion of the poorest in capacity building; poor users' access to infrastructure and services generated from CF, CFUG's fund, forest land and forest products. Kanel (2004) raised some questions about the challenges in CF in making CFUG more accountable and responsive to poor and disadvantaged groups strengthening inclusive processes of their representation in CFUGC so that they are more accountable and responsive to forest users; strengthening the relationship and synergy between/among communities, government and better forest management towards poverty reduction. Kanel and Kandel (2003) report some governance related issues in CF such as lack of inclusive policy-making process and pro-poor policy outcomes; lack of adaptive organizational structure, procedures and capacity; and issue of gender inequality, inequitable decision-making and benefit distribution system. Fourth CF workshop organized by Department of Forest, Nepal (2004) identified following major challenges: ensuring inclusion at every level of CF governance, unclear role of all stakeholders in policy-making, one-way flow of information, current political instability and conflict and lack of clear-cut policy regarding Community Forestry programme in the Terai. Devkota (2006), reflect recently gender issues are becoming central to discussion of CF program in Nepal. Although policy has mentioned women's representation in CFUGs, but present legislation has not fixed any quota for the representation of poor and women sections of the community in FUG committee.

The collection of forest products (fodder, fuel wood, grass and thatches) mainly poor's and DAGs are plays role in most parts of the country but these people are generally excluded in the decision-making process of CFUGs. As a result, most CFUG decisions are made by rich and higher cast people (Bhatta and Gentle 2004; Gentle 2000; Ghimire 2000). Marginalized people, DAGs, and poor are not included in decision-making processes and evidences is emerging that the poorest are beginning to withdraw from user groups in some areas as they cannot afford the costs involved in participating in the CF programme (NUKCFP, 1999a). Major problems being encountered in community forestry program are due to the lack of involvement of poor, lower caste and illiterate users at various activities of community forest management (Chapagain, 2007).

## **2.5 Factor Affecting Participation**

According to Regmi (1992) factors affecting in participation of women in committee work are the clear prospects of benefit sharing, family support, small size of the committee, educational status, compactness of area where they work and personal characteristics such as age, sex, gender, marital status, and wealth affects individual participation. Heavy workload in household activities, timing and duration of meeting, benefits from the participation, household as well as social supports affect the participation and also analyzed that poor households do not benefit from community forests as much as affluent households they are not much interested in community participation (Agrawal, 2001). Lama (1999), identified lack of information, lack of access to resources and lack of institutional arrangement also stand as obstacle to participation.



## CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Study Site

This research was undertaken in Two CFs of Kaski District of Nepal. Nepal is politically divided into five development regions, 14 zones and 75 districts. Kaski District is located in Gandaki Zone of the Western Region of Nepal (Map 1). It has a total area of 2017 Km<sup>2</sup>, constitutes 43 VDCs, 1 Pokhara Sub/Metropolitan and 1 Municipality (DDC, 2002). Headquarter of Kaski District is Pokhara. Vegetation of district ranges from subtropical to tundra forest. According to 2003 (2058 B.S.) census total population of the district is 3,80,527. Out of total forest area 89,943 ha of Kaski 14,096 ha has been handed over to 409 community forest user groups and 34,476 HHs are being benefited from CF. The political boundaries of the district are:

East: Lamjung

West: Parbat and Syanja

North: Myagdi and Manang

South: Syanja and Tanahun

The mean annual temperature of Kaski district varies minimum 5.6° C to maximum 33°C. The rainfall is from 3068m.m. to 3353.3m.m. The details of the topographical information of Kaski District are as follows.

Elevation: 450m – 7969m.

Latitude: 28° 06' - 28° 36'

Longitude: 83°40' – 84° 12'

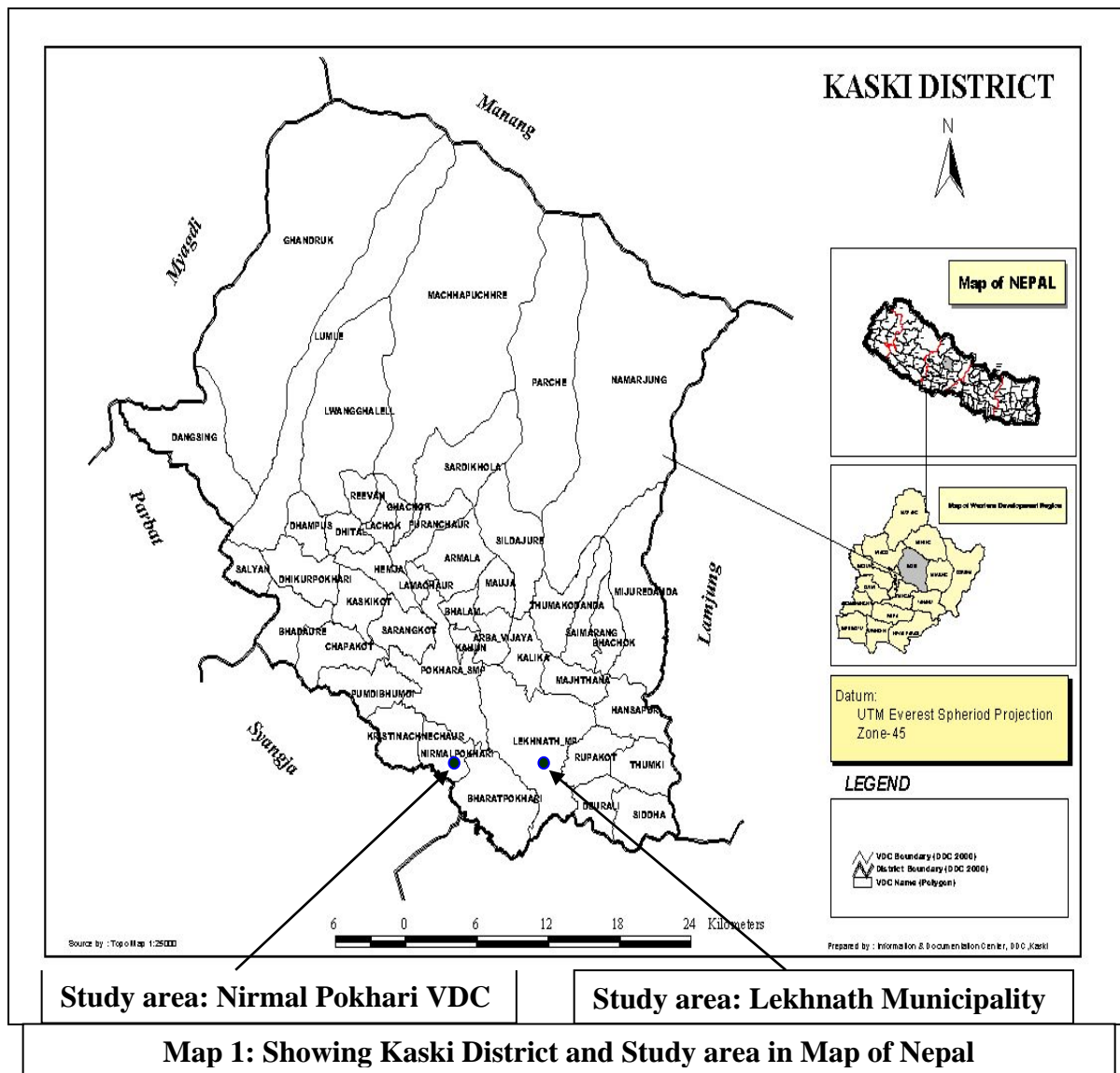
Total Area: 201700 Ha.

- Agricultural land: 48,962Ha (24.27 %)
- Forest land: 89,943 Ha (44.60 %)
- Snow, rocky and other land: 39,894 Ha. (19.77%)
- Settlement Area: 22,901 Ha. (11.35%)

---

Total: 201700 Ha.

(*Source:* DDC Kaski, 2057/2062)

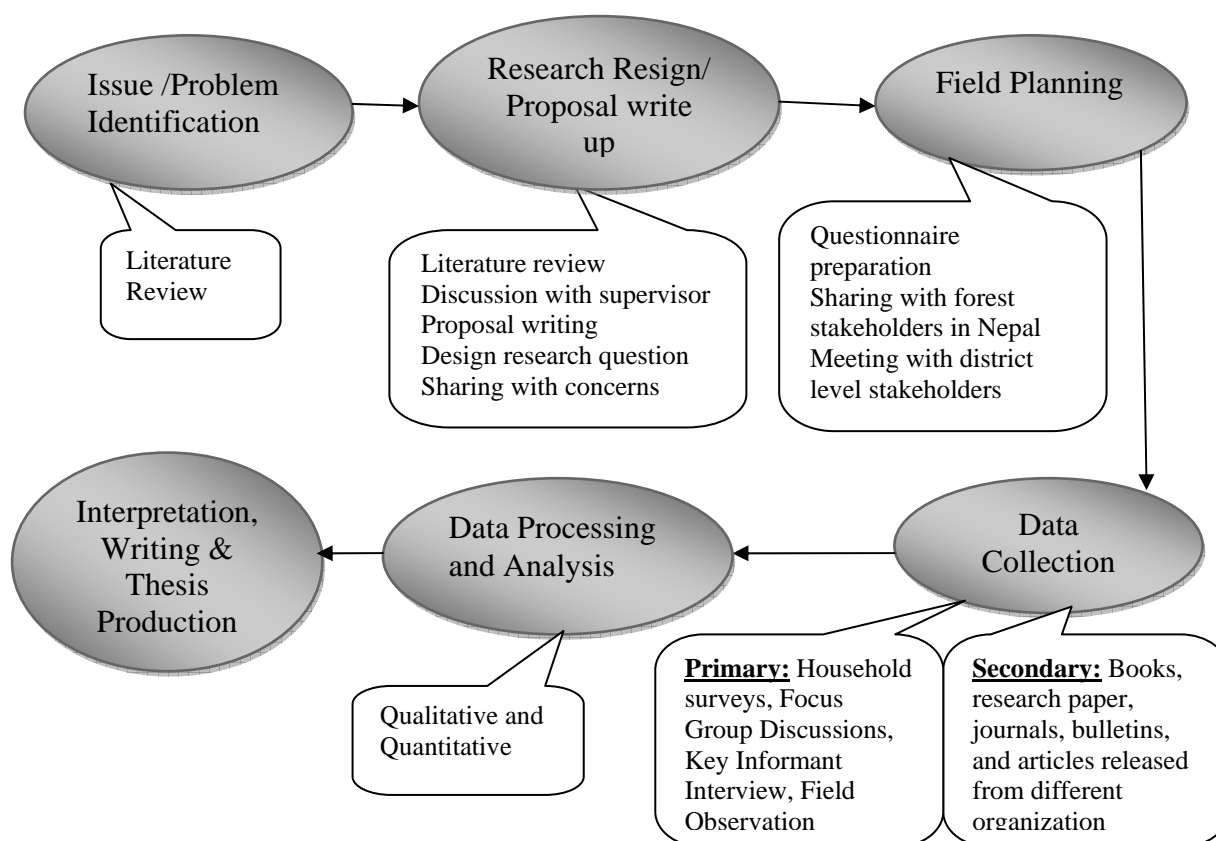


Following criteria was followed for the selection of CFUGs and regarding these criteria the study area was selected by help of District Forest Office (DFO) Kaski, Ilaka Forest Office, Pokhara and Federation of Community Forest Users Group Nepal (FECOFUN), Kaski.

- Legal tenure: The CFUG should be registered in DFO and function in a legitimate way
- Accessibility of the group by location
- A mature group (> 10 years of formation)
- Heterogeneous group in terms of wealth status, caste, age, occupation, etc.
- Already wealth categorized group
- Relatively stable community in terms of both inward and outward migration.

- Two CFUGs one mixed gender in committee and another only woman in committee member were selected
- Both study area from the same region

### 3.2 Research Process



**Figure 1: Flow chart showing research process**

The study was carried out in different sequential steps in the research. Generally research methodology consists of identifying the strength and problems of research area, problem identification, proposal writing, reviewing literature, designing research with consultation to different forestry organization, collecting data, analyzing data and report writing, which is presented in figure 1. The research used a case study approach to understand the interaction process existing between CFUGs and to explore inclusion status within group level. Two CFUGs in western Nepal (Kaski) were selected in consultation with District Forest Office (DFO) and Federations of Community Forest User Group Nepal (FECOFUN). Both quantitative and qualitative data at CF and household levels were collected during the field visit through different well being and ethnic groups. The units of

analyses were the forest users group in the CF. A questionnaire asked to all economic class HHs consisting of inquiries on marginalized groups (poor and lower caste) status, their participation, benefit sharing system and factor affecting for their participation by surveyed 67 HHs of two CFUGs in the Kaski District, Nepal. Indirect questions were asked to ascertain caste and economic status of the households. The information on marginalized groups participation and benefit sharing collected through primary (HHs survey, group discussion) as well as secondary sources (CF minute registers). Qualitative data mainly focused on collecting information from concerned key informant, focus group discussions and informal discussion during the field visit. Direct observation by researcher and activities done by CF fund also formed the part of qualitative assessment.

### 3.3 Sampling Design

Two CFUGs from the Kaski district, western region of the Nepal have been selected for the research. One group consist mixed gender in committee is Mulban CFUG and another group have only woman in committee is Sukla Gandaki CFUG were selected. Accessibility of the group by location, mature group (> 10 years of formation), heterogeneous group in terms of wealth status, caste and occupation, already wealth categorized group, relatively stable community in terms of both inward and outward migration, from same region were used the criteria for the selection of CFUGs. Details of the study area are presented in Table 2.

**Table 2: A glimpse of the selected groups**

| SN | Name of the CFUG & District | Year CF handed over | Total no. of HHs | Sampled HHs | Total population | CF area (ha.) |
|----|-----------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1  | Sukla Gandaki               | 1996                | 55               | 16          | 291              | 6.93          |
| 2  | Mulban                      | 1992                | 190              | 51          | 1158             | 88.00         |

The data obtained mainly from the household survey was conducted altogether in 67 among them from Sukla Gandaki CGUG taken 16 HHs (33% of the total HH) and from Mulban 51 HH (26% of the total HH). In most of the cases, interview was made with a group of family members expecting that if one family member forgot to tell something the other member would tell it.

### **3.4 Data Collection Process**

The field study was undertaken from June to September 2007. Primary and secondary data were collected during the field work but major emphasis was given to primary data collection.

#### **3.4.1 Primary data collection**

In primary data collection method consisted 5 steps- (I) Field visit (HH and Forest), (II) Household survey (III) Focus group discussion, (IV) Key informant interview, and (V) Informal discussion.

##### **3.4.1.1 Field Visit (HH and Forest)**

Frequent field (HH as well as the forest) visit were done to know the clear picture of different aspects of perception towards socio-economic status, participation in decision process, benefit sharing and their role on CFM. Researcher spent a significant amount of time in each FUG, the information were explored through the informal ways in the course of rapport building and building trust with the less vocal sector of the community. The field researchers observed the FUG activities, conditions, fund mobilization aspect, rules and regulation and the collected forest product with their relationship to FUG. During the field visit interacted with the different caste and wealth class groups. Field observation was done for both collection and triangulation of information.

##### **3.4.1.2 Household survey by using a set of questionnaire**

During the HH survey, to get the reliable information, to cross check the information and to be more reliable, both structured and semi-structured interviews were performed. Structured interviews done with the help of WH questions and a semi-structured questionnaire survey was conducted with 16 respondents from Sukla Gandaki CFUG and 51 respondents from Mulban CFUG. For the selection of respondent's ethnic composition, wealth status and location was obtained from committee member from the study area. Then the household were sorted on the basic of different strata like wealth group, gender group, committee member, different occupational group, different family size, caste differentiation and covering all geographical location (*tole*). The respondents were selected by randomly on the basic of above strata by the help of committee members. Most of the interview was conducted in group of family members and in depth interview was conducted with committee members. The questionnaire was prepared in Nepali

version for the convenience of respondents, clarity and feeling easiness for assistance and the researcher during the field visit. (A set of sample questionnaire is attached in Appendix - I).

**Table 3: Sampled size of SGCFUGs on the basic of caste/ethnicity and wealth status**

| S.N.           | Wealth Status | Brahmin/Chhetri |               | Ethnic Group |               | Lower caste  |               | Total %    |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|------------|
|                |               | Total HHs %     | Sampled HHs % | Total HHs %  | Sampled HHs % | Total HHs %  | Sampled HHs % |            |
| 1              | Rich          | 38.09           | 28.57         | 57.14        | 57.14         | 4.76         | 14.29         | 100        |
| 2              | Medium        | 50              | 40.00         | 28.57        | 40.00         | 21.4         | 20.00         | 100        |
| 3              | Poor          | 70              | 25.00         | 20           | 50.00         | 10           | 25.00         | 100        |
| <b>Total %</b> |               | <b>48.88</b>    | <b>31.25</b>  | <b>40</b>    | <b>50.00</b>  | <b>11.11</b> | <b>18.75</b>  | <b>100</b> |

(Source: Field Survey, 2007)

**Table 4: Sampled size of MCFUGs on the basic of caste/ethnicity and wealth status**

| S.N.           | Wealth Status | Brahmin/Chhetri |               | Ethnic Group |               | Lower caste  |               | Total %    |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|------------|
|                |               | Total HHs %     | Sampled HHs % | Total HHs %  | Sampled HHs % | Total HHs %  | Sampled HHs % |            |
| 1              | Rich          | 35.59           | 38.46         | 50.85        | 53.85         | 13.56        | 7.69          | 100        |
| 2              | Medium        | 27.50           | 29.17         | 50.00        | 45.83         | 22.50        | 25.00         | 100        |
| 3              | Poor          | 15.69           | 21.43         | 31.37        | 28.57         | 52.94        | 50.00         | 100        |
| <b>Total %</b> |               | <b>26.84</b>    | <b>29.41</b>  | <b>45.26</b> | <b>43.14</b>  | <b>27.89</b> | <b>27.45</b>  | <b>100</b> |

(Source: Field Survey, 2007)

### 3.4.1.3 Focus Group Discussion

Focus group discussion plays a very important role in research because it helps to gather all groups' views concerning the research topic and reliable data. Initially, the group criteria (caste, class, position and geographical region) were selected by the review of total HHs in constitution and details information of these groups was taken from the committee members. The focus group was selected randomly and discussion was conducted by the help of committee members and range post staff with concerned committee members, geographical region, and different wealth class and caste groups for assessing the socio-economic, participation, benefit sharing and forest management issue.

Altogether 5 focus group meeting was conducted in Sukla Gandaki CFUG and 5 in Mulban CFUG. In Sukla Gandaki altogether 7 DAGs people out of which 6 female and 1 male participated, similarly in higher caste people altogether 7 people participated out of which 5 female and 2 male, in committee member 5 female, in non-poor group 9 people out of which 7 female and 2 male were participated and in poor group 5 female were participated. In Mulban altogether in 9 DAGs people out of which 5 male and 4 female participated, in higher caste 8 people out of which 5 male and 3 female participated,

similarly in non-poor group 13 people participated out of which 8 male and 5 female, in committee member 6 people of which 4 male and 2 female were participated and in Poor group 6 male and 4 female were participated. The discussion period was lasted for about 2 hours of each group. For focus group discussion checklist was used. It was mainly used for supporting and triangulation of questionnaire information. (A set of checklist is attached in Appendix - II)

**Table 5: Participants list in focus group discussion**

| CFUG Name: Sukla Gandaki |                   |          |           | CFUG Name: Mulban |                   |           |           |
|--------------------------|-------------------|----------|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Category of Group        | Total participant | Male     | Female    | Category of Group | Total participant | Male      | Female    |
| Non-poor                 | 9                 | 2        | 7         | Non-poor          | 13                | 8         | 5         |
| Poor                     | 5                 | 0        | 5         | Poor              | 10                | 6         | 4         |
| Upper caste              | 7                 | 2        | 5         | Upper caste       | 8                 | 5         | 3         |
| Lower caste              | 7                 | 1        | 6         | Lower caste       | 9                 | 5         | 4         |
| Committee members        | 5                 | 0        | 5         | Committee members | 6                 | 4         | 2         |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>33</b>         | <b>5</b> | <b>28</b> | <b>Total</b>      | <b>46</b>         | <b>28</b> | <b>18</b> |

(Source: Field Survey, 2007)

#### **3.4.1.4 Key informant interview**

Elder people, village leaders, FUG president and DFO staff etc who was direct and indirect involved in CFUG had played the role of the key informants on providing the information about the forest and users activities in a historical development on the relevant issues. Altogether 5 key informants (2 from Sukla Gandaki, 2 from Mulban and 1 from DFO staff) were participated during the period of field study.

#### **3.4.1.5 Informal discussion**

Informal chats in teashop, road, and tap helped to collect information during field time.

#### **3.4.2 Secondary data collection**

Apart from the Primary procedure, secondary sources of information were collected through District Forest Office Kaski, FECOFUN, published and unpublished reports, research papers; different concern organization's libraries such as IUCN, Department of

Community Forestry division, Department of Forest Re-search and Survey Centre, and other various relevant literatures.

### **Reviewing Documents**

The FUG register books, Operational plan (OP), Constitution, minutes of the Committee and general assemblies, record keeping register and annual progress report thoroughly reviewed. The information was useful for interpretation and triangulation of information gathered from other sources.

### **3.5 Data Analysis**

Both qualitative and quantitative data collected from various sources were processed and analyzed to prove the defined objectives. Data collected during the field work were categorized into wellbeing category (rich, medium and poor) and caste/ethnicity (upper caste, ethnic caste and lower caste). For Qualitative data were presented in descriptive ways and logical interpretation so that the basic findings of the research would be well interpreted and justified. During the field visit qualitative data and information was write down in notebook and setting in mind. Information obtained during group discussions, direct observation by researcher, user's personal views and data from open-ended questions is analysed qualitatively and presented both in tabulated and textual forms.

For the quantitative data analysis, first all the raw data were entered and transferred by SPSS and MS Excel for analysis and graphical presentation. Data from close-ended questions of HHs survey and committee meeting is analysed using Microsoft Excel programme to produce descriptive statistics in the form of pie chart, column diagram, line graph and tabular form. Quantitative data were analyzed by using simple mathematical, statistical and SPSS tools such as frequency, percentage, average were used and showed by different diagram. The quantitative data and the analysis were used for supporting and triangulation of findings from qualitative data information.



### 3.6 Conceptual/Analytical Framework of the Thesis

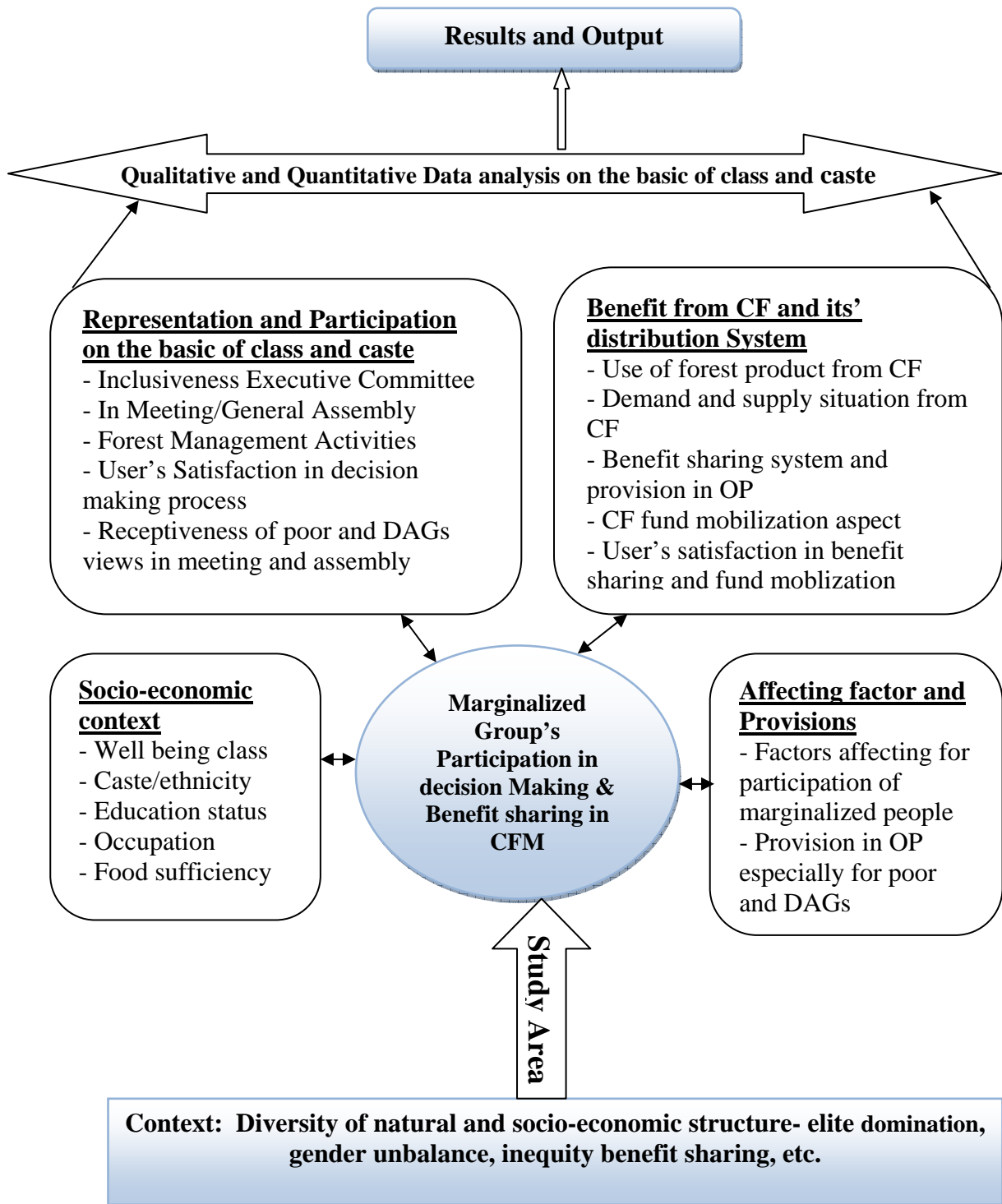


Figure 2: Conceptual/Analytical Framework of the Thesis

### 3.7 Operational Definition

Community Forestry: “Community Forest (CF) means a national forest handed over to a user group pursuant to section 25 for its development, conservation and utilization for the collective interest (Forest Act, 1993). In other term Community forestry is a participatory forest management model where access and control over the forest resources goes to local people and forest resources are managed under the approved management plan. In CF programme lots of terms could be found among them in this research researcher described following. Table 6 is presented the term and its importance.

**Table 6 Important of the operational definition of described terms**

| Terms   | Importance   |
|---|--|
| Benefit sharing, Class, Caste, Community participation in forest management, <i>Dalits</i> , Disadvantage group, Equity and inclusiveness, Exclusion, Exclusion in forest management, Marginalized People and Participation | In the research, researcher is more concern to the social issue within CF and also focused on marginalized group's (poor and lower caste) participation in decision making and benefit sharing aspect. Therefore researcher wants to give the clarity about used term in the study. The concept of used term and its reality should have known all people who are involving such type of research. Therefore description and information of used terms is very important in research report. |

**Benefit Sharing:** Benefit sharing ‘refers to commitment to channel some kind of returns, whether monetary or non-monetary-back to the range of designated participate communities, source communities/nations, participants in clinical trials, genetic disease patient groups.

**Caste:** The people with the same racial stock and language but separated by caste or occupation according to the *Hindu* system are grouped as the caste groups. On the other hand, people with the different racial stock and language particularly having different mother language than the lingua-franca Nepali and whose social and cultural systems are outside the *Hindu* system have been grouped under ethnic groups. In study area as considering caste *Kami*, *Sarki* and *Sunar* caste are the most marginalized people in terms of access to the resources and the high caste *Hindus* behave them as untouchables.

**Class:** People are deferring with their entities and wealth. The local people explained the specific features of each category in local context, which had been verified. There are three categories of well-being people in study area such as rich, medium and poor. In study area poor people are more marginalized in terms of decision making and access to resources.

**Community participation in forest management:** Community participation in resource management essentially for sustainable use and management of natural resources by people, living in and around a region integrated ecologically, socially and culturally.

**Dalits:** Dalits are defined as "historically and traditionally, socially discriminated so called "lower caste" or "untouchable" according to *Hindi* caste division system.

**Disadvantage Groups:** The term Disadvantaged group in the context of Nepal's community forest management are those community forest stakeholders who have a high level of dependency on the forest resources for their livelihood but have insufficient access in the decision making process on resource management and utilization. Mainly poor, and lower (untouchable) cast's people called Disadvantage groups.

**Equity and Inclusiveness:** In this study, Equity and Inclusiveness considered as the equitable chance and inclusion of users from diverse economic and socio-cultural groups in the decision making forum and benefit sharing mechanism of CF.

**Exclusion:** According to DFID (2005), "Social exclusion describes a process by which certain groups are systematically disadvantaged because they are discriminated against on the basis of their ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation, caste, descent, gender, age, disability, HIV status, migrant status or where they live. Discrimination occurs in public institutions, such as the legal system or education and health services, as well as social institutions like the household."

**Exclusion in forest management:** According to LFP (2005), In terms of forest management, exclusion can be understood as a process by which marginalized like poor, *dalit* and *janajati* (referred as poor and excluded people) have denied access to membership in user groups, participation in decision-making processes and thus are unable to access benefits derived from it.

**Marginalized People:** A household is considered marginalized when its income is below a certain level and its members are thereby deprived of the material and other conditions necessary for proper participation in the society in which they live (Engbersen, 1999). Lower caste people and the poor are often marginalized in the community forest management system and therefore these people are referred to here as disadvantaged groups.

**Participation:** Participation mainly denotes attendance and voice in decision making of the users (Giri, 2005). In this study, Participation will be defined in terms of planning, decision- making and implementation of activities regarding community forest management.

### **3.8 Scope and Limitation of the study**

#### **3.8.1 Scope of the study**

The study focused in Marginalized group's participation in decision making process and benefit sharing in two CFUGs in Kaski District. The research topic is burning issue in the present context of Nepal. Different NGOs, INGOs and GOs are involving for empowerment and improvement of economic condition of marginalized people but still there is unsatisfied result. Researcher wants to know the reality of those group in two different gender manage CFUGs so the result of this research will be very fruitful to make the CFM program and to enhance and improve the participation of marginalized groups in decision in CF activities. The research findings might be useful guideline for the future study and further research activities.

This study was only conducted in two CFUGs in mid-hill western region of Nepal so result may not be replicable for Terai and other development region. Similarly the study mainly focused on degree of participation in decision making and benefit sharing system of marginalized (economic wellbeing and caste) groups' but not address the gender prospective. Moreover the study also not address the livelihood and income status of marginalized group's in the study area.

### **3.8.2 Limitations**

This study is limiting in four ways:

- Firstly, there is no any baseline data concerning these CFUGs so difficult to compare past and present in the same group. Therefore, the study is more relied on the primary data collected during the field visit.
- Secondly the study was undertaken in only two CFUGs of Kaski District of western Nepal; hence it constitutes only an insignificant number of existing CFUGs.
- Thirdly in the preliminary visit, there was no sufficient time to collect all the reliable data, interview and discussion with FUGs, due to various unstable political and security situations.
- Fourthly some respondents' illiteracy was the other limitation. It took a long time to answer the questions asked to them. In case of measuring the perception of the FUG member, it was somewhat difficult to rank their opinion.

## CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The chapter is presented in three sections. The first section introduces the overview of the study area, second section introduce the results of the socio-economic status of the respondents and third section deals extent of participation of marginalized user in decision making and benefit sharing process in Community Forest User Group.

### 4.1 Overview of the study area

The study was carried out in two CFUGs in Kaski District. The biophysical and socio-economic characters of the two study sites are presented as below:

#### 4.1.1 Sukla Gandaki Community Forest User Group

Before the CF, the Sukla Gandaki forest was managed under the Department of Forest. At that time this forest turned into an open access for all resulted destruction of big trees for timber and depletion of the forest caused large landslide and scarcity of drinking water in village in 2044 BS. Only after this, villagers realized the importance of forest and agreed to protect. They formed a rule for regular protection system by each HHs and finally the formed a committee for the protection. Finally this forest was officially handed over to the Sukla Gandaki CFUG in 06/03/2054 B.S. Since then, this CFUG has been involved in various forest management activities under OP and its constitution. The Sukla Gandaki CF lies in Lekhnath Municipality ward no 12 under the Sisuwa RP area of Kaski District. Until now OP and constitution were amendment only one time in 2061/3/31. Sukla Gandaki CF occupies an area of 6.93 ha, the total HH of 45 and population 291. This CFUG is ethnically, economically and occupationally heterogeneous. The forest type is plantation with composed by mixed species of Dalbargia Sissoo, Acacia catechu, etc with various distributions basically pole stage. The boundaries of the Sukla Gandaki CF are:

- East: Way to Bharatpokhari VDC.
- West: Museudo slope
- North: Gagan Gauda Market
- South: Seti river

#### 4.1.2 Mulban Community Forest User Group

The Mulban forest was traditionally managed under the *Mukhiya, jamindari and talukdari* system of land revenue collection. At that time forest were controlled and managed by those people and they destroyed forest for earning money resulted destruction of forest.

After it was nationalized in 1957 this forest protection activities started under Department of Forest. During this period forest destruction was not stopped, illegal cutting and felling the tree by local people found high ration caused environment disorder and landslide problem. Only after this, villagers realized the importance of forest cover and agreed to protect the forest. They formed a committee, set up forest rules, and made a provision of forest watchman and finally this forest was officially handed over to the Mulban CFUG in 2048/049 BS. Since then, this CFUG has been involved in various forest management activities under OP and its constitution. The Mulban CF lies in Nirmal Pokhari VDC ward no 1, 3, and 5 under the Nirmal Pokhari RP area of Kaski District. Until now OP and constitution were renewed two times 1st amendment in 2056 BS and 2nd amendment in 2063 BS. Mulban CF occupies an area of 88 ha, the total HH of 190 and population 1158. The forest type is natural with composed by mixed species of *Alnus nepalenses*, *Schema wallichii*, *Artocarpus lakucha* etc with various distributions basically pole and timber stage. The boundaries of the Mulban CF are:

- East: Way to Duwar
- West: Seasonal River to Bajhi Pokhari Kholi
- North: Agriculture Land, Forest Boundary and Phusrekholsi
- South: Agriculture Land and Forest Boundary

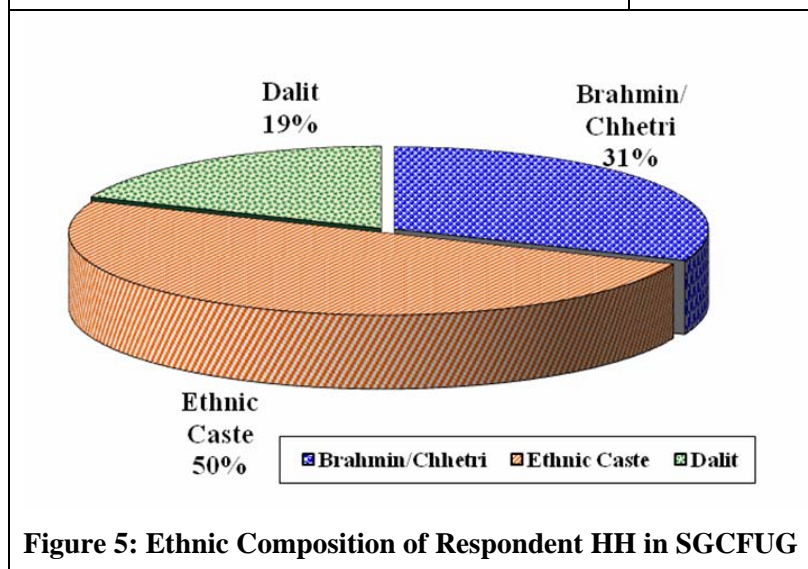
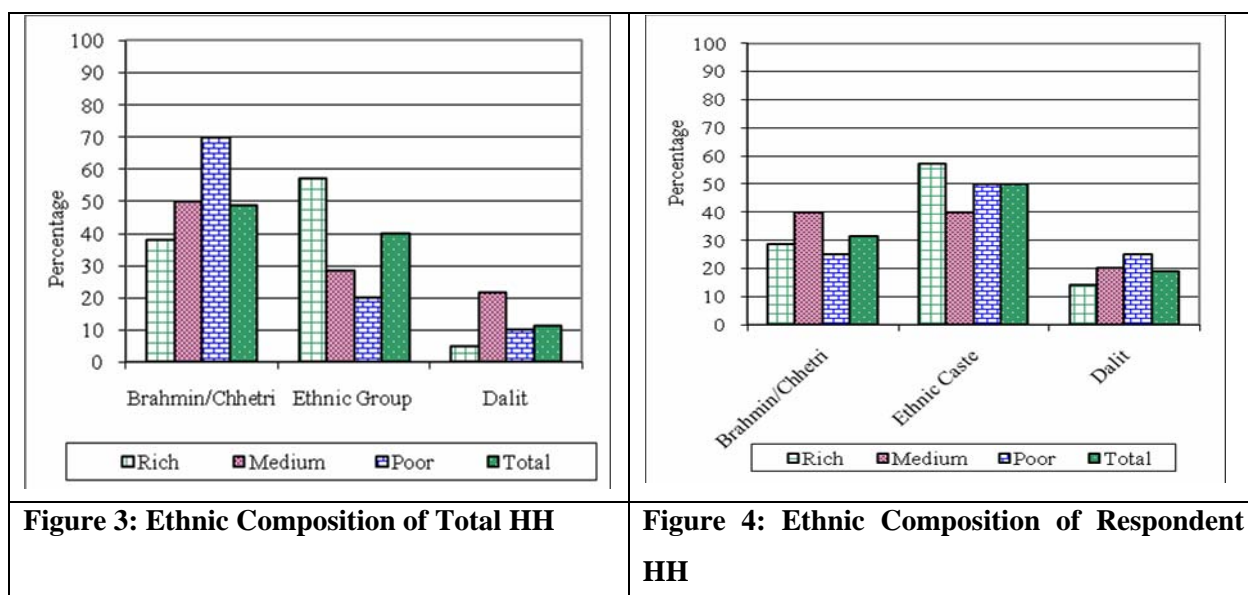
#### **4.2 Socio – economic Status of CFUGs**

This section summarizes the characteristics of respondents in the study area and includes discussions on the general socio-demographic characteristics and other relevant information. Socioeconomic condition of the area is very much important for the study of the program in study area, since it is significantly affected successfulness of the program and important to identify the overall scenario of the CFUGs. The study about socioeconomic is studied under following aspects:

## 4.2.1 Socio – economic status of respondents, their HHs and within CFUGs

### 4.2.1.1 Cast/Ethnicity Composition of CFUG

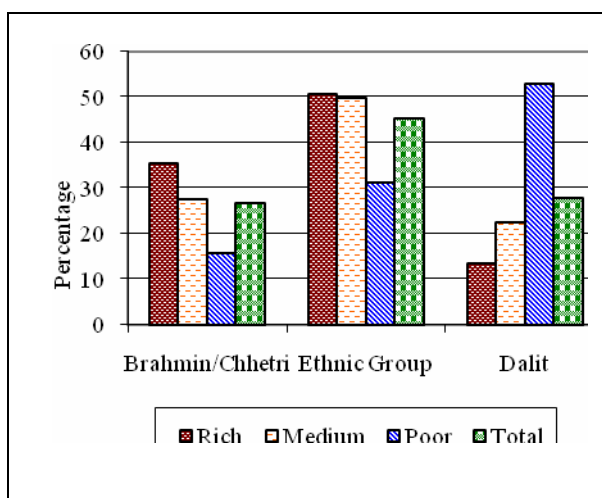
#### Sukla Gandaki CFUG



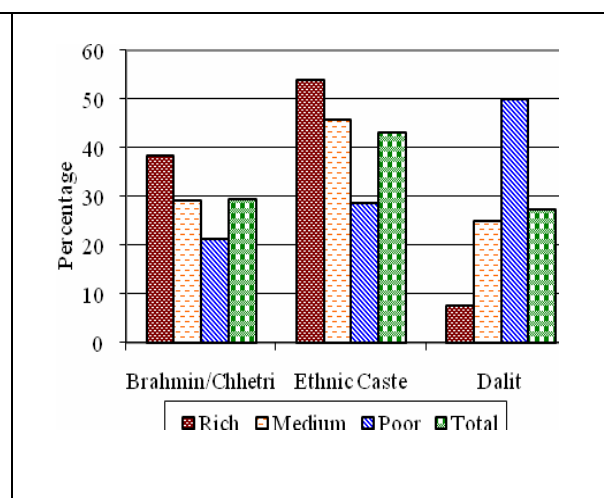
Both CFUGs were found heterogeneity on the basic of caste/ethnicity. In both CFUGs there was found upper caste (*Brahmin and Chhetri*), ethnic group (*Newar, Magar, Gurung, Giri, etc*) and lower caste (*Kami, Damai, Sarki etc*). In Sukla Gandaki CFUG out of total 45 HHs majority of HHs found Brahmin and Chhetri (49%) and minority of HHs from lower caste (11%) but in Mulban out of total 190 HHs majority of HHs found ethnic caste (45%) and minority from Brahmin/ Chhetri (27%). Comparing both CFUGs there are different status of the caste/ethnicity SGCFUG has dominated by upper caste and less percentage of lower caste people. But the ration of upper caste people in SG and ethnic caste in Mulban gets somehow similar. It is shown clearly in the figure 3 and 6.



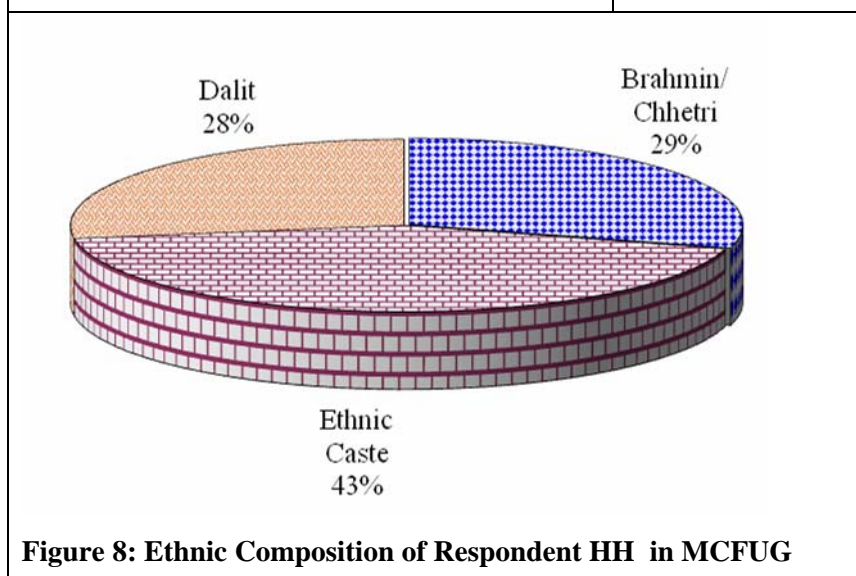
## Mulban CFUG



**Figure 6: Ethnic Composition of Total HH**



**Figure 7: Ethnic Composition of Respondent HH**



**Figure 8: Ethnic Composition of Respondent HH in MCFUG**

By analysing the surveyed HHs in Sukla Gandaki majority of the respondents are ethnic caste (50%) followed by upper caste (31%) and lower caste (19%) respectively but in Mulban out of total surveyed HH, majority of the respondents are ethnic caste (43%) followed by upper caste (29%) and lower caste (28%) respectively. The sampled HHs in both CFUGs are randomly selected on basis of geographical location and ration with the total HHs in each ethnicity and no single ethnic caste has dominated on the basis of their total composition and geographical location. Ethnic composition of respondents HH of both study area is presented in figure 5 and 8.

Nepalese society was ethnically diverse and complex, at the top of the social order are members of the *Brahman* followed by the *Chhetri*, *Vaishya*, and the *Sudra*. The lowest position in the social order is occupied by the *Dalits*, also referred to as "untouchables." For example, *Dalits* may not enter temples or fetch water from wells that are also used by members of higher castes. Although caste-based discrimination was outlawed in Nepal in 1963 it is still present in Nepali society. Social exclusion based on caste is interlinked with exclusion based on ethnicity and religion. According to Banjade et.al (2004), Nepali society is patriarchal where religious, geographical, different caste and gender exclusion is prominent and obstructs the development efforts, intensifying further exclusion in the society. Comparing Above two literatures this study also found diversity of the caste and ethnicity that affect the social as well as CF activities.

#### 4.2.1.2 Household size and gender structure

Household size and gender structure are important because it has influence on the supply of labor from the household. Similarly man and women have different roles and responsibilities, which influence different community forestry activities. The average household size and gender structure are presented in table 7.

**Table 7: Sampled Household size and gender structure in different study area**

| Study Sites            | Average number<br>Female | Average<br>number Male | Total family<br>size |
|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Sukla Gandaki (n=16)   | 3.12                     | 3.75                   | 6.87                 |
| Mulban (n=51)          | 2.96                     | 3.11                   | 6.07                 |
| Overall average (n=67) | 3.00                     | 3.26                   | 6.26                 |

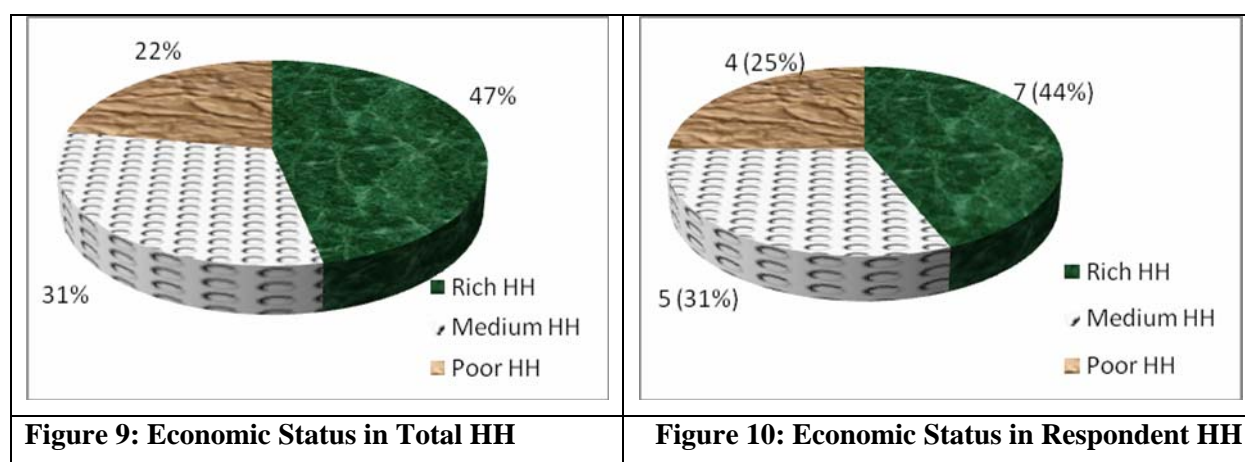
(Source: Field Survey, 2007)

67 households from 2 CFUG were selected for this research survey. 33% of all households from Sukla Gandaki (SG) were interviewed via questionnaire and 26% from Mulban. The average household size of the study sites is 6.87 members which is slightly bigger than national average (5.44). When the gender structure is analyzed among the sampled households, it reveals that female population (3.00) is lower than male (3.26). Household size and the gender structure seemed slightly different between two study sites. In Sukla Gandaki CFUG out of 16 HH surveyed only 2 HH are interviewed by male other all are female but in Mulban CFUG there were 50% male and 50% female were involved in interview.

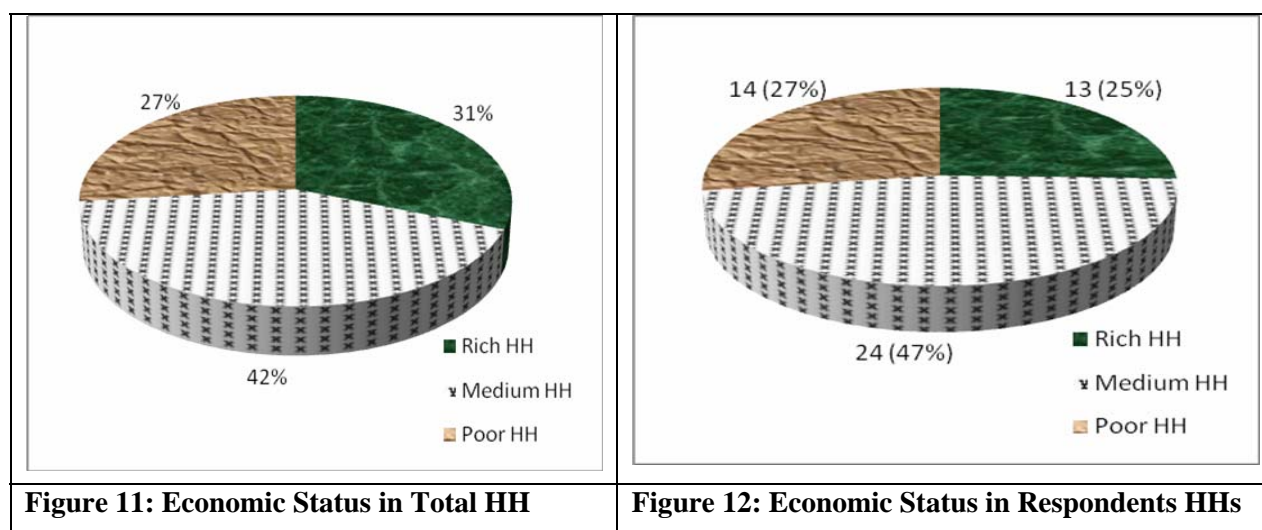
### 4.2.1.3 Economic Status

The both CF members are clearly divided into three distinct wealth classes. The attributes of each wealth class are already fixed and the category of user's also already classified. According to the CFUGs, wealth class was classified based on: (i) the amount of land holding and its quality; (ii) food sufficiency period per year from the private farmland, (iii) employment in government service and other sectors, their position (ranking) and security (permanent or temporary); (iv) high proportion of active age group in family members and (v) number of livestock, especially milking buffaloes.

#### Sukla Gandaki CFUG



#### Mulban CFUG



By the analysis economic status of total HHs, in Sukla Gandaki the majority of the HHs found rich status followed by medium and poor respectively but in Mulban majority of the HH of medium followed by rich and poor. In both CFUGs there are less HHs represented from poor. The ratio of rich HHs in Sukla Gandaki is higher and medium HHs is lower

than Mulban CFUG. Similarly by the analysis of respondents HHs, in SGCFUG found majority of respondents from rich followed by medium and poor respectively. In Mulban majority of medium followed by poor and rich respectively. The respondents were randomly selected on basis of economic status with comparing the total economic status in each HHs so in result there can be seen balanced ratio of respondent on the basis of their total status. Figure 9, 10, 11 and 12 showed the scenario of economic status of both study area.

Economic status is most important influencing factor in domination of the social activities, according to the status of well being people react each other. In both study area there is already categorized in 3 well being status (rich, medium and poor) of users by themselves and categorization criteria was similar to each caste/ethnicity. National category is majority is medium class, less in poor and very poor and the least no of HHs in the rich category. According to the estimation in 1996 more than 40% of the population in Nepal is poor (UNDP, 2000). The incidence of poverty in rural areas is 2.6 times higher than in urban areas (UNDP, 1998). The pattern of allocation of HHs into well being category in both CFUGs is not similar to national in both study area the ratio of poor is less than national figure. Most of the poor people are totally dependent upon forest resources for their subsistence livelihood. Work division, decision power, benefit distribution system and role for forest management also affected by economic status of users. The economic conditions of the study area are varied; Sukla Gandaki CFUG has a better economic status than Mulban CFUGs.

#### **4.2.1.4 Educational Status of the Respondents**

Education is one of the major factors influencing people's knowledge, attitude and behaviour. Non-formal class had been conducted once time for both CFUGs. Mulban CFUG supports the furniture and money for high school construction through CFM programme but not by Sukla Gandaki CFUG. Education status of both study area's respondents was classified broadly into 6 categories such as illiterate, just literate, primary level, secondary level, high school level and university level on the basis of economic and ethnicity.

**Table 8: Education Status of Respondents HHs of Sukla Gandaki CFUGs**

| <b>Respondent Category</b>   |               | <b>Illiterate (%)</b> | <b>Just Literate (%)</b> | <b>Primary (%)</b> | <b>Secondary (%)</b> | <b>High school (%)</b> | <b>University (%)</b> |
|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Rich</b><br>(n=44)        | Male (n=25)   | 2.2                   | 6.8                      | 29.5               | 0                    | 13.6                   | 4.5                   |
|                              | Female (n=19) | 2.2                   | 9                        | 22.7               | 2.27                 | 4.5                    | 2.2                   |
| <b>Medium</b><br>(n=42)      | Male (n=20)   | 0                     | 2.3                      | 33.3               | 4.7                  | 7.1                    | 0                     |
|                              | Female (n=22) | 14.8                  | 7.1                      | 26.1               | 2.3                  | 0                      | 2.3                   |
| <b>Poor</b><br>(n=22)        | Male (n=9)    | 0                     | 9                        | 22.7               | 4.5                  | 0                      | 4.5                   |
|                              | Female (n=13) | 9                     | 18.1                     | 27.2               | 0                    | 4.5                    | 0                     |
| <b>Upper cast</b><br>(n=28)  | Male (n=15)   | 3.5                   | 7.1                      | 28.5               | 0                    | 7.1                    | 7.1                   |
|                              | Female (n=13) | 7.1                   | 14.2                     | 14.2               | 3.5                  | 3.5                    | 3.5                   |
| <b>Medium Cast</b><br>(n=50) | Male (n=26)   | 0                     | 2                        | 30                 | 6                    | 12                     | 2                     |
|                              | Female (n=24) | 8                     | 4                        | 28                 | 2                    | 4                      | 2                     |
| <b>Lower Cast</b><br>(n=30)  | Male (n=13)   | 0                     | 9.9                      | 29.9               | 0                    | 3.3                    | 0                     |
|                              | Female (n=17) | 9.9                   | 16.6                     | 29.9               | 0                    | 0                      | 0                     |
| <b>Over All (N=108)</b>      |               | 9.2                   | <b>15.6</b>              | <b>54.2</b>        | 4.6                  | 11                     | 4.6                   |

(Source: Field Survey, 2007)

In Sukla Gandaki CFUG, on the basis of economic status, majority of members from all class is found in primary level. Male members from rich and medium HHs found the more ratios in good education status in each category than female but from poor HHs female member is quite more than male members. In the university level there were also domination by male from rich and poor in equal ratio and none from medium HHs. Majority of female were illiterate from all class respondents. On the basis of caste/ethnicity in all caste female is illiterate than male and the ratio of lower caste female is more illiterate than medium and rich caste. In case of male there were less and none member in illiterate from all caste group. In the primary education there were similar types of status of male and female in all caste. None of the respondents from poor male and female had university degree status. This shows that, in overall poor and lower caste people's higher education status is quite less than rich and medium respondents HH member.

**Table 9: Education Status of Respondents HHs of Mulban CFUGs**

| Respondent Category           |               | Illiterate (%) | Just Literate (%) | Primary (%) | Secondary (%) | High school (%) | University (%) |
|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| <b>Rich</b><br>(n=81)         | Male (n=47)   | 3.7            | 11.1              | 16.0        | 11.1          | 4.9             | 11.1           |
|                               | Female (n=34) | 14.8           | 9.84              | 12.3        | 0             | 4.9             | 0              |
| <b>Medium</b><br>(n=139)      | Male (n=70)   | 3.5            | 6.3               | 20.5        | 12            | 4.2             | 2.8            |
|                               | Female (n=69) | 12             | 10.6              | 19.1        | 6.3           | 0.7             | 0              |
| <b>Poor</b><br>(n=83)         | Male (n=42)   | 6              | 14.4              | 24          | 2.4           | 3.6             | 0              |
|                               | Female (n=41) | 21.6           | 12                | 13.2        | 2.4           | 0               | 0              |
| <b>Upper cast</b><br>(n=108)  | Male (n=56)   | 3.6            | 9.2               | 12.8        | 11.96         | 5.5             | 8.2            |
|                               | Female (n=52) | 17.4           | 11.9              | 12.8        | 3.68          | 1.8             | 0              |
| <b>Medium Cast</b><br>(n=116) | Male (n=64)   | 4.3            | 9.4               | 23.2        | 12            | 3.4             | 2.5            |
|                               | Female (n=52) | 13.7           | 9.4               | 13.7        | 5.1           | 2.5             | 0              |
| <b>Lower Cast</b><br>(n=79)   | Male (n=39)   | 5              | 11.3              | 26.4        | 1.2           | 3.7             | 1.2            |
|                               | Female (n=40) | 15.1           | 11.3              | 22.6        | 1.2           | 0               | 0              |
| <b>Over All (N=303)</b>       |               | <b>19.8</b>    | <b>20.7</b>       | <b>36.3</b> | <b>12.8</b>   | <b>5.9</b>      | <b>4.2</b>     |

(Source: Field Survey, 2007)

In Mulban CFUG, on the basis of economic status, majority of members from all class is found in primary level. Rich male members were more literate, secondary and university level but rich female members found more in illiterate status. None of the male and female members from poor respondent's HH in university level. None of the female poor had secondary education status. This shows there was more percentage people in educated from rich HH and very few members educated from poor HH. On the basis of caste and ethnicity majority of female from upper caste respondent's family were illiterate but in primary education lower caste male and female members were quite higher than upper and ethnic caste. In higher education level male from rich HHs were more than poor HHs. None of the female members from lower caste respondent's HH in secondary and university level. This shows that more members from rich HHs are educated than poor HHs.

By comparing both CFUGs, education status of both study areas found majority in primary level. Poor and lower caste people found less no. than rich people. In SG rich, upper caste and poor male member found more in university degree but in Mulban rich and upper caste members found more than other caste and class. Other education status in both study areas, researcher found somehow similar. Concerning the education status, FUGs argued that rich and upper caste HHs are wealthier than poor and lower caste HHs therefore they

can be investing money easily for the education. Poor people can't invest money for education because they have problem for managing the daily subsistence need. All the family members of poor are involved and invest their time in labour work as minimal price that's why there was less no. of poor and lower caste people found in higher education level.

#### 4.2.1.5 Occupational Status of the Respondents HH

Occupation of the local people is one of the most important aspects while concerning the social research in forestry activities. Dependency on forest and level of participation in forest management activities is governed by their occupation. Main occupation statuses of respondent's are presented in table 10.

**Table 10: Main occupation of respondents in study sites**

| Study sites          | Agriculture (%) | Business (%) | Service holder (%) | Pensioner (%) | Labour (%) |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------|------------|
| Sukla Gandaki (n=16) | 50              | 6.25         | 6.25               | 12.5          | 25         |
| Mulban (n=51)        | 58.82           | 9.80         | 9.80               | 7.84          | 13.72      |
| <b>Total (n=67)</b>  | 56.7            | 8.9          | 8.9                | 8.9           | 16.4       |

(Source: Field Survey, 2007)

In the both study area researcher found that agriculture is the main and labour work is second occupation but household members also engaged other activities in addition to agriculture and labour work. These are business, services and pensioner. The respondents of Mulban CFUG were quite higher in business and service then Sukla Gandaki CFUG but in SG there is higher respondents found in pensioner and labour then MCFUG. The figure is slightly different between two study sites. In general there is maximum number of people dependent upon agriculture and wage labor therefore that result reflects that most of the people are directly and indirectly linked to the CF. According to respondents agriculture dependent people need to keep animal husbandry for the compost and plough of farm land therefore they need fodder, grass and litter from CF. Similarly labour work respondents said they are totally dependent upon firewood from CF for the cooking purpose.

#### 4.2.1.6 Age of the respondents

Respondent's age class was classified into three categories in both study area. In Sukla Gandaki CFUG most of the respondents from each economic class found female and only

little percentage from rich old age respondent was involved in interview but no male were from medium and young age class. In Mulban none of respondents found from young rich male and young poor male and also very few respondents from young medium class male involved in interview. In other category there was found both male and female respondent in all age variation. Details age of respondents are presented in table 11 and 12. In Mulban high percentage of poor and medium class respondents found than rich but the entire economic class male and female have positive information towards their CFM activities. The Results shows that there was very less young male living in study area. According to the respondents the young age male went outside the village for work and employment.

**Table 11: Age of the respondents of Sukla Gandaki CFUG**

| Age Group          | Rich (n=7)    |                 | Medium (n=5)  |                 | Poor (n=4)    |                 |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
|                    | Male<br>(n=1) | Female<br>(n=6) | Male<br>(n=0) | Female<br>(n=5) | Male<br>(n=0) | Female<br>(n=4) |
| Young (18-35)      | 0             | 28.5%           | 0             | 20%             | 0             | 25%             |
| Medium (36-56)     | 0             | 28.5%           | 0             | 40%             | 0             | 50%             |
| Old age (above 57) | 14.2%         | 28.5%           | 0             | 24%             | 0             | 25%             |

(Source: Field Survey, 2007)

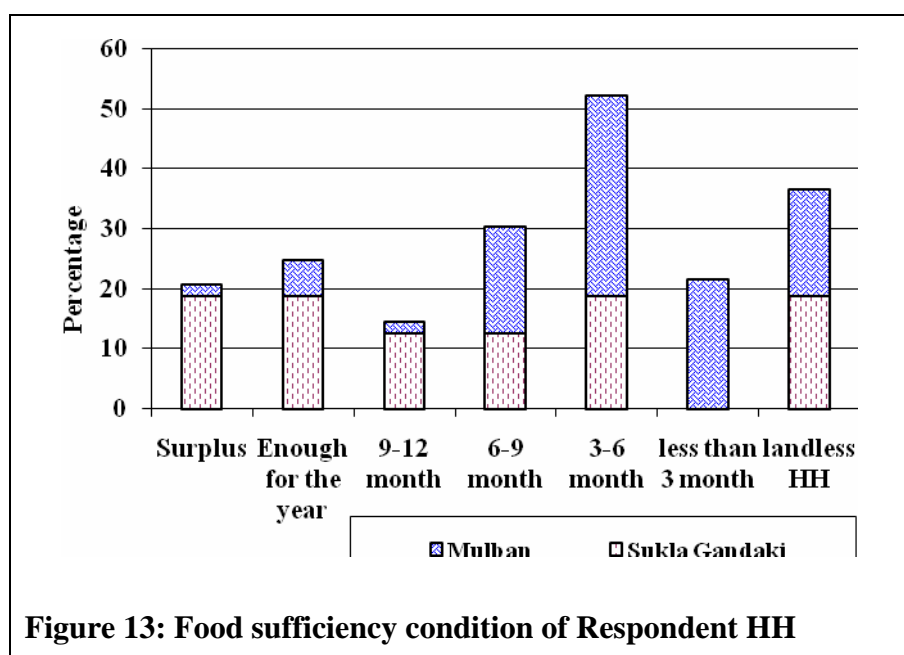
**Table 12: Age of the respondents of Mulban CFUG**

| Age Group          | Rich (n=13)   |                 | Medium (n=24)  |                  | Poor (n=14)   |                 |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|
|                    | Male<br>(n=9) | Female<br>(n=4) | Male<br>(n=11) | Female<br>(n=13) | Male<br>(n=6) | Female<br>(n=8) |
| Young (15-35)      | 0             | 15.3%           | 8.3%           | 20.8%            | 0             | 21.4%           |
| Medium (36-56)     | 46.5%         | 7.6%            | 16.6%          | 25%              | 21.4%         | 28.5%           |
| Old age (above 57) | 23%           | 7.6%            | 20.8%          | 8.3%             | 21.4%         | 7.1%            |

(Source: Field Survey, 2007)



## 4.2.2 Food sufficiency condition of Respondent HH



**Figure 13: Food sufficiency condition of Respondent HH**

In Sukla Gandaki CFUG, there were equal ration of the respondents in food sufficiency category of surplus, enough for the year, 3-6 month and land less HH. None of the respondent found in less than 3 month food sufficiency condition. Similarly in Mulban CFUG majority of the respondents were in 3-6 month and 6-9 month food sufficiency condition and few respondents were in 9-12 month and surplus condition. Comparing both CFUGs there are quite different status of food sufficiency and the respondents from SGCFUG found more in surplus and enough for the year food sufficiency than MCFUG. But there is somehow similar percentage of respondents found landless. Figure 13 presented the food sufficiency condition of two study sites. On the basis of above figure food sufficiency condition of respondents of Sukla Gandaki is quite better than respondent of Mulban CF.

## 4.3 Participation of marginalized user in decision making and benefit sharing process

### 4.3.1 Degree of inclusiveness of marginalized people in executive committee

Table 13 shows that in Sukla Gandaki majority of the medium class member and few percentages from poor members was represented in executive committee. In key position more members hold by medium economic status HHs and only few members from rich HHs. None of any member represent in key position by poor HHs. Similarly there is domination by the upper caste people in committee and very few members represented from ethnic caste but there were no any lower caste people representative in key as well as whole executive committee. Whereas in the Mulban CFUG, table 14 shows that majority

of the poor members were represented in EC while about medium and rich represented as very good status. In the key position majority of members represented from rich and few members from poor HHs. Similarly ethnic caste member's representation in high percentage and few from lower caste but in key position majority of ethnic caste involved in EC and very less percentage involved from upper caste but no any lower caste people representation.

**Table 13: Representation in Executive Committee by Economic Status and Ethnicity in SGCF**

| Situation                                  | Wealth Status |          |        | Caste/Ethnicity |          |         | Total % |
|--|---------------|----------|--------|-----------------|----------|---------|---------|
|  | Rich %        | Medium % | Poor % | Upper %         | Ethnic % | Lower % |         |
| Total households (n=45)                    | 46.67         | 31.11    | 22.22  | 22              | 18       | 5       | 100     |
| Total households                           | 47            | 31       | 22     | 49              | 40       | 11      | 100     |
| Representation in key position of EC (n=5) | 20.00         | 80.00    | 0.00   | 100             | 0        | 0       | 100     |
| Total representation in EC (n=5)           | 27.27         | 54.54    | 18.18  | 81.82           | 18.18    | 0       | 100     |

(Source: Field Survey, 2007)

**Table 14: Representation in Executive Committee by Economic Status and Ethnicity in MCF**

| Situation                                  | Wealth Status |          |        | Caste/Ethnicity |          |         | Total % |
|--|---------------|----------|--------|-----------------|----------|---------|---------|
|  | Rich %        | Medium % | Poor % | Upper %         | Ethnic % | Lower % |         |
| Total households (n=190)                   | 31.05         | 42.11    | 26.84  | 26.84           | 45.26    | 27.89   | 100     |
| Total households                           | 31            | 42       | 27     | 27              | 45       | 28      | 100     |
| Representation in key position of EC (n=5) | 75            | 0        | 25     | 25              | 75       | 0       | 100     |
| Total representation in EC (n=5)           | 30.77         | 30.77    | 38.46  | 30.77           | 53.85    | 15.38   | 100     |

(Source: Field Survey, 2007)

By the analysis of these two study area poor and lower caste people's inclusiveness status found better in MCF than SGCF. But still in Mulban there is need to incorporate of lower caste people in key position. Poor, ethnic and lower caste people were ignored in key position of Sukla Gandaki who is totally dependent with forest resource for their subsistence. In Mulban poor and ethnic caste found highly appreciated. According to the user's view of Sukla Gandaki, poor and lower caste people were unsatisfied from the present EC and they said no one informed to them for any meeting and assembly. They said most of the key as well as general positions were captured by rich, medium and upper

caste members. Rich and upper caste people of SG were satisfied with present committee and they said poor and lower caste people don't want to live in committee.

In Mulban all users are satisfied with the structure of EC and also decision making process. They said representation of marginalized group in committee influence the decisions in committee meetings and also encourage other users to participate in discussions during meetings. So the result concluded that in SG there is lack of inclusiveness committee and domination by only one upper caste that's why Mulban CFUG is more inclusive than Sukla Gandaki. Community forestry guideline HMGN (2002) has highlighted poor and lower caste people should be represented as equity basis. So researcher findout in both CFUG there is need to incorporate lower caste people in EC specially in SG must be need to think concerning marginalized people in EC.

#### **4.3.2 Participation of CFUGs in decision making process in different CF activities**

##### **4.3.2.1 Participation of forest users in the General Assembly (GA)**

The General Assembly (GA) is the apex body of the CFUG that provides the forum for users to incorporate their voices in the decision making process. According to the CFUGs constitution of both study area, GA meetings are to be held once a year and one person from each HH must be participate in the GA. This is most important forum for reflection of the last year activities and decisions or detailed worked plan on the basic of approved CF operational plan for coming year. In addition, for the committee formation, amendment and creating the rules also done in this forum.

**Table 15: Degree of Participation in GA by respondents**

| <b>Name of CF</b>    | <b>Degree of Participation</b> |            |            |           | <b>Total Respondents</b> |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|--------------------------|
|                      | Always (%)                     | Mostly (%) | Rarely (%) | Never (%) |                          |
| Sukla Gandaki (n=16) | 12.5                           | 12.5       | 50         | 25        | 100                      |
| Mulban (n=51)        | 76.4                           | 9.8        | 11.7       | 1.9       | 100                      |

(Source: Field Survey, 2007)

Above table 15 shows the result of degree of participation in general assembly on the basis of interviewed respondents. In Sukla Gandaki CFUG, majority of the respondents were present in rarely participated and there was less percentage of respondents in always and mostly participated in GA. But in Mulban most of the respondents were participated in always and all the respondents are aware and putting their views in assembly but very few respondents was found in never participated.

**Table 16: Degree of Participation of respondents in GA by Economic status**

| <b>Degree of participation</b> | <b>Sukla Gandaki CFUG</b> |            |            | <b>Mulban CFUG</b> |            |            |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|------------|------------|--------------------|------------|------------|
|                                | Rich (%)                  | Medium (%) | Poor (%)   | Rich (%)           | Medium (%) | Poor (%)   |
| Always                         | 16.7                      | 16.7       | 0          | 76.9               | 75         | 78.6       |
| Mostly                         | 16.7                      | 16.7       | 0          | 7.7                | 12.5       | 7.1        |
| Rarely                         | 66.7                      | 16.7       | 75         | 7.7                | 12.5       | 14.3       |
| Never                          | 0                         | 50         | 25         | 7.7                | 0          | 0          |
| Total                          | <b>100</b>                | <b>100</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>100</b>         | <b>100</b> | <b>100</b> |

(Source: Field Survey, 2007)

Table 16 shows the result on degree of participation of respondents in GA by economic status. The result found different between two CFUGs. In Mulban all economic class people found higher percentage in always participation and very few rich respondents were found rarely and never participated whereas none of respondents found never participated from medium and poor in GA. In Sukla Gandaki very few respondents from rich and medium were participated in always and mostly in GA but there were none of any respondents from poor were always and mostly participated. Majority of poor, rich and medium respondents were rarely and never present in GA.

By comparing the results of both CFUGs the results of SGCFUG shows that very little participation of poor in GA and less representation of their voice in decision making processes but in Mulban economic class people had equal participated and putting their views in decision making processes. Concerning this lower and poor people of SGCFUG said they are not invited in assembly so that representation of their voice in decision making processes were found insignificant status although they were 100% participated in CF management activities. But upper caste and rich people were not giving any comment they are supported to committee and their all activities. Here in box is one story from poor and lower caste respondents concerning the participation in meeting and assembly.

One poor and lower caste women in SGCFUG shared her views in meeting and assembly. Last 12-13 years, I was only participated in 2 times in assembly but the committee members were did all the decision in assembly there was no any discussion about CF fund (income and expenditure). That's why I could not attain any assembly and now a days I don't know about date and agenda of any meeting and also I don't know about any decision. I am only involved in forest management activities, Fuelwood/grass collection day and in fee collection day. Except these I don't know anything about CF. Furthermore she highlighted that there is no any representation by poor and lower caste in EC so all the decision were handled by upper caste committee members.

All respondents of Mulban argue that they are satisfy with the participation of all caste and caste people in GA and they all were aware and putting their views in assembly. This kind of decision- making process in Mulban CF is considered to be participatory way. OP and constitution are approved by users' consensus in GA after series of meetings and discussions. Annual plan formulation process is also done in participatory way. So researcher concluded that participation all caste and class people in GA were very appreciative level in Mulban CFUG than the Sukla Gandaki CFUG.

#### 4.3.2.2 Participation in CF Protection and Management Activities (CFM)

In both study area researcher were observed the forest management activities such as plantation, thinning/pruning and cleaning/weeding to be carried out in CF. Table 17 shows degree of participation in forest management activities by economic class.

**Table 17: Participation of CFUGs in CF management activities by economic class**

| <b>Degree of participation</b> | <b>Sukla Gandaki</b> |            |          | <b>Mulban</b> |            |          |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|------------|----------|---------------|------------|----------|
|                                | Rich (%)             | Medium (%) | Poor (%) | Rich (%)      | Medium (%) | Poor (%) |
| On the need                    | 71.4                 | 80.0       | 100      | 76.9          | 100        | 78.6     |
| Rarely                         | 14.3                 | 20.0       | 0        | 23.1          | 0          | 21.4     |
| Not at all                     | 14.3                 | 0          | 0        | 0             | 0          | 0        |
| Total                          | 100                  | 100        | 100      | 100           | 100        | 100      |

(Source: Field Survey, 2007)

In Sukla Gandaki CFUG researcher observed 100% poor HH participation in CFM activities fallowed by medium 80% and rich 71.4% in always (on the need) participated but medium and rich respondents were found rarely participated there is also some respondents from rich found never participated in CFM activities. Above results shows that all the poor involved in forest management activities although they were not participated in decision making process. Observation showed that there was less participation in forest management activities by rich people than by medium and poor people. Concerning this result rich users argued poor households are totally dependent upon forest resources for fuel wood and rich user can buy from market for their need fulfillment therefore poor people should participate more than the rich. But poor people argued rich people only participated in benefit distribution time not in the time of forest management activities (working).

In Mulban all 100% of medium class respondents participated in forest management activities whereas poor and rich respondents also found in high level. Rich and poor

respondents also found rarely participated level. Observation showed less participation of poor and rich than medium in CFM activities. For that case FUGs argued that poor households should have earn some money for their daily hand mouth problem so they went to labour work because they don't get money in CF management activities. Some rich people have regular job and engaged to other activities and some people used gas and stove for cooking they don't need fuelwood so they were not participated but they have to pay some amount in FUG fund.

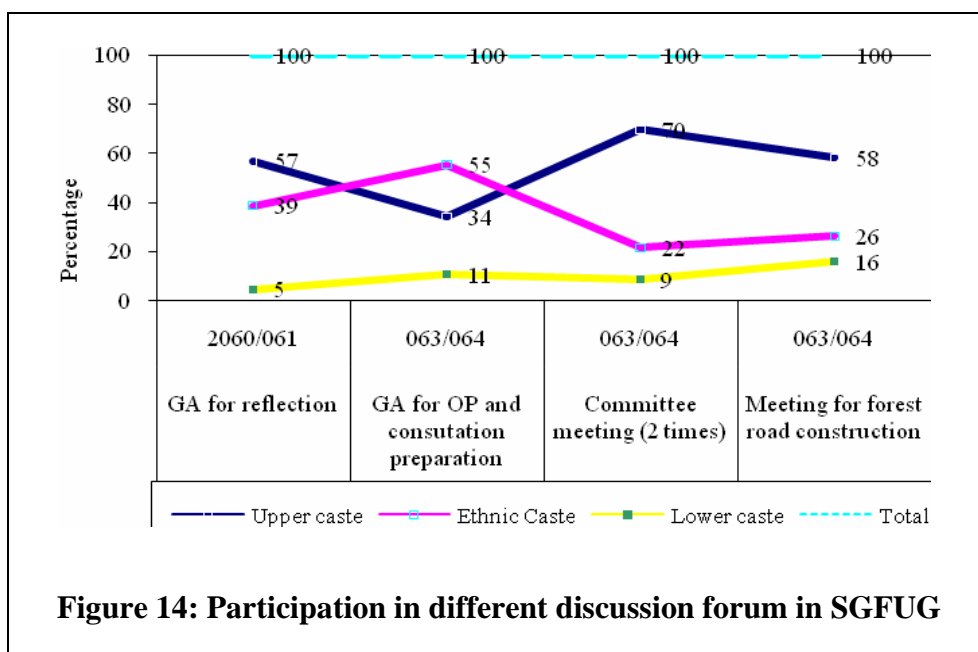
Some literature focused on poor people and DAGs are totally dependent in forest resources for daily subsistence need fulfill. According to Dick and Knox (2001), all members of the CF need to have equal participation in management in order for economically disadvantaged groups to receive benefits. Equal participation is necessary to create effective and equitable management for collective decision-making, which ensures equal benefits for all user groups. Another research from Baral (1993) stated that the ethnic composition, caste diversity, cultural variation, and political ideology within the community could create problems at the user level that affects forest management activities. In this research researcher also found the conclusion of above literature. The evidence of SGCFUGs provides lesser representation of rich people and 100% poor in CFM activities. In both study area poor and lower caste people are dependent upon forest resources for their daily subsistence need.

#### **4.3.2.3 Participation in Different Discussion Forum of CFUG**

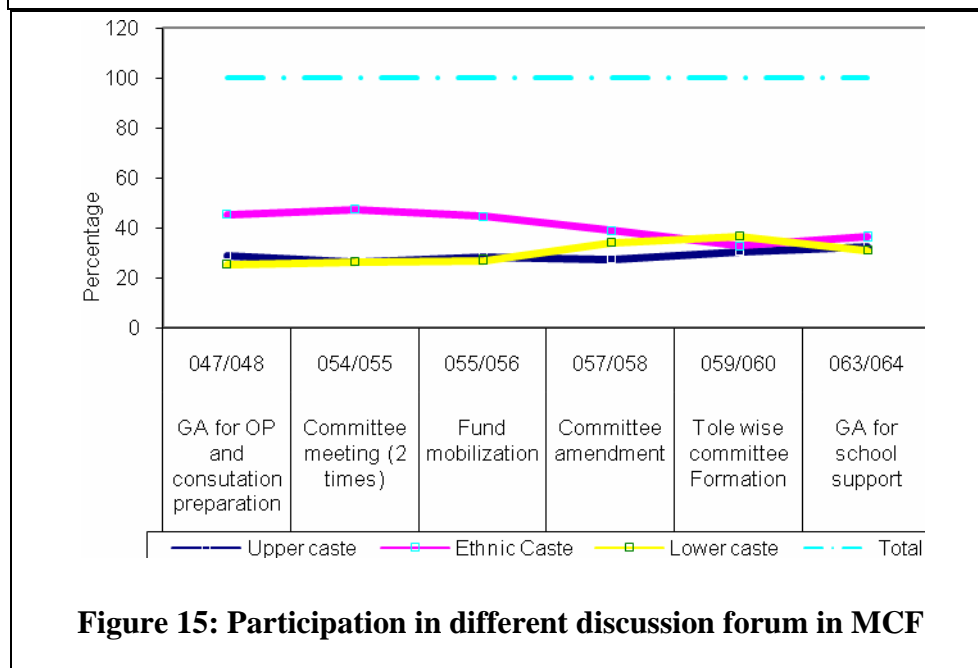
Figure 14 shows the participation in different discussion forum of SGCFUG; majority of the people from upper caste was participated in different discussion forum/meeting and they made decisions. Lower caste people had very few participation levels in decision forum but their participation in higher in forest management (implementation) activities, which can be seen in table 17 also. Thus, the overall result reflected not good participation found from lower caste as well as other caste users in discussion meeting of Sukla Gandaki CFUG.

Figure 15 shows ethnic caste people were more participated but there were lower and upper caste member also in same range in the entire decision making forum in Mulban. Concerning this results FUG argued that in Mulban there was more HHs from ethnic caste that's why representation also can be seen high. But according to the total HHs there were equal participation from all caste. Researcher found that all caste members had feeling of own responsibilities and interest to know the information regarding to CF activities. They

had sub-committee in each tole for easy to forest management work and benefit distribution system so in tole level meeting there was chance to participate of all users including lower caste. By comparing the result of both study area, lower caste people participation of was found higher in each decision making forum of MCF than SGCF.



**Figure 14: Participation in different discussion forum in SGFUG**



**Figure 15: Participation in different discussion forum in MCF**

#### 4.3.2.4 Participation in meeting of fixing the rate of FP and membership fee

In Sukla Gandaki CFUG, all lower caste respondents and majority of poor were not present in meeting when rates of FP distribution and deciding the membership fee were fixed. Rich and upper caste respondents were found quite higher percentage in meeting

then other respondents. In overall there was also more percentage of respondents found in not participated of all caste and class people in SG.

In Mulban CFUG result shows that most of the respondent from all economic class and caste were participated in meeting when rates of FP distribution and deciding the membership fee were fixed and only few percentages of respondents from rich, poor, upper and lower caste were not presence due to their engage to other work and hand mouth problem. In overall very high percentage of all caste and class respondents were present in such type of meeting in Mulban.

**Table 18: Presence in meeting of fixing the rate of FP and membership fee**

| <b>Respondents category</b> |        | <b>Response in Sukla Gandaki</b> |             | <b>Response in Mulban</b> |            |
|-----------------------------|--------|----------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|------------|
|                             |        | Yes %                            | No %        | Yes %                     | No %       |
| Economic Status             | Rich   | 57.1                             | 42.9        | 84.6                      | 15.4       |
|                             | Medium | 40.0                             | 60.0        | 100                       | 0          |
|                             | Poor   | 25.0                             | 75.0        | 85.7                      | 14.3       |
| <b>Overall %</b>            |        | <b>43.8</b>                      | <b>56.3</b> | <b>92.2</b>               | <b>7.8</b> |
| Caste/Ethnicity             | Upper  | 60.0                             | 40.0        | 93.3                      | 6.7        |
|                             | Ethnic | 50.0                             | 50.0        | 100                       | 0          |
|                             | Lower  | 0                                | 100         | 92.9                      | 7.1        |
| <b>Overall %</b>            |        | <b>43.8</b>                      | <b>56.3</b> | <b>96.1</b>               | <b>3.9</b> |

(Source: Field Survey, 2007)

By comparing both CFUGs there was opposite result found in the meeting when rates of FP distribution and deciding the membership fee were fixed. Mulban CFUGs was more aware, active and high percentage of all caste and class including poor and lower caste respondents were present very much appreciative level in rate of FP and membership fee fixed meeting then Sukla Gandaki CFUG.

### **4.3.3 Degree of expressing views, receptiveness and level of user's satisfaction of users in CF programme**

#### **4.3.3.1 Expressing views and raising issues on purposed agenda in CF meeting/assembly**

In Sukla Gandaki CFUG, most of the rich and upper caste people were actively participated for expressing views in purposed agenda and raising the news issues. All the lower caste respondents were not expressing their views in purposed agenda and raising the issues in meeting and assembly. No one respondent from poor and lower caste were not participated on actively in such type of meeting. In total not satisfaction in actively



participated from ethnic caste and medium respondents. That means all the decisions were decided by upper caste and rich people in Sukla Gandaki CFUG.

**Table 19: Expressing views on purposed agenda in CF meeting/assembly**

| Respondents category    |        | Response % in Sukla Gandaki |           |          |           | Response % in Mulban CF |          |          |          |
|-------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
|                         |        | 1                           | 2         | 3        | 4         | 1                       | 2        | 3        | 4        |
| <b>Economic Status</b>  | Rich   | 57.1                        | 14.3      | 0        | 28.6      | 92.3                    | 7.7      | 0        | 0        |
|                         | Medium | 40.0                        | 0         | 20.0     | 40.0      | 95.8                    | 0        | 0        | 4.2      |
|                         | Poor   | 0                           | 50.0      | 0        | 50.0      | 100                     | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| <b>Overall %</b>        |        | <b>38</b>                   | <b>19</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>38</b> | <b>96</b>               | <b>2</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>2</b> |
| <b>Caste/ Ethnicity</b> | Upper  | 60.0                        | 20.0      | 0,0      | 20.0      | 94.4                    | 5.6      | 0        | 0        |
|                         | Ethnic | 42.9                        | 28.6      | 14.3     | 28.6      | 100                     | 0        | 0        | 0        |
|                         | Lower  | 0                           | 0         | 0        | 100       | 92.9                    | 0        | 0        | 7.1      |
| <b>Overall %</b>        |        | <b>38</b>                   | <b>19</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>38</b> | <b>96</b>               | <b>2</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>2</b> |

Note: 1=Actively participate, 2=To some extent, 3=Neutral, and 4=Not participate

(Source: Field Survey, 2007)

In Mulban all the poor and very high percentage of lower caste respondents were actively participated for expressing views in purposed agenda and raising the news issues. That means all the poor and lower caste people were aware and empower to speak in meeting. There was also very high participation from other class and caste respondents found in such type of meeting/assembly. Very minimal percentage of all caste and class people found in not participated. That means all the decisions were decided by all caste and class people by participatory way in Mulban CFUG. Details of expressing views on purposed agenda in CF meeting/assembly from both study area can be seen in table 19.

Concerning this type of results SGFUG argued the upper caste and committee members were decided all the decisions and they don't create good environment to share all users' views and ideas in meeting. Poor and lower caste people only physically and neutral participated during the meeting and assembly. But according to upper caste people, poor and lower caste people don't want to come in meeting if they come they are in hurry to move fast from the meeting. Due to the illiteracy poor and lower caste people don't speak they feel their views is not matched in the agenda of meeting by themselves therefore these peoples participation not found actively for expressing views in purposed agenda and raising the news issues in meeting.

#### 4.3.3.2 Respecting views on meeting/assembly between committee members and groups

Table 20 shows the respective on views between committee members and general user groups on the basic of economic status and caste/ethnicity in study area. The results of SGFUG shows that in overall majority of the respondents said respective the views within all members in meeting and assembly but there is also high percentage of respondents said not respective. Most of the upper caste and rich respondents gave restive answer but all the poor (100%) said not respective of their views and words by committee members, upper caste and rich people in meeting and assembly.

The overall results in Mulban FUG were found very high (98%) respondents said respective the views within all members in meeting and assembly only very few percentage of respondents said not respective situation. All the medium, poor, ethnic caste and poor said there was respective environment existing within group and committee in each meeting. Above analysis reflected that in both CFUG was found different situation. Mulban CFUG had very much appreciative environment between users and committee members than Sukla Gandaki CFUG.

**Table 20: Respecting views on meeting/assembly between committee members and groups**

| Sukla Gandaki CFUG      |             |             |             |            | Mulban CFUG           |             |            |          |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------|------------|----------|
| Respondents category    |             | Responce %  |             |            | Respondents category  | Responce %  |            |          |
|                         |             | 1           | 2           | 3          |                       | 1           | 2          | 3        |
| <b>Economic Status</b>  | Rich (n=7)  | 71.4        | 28.6        | 0          | Rich (n=13)           | 92.3        | 7.7        | 0        |
|                         | Medium(n=5) | 40.0        | 40.0        | 20.0       | Medium(n=24)          | 100         | 0          | 0        |
|                         | Poor(n=4)   | 50.0        | 50.0        | 0          | Poor(n=14)            | 100         | 0          | 0        |
| <b>Caste/ Ethnicity</b> | Upper(n=5)  | 80.0        | 0           | 20.0       | Upper(n=18)           | 94.4        | 5.6        | 0        |
|                         | Ethnic(n=8) | 62.5        | 37.5        | 0          | Ethnic(n=19)          | 100.0       | 0          | 0        |
|                         | Lower(n=3)  | 0           | 100         | 0          | Lower(n=14)           | 100.0       | 0          | 0        |
| <b>Overall % (N=16)</b> |             | <b>56.3</b> | <b>37.5</b> | <b>6.3</b> | <b>Overall (N=51)</b> | <b>98.0</b> | <b>2.0</b> | <b>0</b> |

Note: 1=respective, 2= not respective and 3=to some extent (Source: Field Survey, 2007)

#### 4.3.3.3 Users satisfaction in CF program and decision making process

Researcher wants to indentify the level of satisfaction regarding CF management program, completed activities and decision making process on the basic of economic wellbeing and caste/ethnicity of respondent's responses. The result is presented in table 21.

In Sukla Gandaki CF area, in overall majority of the respondents were somehow satisfied with fallowed by satisfied, very much satisfied and not satisfied respondents. Among them most of the rich and upper caste respondents were very much satisfied, satisfied and somehow satisfied level but majority of poor and lower caste people were somehow and

not satisfied with the CF program and decision making process. None of the respondents from the lower caste were found very much satisfied level. In Mulban CF area, in overall majority of the respondents were satisfied followed by very much satisfied and somehow but none of the respondents were found in not satisfied level. In Mulban very high poor and lower caste respondent were found in satisfied level that means all the user groups were satisfied with CF program and decision making process in Mulban CF.

**Table 21: Satisfaction in CF program and decision making process**

| Sukla Gandaki CFUG   |             |            |      |      |      | Mulban CFUG          |            |      |     |   |
|----------------------|-------------|------------|------|------|------|----------------------|------------|------|-----|---|
| Respondents category |             | Response % |      |      |      | Respondents category | Response % |      |     |   |
|                      |             | 1          | 2    | 3    | 4    |                      | 1          | 2    | 3   | 4 |
| Economic Status      | Rich (n=7)  | 14.3       | 42.9 | 42.9 | 0    | Rich (n=13)          | 38.5       | 53.8 | 7.7 | 0 |
|                      | Medium(n=5) | 20.0       | 20.0 | 60.0 | 0    | Medium(n=24)         | 37.5       | 62.5 | 0   | 0 |
|                      | Poor(n=4)   | 25.0       | 0    | 25.0 | 50.0 | Poor(n=14)           | 7.1        | 92.9 | 0   | 0 |
| Caste/ Ethnic        | Upper(n=5)  | 40.0       | 20.0 | 40.0 | 0    | Upper(n=18)          | 22.2       | 72.2 | 5.6 | 0 |
|                      | Ethnic(n=8) | 12.5       | 25.0 | 50.0 | 12.5 | Ethnic(n=19)         | 36.8       | 63.2 | 0.0 | 0 |
|                      | Lower(n=3)  | 0          | 33.3 | 33.3 | 33.3 | Lower(n=14)          | 35.7       | 64.3 | 0.0 | 0 |
| Overall (N=16)       |             | 19         | 25   | 44   | 12.5 | Overall (N=51)       | 31.4       | 66.7 | 2.0 | 0 |

Note: 1= very much satisfied, 2 = satisfied, 3 = somehow and 4= not satisfied

(Source: Field Survey, 2007)

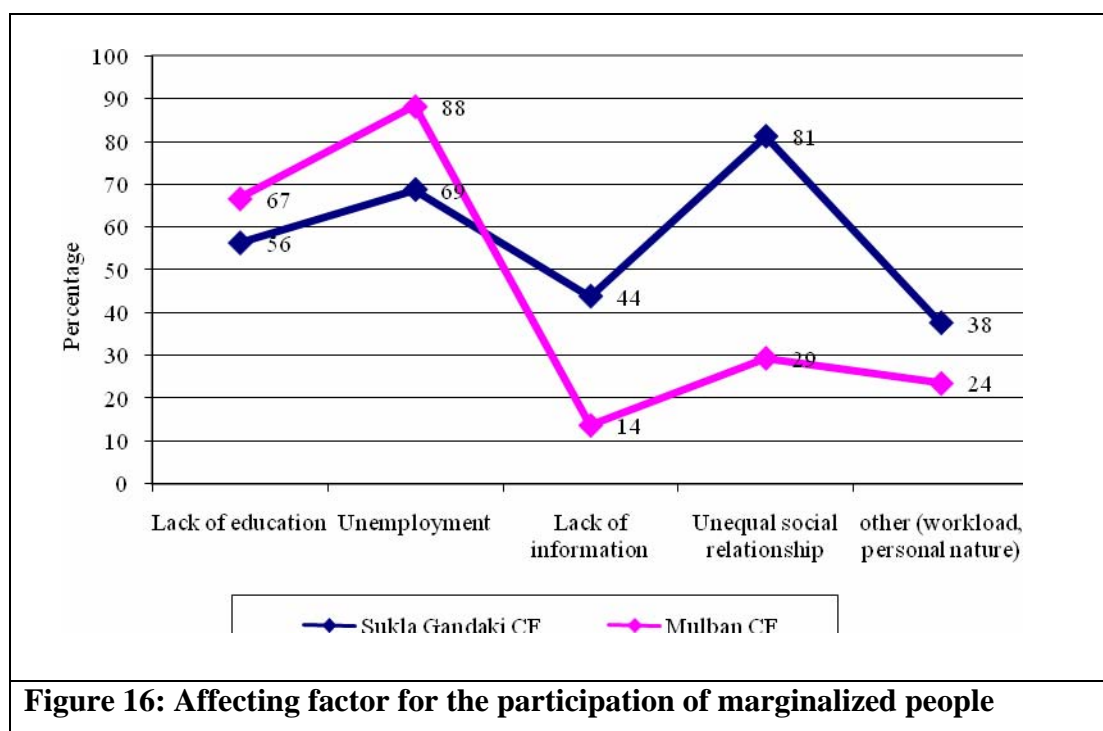
In overall Mulban CFUGs were more satisfied with CF program and decision making process then Sukla Gandaki CFUG. But still there were only 31.4% respondents were very much satisfied level other are only satisfied because there were still lack of income generation programme for poor and lower caste people. Poor people also want to some provision for fewer fees for forest product in comparison to rich people.

#### **4.3.4 Factor Affecting for participation of marginalized people in decision process**

In both CF researcher want to analysis that what are the factors affecting the participation of poor and DAGs (lower caste) people in decision making process forum. From the analysis of results researcher found that the ranking of affecting factors between two CFUG were different. In both CFUGs five factors such as lack of education, unemployment, lack of information, unequal social relationship and others were found. This is presented in figure 16.

In Sukla Gandaki CF, majority of the respondents (81%) were said main affecting factor for their area is unequal social relationship. Because of traditionally upper caste

dominated to lower caste, rich people dominated to poor people and powerful person always superior than weak person, which is culturally and religiously adopted in society. Less no of respondents said other factors like workload in house, personal behavior also affect the participation of marginalized people in decision making forum. In Mulban CF, majority of the respondents (88%) were said main affecting factor for their area is unemployment and fewer respondents said lack of information.



In overall comparison in factors affecting for participation of marginalized people in decision making process, in Sukla Gandaki researcher found unequal social relationship is the most affecting factors that means there is discrimination between rich and poor, lower caste and upper caste and man and female. But in Mulban unemployment is the most affecting factors that means most of the people went to the market area and also outside from the village so that situation affect for participation of these type of people. But lack of information found in very little percentage that means there is good information dissemination system can be found.

Many case studies indicate that poor and marginalized people in CF are still backward. They are still biased for capacity building program, training, chance as a member in EC and benefit of FP on the basis of their economic standard. Lack of information, lack of access to resources and lack of institutional arrangement also stand as obstacle to participation (Lama, 1999). According to Regmi (1992) family support, small size of the committee, educational status, compactness of area where they work and personal

characteristics such as age, sex, gender, marital status, and wealth affects marginalized people's participation. The result of this research found out quite different factors which effect marginalized people's participation in decision making forum. The result obtained in both study area shows that lack of education, unemployment, lack of information, unequal social relationship, and others (workload in HH, personal interest etc) were affected for the participation of marginalized people in study area (figure 16) In Sukla Gandaki researcher found unequal social relationship is the most affecting factors that means there is discrimination between rich and poor, lower caste and upper caste and man and female. So there is less practice about social inclusion and need to focus empowerment programme to upper caste and rich people. But in Mulban unemployment is the most affecting factors that mean most of the people went to the market for earning money at that time they people can't participation in meeting. That means there is not decimation between different caste and class people in CF programme.

#### **4.3.5 Benefit sharing system adopted by CFUGs**

##### **4.3.5.1 Forest product used by users**

This section attempts to examine the benefits distribution particularly in the context of sharing forest products by different wealth class and ethnicity can be quantified and compared within the groups. From the forest different types of forest products such as fodder, fuel wood, grass, bedding material and timber as well non-wood forest products (NWFP) are available. These products are made available and distributed on the basic of CF operational plan through the decision of user's meetings. MPFPS of Nepal argued that it provides livelihood to poor and marginalized people in forestry-related activities. Table 22 shows user's getting the benefit from CF in Sukla Gandaki CF and Table 23 Shows Mulban CF.

**Table 22: Forest products used by the respondents from Sukla Gandaki CF**

| Used Forest Products from CF | Economic Well Being<br>(Responce in %) |        |      | Caste/Ethnicity<br>(Responce in %) |        |       |
|------------------------------|--|--------|------|------------------------------------|--------|-------|
|                              | Rich                                   | Medium | Poor | Upper                              | Ethnic | Lower |
| Timber                       | 28.6                                   | 0      | 0    | 20.0                               | 12.5   | 0     |
| Fuel Wood                    | 100.0                                  | 100    | 100  | 100                                | 100    | 100   |
| Fodder                       | 0.0                                    | 0      | 0    | 0                                  | 0      | 0     |
| Ground Grass                 | 42.9                                   | 40.0   | 50.0 | 40.0                               | 37.5   | 66.7  |
| Other(NTFP)                  | 100                                    | 100.0  | 75.0 | 100.0                              | 100    | 66.7  |

(Source: Field Survey, 2007)

In Sukla Gandaki, all caste and economic class users were used fuelwood from CF that means users were mainly depended for the fuelwood on their CF. The main forest product timber only upper caste, ethnic caste and rich people benefited but there were no any medium, poor and lower caste people benefited for timber from the CF. Users used the timber mainly for the house construction and maintenance. However, in the case of getting timber, royalty rate is same for both, the deprived class and caste groups, and the wealthier and poor users. The wealthier people are satisfied with the rate, but the poor and deprived caste FUG is not able to pay the charges against the extraction of timber. It seems that the rate has been fixed on the minimum level that the middle class people can afford not on that the poorest can cope-up. Thus, the poor and lower caste people are not benefited from the timber of the community forest at all. For the ground grass there is quite more respondents of poor and lower caste were getting benefit. FUG planted the Amliso (*Thysanolaena maxima*) within CF area and they collected *kutchu* each year and distributed all the HHs from rich, medium, upper caste and ethnic respondents used *Kucho* from *Thysanolaena máxima* but poor and lower caste respondents used less percentage then rich and upper caste.

**Table 23: Forest products used by the respondents from Mulban CF**

| Used Forest Product from CF | Economic Well Being (Response in %) |        |      | Caste/Ethnicity (Response in %) |        |       |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|------|---------------------------------|--------|-------|
|                             | Rich                                | Medium | Poor | Upper                           | Ethnic | Lower |
| Timber                      | 46.2                                | 29.2   | 21.4 | 33.3                            | 40.9   | 21.4  |
| Fuel Wood                   | 92.3                                | 100    | 100  | 93.3                            | 100    | 100   |
| Fodder                      | 30.8                                | 37.5   | 7.1  | 46.7                            | 22.7   | 21.4  |
| Ground Grass                | 61.5                                | 79.2   | 64.3 | 86.7                            | 68.2   | 64.3  |
| Other (Litter)              | 7.7                                 | 29.2   | 14.3 | 20.0                            | 13.6   | 21.4  |

(Source: Field Survey, 2007)

In Mulban Community Forest (MCF), all the users from medium, poor, ethnic and lower caste were used fuel wood but quite less percent of respondents from upper and rich respondents were used fuelwood from CF rest of the respondents were kerosene stove, bio-gas and cylinder gas used for cooking. All the caste and class respondents had used timber from CF but higher percentage rich and upper caste respondents were benefited and less benefited from poor and lower caste people. All the users also used ground grass from CF as per their need. Nobody use any other NTFP from CF area.

By the analysis of both study areas results most of the users were used fuelwood from CF. Users of SG were not used fodder from CF but in Mulban all caste and class people used fodder from CF. For the timber poor and lower caste also used in Mulban but in Sukla

Gandaki that type of people not benefited. So in overall MCFUGs are more satisfied with used forest product from their CF area then SGCFUGs.

#### **4.3.5.2 Forest product distribution system**

The forest products were distributed on the basis of provision made in the OP in both study area and OP provides the authority to CFUGs to make a decision. During the distribution period, first priority was given to the own users of the CF. But the users had to use the forest product for their HH use not for the commercial purpose. The distribution system of the FUG was on the requirement and equal sharing basis. There is also not fallowed equity I both study area. But users were quite satisfied with the returns they received from CF as most of the respondents mentioned that they had received good return compared to their work in CF protection and management. Any users could get the forest products by following the rules in their OP.

#### **Timber distribution system**

##### Sukla Gandaki CFUG

The distribution of the timber was on the sale basis. The UG had certain rate for per Cu. Ft. timber. There is not any special provision in fixation the rate of timber for poor and disadvantaged/ lower caste user. So due to the high price of the timber poor people were unable to afford therefore they were not benefited in timber used. Only rich wealth class was mainly benefited. So researcher can conclude the poor are getting less benefit from the community forest than the rich. During the HH survey, most of the poor users were not satisfied with the distribution system of timber but rich users were satisfied.

##### Mulban CFUG

The distribution of the timber was on the sale basis. The UG had certain rate for per Cu. Ft. timber. There is not any special provision in fixation the rate of timber for poor and disadvantaged/ lower caste user but they had made one rule for free timber distribution for the digester affected people within FUG that makes huge support for that type of users in own group. During the HH survey, most of the poor users want to demand for minimizing the rate of timber per cft for them although they are satisfied the present rule. But rich people want to lunch some income generation activities for poor and disadvantage people for the improvement of poor people's economic condition.

### **Fuel wood distribution system**

In both study area fuel wood is the major source of energy used by almost all households for cooking and heating purposes.

#### Sukla Gandaki CFUG

FUGs can collect and use dead and dying small branches, twigs and crop residues as firewood. The distribution of the fuelwood is free for those who collected firewood on the *bhari* basis and the *bhari* is made by 5m long rope to all users HH equally who were participate during the forest cleaning, thinning and pruning time once in a year.

#### Mulban CFUG

In Mulban CF there were found different block separated for easy to forest protection, management and utilization of forest benefit on the geographical region. There are four blocks within total forest area and all the users were already fixed for the block where they go for all CF activities. Each block has a responsible committee and this committee manages to call for the information and make easy benefit distribution system within their block. So each block users were can collect and use dead and dying small branches, twigs and crop residues as firewood. The distribution of the fuelwood is free for those who collected firewood on the *bhari* basis and the *bhari* is made by 5m long rope equally. Researcher found there is one special provision that is no price for the fuel wood for those who are affected by the natural calamities and fire for the death body within FUG.

### **Grass and fodder distribution system**

Fodder and ground grass is an important forest products upon with households depend to rear their livestock. Forty percent of the nutrients for the livestock come from forests (LSMP, 1993). In both study area there was no pricing system for the fodder and ground grass collection. Fodder is collected throughout the year depending on its availability. For the grass distribution, forest areas were given to the interested users twice a year and other time user were collected grass from their private land and public land. Concerning about poor HHs, who have no livestock, they were not getting the fodder and grass from CF in both study area.

### **Leaf litter distribution system**

In both study area the sources of leaf litter used as bedding materials for livestock in the research area are fallen dry leaf and lopped green of trees foliage collected by users from their CF during the rainy season (June-September), which also used for compost formation



as agricultural land. Users get bedding material without cost and can collect according to their interest in any time.

Some researcher concluded that from CF different types of benefits such as timber, fodder, fuel wood, grass, bedding material and non-wood forest products (NWFP) are available. These products are distributed on the basis of CF operational plan through the decision of user's meeting. According to the studies done by Agrawal (2000), poor households do not benefit from community forests as much as affluent households and are not very interested in community participation. Another study done by Sharma (2002) suggested that there was no caste and wealth discrimination within the distribution of forest products and that the benefit from the community forests was equally distributed to all user groups. Poor and DAGs are getting less benefit and have low level of confidence to secure the benefit from income generation activities due to their lack of income of investment and access to the market (Upreti, 2005). The result of this research also found similar type with Agrawal (2000) and Upreti (2005) in SGCF. In SGCF there is mostly rich and upper people are getting the timber but poor people still not used (table 22). There is no any provision in their OP for poor people. But result found in Mulban is matched with Sharma (2002), In MCF poor and lower caste people also getting the timber but there is also not any provision concerning price of forest product to poor people. Mulban they had provided some fund, timber and fuelwood for digester affected people within users.

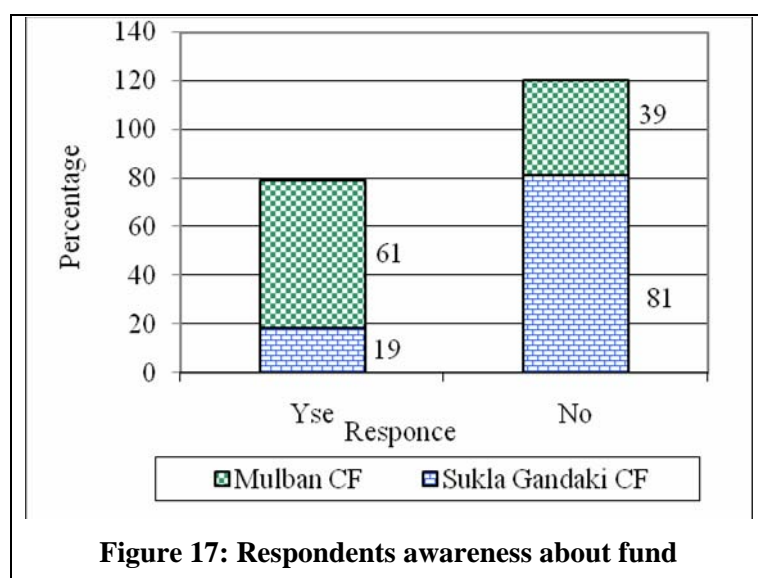
#### **4.3.5.3 Fund mobilization system**

##### **Awareness about CF Fund**

Entry fee and forest product distribution are the main sources of income of the CFUG. Generally, the SGCFUG charges Rs.60/ HH for the entry fee and for the new HH entry and in Mulban it depends upon the category of the users. FUGs can keep and mobilize this fund on the basis of OP rule and user's decision. Concerning this fund researcher want to know that how many people were aware about their CF fund like how much amount, where and who are managing this fund. The result is presented in figure 17.

In SGCF most of the respondents were unknown about their fund and also they don't know any information regarding this from committee members. Most of these unknown respondents were from poor, ethnic and lower caste people. Very few respondents were known about the details information of fund. These known respondents were from upper caste and rich HHs. Most of the poor, lower caste and ethnic group of FUG said all decision was done by committee and they don't share in meeting/assembly. In MCF

majority of the respondents were fully aware about their fund and less respondents were not aware. But unknown respondents said in each mass assembly, committee was presented the details of fund but we are not remembering now. Comparing both CFUGs Mulban FUGs had more information about their fund than SGFUGs.



### Decision making process for fund mobilization

In both FUGs, there were set of rules for fund mobilization and the provision of deposition of income in bank was compulsory. The sectors for investment from the income of CF were clearly stated in the constitution. In all cases the first priority was given for the protection and management of CFs and rest of the money can be utilize in social development and income generation activities within own group but decision of fund mobilization should to aware ever members. The expenditure of both CF is presented table 24.

In SGCF most of the respondents except committee members said that only committee members were decided and mobilize the fund. Committee members not inform for the users regarding the fund mobilization discussion but they only inform for the labour work. That means there is lack of transparency and no information sharing mechanism. But in MCF most of the users said that in fund mobilization time committee members to inform to all users and call for meeting for discussed and decided the priority activities for the fund mobilization within their area. So that, all the users can get the information regarding the fund mobilization.

In both CF there is no special provision for poor and DAGs for their economic empowerment activities but both of CFUGs expected that the fund should be used as loan for the poor and DAGs to low interest for their economic development and better forest management activities. During the field visit and HH survey, researcher found in Mulban that they are planning in coffee plantation for the poor HHs and also other activities what poor want to do for income generating.

**Table 24: Activities done by mobilizing CF fund**

| <b>Name of CFUGs</b> | <b>Activities</b>                                    | <b>Expenditure (Rs)</b> | <b>Remarks</b> |
|----------------------|--|-------------------------|----------------|
| Sukla Gandaki        | Forest guard salary for 1 year                       | 7200                    |                |
|                      | Wire net for plantation seedling protection          | 1000                    |                |
|                      | Forest road  | 3940                    |                |
|                      | Other (stationary and personal)                      | 2615                    |                |
|                      | Bank deposited and if need use for loan mobilization | -                       | 15000 Rs       |
| <b>Total Amount</b>  |  | <b>Rs 29,755</b>        |                |
| Mulban               | Forest guard   | 21,650                  |                |
|                      | CF awareness program in School children              | 20,000                  |                |
|                      | Support for natural digester affected people         | 5585                    |                |
|                      | Support for school building construction             | 20,000                  | Furniture      |
|                      | Community building construction                      | 2, 35000                |                |
|                      | Mass assembly (snacks)                               | 2637                    |                |
|                      | Others (stationary)                                  | 4,985                   |                |
|                      | Bank Deposited                                       |                         | 58,000 Rs      |
| <b>Total Amount</b>  |  | <b>3,67,857</b>         |                |

(Source: Minutes register of CF, 2007)

#### **4.3.5.4 Respondents views on more benefited group from CF**

Researcher wants to analyze that who is the most benefited group from CF. Concerning this In, Sukla Gandaki 100% of respondents from poor were said upper caste people were more benefited from CF programme. Similarly high percentage of ethnic caste, lower caste and medium class respondents said upper caste and rich people were more benefited. But majority of rich and upper caste HHs said all users were equally benefited. None of the respondents found that in only rich and poor/DAGs were benefited from CF.

In, Mulban CFUG, more of the respondents from all caste and class said that there is equal benefited of all users from CF programme and very few respondents said upper caste were

benefited. Some Poor and lower caste people also said poor/DAGs are benefited from CF programme and also some respondents from rich, medium, upper and ethnic caste said upper caste people were benefited from CF. None of the respondents found that rich/upper caste were benefited from CF. Which is presented in table 25.

By the analysis of above result research concluded that in Sukla Gandaki CF there is difference in benefit sharing system within group. According to respondents upper caste people were hold most of the position in group, they influence in decision process and also more benefited for forest product use, participation in workshop/training etc.

**Table 25: Respondents views on benefited group from CF**

| Category of the respondents | Response in % (Sukla Gandaki) |             |           |       |            | Response in % (Mulban) |             |           |       |            |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-------|------------|------------------------|-------------|-----------|-------|------------|
|                             | Rich                          | Upper caste | Poor/DAGs | Equal | Rich/Upper | Rich                   | Upper caste | Poor/DAGs | Equal | Rich/Upper |
| Rich                        | 0                             | 42.9        | 0         | 42.9  | 14.3       | 0                      | 5.3         | 0         | 94.7  | 0          |
| Medium                      | 0                             | 80          | 0         | 20    | 0          | 8.3                    | 8.3         | 0         | 83.3  | 0          |
| Poor                        | 0                             | 100         | 0         | 0     | 0          | 0                      | 0.0         | 14.3      | 85.7  | 0          |
| Upper caste                 | 0                             | 40          | 0         | 60    | 0          | 0                      | 5.6         | 0         | 94.4  | 0          |
| Ethnic caste                | 0                             | 87.5        | 0         | 12.5  | 0          | 5.3                    | 10.5        | 5.3       | 78.9  | 0          |
| Lower caste                 | 0                             | 66.7        | 0         | 0     | 33.3       | 7.1                    | 0.0         | 7.1       | 85.7  | 0          |

(Source: Field Survey, 2007)

In Mulban CF most of the respondents said there is equal benefit sharing mechanism only few are said upper caste and rich were benefited. But researcher found in the view of lower caste, ethnic caste and poor were also benefited by themselves. By the analysis two CFUGs researcher concluded that poor and lower caste people also get equally benefited from CF and benefit sharing system is not biased within group in Mulban CFUG than Sukla Gandaki CFUG.

#### 4.3.5.5 Respondents satisfaction in overall benefited sharing system

Satisfactions of respondents in overall benefit sharing system were rated on a five point Likert Scale and the result is presented in table 26.

In Sukla Gandaki CF most of the rich, medium class ethnic respondents were neutral responses, upper caste people strongly agree, poor were disagree and lower people were neutral to disagree responses for the satisfaction of overall forest product distribution and fund mobilization system. No one from rich and upper caste respondent were found strongly disagree responses similarly no one from the lower caste respondent found strongly agree and agree responses. In Mulban CF majority of the all caste and class respondents were found agreed then strongly agreed. Very few respondents were in neutral but there was no any respondents found in disagree and strongly disagree.

**Table 26: Satisfaction of respondents in overall benefit sharing system**

| Name of CF           | Respondents category | Response in % about the satisfaction level |          |            |             |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|--|----------|------------|-------------|----------------------|
|                      |                      | Strongly Agree(1)                          | Agree(2) | Neutral(3) | Disagree(4) | Strongly Disagree(5) |
| <b>Sukla Gandaki</b> | Rich                 | 14.3                                       | 28.6     | 42.9       | 14.3        | 0                    |
|                      | Medium               | 20.0                                       | 20.0     | 40.0       | 20.0        | 0.0                  |
|                      | Poor                 | 0.0  | 25.0     | 0.0        | 50.0        | 25.0                 |
|                      | Upper                | 40.0                                       | 20.0     | 40.0       | 0.0         | 0.0                  |
|                      | Ethnic               | 12.5                                       | 25.0     | 37.5       | 12.5        | 12.5                 |
|                      | Lower                | 0.0  | 0.0      | 33.3       | 33.3        | 33.3                 |
| <b>Mulban</b>        | Rich                 | 38.5                                       | 53.8     | 7.7        | 0.0         | 0.0                  |
|                      | Medium               | 58.3                                       | 41.7     | 0.0        | 0.0         | 0.0                  |
|                      | Poor                 | 35.7                                       | 64.3     | 0.0        | 0.0         | 0.0                  |
|                      | Upper                | 33.3                                       | 50.0     | 16.7       | 0.0         | 0.0                  |
|                      | Ethnic               | 36.8                                       | 57.9     | 5.3        | 0.0         | 0.0                  |
|                      | Lower                | 35.7                                       | 50.0     | 14.3       | 0.0         | 0.0                  |

(Source: Field Survey, 2007)

In overall comparison between two CFUGs, there were variation of satisfaction level and view from rich and poor respondents in SG. In SGCF most of the respondents were found in neutral level although they were not satisfied they can't speak against the committee. In Mulban CF there are no any respondents found in disagree and strongly disagree and most of the respondents were found in agree. This result shows that Mulban CFUG is more satisfied with overall benefit sharing system than Sukla Gandaki CFUG.

## **CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

### **5.1 Conclusions**

In the study area the average family size in Sukla Gandaki is 6.87 and Mulban is 6.08 which are greater than national average of 5.45/HH (HMG/N, 2002).

Both CFUGs are heterogeneous in term of caste, ethnicity, economic status, educational status, occupational diversity, age variation, gender, etc. By the analysis of real data researcher found quite different socio-economic situation between two CFUGs. In SGCF there is domination by the upper caste people but in Mulban majority of the people found from ethnic caste. In both CFUGs there are already categorized the economic status of FUGs the results shows that economic conditions of the people in both study area are varied; Sukla Gandaki CFUG has a better economic status than Mulban CFUGs. Higher percentage of primary school level education status found in both study area most of the rich and upper caste people gets the higher education then poor and lower caste. Poor and lower caste people can't invest money for the education because of their daily hand mouth problem. In the both study area researcher found that agriculture is the main and labour work is second occupation but household members also engaged other activities such as business, services and pensioner. Agriculture and labour work dependent users mainly dependents to the CF for the forest product. Due to the work and employment young age male were not found in community. Food sufficiency condition also found different in both study area but food sufficiency condition of Sukla Gandaki users gets quite better than Mulban CF area.

Marginalized people (poor and lower caste) are not present in equal number to the upper caste and rich people in different types of meeting, assembly and decision making forum in SGCFUG, all the key position and most of the general positions were captured by rich, medium and upper caste members in Executive Committee (EC). None of any member represent in key position by poor and also no one by lower caste in EC. In MCFUG poor and ethnic caste members represented higher percentage than rich and upper caste there is also poor people represented in key position. So comparing of these two groups committee, EC of Mulban is more inclusiveness then Sukla Gandaki.

Lower and poor people who rarely and never participated in GA and different CF meetings typically results in less representation of their voice in decision making processes although the 100% of poor involved in forest management activities in SG therefore most of the decision decided by upper cast and well economic people. In the Mulban most of the all caste and class users found always and mostly participated and putting their views in decision making processes. In any type of CF activities, GA and meetings, all users participation gets equal, they are more aware, active. Participation of poor and lower caste people found higher percentage in decision making process. The poor and lower caste people not raising the issue and express the view on purposed agenda in meeting and assembly in SG there is not much favorable environment to share the idea and respective relationship within group in meetings all the decisions were decided by committee members (upper caste and rich people). But in MCF all caste and class people were equally participate in discussion as a participatory way to get a final decision. By the analysis of different CF activities and meeting/assembly record, researcher found that participation of all caste and class people were very high and poor and lower caste groups are highly included in decision-making process in Mulban than Sukla Gandaki.

All the users including poor and lower caste in SG were satisfaction with the fuelwood and grass distribution system. Most of the poor and lower caste users were not satisfied with the timber distribution system because they couldn't afford high price for timber that's why upper caste people are more benefited. But in Mulban all the users are satisfied with all forest product distribution system. Poor and lower caste people also benefited for timber and other forest product. There is no any provision for the poor and lower caste people in both study area. But in MCF there is rule to support timber and fuelwood for those people who are affected by natural digester. In SGCF most of the people unknown about their fund and only committee members (upper caste) were make decision and mobilize the fund. But in MCF majority of users were fully aware about their fund and for fund mobilization they organized a participatory decision meeting within group on the basic of priority.

Finally researcher concluded that in Mulban CFUG there is more inclusiveness of marginalized group's participation in decision making process and benefit sharing system then Sukla Gandaki CFUG.

## **5.2 Recommendations**

The recommendations are based on the empirical results discussion achieved from the study as per depth of analysis of qualitative and quantitative data which were collected by CFUGs and different literature review. Following are the few recommendations could be provided for the betterment. The users' level recommendations are presented first then DFO/RP/ level, which may be useful for further planning, implementation and improvement of concern CFUG in right way. These recommendations will be fruitful for further studies, forest managers, forest professionals, researcher, other CFUGs and policy makers.

### **5.2.1 Recommendation for Community Forest User Groups**

#### ***Recommendation for the Sukla Gandaki CFUG***

- Awareness should be created and/or enhanced in the poor and lower caste (DAGs) for being included in the committee and decision making forum.
- Participation of poor and DAGs (lower caste) people in meetings and assemblies should be promoted.
- All users' participation is recommended in major decisions with respect to marginalized people and give to chance to speak and their voice must be incorporated action plan.
- Provision to forest product especially timber distribute to marginalized people should be included in operational plan.

#### ***Recommendation for the Mulban CFUG***

- DAGs and Poor should be encouraged in key position of CF Executive committee.
- Participation of marginalized users, particularly who have less available time and can least afford unpaid activities. In order to bring these people in the main stream of CF program, the concern users have to allocate some funds to participate these people in the interaction meeting.
- Prior to invest any CFUG funds to poorest of the poor households and DAGs, for the improvement of economic condition, a detail individual plan of the particular activity needs to be developed.
- Provision to forest product especially timber distribute to marginalized people should be included in operational plan.



### **5.2.2 Recommendation for the District Forest Office/Range post**

- The DFO should provide awareness raising, leadership and skill development training to Poor and DAGs. That helps their active participation in decision making process.
- In the planning process all class and caste users should be included for awareness to all and the successful implementation of programme.
- Should be focused awareness and capacity building programme to women managed CFUG for their empowerment.
- Regular and systematic monitoring and evaluation system should be adopted and launched effective program to inactive groups, which helps to increase the positive feelings in local people towards CFM.
- Should be diversified support service provision to poor users. The area availability of different types of NTFP but people don't know about that use and importance so DFO should be organized a NTFP promoted programme to collect the fund and improve poor people's status.

## REFERENCES

- AGRAWAL, A. (2000): Small Is Beautiful, but Is Larger Better? Forest-Management Institutions in the Kumaon Himalaya, India. Clark C. Margaret A. McKean, and Elinor Ostrom, People and Forests, Communities, Institutions, and Governance. The MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, London, England.
- AGRAWAL B. (2001): "Participatory Exclusions, Community Forestry, and Gender: An Analysis for South Asia and a Conceptual Framework." World Development. <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTENERGY/Resources/backgroundmaterial1.pdf>
- BANJADE, M. R., LUINTEL H. and NEUPANE H. R. (2004): "An action and Learning Process for Social Inclusion in Community Forestry, Twenty Five Years of Community Forestry, Proceeding of fourth National Community Forestry Workshop, Community Forestry Division, Department of Forest, Kathmandu,
- BARAL, N.R. (1993): Where is our community forestry? Banko Janaakari, A journal of Forestry information for Nepal, Vol. 4, No. 1, March, 1993.
- BARAL, S. (2001): Participation of disadvantaged Group in decision-making process in Community Forestry, in Kaski district, Nepal. Bachelor thesis, Tribhuvan University, Institute of Forestry, Nepal.
- BELBASE, N and REGMI, D. C. (2002): Potential for Conflict Community Forestry and Decentralization Legislation in Nepal. ICIMOD, Nepal. ISBN: 92 9115 460 1.
- BHATTARAI T. Understanding Equity Issues in Community Forest User Groups of Nepal: A case of Chautari community forest user group of Nawalparasi district
- BHATTARAI, B. (2005): Poverty reduction through decentralization of natural resource management: A case of community and leasehold forestry, Nepal. Master thesis. Germany: Gottingen University.

- BISTA, D.B. (1991): Fatalism and Development: Nepal's Struggle for Modernization. Orient Longman: Calcutta.
- BHUSAL, T.R. (2001): Participation and equity in community forest users groups in Tanahun District, Nepal. Bachelor thesis, Tribhuvan University, Institute of Forestry, Nepal.
- BROWN, D., MALLA, Y., SCHRECKENBERG, K. and SPRINGATE-BAGINSKI, O. (2002): From supervising 'subjects' to supporting "citizens": Recent development in Community Forestry in Asia and Africa. Natural Resource Perspectives, No 75.ODI, London.
- CHAPAGAIN, B.P., (2007): Impact of Community Forestry on Livelihood Improvement of Rural People: A case Study of Shir Khola CFUG, Maisthan-1, 3 & 5, Mahottari, A Thesis Submitted for Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Bachelor of Science in Forestry, Institute of Forestry, Hetauda Campus, Nepal.
- CF in Nepal (2000): A Booklet of Community Forestry Nepal, IUCN, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- DANGOL, S. (2006): Participation of Disadvantaged Groups in Decision Making Process in Community Forestry Management Process in Nepal: A Case Study of Bamdibhir CFUG of Chapakot VDC, Kaski District, Master's thesis, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- DDC (2002): Kaski District an Over View, District Development Committee, Information and Documentation Centre, Kaski, Nepal.
- DDC (BS 2057/2062): Kaski District an Over View, District Development Committee, Information and Documentation Centre, Kaski, Nepal.
- DoCF (2007): Department of Community Forestry, FUG database, Babarmahal, Kathmandu, Nepal.

- DEVKOTA, G.H. (1998): Women's Participation in Community Forest Management: A case study of Laxmi Mahila Community Forest User Group at Laxmi Bazar in Gorkha. A Thesis submitted for the Master's of Arts Degree in Sociology. Central Department of Sociology/Anthropology, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Nepal.
- DEVKOTA K. D. (2006): Community Forestry in Nepal: Study on Gender and Caste Perspectives, A case study from Chitwan District, Master's thesis Master thesis submitted to the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria.
- DFID (2005): "Reducing poverty by tackling social exclusion, A DFID policy paper, Department for International Development
- DoF, (2002): Twenty-four years of community forestry in Nepal, Research Officer at the Department of Forest Research and Survey, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, Kathmandu, Nepal
- EDUCATION STATISTICS: Caste, ethnicity, and school attendance in Nepal.  
<http://mysite.verizon.net/huebler/2007/20070528-nepal-caste.html>
- ENGBERSEN, G. (1999): Who Are You Calling Poor?  
<http://mondediplo.com/1999/09/06poverty>
- FOREST ACTS (1993): The forest acts of Nepal (in Nepali). HMG, Kathmandu
- GHIMIRE, R.P. (1999): Biomass based co-generation in Nepalese industries: Potential and impediments. Water Energy Commission Secretariat, Bulletin 10, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- GIRI, K. (2005): Civic Participation in Community Forest Governance. Case Studies from Rupandehi District, Nepal. Master thesis submitted to the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria.

- HMG/N (1988): Master plan for the forestry sector Nepal, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation Kathmandu, Nepal.
- HMG/N, (2002): The tenth Plan, National planning Commission (unofficial translation), Kathmandu
- HOBLEY, M. (1996): Participatory forest: the process of change in India and Nepal. Rural Development Study Guide 3 Overseas Development Agencies, London.
- ITTO (2005): Community Forestry. International tropical timber organization, accessed 08.08.2005, (<http://www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayhandler?pageld=33>)
- KANEL, K.R. and KANDEL, B.K. (2003): Community Forestry in Nepal: Second generation issues. Community Forestry Bulletin, vol. 10: pp, 6-18 CFD/DoF. Kathmandu, Nepal.
- KANEL, K.R. (2004): Twenty five years of Community Forestry: Contribution to Millennium Development Goals. In: Twenty five years of Community Forestry: Contribution in Millennium Development *Goal*. KANEL, K et al. (Eds), Proceedings of Fourth National Conference of Community Forestry, August 4-6, 2004 in Kathmandu, Nepal, 587 pp.
- KANEL K. R., JOCHEN STATZ and A. R. SHARMA., (2004): Income Distribution and Social Well being in Community Forestry: Issues, Experience and Strategy, 4<sup>th</sup> Community Forest National Workshop, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- KANEL K. R. and B.R. KANDEL (2004): “Revisiting Community Forestry in Nepal: Achievements and Challenges” Community forestry bulletin 11, pp 5-19.
- KANEL K.R., POUDEL R.P. (2005): Nepal Community Forestry 2005.
- KANEL, K.R., (2006): Current Status of Community Forestry in Nepal, RECOFTC, Bangkok, Thailand.

- KNOX, A. and MEINZEN-Dick, R. (2001): Collective Action, Property Rights, and Devolution of Natural Resource Management: Exchange of knowledge and implications for Policy, A workshop Summary Paper, Working Paper No. 11. CGIAR System wide Program on Property Rights and Collective Action, IFPRI.
- LAMA, A. (1999): “Changing Roles of Women in Forest Resource management: The Case of community forestry in Nepal”, A M. Sc. Thesis submitted to Australia National University.
- LFP (2005): Pro-Poor and Social Inclusion Strategy (Draft): Livelihoods and Forestry Program. Kathmandu
- MAHARJAN, R. (2004): Tenth five year plan, Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, National Planning Commission, HMG/Nepal, Kathmandu.
- MASKEY V, TESFA G. and TIMOTHY J. DALTON, (2003): A Survey Analysis of Participation in a Community Forest Management in Nepal
- NALINI, K. (2002): The Challenges of Community Participation in Forest Development in Nepal
- NPC (2005): “Implementation of the Brussels Program of Action for the LDCs for the Decade 2001 – 2010” Progress Report His Majesty’s Government of Nepal National Planning Commission, Kathmandu
- NUKCFP (1999a): Annual progress report of 1999. Nepal-UK Community Forestry Project, Kathmandu.
- NUKCFP (1999b): Community forestry in Nepal. [www.southasia.com/community forestry](http://www.southasia.com/community_forestry)
- OJHA, H. and BHATTARAI, T. (2000): Distributional impact of community forestry, who is benefiting from Nepal’s Community forests? Forest Action Research Series, 00/01.

- PANDIT, B.H. and THAPA, G.B. (2004): Equity in sharing benefits from common property medicinal aromatic resources in the mountains of Nepal. Proceeding of the National Workshop on Management of Common Property Resources and Equity: Exploring Lessons from Nepal.
- PANDIT, B.H., MC DAUGALL, CYNTHIA, MAHARJAN, et.al. (2006): Improving livelihoods and equity of forest dependent poor through Adaptive Collaborative Management (ACM) approach in Eastern Nepal. Paper presented at International Association for Society of Common Property (IASCP conference) held at Bali, Indonesia held on June 19 to 26, 2006.
- PAUDEL, A. (2003): An assessment of leadership quality and its effect on community forest management. A case study from Parbat district of Nepal. Bachelor thesis, Tribhuvan University, Institute of Forestry, Nepal.
- POKHAREL, R.K. (2003): "An Evaluation of the Community Forestry Program in Kaski District of Nepal – A Local Perspective" A Ph.D. Dissertation, Michigan State University.
- POKHAREL, B. K. and M. NURSE. (2004): Forests and people's livelihood: Benefiting the poor from community forestry. *Journal of Forest and Livelihood*: Vol 4 (1): 19-29 pp.
- POKHAREL, B. and NIRLA, D. (2004): Community Forestry governance in Nepal: Achievements, challenges and options for the future. In: Twenty five years of Community Forestry: Contribution in Millennium Development *Goal*. KANDEL, K et al. (eds), Proceedings of Fourth National Conference of Community Forestry, August 4-6, 2004 in Kathmandu, Nepal, 587 pp.
- POKHAREL, B.K., STADTMÜLLER, T. and PFUND, J.L. (2007/Untated): From degradation to restoration: An assessment of the enabling conditions for Community Forestry in Nepal. ([www.intercooperation.ch/offers/download/flr-nepal-community-forestry](http://www.intercooperation.ch/offers/download/flr-nepal-community-forestry)). Accessed on 8th August 2007

- REGMI, N.P., (2007): Inclusion of Poor and Women in Community Forest Management: A Case Study of Dhading District, A Thesis Submitted for Partial Fulfilment of Requirement for the Masters of Science in Forestry, Institute of Forestry, Pokhara, Nepal.
- REGMI, S.C. (1992): "Women in forestry: Study of a Women's Forest Committee, in a Nepalese Village", HMGN, Ministry of Agriculture/Winrock International Nepal.
- SHARMA, A. R. (2002): Community Forestry from Wealth and Caste Perspective: Elivra Graner in the Dock. Paper presented at "The Commons in an Age of Globalisation." the Ninth Conference of the International Association for the Study of Common Property, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, June 17-21, 2002.
- SHRESTHA, R. (2004): Women's Involvement in Community Forestry Programme. Proceeding of the Fourth National Workshop, Kathmandu, Nepal. Department of Forest and, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation.
- SUBBA, C. et al. (2002): Adivasis/Janajatis in National Development. Major Issues, Constraints and Opportunities, Kathmandu: IIDS.
- UNDP, (2004): Nepal Human Development Report. Kathmandu: United Nations Development Programme.
- UNDP, (1997): Annual review, 1997. UNDP, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- UNDP (1997): Governance for Sustainable Human Development URL: ([www.Undp.org](http://www.Undp.org)). Accessed on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2006.
- UPRETY, H. D. (2005): A Thesis on Equity Considerations in Community Forestry in Nepal: A case study of Chanpako and Kankali Community Forest User Groups. BOKU University, Austria



UPRETY, D.R. (2006). Community Forestry, rural livelihoods and conflict: A case study of CFUGs in Nepal. Ph.D. thesis, University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna, Austria.

## **Annex – I: A Set of Questionnaire for Household Survey**

### **Respondents Identification**

CFUG's Name:

Respondent's Name:

Male/Female:

Occupation:

Address:

Position in CF:

Educational Level:

### **A. General Information**

#### 1. Educational status of the family members

| <b>Education</b> | <b>Male</b> | <b>Female</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>Remarks</b> |
|------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| Illiterate       |             |               |              |                |
| Just Literate    |             |               |              |                |
| Primary school   |             |               |              |                |
| Secondary school |             |               |              |                |
| Higher secondary |             |               |              |                |
| University level |             |               |              |                |
| <b>Total</b>     |             |               |              |                |

#### 2. Occupation of respondents Household members

| <b>Education</b>   | <b>Male</b> | <b>Female</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>Remarks</b> |
|--|-------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| Agriculture  |             |               |              |                |
| Business   |             |               |              |                |
| Service (specify)  |             |               |              |                |
| Studying   |             |               |              |                |
| Pensioner  |             |               |              |                |
| Labour in country  |             |               |              |                |
| Other Specify (political leaders/social workers/CBO position holders etc |             |               |              |                |

#### 3. Land holding

How much land do you have currently now (Ropani)?

Khet..... Bari ..... Private Forest ..... Others (pasture, khar bari etc).....

#### 4. Food sufficiency condition

| <b>Surplus</b> | <b>Enough for the year</b> | <b>9-12 month</b> | <b>6-9 month</b> | <b>3-6 month</b> | <b>&lt; 3 month</b> |
|----------------|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
|                |                            |                   |                  |                  |                     |

5. Forest Product use:

| Forest Product | Community Forestry | Private Forest/Land | National Forest | Neighbouring CF | Total |
|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|
| Timber         |                    |                     |                 |                 |       |
| Fuel wood      |                    |                     |                 |                 |       |
| Fodder         |                    |                     |                 |                 |       |
| Grass          |                    |                     |                 |                 |       |
| Leaf litter    |                    |                     |                 |                 |       |
| Others (NTFP)  |                    |                     |                 |                 |       |
| Others         |                    |                     |                 |                 |       |

**B. Information Related to Community Forestry**

1. Are you or any member of your family a member of CFUC?

a. Yes ..... b. No ..... c. If yes, Position ..... how long you have been .....

2. Do you have to pay any role for becoming a user of CF?

a. Yes.....b. No c, If yes how much.....

3. Do you know the provision in the operation plan for the users?

a. Fully known b. Know somehow c. Don't know

**Participation**

1. Is there fair participation from all type of people in CFUG?

a. Yes b. No

2. Which cast group dominance in CFU committee?

a. Upper cast.....  
b. Medium cast.....  
c. Lower cast.....

If upper cast, why ?

3. How often you participate in general assembly of the group?

| Degree of participation | Sukla Gandaki CFUG |   |        |   |      |   | Mulban CFUG     |   |        |   |      |   |
|-------------------------|--------------------|---|--------|---|------|---|-----------------|---|--------|---|------|---|
|                         | Economic status    |   |        |   |      |   | Economic status |   |        |   |      |   |
|                         | Rich               | % | Medium | % | Poor | % | Rich            | % | Medium | % | Poor | % |
| Always                  |                    |   |        |   |      |   |                 |   |        |   |      |   |
| Mostly                  |                    |   |        |   |      |   |                 |   |        |   |      |   |
| Rarely                  |                    |   |        |   |      |   |                 |   |        |   |      |   |
| Never                   |                    |   |        |   |      |   |                 |   |        |   |      |   |
| <b>Total</b>            |                    |   |        |   |      |   |                 |   |        |   |      |   |

If Never, why?

..... Because no one inform me  
..... I think, no one cares my views and saying  
..... I am to busy to go in meeting/assemblies  
..... I came not interested  
..... There is no working environment  
..... Others

4. Who takes the decision on the following? (Use members below against each)

5. Do you participate in decision making process in CF activities?

- a. Actively participate
- b. to some extent
- c. not at all

If Not, why?

- I don't know anything
- They take completely good decision that I don't need to participate
- No one cares my opinion/view
- Others

6. How often you participate in forest management?

| Degree of participation | Category of Respondents |            |          |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------|----------|
|                         | Rich (%)                | Medium (%) | Poor (%) |
| On the need             |                         |            |          |
| Rarely                  |                         |            |          |
| Not at all              |                         |            |          |
| Total                   |                         |            |          |

7. Are you Participate in meeting of fixing the rate of FP distribution and membership fee?

| Response | Category of respondents |            |          |             |        |       |
|----------|-------------------------|------------|----------|-------------|--------|-------|
|          | Rich (%)                | Medium (%) | Poor (%) | Upper caste | Ethnic | Lower |
| Yes      |                         |            |          |             |        |       |
| No       |                         |            |          |             |        |       |

8. How often you expressing views on purposed agenda in CF meeting/assembly?

| Response             | Category of respondents |        |      |             |        |       |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--------|------|-------------|--------|-------|
|                      | Rich                    | Medium | Poor | Upper caste | Ethnic | Lower |
| Actively participate |                         |        |      |             |        |       |
| To some extent       |                         |        |      |             |        |       |
| Neutral              |                         |        |      |             |        |       |
| Not participate      |                         |        |      |             |        |       |

9. How receptive is CFUG or committee to your suggestions?

- a. Respective
- b. not respective
- c. to some extent

10. Do you feel free in expressing/attending CF meeting?

- a. Yes
- b. NO
- c. To some extent
- d. don't know

11. Are you satisfied with the decision making process of CFUG?

- a. very much
- b. satisfied
- c. somehow
- d. not satisfied

12. What is the ration of marginalized people to elite people in the CFUG committee?

13. What can be done to encourage the participation of marginalized groups in CFM?

### **Benefit sharing**

1. Are you satisfied in the present Committee members?

a. Yes b. No.

2. Do you think who have been dominated in FUG activities?

a. yes b. No

If yes, for what a. All decision b. Most of decision c. Few decision

By whom, a. Committee b. CFUG c. Rich & elite Poor & marginalized

3. What is the basis for benefit sharing resource utilization?

a. equal b. equity c. bias d. don't know

If bias, what are the reasons?

4. Is there any difference in benefit sharing between rich and poor member?

a. Yes b. No c. don't know

If yes, what are the differences?

5. What type of Forest product you used from CF?

| Used Forest Products from CF | Economic Well Being (Response in %) |        |      | Caste/Ethnicity (Response in %) |        |       |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|------|---------------------------------|--------|-------|
|                              | Rich                                | Medium | Poor | Upper                           | Ethnic | Lower |
| Timber                       |                                     |        |      |                                 |        |       |
| Fuel Wood                    |                                     |        |      |                                 |        |       |
| Fodder                       |                                     |        |      |                                 |        |       |
| Ground Grass                 |                                     |        |      |                                 |        |       |
| Other(NTFP)                  |                                     |        |      |                                 |        |       |

6. Do you know about CF fund in your group? If yes Where and who kept this?

a. Yes b. No

7. What type of activities done by CFUG using their CF fund?

8. Who are more benefited from the CF programme?

| Category of the respondents | Response |             |           |       |            |
|-----------------------------|----------|-------------|-----------|-------|------------|
|                             | Rich     | Upper caste | Poor/DAGs | Equal | Rich/Upper |
| Rich                        |          |             |           |       |            |
| Medium                      |          |             |           |       |            |
| Poor                        |          |             |           |       |            |
| Upper caste                 |          |             |           |       |            |
| Ethnic caste                |          |             |           |       |            |
| Lower caste                 |          |             |           |       |            |

9. Are you satisfied in overall benefited sharing system?

| Name of CF | Respondents category | Response in Satisfaction level |          |            |             |                      |
|------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|----------|------------|-------------|----------------------|
|            |                      | Strongly Agree(1)              | Agree(2) | Neutral(3) | Disagree(4) | Strongly Disagree(5) |
|            | Rich                 |                                |          |            |             |                      |
|            | Medium               |                                |          |            |             |                      |
|            | Poor                 |                                |          |            |             |                      |
|            | Upper                |                                |          |            |             |                      |
|            | Ethnic               |                                |          |            |             |                      |
|            | Lower                |                                |          |            |             |                      |

10. What is the situation of demand and supply situation of forest products within Users?

| Forest product | Unit           | Demand/HH | Supply situation |                |                 |                       |
|----------------|----------------|-----------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
|                |                |           | Community Forest | Private Forest | National Forest | Neighboring CF/market |
| Timber         | Cu. ft .per yr |           |                  |                |                 |                       |
| Fuel Wood      | Bhari per yr   |           |                  |                |                 |                       |
| Fodder         | Bhari per yr   |           |                  |                |                 |                       |
| Ground Grass   | Bhari per yr   |           |                  |                |                 |                       |
| Other (Litter) | Bhari per yr   |           |                  |                |                 |                       |

11. Is there any provision for poor and lower caste people for fund mobilization?

- a. Yes                                      b. No

### **Factor Affecting for participation of marginalized people**

1. What are the major factors that affect for the marginalized peoples participation in decision making forum in you group?

- Lack of education
- Unemployment
- Lack of information
- Unequal social relationship
- Others (workload in HHs, Personal nature, etc)

2. Do you have any more to say?

## **Annex – II: Checklist for Focus Group Discussion**

- Socio-economic situation
- Representation of different class and caste people's in committee
- Satisfaction towards EC members
- Marginalized people's participation in decision making forum and process
- Participation of marginalized (poor and lower caste) groups in meeting/assembly
- Participation in forest management activities
- Poor and DAGs (lower caste) people's participation in CF activities
- Decision making process
- Respective in views within users
- Benefit sharing system: Forest product distribution system
- Awareness about CF fund and it's mobilization system
- Benefit from CF
- Poor- focused programmes
- Demand and supply ratio of FP from CF
- Factor affecting participation of marginalized people

### **Annex – III: Well being ranking criteria adopted by CFUGs**

| <b>Wealth Category</b> | <b>Characteristics / Criteria</b>   |
|------------------------|---|
| Rich                   | <p>Sufficient food for 12 months with surplus and also for sale</p> <p>Large house with separate animal shed</p> <p>More than 10 Ropani ( about 0.6 hectares) and more land</p> <p>Many livestock at list 6</p> <p>Family member have pensioner aboard, engage in job and business with a good cash income</p> <p>Most family members are literate</p> <p>Must depend on their private forest</p>               |
| Medium                 | <p>Sufficient to eat for Six- nine months</p> <p>Medium size house with separate animal shed</p> <p>6-8 ropani (0.3-0.5 hectares) of land</p> <p>Family labor exchange for agricultural work</p> <p>Keep 3-4 livestock</p> <p>Family member engage in a job, business with a good cash income</p> <p>Depend on their private forest and sometime in community forests for forest products</p>                   |
| Poor                   | <p>Limited food for upto 6 months but not sure</p> <p>Work on daily wages for twelve months to survive</p> <p>mostly household members are illiterate; only children are literate</p> <p>Less than 5 ropani (0.25 hectares) of land</p> <p>Keep few livestock almost all belonging to rich/ medium class people raising on tenancy</p> <p>Must depend on community and national forests for daily substance</p> |



**Annex – IV: Photographs taken in Sukla Gandaki study area**



**Plate 1: Sukla Gandaki Community Forest**



**Plate 2 & 3: HH Survey in SGCFUG**



**Plate 4 & 5: Focus and interest group discussion**



**Plate 6, 7 & 8: Amliso plantation in CF (P-6), Ground grass collection (P-7) & rest house in CF area used by CF fund**



**Annex – V: Photographs taken in Mulban study area**



**Plate 1: Mulban Community Forest (P-1)**



**Plate 2, 3 & 4: HH Survey (P-2 & 3) & Focus group discussion (P-4)**



**Plate 5 & 6: Fire wood collection from CF (P-5) & Key informant (P-6)**



**Plate 7 & 8: CF fund used for CF office (P-7) & school building (P-8)**