
Nepal's Forestry Organizations: Are they Gender Sensitive ?

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Outline of Presentation)

- Background
- Objectives
- Methodologies
- Findings
- Major Learning
- Conclusion & Recommendations
- Acknowledgement



Background

- Nepal is a leading country for Participatory forest Management in the world.
- One fourth of it's total forest area is handed over to the community for it's management & Utilization.
- One third of the total population through more than 1400 community forest user groups are involved in participatory forest management.
- Department of forest has approved the “Community Forest Management Directive, 2002”.
- The directive has a provision that at least 30 % female representation is compulsory in the user's committee.



Objectives

The major objective if this study;

- To Know the situation of forestry organization in gender sensitive perspectives.

Specific Objectives

- To explore the achievement on gender mainstreaming from Forestry Sector.
- To Analyze the major constraints to make the forestry organization gender sensitive.
- To recommend the necessary action to make the forestry organization gender sensitive.

Methodology

- Study is based on the Participatory Gender Audit of four Government Forestry Organization in Makwanpur District of Nepal.
- Methods used
 - SWOT Analysis
 - Informal Interviews
 - Focus Group Discussion
 - Onion Hofsded Model Exercise
 - Documents analysis
- Analysis of CFUG Organizational Structure & Budget Allocation in gender perspective

Results

- Gender debate in Forestry
- Gender Knowledge & Quality Test on employee
- Implementation of Policy
- Information System and Knowledge Management
- Achievement of Partner Organization & Satisfaction of Service Recipient
- Decision Making Procedure
- Organizational Culture Analysis
- Achievement on Gender mainstreaming in Forestry Sector

Key Findings

- Gender debate- started with the initiation of Participatory Forest Management Program in early 90's.
- Community Forest Management Directives,2002
 - The provision for 30 % female representation in user group.
 - Started to include both male & Female name as household head in CFUG constitution.
- **MFSC Vision on Gender & Social Inclusion, 2005** -open the new initiatives.
- Gender & Social Inclusion Strategy,2007- targeted to make the forestry sector gender & Socially Inclusive Organization.
- All government organization have separate gender unit with gender focal person.

- Due to unclear responsibility of focal person they are not clear on their duty.
- Among the study area, about 50% government employee & more than 80 % office bearer of CFUG have no knowledge on Gender Responsive budgeting as well as Gender & social equity vision of the Ministry.
- Less than 10% (8%) of the total expenditure of the community forest user group is expended for women empowerment & capacity building activities.
- Women representation on CFUC is only About 25 % (24.26 %).
- Among them 76 % representation is as a member or vice president.
- Any government Offices as well as Community based offices have no separate toilet for male & female.

Strength & Opportunity

- Gender sensitive policy.
- All government Office have gender unit with gender focal person.
- Increasing the awareness on gender mainstreaming through community forestry.
- Gender & Social equity strategy, 2007.

Issue & Challenges

- Poor Policy Implementation.
- Patriarchal thinking of male dominated forestry organization.
- Unclear terms of reference to the gender focal person.
- Low level of Knowledge on gender sensitive budgeting to both government organization and user committee member.
- Backward women leadership & less influencing position of women in Forest User Committee.
- No organized information center in field level government office (Range post).

Major Learning

- Nepal's forest Policy are gender sensitive.
- Main cause of poor implementation are **low level of knowledge on gender** and patriarchal thinking of Male dominated forestry organization.
- Gender sensitive agenda becomes low important due to **low influencing position (member/ vice president) of women in user's committee.**
- Unclear TOR of gender focal person have no meaning for service recipient.

Recommendation

- Deployment of Gender Focal Person in every government offices with gender sensitive terms of reference. Notification of this arrangement through citizen charter.
- Range Post should be developed as gender information center for capacity building of field level staff as well as community member.
- Ensure at least one Position among President/ Treasurer/ Secretary for women in forest user committee through amendment in forest regulation.

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Thank You

If any comments, suggestion then,
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