

**Prospects and Problems of Eco-Tourism  
Development**

**(A Case Study of Badimalika, Bajura)**

**A Thesis**

**Submitted in Partial Fulfillment Of the  
Requirements**

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**By**

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## RECOMMENDATION LETTER

It is my pleasure to mention that Mr. Bhim Bahadur Bist has successfully completed the Thesis work entitled “**Problems and Prospects of Eco-tourism Development: A Case Study of Badimalika, Bajura**” under my supervision and guidance for partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Masters Degree of Arts in Rural Development. This is the candidate’s original work and to the best of my knowledge this thesis has not been submitted for any other degree. This study reveals useful information on the problems and prospects of ecotourism in Badimalika area, Bajura. I therefore, recommend this thesis for final evaluation and acceptance.

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## APPROVAL LETTER

On the recommendation of Supervisor Prof. Dr. Pradeep Kumar Khadka, Head of the Department of Rural Development, This thesis submitted by **Mr. Bhim Bahadur Bist** entitled **Problems and Prospects of Ecotourism Development: A Case study of Badimalika, Bajura** is approved for examination and submitted to the T.U. in partial fulfillment of the requirements for Master's Degree of arts in Rural Development.

## APPROVAL COMMITTEE

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During this study I have received many generous co-operations and suggestions from various personalities and organizations that enabled me to complete this study "**Problems and Prospects of Ecotourism Development: A Case Study of Badimalika, Bajura**" in time. Therefore, I express my deep feelings to them here.

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## ABSTRACT

This study was carried out in the Badimalika area of Bajura district which is situated on the Northern part of Far-western Nepal. The research work on **“Problems and Prospects of Ecotourism Development: A Case Study of Badimalika, Bajura”** was conducted during August 2008, with the aim to know the impacts of tourism on natural environment and socio-cultural condition of this region as well as to find out the remedial ways to combine the environment with the tourism avoiding the possible problems.

Direct field study, observation and questionnaire survey method was conducted to know about the positive and negative impacts of tourism on environment and socio-cultural conditions of this region.

Nepal, the Himalayan Kingdom, with its magnificently varied landscape, rich cultural heritages, diversity of flora and fauna, beautiful mountains, lakes and rivers has attracted travelers throughout the world and it is an important source of foreign exchange.

Natural beauty and socio-cultural life style with untouched by modern onslaughts, high level of biodiversity with over hundreds of species of flowering plants, birds, butterflies, amphibians and mammals, high pastureland with famous religious temple Badimalika, wetlands, streams, waterfalls, rocks, and so many things which are potential for tourist destination.

Badimalika receives substantial number of tourists including pilgrims every year. Environmental problem has also increased along with the increase in tourism along the trails as well as in the destination itself. Intensive use of environmentally sensitive areas, overgrazing of the pastureland, unmanaged wastes, litter and garbage, etc. are major environmental problems found in Badimalika surrounding.

Tourism has created some direct employment opportunities to the local people and most of them have got indirect benefit. Households along

the trekking route and destination derive economic benefits through sale of local products like vegetables, milk, ghee, egg etc for the hotels and motels. The development of tourism would promote village and hotel industry as well as agriculture and livestock farming also flourish due to the development of tourism.

The development of tourism in this remote area has brought demonstration effect of tourist on the host population, commercialization of culture, change in traditional agricultural and livestock dependent life styles and use of imported rather than indigenous material along the trails were the major impacts in this region. On the other hand, tourism supports for education and help to know about foreign culture. It is also helpful for the conservation of local culture and tradition which is the major source of tourist attraction on the site.

In order to reduce the negative impacts of tourism, clear policy, plan and strategy should be formulated regarding the number of tourist and number of hotels and their location and activities. Alternative energy source should be developed to reduce reliance on wood. Continuous education regarding the sanitation and conservation and its proper use should be given to the local people. New infrastructure should not be permitted and notice about what to do and what not to do by trekkers for mitigating their impact in nature should be published and kept in different places along the trail.

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## Acronyms/Abbreviations

CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistics
DDC	:	District Development Committee
GDP	:	Gross Domestic Product
ICIMODE	:	International Central for Integrated Mountain Development
INGOs	:	International Non-Governmental Organizations
MoPE	:	Ministry of Population and Environment
NGOs	:	Non-Governmental Organizations
NTB	:	Nepal Tourism Board
PCI	:	Per Capita Income
SNV	:	Netherlands Development Organization
UNEP	:	United Nations Environmental Program
VDC	:	Village Development Committee
WTO	:	World Tourism Organization
etc.	:	etcetera
ha.	:	Hector
i.e.	:	For example
m.	:	Meter