

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Tourism has great potentials world wide. It is considerable as a "Smokeless industry" and has grown up very fast in the last few decades. It is also becoming a great source of revenue generation especially for the countries having limited scope for foreign exchange like Nepal. Nepal is a small and beautiful country with snow torrents and green vistas. It is a landlocked country situated in south East Asia between two huge nations India and china .It is located between latitude of 26⁰ 22' North and 30⁰ 27' North and longitude between 86⁰ 4' East and 88⁰ 12' East. It has wide an areas 147181sq km. The country is about 885km long from east to west and its width average 193km from north to south. Its population is 2,31,51,423(CBS 2001).85.5 percent of total population is living in rural areas and 38 percent people are under poverty line. The gap between haves not is still increasing. Despite the natural beauty, the social-economic scenario indicates that is very challenging to develop the nation.

The small country Nepal is very rich natural beauties with innumerable Himalayan, mountains suitable for all types of snow sports including mountaineering and trekking rich cultural heritage and religious practices, ancient medieval artistic temples and monuments in most of the places in the valley and many other things of curiosity and mystery, In the world, ,occupies 0.03%only and in Asia 0.3 % of land . It is lies between the altitudinal variants ranging from 60m to 8848m. Nepal is second richest in water resources. The theoretical hydroelectric potential of Nepal's river course in 83 million kW comes to around 0.5 percent. There is diversity in language and culture, people with harmony and unity and people are friendly with smiling faces. There are 14 mountains are above 8000m in the world out of that 8 are in Nepal. Mt Everest is the highest in the world which lies in Nepal. Travelers are attracted to Nepal by lash terai jungle, the beautiful peaks of Himalayas, terraced from land glistening rivers wildlife activities and rich cultural heritage.

Today tourism has become a major enterprise in Nepal. Nepal, when opened to the outside world began to draw the attention of the visitors and tourism flourished so unseeingly. And tourism has become the important economic activity of the people in this agrarian country. It is the economic backbone of the country. The promotion of tourism in true sense started more or less only

after 1950, according to a leading travel entrepreneur "General plan for the organization of tourism in Nepal" the first tourism plan prepared by George Liberec a French national with the kind co-operation of French government in 1959. Realizing the importance of the department of tourism was established in 1961. The concrete steps to promote high level tourism development committee were formed and Nepal tourism master plan prepared in 1972.

1.2 Concept of Tourism

Tourism in Nepal is a recent phenomenon. The country was opened only after the dawn of democracy in 1950. Another mile stone in Nepalese tourism development was the successful ascension of Mt Everest on 29 July 1953. In this decade, Nepal develop the tourism promote though varies activities. There are seven different cultural sites from Nepal, which are including in the world heritage list of UNESCO 1979. These are Bhaktpur, patan, and hanuman dhoka durbar squares, swyambunath, baudhnath, pashupati and chagunarayan. Recently the lmbani also has been included in the world heritage list. More than 1250 heritage sites have been identified and documented from 72 districts outsides form Katmandu valley. Most of these heritage sites are located in the rural areas: this can be core attraction for the tourists visiting those areas. Similarly, the different protected areas are also gradually listed and going to be include in the list of world heritage sites. Pilgrimages are also famous in Nepal where different shrines, temples and monuments are concentrated like Gosiakunda, Tatopani and Muktinath etc. Nepal is attracting and keep interest to adventure mountain places ignored to see outstanding scenery, altitude, topography , climate vegetation and life zones of the Himalayan region.

The seventh five-year plan in Nepal brought a new approach in tourism. This included furnishing information to the mountaineers with a good communication system, daily weather reports of the mountain and emphasized on increasing public awareness on the mountain tourism and environmental sustainability. The couple mentation of the seventh-five year plan put emphasis on the native style accommodation services to the tourists and new sites were opened for tourism, one of them was popular Annapurna century. The resort area development program , under the 7TH five-year plan ,also include Hille of Dhankuta and Srinagar of Palpa at tourism sites .At the same time some basic survey programes had also been lunched in Rara Lake, Tikapur, Chisapanio kailali , ShreeAntu Danda of Illam, Dhorpatano

Baglung and Kulekhani on Makawanpur etc. Then, many tourists know about Nepal as natural beauty.

Sustainable tourism gives emphasis on public participation. It does the carrying capacity of the region, multiple uses of resources and local conflict and stress in society. It emphasizes on the co-friendly tourism So that the industry will survive for long term. The sustainable tourism believes that the tourism activities should support the tourism industry so the economy will be re-generated and the industry will never come to the end.

Tourism being the mainstay of Nepal ease economy the decline in tourism arrivals consequently has definitely a direct impact on the overall economic activity. According to estimation, tourism has provided the direct employment to about 80000 people by the end of 2001. Contribution from tourism sector to the total foreign currency income generation and total gross domestic product has been 12 percent and 3.1 percent (NPC) respectively.

1.3 Eco-Tourism

"Eco-Tourism as segment of tourism that involves traveling to relatively undisturbed or uncontaminated natural areas with the specific object of admiring, studying and enjoying the scenery and its wild plants and animals as well as any existing cultural features." Environmentally friendly tourism where both host and guest are aware of environmental degradation as a result of participation in tourism activities. Protection and preservation of natural as well as socio-cultural environment while traveling has attracted the attention off all concerned with tourism.

Ecotourism is a complex and multidisciplinary phenomenon and has tremendous role to play in the interpretation of nature and natural resources, as well as in the understanding of human history and its interaction with the rural environment and the diffusion of environmental knowledge and awareness. It can be serve as an important tool for environmental education and for raising ecological awareness, both in tourists and local people and government officials. World conservation Union has decided Ecotourism as environmentally responsible travel and visits to relatively undisturbed natural areas in order to enjoy and appreciate nature that promotes conservation has low visitor impact and provides for beneficially active socio-economic involvement of local populations. Ecotourism is a form of natural tourism; with the respects the environment and promote the well-being of local people.

"Purposeful" travel to natural areas to understand the cultural and natural history of the environment taking care not to alter the integrity of the ecosystem while producing economic opportunities that make the conservation of natural resources financially beneficial to local citizen.(The Ecotourism Society,1992)

Ecotourism is one of the fastest growing trends in the tourism industry. The term eco-tourism is generally used to describe tourism activities that conducted in harmony with nature as opposed to more traditional "mass tourism" activities. In this context environmental refers to both "physical and human" conservation and preservation of environmental has received considerable attention both in developing and developed countries. The primary market for eco-tourism is special interest is interested different nature and culture, and those who want to take unusual trip . Recently the conventional tourists also want to include eco-tourism as an item of their traveling menu.

Eco-tourism in other words, incorporates both a strong commitment to nature and a sense of social responsibility. That responsibility extends to the sensitivity of the travelers. The term "responsible travel" another aphorism fro ecotourism, encapsulates its aims. The ecotourism society gives slightly fuller definition: Ecotourism is responsible tackle to natural areas which conserves the environment and improves the welfare of local people".

1.4 PANCHASE

Panchase area lies in the mid hills of western development region with in 83⁰15'- 83⁰57' longitude. Panchase is bordered by three districts ie Syangja, Kaski and Parbat and five VDCs ie Bhadure Tamagi (KAski) in the east and northeast, Arther, Ramja Deurali (parbat) in south and south west, Chitre (Parbat) in west and north and Bhangsing (Syangja) in the Eastern border. Around 18000people live in this area (VDCs). The surrounding VDCs of Panchase are BhadureTamagi, Dhikurpokhari, Kaskikot, Chapakot, Salyan, and Pumdibhumdi in Kaski district, Arther, Ramja Durali, and Chitre in Parbat and Bhangsing, Bangephadke and Aarukharka in Syangja.

Among the five peaks of Panchase Panchadham Panchase lekh (2517) is the highest peak. At almost on the top of the hill is situated holy "Siddhababatemple (2470m). Panchase Lake situated on 22d70m elevation is a site for religious pilgrimage during "Bala Chaturdashi" festival. The entire hill's origin of many rivers and tributaries as Harpan Khola, Jarekhola,

Ghuttekholā etc. These streams are major source of drinking water and irrigation for the adjoining peoples. Around 33% of the total discharge from these rivers and tributaries are used for drinking and irrigation process. Along with this, few small hydroelectric powers are also established in the area. Phewa Lake shrinks mainly due to the sediments deposition of Harpan River so it is to conserve the entire hill to control soil erosion.

1.5 Statement of the problem

Tourism is main source of national economy in Nepal. But it is still depend on transitional agricultural system because it is not provided full of employment so far. On the other hand tourism is an ever growing fastest growth industry, which is so many possibilities in Nepal and it can provided the best employment for the various people as tour guide operator and hotel owners etc which is directly and indirectly benefited. It has been considerable as a major product on modernization and globalization. It is multidimensional and multidisciplinary in terms on nature in itself but closely with culture and increase to per capita income.

Tourism is a key resource for the sustainable socio-economic development. It helps to increase economic status by increasing opportunities. Similarly, it helps to output to uplift the lifestyle of the locals.

Many eco-tourism destination of the country are located in wilderness areas where indigenous and marginalized people are residing. So it is a newest opportunity to people involve in travel trade industry to local entrepreneurship. It is one of the most feasible sources of alternative income generation from natural resources.

Panchase is the highest potentiality of eco-tourism where people can enjoy with various types of flora and fauna, wild animals birds, friendly people and their socio cultural diversity etc.

1.6 Objectives of the study

The general objective of the study area is to know the status and potentiality of the tourism development in Panchase area however the following are the specific objectives.

1. To analyze the tourism industry as main economic sector of the study area.

2. To explore the socio-cultural aspects of Respondents.
3. To assess the condition of natural resources in the study area.
4. To analyzed the prospects and problem of ecotourism in the study area.

1.7 Importance of the study

Tourism is an important source to collect revenue for both national and local levels. The first appearance of tourism in the world had a cultural motivation and tourism has always stood as unique vehicle for cultural propagation that is necessary to a deeper understanding of peoples.

Eco-tourism is an important niche market in the world tourism industry. It is becoming increasing popular as an alternative to mass tourism. The concept of ecotourism emerged to address lithe problem created by environmental damage associated with mass tourism.

Ecotourism can play an important role in the ecological and economic development of a nation. It is necessary to explore the way, which can help to integrate ecotourism with poverty reduction and natural resources management.

Nepal is a synonymous to tourism and is viewed as alternative source of economic development. In the country Nepal there are many places that attract the internal and international visitors. The present study is intended to cover one of the places in western Nepal namely 'PANCHASE'. Panchase is a touristic area and is famous for its natural beauty, the sunrise view, accessible trekking route for all view of the Annapurna and Dhawalagiri range along with Panchase Lake without source and Tarebhir has attracted many tourists in the past and the number has increased in many folds in recent years. Also the formation of Panchase area tourism master plan and announcement of new trekking route via panchase by the GON/Minister of Tourism will certainly help in tourist in flow. Panchase holds good potentials for short trekking route and is in practice. It can be developed as a spot for eco-tourism, orchid sanctuary and as a natural research laboratory due to its diverse vegetation and climate. Tourism itself can seek the market of domestic products like handicrafts and other local materials. Thus the scope of ecotourism is optimistic there. Implementation of ecotourism program in panchase would be beneficial fro the nature conservation and community development as well. In this contest present study dealing with

the impact of tourism as well as natural resources of the area and potentiality for ecotourism development would be of greater significance. This study will also be helpful for planners' policy makers to set out necessary program for preventing further degradation of existing natural and cultural resources, their upliftment and sustainable utilization with ecotourism implementation. IT may also contribute to future researchers working in this area.

1.8 Limitation of the study

Any kinds of research works are done with in certain area of limitation. It determines its nature, needs, situation and area of study. This study also limits with in certain limits with in certain scope and limitation.

The present study entitled "Prospect of Eco-tourism in Panchase of Syangja, Kaski and Parbat districts". There are various prospects of tourism in Panchase. The study was very specific like case study in around panchase. So the conclusion drawn from this study was more indicative rather than conclusive. The conclusion might not been generalized for the whole. But, inference might be valid to some extent to those areas, which have similar geographical and environmental settings. The study will represent the whole geographical area and socio economic settings.

1.9 Organization of the study

This study is divided into six chapters which are include as follows

Chapter on e describes about general background, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, limitation of the study and the organization of the study.

Chapter two deals with review of literature. It explains about Nepalese tourism and ecotourism attractions. There is also literature review related to the study area.

Chapter Three provides the research methodology adopted for the study to be carried out.

Chapter Four setting of the study area related to survey of the secondary data analyzed of tourism in the study area. Furthermore, it analyses about the natural resources potentiality.

Chapter Five presentations and analysis of data of tabulate and interpret all the data collected from the study area with the help of questionnaire, interviews, field visit and observation.

Chapter Six summarizes the research work performed. It develop a clear view about the study I the form of conclusions and recommendations provide so as o know the ecotourism development in the study area.

CHAPER –TWO

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Introduction

Tourism is a white industry. In this modern world, tourism industry has been grown at an outstanding rate and it has appeared as the world's largest and greatest export industry. Following the advanced development of science, information and technology the world form some years new has been global village. The basic information of the particulars places through internet and electric Medias such as television and radio and the easy access with the speeding transportation, the human desire of traveling across has been increased more than ever in this century. The ample interference is that tourism has been the fastest growing industry of this world. It has been playing a pivotal role in the socio-economic sectors of the most of the developed as well as developing countries of the global. So, most of the nations are attracted to this industry and trying their best to strength economic life by promoting tourism in the country. Tourism has been identified as an important source of foreign opportunities and generating economic growth of the country.

Difference people inside and outside the country have conducted many studies in this field .More and more studies about the tourism are coming into studies are made on different way facts of tourism in Nepal and furnish important information for the present study. In order to make the study more reliable, some of the important studies are review. In addition to that, the various related tourism magazines, booklets, newspaper, published and unpublished reports, information and publications also are reviewed.

2.2 Development of tourism

Man has been traveling through out the ages. Traveling is a human character but tourisms a new phenomenon. Since the beginning of human civilization man is traveling. Travel has had a fascination of man travel in the past was not under taken for the purpose of pleasure and it was not taken during the leisure time. At that time the motive of their travel was not to seek holiday from the working situation. It was undertaken as a part of profession or job. So traveling a human nature whereas tourism is a recent phenomenon.

Be fort the development of transport travel was limited to certain and to certain places. Mechanized transport has made it possible signification for

more number of people travel to different places. Transport is the necessary precondition of tourism. But the precondition of travel is movement and movement asks for transport. Tourist and tourism is so much connected with transport system that may historical study of tourist will be concerned with the development of modern transport.

For the purpose of studying development of tourism it can be divided into three phase.

1 First phase (upto1840)

Before the industrial revolution, travel was primarily related to trade, commerce and pilgrimage. The travelers' during that time were, therefore traders and merchants looking for merchandise. At that time travel was possible only for the aristocratic class of people. They were small in number, the vast majority of the population hardly traveled beyond their village and the nearest market town. For this majority the idea of leisure and holiday did not exist. Life was not divided into work and leisure. The travelers require accommodation at his destination and for journey. When the journey cannot be concluded in a single day it requires overnight accommodation, only wealthy people equipped with all the lodging and fooding equipment. In this stage most of the people travel commercial interest, religious purpose and seeking knowledge.

2. Second Phase (1840-1945 end of Second World War)

The industrial development of the second half of the nineteenth century changed the social system, and developed urbanization. The urbanization led to mental tension. At the same time it increased the income and living standard of the people. And these people in the industrial countries felt to urge to travel for the purpose of rest and relaxation. At that time people felt the need of some relief from their work. The increased income helped them to fulfill their desire similarly, the introduction and development of railways had profound effect on transport. It helped cheap, swift and easy travel possible for the new middle and working class, which resulted in the growth of travel, e.g. the first rail link between Liverpool and Manchester was started in this century.

The birth of the organized rail travel and the concept of tourism came in the year 1841. The man behind this idea was Thomas Cook, who is known as pioneer and the greatest travel organizer of that time. He booked rail seats,

published a tour program and sold the tours at especially reduced fares. He collected as many as 570 passengers. By the process of booking and selling of the railway seats he learned that services is a product it can be sold as product and selling of the services can be a business tourism business. Then after Thomas Cook arranged many more excursions trips on a fully commercial basis and start to publish guide boo, periodical and cook's excursionist and tourist advertiser. Now, the travelers do not need to carry big amount and worry about them, travel for pleasure. The voucher system supported the basic concept of tourism "pay here get there and pay now get later".

3. The Third Phase (After the Second World War)

By the turn of the twentieth century all the main characteristics of modern tourism were evident changes in mental attitude towards pleasure seeking, the realization of the importance of travel for education, increase in material wealth, a growing need to find relief from working routine and improvement in passenger transport system all these factors produced a fertile ground for the development of tourism o a large scale.

After the Second World War the standard of living of the working and middle class rose in the industrial countries. Tourism began to appear in the countries where it had been practically unknown a few years earlier. The war also changed the concept of people especially in Europe. It broke down the international barriers and peaceful internationalism developed. This is the most favorable climate in which tourism flourished.

Enormous expansion of tourism has taken place primarily in advanced industrialized countries, where travel has become a part of the life style. Thus the twentieth century and onward can e called "the century of mass tourism".

In the past, tourism was limited to limited countries and destinations. Now every country is directly or indirectly involved in tourism. All countries compete with each other to attract tourists.

2.3 History of Tourism in Nepal

Traveling is very ancient phenomenon. Travel has existed since the beginning of time when primitive man set out. No records are available to explain how it went on during the course of part centuries expect of new

inscriptions that tells about the historic visits of some monks from friendly countries of north and south after traveling great distances in search of game provided the food and clothing necessary for his survival. Throughout the course of history, people have traveled for purpose of trade, religious convection, economic gain, war migratation and other equally compelling motivation. Thus in ancient time, great motivations for travel were political or commercial interest. Curiosity to know the custom and the habits of other people and finally religious sentiments.

Systematic tourism in Nepal stated from 1966with the establishment of a few hotels. The industry was farther strengthened and established after the formation of tourism master plan in 1972. The master plan gave emphasis of tourism marked development, sight seeing, trekking, ecotourism, recreational and adventure tourism. Following this different support services such as accommodation facilities and resort centers in different important tourist sites were also established. A famous Australian political economist Herman Von Schullard" Tourism is the sum total of operators meaning of an economic nature which directly related to the entry, stay and movement of foreigners inside and out side a certain country, city or region"

Swiss Professors W. Hunziker and /krapf "Tourism is the totality of the relationship and phenomenon arising from their travel and stay of strangers provided the stay does not employ the establishment of a permanent residence and is not consulted with are moderated actively"

Cohen "Voluntary, temporary travelers, traveling at the expectation of pleasure for the novelty and change experience of a relatively long and non recurrent round trip"

McIntosh " The some of the phenomena and relationship arising from interaction of tourist business suppliers host government and host communities in the process attracting and hosting tourist other visitors."

Burkart and Medik "Tourism denotes the temporary and short term movement of the people to destination outside the place where they normally live and work and their activities at those destination."

Thus, it is clear that temporary movement of people to destination outside their residence and working glances is known as tourism. Their activities during the stay would be different from the activities of the residents and spending money that is permanent residence at destination that distinguishes

it from migration. The journey and stay of tourists give rise to various demands such as transport, accommodation, safety, medical services, entertainment and other specific services. The destination is considered as the supplying sector of tourism services and the visitors denoted the demand sector is tourism.

Natural beauty, local life of indigenous people and the tradition culture have become the most valuable wealth. An American geographer JR has noted that for meeting one's basic requirements trading of cultural importance becomes necessary and here is no alternative to tourism. In fact this can surely be a thing of benefit as long as the mountains don't become smaller of tourists will keep on growing, judging from the stand point of tourism the Himalayan region can ensure more advantage. The experts in planning and people have to improve management as well as preserve the opulence of the Himalayas. In many places especially in the delicate environment of the Himalayan region the unrestricted entrance of tourists has become a threat. The mountain treks were nearly with the useless articles, plastic bags, cans, and other materials. In Khumbu of the mid mountain region of Nepal, due to trekking on foot the adjoining dense forests have been badly damaged. (Baral, 1998:9)

Growth of travel and tourism sector generates larger income and employment for those who are directly involved. It is also expected that same secondary activities like retailing and small trading activities would spring up in the growth process. The tourism industry acts, as a big breast to the primary producers craftsmen, factory the tourists consume workers and landscape architects, who's good during their stay, in country. Tourists generally involve with hotels, carries, restaurants and travel agencies still a substantial number of poor people, particularly in the developing countries like serving tourists also benefits porters, hawkers, rickshaws pullers etc. Indirect benefits are also generated for the local poor like waterman, vegetable vendors and unskilled workers. The multiplier effects of tourist spending create secondary sound of economic activities and sizeable amount of income and employment is generated in the region of country. Most of the benefits through trickle down effects in a number of ways or the prosperity created by the spending of visitors are filtered down through the local economy. (KAmal, 2002)

JK. Pallack has made study over cultural in Nepal. He has maintained in the study that the historical movement and cultures on Nepal are important attraction to many tourists and better use of tourism in Nepal. The study

deals with the need for improving tourist's resorts in Nepal. The major aims of developing tourist resort are to see that how much the tourists are able to spend as much as possible on the extent of opportunities provided to them.

Tourism being an important activity plays not only an instrumental role in alleviating poverty but also improve socio-economic status of a community. Helps to earn foreign currency and provides a sustainable way of conserving environment and culture through integrated local participation. By all means, it's people industry: it is run by the people for the people for the people at the same core be they guests or hosts, and it is their well being and enrichment which should be the primary goal of tourism development *(Kunwar,1997). If the local people understanding contribution of tourism at local and national level, they automatically imitate promotional program in rural areas.

The influence of external culture of limitation of their values is perhaps the consequences, which cannot be checked and brought about by inviting the tourists. The Himalayan region has been bearing the impact of this adverse influence for cars. Only a few will say that the open door policy for foreign visitors is completely wrong. Some others also say that it is necessary to take the Himalayan society in the modernity of the twenty first century such as the almost extinct handicrafts and art of Bhaktpur have been revived by tourism. But in long run some people think that a bad culture will drive away good things. They think that owing to excessive number of tourists, Katmandu has not remained a dear place as in the past.

Tourism is a forefront industry in context of globalization. Globalization helps us to put forward our unique products to international market that can generate income and employment.

Curiosity about unheard, unseen and unknown is a basic human nature. This type of behavior leads human being to new places and people. Since through long time immemorial people have traveled along way from their to explore new places and people. Later on, these types of activities were termed as tourism. Basically, tourism is a leisure activity of temporary nature, and does not involve earning related activities. (Adhikari, 2005)

Any style and types of tourism that has the potential to bring benefits to the local economy while contributing to natural and cultural resource conservation.

There is no alternative of especially saving Nepal from tourism and big shots of westernization. We have to lose something to gain something. In order to digest external culture rather more contact policy is to be taken up since the country can't move ahead without income derived from tourism. By talking about replacement of culture present context. (Baral, 1998)

Tourism has emerged as the fastest growing industry in the world and it is said to be the third largest industry after oil and automobile. Direct employment through tourism industry in the world is believed to be maximum. Many people in the world are engaged in tourism and travel industry for livelihood.

Nepal tourism development program has incorporated various aspects of tourism and Nepalese economy product development programs, marketing strategy, environmental impact, importance of education and training, institutional framework for the development of tourism, incentives to be given to tourism industry has been dealt with the report. The study has observed that the basic economic strategy of the tourism industry should be to earn net foreign exchange for the country other aims such as employment generation, income generation region distribution are subsidiary aim. At the same time, the tourism industry must active proper returns on the capital invested so that it can be mobilized for future investments.

2.4 History and Concept of Ecotourism

The history of nature travel is traced back to Aristotle who is known to have traveled to the Island of Lesbos in the Aegean Sea where he spent time studying marine creatures. Nature travel during the 19th century was essentially a quest for spectacular and unique scenery. This was also the time when the concept of national parks came into being. The founders of national parks wanted to protect the environment but it was the tourists inside the national parks who "provided the economic and political needed to translate philosophy into accomplishment". The restoration of peace after the Second World War appealed and opened the world market for travel throughout the world and this was the reason for explosion of tourism. The opportunity not only helped to establish tourism as one of the most important industries, but it also becomes cause for deterioration of the early image of tourism. During the fifties and sixties, American who formed an important segment of the world's tourists was known for their insensitive

behavior towards nature and culture of the destination they were visiting. They were reorganization as 'ugly tourist. During the seventies, the Germans appear as ugly tourists followed by Japanese in nineties. The ugly tourist phenomenon does not come from actual personality traits. It is the feeling and experience brought about by the cultural and social incision by visitors who are different from the host community. More recently, the ugly tourism phenomenon continues with uncontrolled tourism development, and variation cultural and social in the destination areas where tourism thrives.

The term 'ecotourism' is defined as traveling to relatively undisturbed or uncontaminated natural areas with specific objectives such as studying , admiring and enjoying the scenery with its flora and fauna, as well as any existing cultural manifestations found in these areas(Lascurain, 1986)

The concept of ecotourism is also rooted in the environmental concerns raised by industrial development in Europe during the sixties. The unprecedented industrial development essentially raised awareness regarding environmental conservation and conservation organizations that came into being demanded that government's send aside a landmass not just for tourism purpose but also for preservation of ecosystem integrity. The while conservation movement during the second half of the sixties was an example of such campaign and this period mark the birth of ecotourism. However, actual tourism began in Costa Rica in the early Eighties. A Costa Rican tour operator while registering his business first coined the word 'ecotourism', which soon become a popular word and frequently appeared in the literates in Costa Rica (Kunwar 1997). But the 'ecotourism' phenomenon became more prominent and came into wide use after Hector CeballosLascurain published an article in 1987 with definition ecotourism. He described ecotourism as nature based travel to relatively undisturbed areas with focus on education. The 1989Hague Declaration then formally recognized it on tourism that advocated rational management of tourism to contribute to the protection and preservation of the natural and cultural environment. Since then ecotourism has increasing become a popular word for academics, professional and businessman (Gyawali, 2003)

The term ecotourism is defined as traveling to relatively undisturbed natural areas with such objects as studying, admiring and enjoying the scenery with its flora and fauna as well as the people who live near by, their needs, their culture and relationship to the land (Pradhan,2006).

The "father of ecotourism" concept is simple, more global and wide. Therefore his concept and definition are used. According to him the meaning of ecotourism in a single world is "respect." Respect is the root of every thing worthwhile and good. Respect to nature, local people culture, history, community, aspirations and tourist themselves.

Ecotourism focuses on local cultures, wilderness adventures, volunteering personal growth and learning new ways to live on our vulnerable planet. It is typically defined as travel to destination where the flora, fauna and cultural heritage are primary attractions. Responsible eco-tourism includes program that minimize the adverse effects of traditional tourism on the natural environment, and enhance the cultural integrity of local people. Therefore, in addition to evaluating environmental and cultural actors, initiatives by hospitality providers to promote, re-cycling, and energy efficiency water reuse and the creation of economic opportunities for local communities are an integral part of ecotourism.

Ecotourism is also seen as an interfacing of conservation concern and tourism interests, setting free the synergy required to jointly preserve the quality of the environment while protecting nature and promoting tourism it is a timely strategy that is vital to the maintenance of healthy ecosystems along with economic gains by benefiting both nature and destination areas (Farrell and Runyan, 1991).

"It promotes a code of ethics in relation to other species that grants rights of continued existence to those species. It promotes non destructive aesthetic, spiritual values. And it actually does something for wildlife in so far as it provides human with an economic and more incentive to set aside and maintain space for wildlife and it discourage harassment"(Gauthier, 1993).

Ecotourism principally concerns experiencing the natural or cultural environment without threaten it. While it started as description of a kind of natural tourism that would raise consciousness to conservation issues, later it also included concern for host community. At present Nepal it is referred to as the practice of nature tourist that minimizes the negative impacts of tourism on environment and socio-cultural aspects. It looks for a balance between 'natural conservation', 'sustainable socio-economic development', and 'nature-tourism' ecotourism also implies a managed approach to tourism development.

The ecotourism society defines ecotourism as responsible travel to natural areas that conserve the environment and improve the welfare of the people.

A new concept, called eco-tourism, has emerged as a placement to mass tourism as a way to reduce adverse impact of natural, ecotourism is a response to the negative effect that mass tourism has had on the culture and geography of countries. In reality, ecotourism is a culturally and environmentally sensitive travel that contributes to conservation and management of natural for sustainable economic development.

Ecotourism is a small elite band of dedicated nature lovers. Ecotourism is really an amalgam of interests arising out of environmental, economic and social concerns. Take conservation, for example: the heady days when the superintendent of Yosemite gloated. In recent years the dangers to natural areas of too many visitors have been a great concern. Conservation is devoting a good deal of thought to making tourism work for nature preservation.

In it are laid out some of the large challenges with serious prescriptions for how to tackle them. These include the tools for looking at demands, use and impact, income distribution, resources inventory, policy formulation, planning management, training and local participation.

Ecotourism cannot hope to meet challenges head on unless it develops into a professional discipline covering the many interests and skills associated with nature and culture tourism. This is the purpose behind the ecotourism society and its latest publication of various means.

Ecotourism is a complex and multidisciplinary phenomenon. There are many facts that must be addressed if it is to be successful for those involved: consumers, managers, native people and suppliers, detailed and systematic inventories of the ecotouristic attraction of a country, a region or area should be elaborated, bearing in mind that these inventories are different features listed.

Ecotourism must be predicated upon a systems perspective that includes sustainability and involvement participations of local, rural people in those areas where the greatest potential for ecotourism development can be found. Ecotourism must be seen as a collaborative effort between local people and concerned, informed visitors to preserve wild lands and their biological and cultural assets through support of local community development. By

community development, we mean the empowerment of existing local groups in ways that only sustain the resources but also meet the social, cultural and economic needs of the group.

2.5 Ecotourism in Nepal

Having adopted the ecotourism model in its program for mountain trekking jungle wildlife viewing and village culture, Nepal has tried to fit it into the country's unique physical and cultural geography. There is evidence of a growing market for more specifically organized village tourism experiences, particularly from culture-seeking European segments and comfort-needing North American and Asian non trekking visitors and ecotourists to visits to new area and spend liberally to new destinations.

a relatively new style of ecotourism is village tourist. The network of home says teahouses and small lodges that have emerged in village along Nepal's popular trek routes are among the most successful examples of village tourism in size, has immense cultural and natural diversity and is one of the most beautiful countries in the world.

Ecotourism, mass tourism, village tourism, rural tourism and sustainable tourism are divided various. Though ecotourism is not a new concept in Nepal, people for the sustainable use of natural resources and cultural assets are being emphasized in order to canalize benefits to the affected communities. In ecotourism not only the activities of the tourist are involved but also elements such as the conservation of ecosystems and sustainable development.

Ecotourism is being developed and promoted by the government without destroying the natural resources of the surrounding environment the role and importance of hoteliers and other facilities developed for tourism promotion on environment conservation and local people must be partners in this process.

As far as the development of the ecotourism activities is concerned the growth of ecotourism started during 1990s. In these regards, ACAP is first to start country, then after SPPC was initiated in sagarmatha region. In 1992, another ecotourism project was initiated in Katmandu. Since then various other ecotourism projects initiated in other regions, in 2000, ADB ecotourism projected etc. More recently, a new project has been introduced to reduce poverty and promote ecotourism phenomenon in the country; it is

tourism for rural poverty Alleviation Programs more ecotourism programs may be expected to come in future.

Ecotourism is a form of culturally and environmentally sensitive travel which fosters and environmental ethic among travelers and also contributes to the conservation and management of natural areas for long term, sustainable economic development and management of natural areas for long term, sustainable economic development. Ecotourism is particularly advantageous to developing countries. It attracts persons who are tolerant even interested in running small scale locally erected accommodations built by local people with local materials. Ecotourism emphasizes the employment of local people as guides, interpreters and custodians of protected areas because of their experience and knowledge accumulated and handed down over centuries.

2.6 Ecotourism in Panchase

Panchase peak and surrounding areas just adjacent to the Pokhara valley provide an exotic trekking option offering great natural sceneries as well as interesting culture. With several trekking options taking you from Pokhara city to the Panchase peak (2,517 m), it can be an excellent destination for visitors looking for a few days' trekking as well as to those interested in longer treks linking it to the Annapurna area trek. In spite of being close to Pokhara, this area has not been much explored by the tourists yet; so this pristine area offering majestic natural sceneries as well as rich culture of various ethnic inhabitants is an area highly recommended to visitors. You will be able to experience the area which is relatively pristine and yet you can have the basic amenities for accommodation, food and communication facilities, and of course the traditional hospitality of the local populations.

2.7 Benefits of ecotourism

In developed countries, mass tourism had many caused social ills viz., alcoholism, commercialization of sex, organic disease and social crimes. In developing countries, tourism has accelerates begging problem, and some eggheads have under taken it as a profession. Tourism has also brought changes in the life style of local people and they lose their adherence and attraction towards their own heritage. Indeed, overuse, resulting in degradation of the environment, loss of economic benefits due to damage to the resources or the local community, and disruption of local cultures or values, are often cited as drawbacks to ecotourism. But if tourism is damaging natural

resources, then it is not ecotourism. True ecotourism can in fact be one of the most powerful tools for protecting the environment.

There are ample benefits of ecotourism. It can provide income and employment contributing to development, enabling public enjoyment and understanding and it also can justify nature protection. Many countries have developed, and several countries are developing guidelines and standards for tourists and tour operators to ensure that ecotourism is environmentally and culturally sustainable. Nepal has developed some guidelines for tourists. Ecotourism trip in general should include: pre-trip preparation, environmental impact, resource impact, cultural impact, wildlife impact, environmental benefits, advocacy education, etc.

Being community and natural resources based, ecotourism provides an opportunity to harness indigenous knowledge for the socio-economic benefit of rural poor communities. Eco-tourism's proponents argue that ecotourism contributes to more sustainable development in Nepal because it reconciles the pressures for economic growth with those for environmental preservation in the management of natural areas as income-generating tourist places. Developing ecotourism products requires minimal impact and management. Community participation in decision-making, planning, and participatory techniques at a grass-roots level are methodologies evolved in Nepal for ecotourism development.

Ecotourism potentially offers national, regional, and local economic benefits similarly to those of other types of tourism activity. Full economic potential at different scales of economy is yet to be sustained by specific studies. It is claimed that the direct economic benefits are as follows:

- a) Additional foreign exchange earnings.
- b) Economic development, diversification, and long-term stability, particularly in regional areas.
- c) The distribution of income directly into regional and local economies through demand for local goods and services.
- d) The tendency for greater expenditure and length of stay by ecotourists.
- e) The generation of income for the conservation and management of national parks, other public land, etc.
- f) Additional skilled employment opportunities utilizing local knowledge and facilities.
- g) Local infrastructure development.

In addition to these direct benefits, there are a number of non tangible economic benefits associated with the conservation of an area that is compatible with its use for ecotourism and also include protection of watershed values, control erosion and protection of biodiversity and evolutionary process conservation as well as maintaining and option to develop the are for ecotourism in the future.

2.8 Principle of Eco-tourism

The principles of ecotourism developed by the international ecosystem society related to natural resources are:

- a) Avoiding the negative impacts that can damage or destroy the integrity or character of the natural or cultural environments being visited.
- b) Educating the travelers on the important of conservation.
- c) Directing the revenues to the conservation in natural areas and the management of protected areas.
- d) Bringing economic benefits to local communities and directing revenues to local people adjacent to protected areas.
- e) Emphasizing the need for planning and sustainable growth of the tourism industry, and seeking to ensure that tourism development does not exceed the social and environmental carrying capacity.
- f) Retaining a high percentage of revenues in the host country by stressing the use of locally owned facilities and services.
- g) Increasingly relying on infrastructure that has been developed sensitively in harmony with the environment.
- h) Minimizing the use of fossil fules conserving local plants and blending with the natural environment.

Some other principles described by the various authors are:

- a) It should not negative impact the resources that helps to develop ecotourism in any destination. Rather it should be developed in an environmentally friendly manner.
- b) It should provided benefits to all parties' local natural resources, people and the tourism industry with a stake in ecotourism.
- c) It should extend first hand information to visitors.
- d) :It should provide educational opportunities for all parties' local communities, government, NGOs, industry and tourists.

- e) It should encourage all party recognition of the intrinsic values of the resources.
- f) It should involve acceptance of the resources on its own terms and in recognition of its own limits.
- g) It should promote understanding and partnerships between many players, which could involve government, NGOs industry, scientists, and locals.
- h) It should promote moral and ethical responsibilities and behavior towards the natural and cultural environment by all players.

Those principles are directly related to sustainable ecotourism progress in like this developing country.

2.9 Scope of Eco-tourism

Eco-tourism produces economic and social benefits to the local people. It is based in the sustainable development conservation of resources non intrusive exploitation of natural resources controlled use of cultural and environmental interaction between natural environment and people and encourages the active involvement of local people and tourists:

- a) Development of greater understanding and appreciation of the environment.
- b) Motivation of tourists and local people to become more responsible of the environment.
- c) Increase public environmental awareness.
- d) Provision of finding for scientific research.
- e) The application of environmentally friendly skills and clear during the tour to facts of every day living.
- f) It is primarily nature base tours thus it is eco-friendly.

2.10 Methods of Ecotourism

The following methods should be needed to making tourism development ecologically viable:

- a) Transforming guidelines in strategies, tactics and action plans
- b) Building partnerships to effectively combat the issues through pragmatic ways leading cooperative tourism
- c) Re-organizing the priorities for development

- d) Community participation in farming, implementation and monitoring the development programs
- e) Redefining the goals for progressive growth
- f) Restructuring political structures to achieve efficiency and commitments
- g) Identification of key persons of right caliber and sincere commitment to influence planning process
- h) Creating awareness and sense of belonging
- i) Involvement of the private sector in bringing about sustainable development.

2.11 Other forms of Tourism

Mass tourism remained dominant in the world tourism marked for a long time. But with changes in times tourism too has taken various forms, some of which are described here under.

2.11.1 Alternative Tourism

It can be defined as forms of tourism that set out to be consistent with natural, social and community values and which allow both hosts and guests to enjoy positive and worthwhile interaction and shared experiences'. Therefore ecotourism can be assumed to be form of alternative tourist (Zurick, 1992).

2.11.2 Sustainable Tourism

Although tourism has the potential to become an agent of development and change, due to the way it uses resources, it should not be considered an environmentally harmless industry as such. Therefore, only with careful planning it has the potential to operate and contributes in a sustainable manner (Bulter, cited in State of the Environment, 2004)

According to WTO "sustainable tourism development meets the needs of present generation tourists and host regions while protecting and enhancing opportunities for the future". It is depicted to lead to management of all resources in such a way that economic, social and aesthetic needs are

fulfilled while maintaining cultural integrity; essential ecological processes biological diversity and life support systems (WWW.Worldtourism.org)

2.11.3 Community Based Tourism

More recently, community based tourism has been recognized as another form of tourism. "Community based tourism occurs when decisions about activity and development are driven by the host community. It usually involves some form of cultural exchanges where tourists meet with local communities and witness aspects of their lifestyle. Many such remote ethnic communities may be vulnerable to outside influences and decisions about the way tourists are hosted must be owned by the community for successful and sustainable tourism".

Community based tourism can venerate a sense of pride in the local population and make funds available for maintaining or upgrading cultural assets e.g. archeological ruins, historic sites, traditional , crafts production.

2.11.4 Cultural tourism

Cultural tourism is regarded as a "force for cultural preservation". It is also defined as "the absorption by tourists of features resembling the vanishing lifestyle of past societies observed through such phenomena as house styles, crafts, farming equipment, dress, utensils and other instruments and equipment that reflects the lifestyle of any particular community during a particular time". Further , Zins identified handicrafts, language, traditions, art and music paintings and sculpture, history , work and technology, architecture, religion, educational system, dress and leisure activities as elements of cultural tourism. In short cultural tourism involves visit to ancient, monuments, places of historical or religious importance. It enriches knowledge about different people and their culture.

As cultural tourism also involves education for visitors and promotes sensitivity towards cultural environment, provides direct benefits to host communities and helps in preservation of culture, it is closely linked with ecotourism.

2.11.5 Religious or Pilgrimage Tourism

Pilgrimage is the significant form of tourism for the holy places can have very positive effects on communities nationally ad internationally.

Pilgrimage is an institutionalized journey to the holy places. At that site usually marched by a temple or other structure, they pray or mounting a flight of stairs on theirs' knees'(Blamey 2000).

In Buddhism, lord Buddha advices for pilgrimage without which there is no release from grief and unless world's end to be reached. So, let a man be a world knower wise, world ender. Let him led the holly life will, knowing world's end, as one who is quenched, he length not for this world or another. The grove of Lumbine is so great that the Buddha himself advised his followers to make pilgrimage. Lord Buddha explained the significance of Lumbini in the words: Lumbini should be seed by person of devotion, and which would cause awareness and apprehension of the nature of impermanence.

2.11.6 Village Tourism

It denotes tourist visiting villages and staying in or near villages. Successful cases have shown that the village should have special features to attract visitors. This also associated with tourist behavior in that they stay in a village and explore the surroundings. The special features of this kind of tourism is that the visitors become part of the village for them period of their stay. Such visitors normally do not expect the kind of accommodation and food that they are accustomed too. In other words, they really on locally available accommodation and food.

Evidence from Sirubari shows that this form of tourism as high potential for bringing resources to the village which eventually becomes an important tool for poverty alleviation. However, since cultures are subject to influence by visitors, there is the possibility that village tourism destination are affected by the influence of visitors. Therefore, special care is needed to minimize the social and cultural impact of tourism.

Those all forms are directly related to concept of ecotourism which helps to conserve the ecology, environment etc. Therefore it must be known about these forms in ecotourism concept.

CHAPTER- III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research design

For the fulfillment of the study, on the basis of exploratory research and case study types of research design because the study was focused on to investigate the impact of tourism activities on sustainable management of natural environment. Thus, this study was both descriptive and exploratory.

3.2 Rationale for the Selection of the study Area

Panchase area lies in the mid hills of western development region with in 83⁰15'- 83⁰57' longitude. Panchase is bordered by three districts ie Syangja , Kaski and Parbat and five VDCs ie Bhadure Tamagi(KASKI) in the east and northeast, Arther,Ramja Deurali (parbat) in south and south west, Chitre(Parbat)in west and north and Bhangsing (Syangja) in the Eastern border. Around 18000people live in this area(VDCs) . The surrounding VDCs of Panchase are BhadureTamagi, Dhikurpokhari, Kaskikot, Chapakot, Salyan, and Pumdibhumdi in Kaski district, Arther, Ramja Durali, and Chitre in Parbat and Bhangsing, Bangephadke and Aarukharka in Syangja.

Though the tourism activities are continuous in and around the Panchase, but the concept of ecotourism is not implemented well or operationalized in this area. Not only are the tourism activities very important but also the environment of particular area. The main concern of today is to make any industry sustainable and beneficial for the people. So, this study tried to explore minutely the environmental aspects consistence with degradation. Moreover, this study tried to find out the causes and hidden facts of the degradation of natural environment. Therefore, this study contained the great significance in social science to minimize the problems related to the environment of this study area.

3.3 Sampling procedure

Both types of sampling were used for the selection of sampling. Under non-probability sampling, the stratified sampling was used to select the samples from local people, hotel owners and tourist. Under the probability sampling simple random sampling was used to select the intended number of samples from 35 local people, 20 hotel owners and 25 tourists visited in the area.

3.4 Natures and source of Data

3.4.1 Primary Data

This study was mainly based on primary data. Primary data collected by using different data collection techniques such as structure and semi structure questionnaire, key informant interview, observation and focus group discussion etc.

3.4.2 Secondary Data

Secondary data was collected from different tourism concern agencies and organizations were visited such as tourist service center Panchase , Machhapuchhre Development Organization (MDO), Nepal Tourism Board, Eco Nepal, WWF, TAAN, ACAP, KEEP, CBS, World bank, District forest office (Syangja, Kaski and Parbat) and various reports , Journals, relates articles, pervious published and unpublished researches, etc.

3.5 Tools and Techniques of Data Collection

For the primary data, structured and semi structured questionnaire were used in the field; some cases, illiterate respondent researcher himself were note down whatever the respondent responses. The other tools were used for the primary data collation mainly structure questionnaire, key informant interview, field observation and focus group discussion.

3.5.1 Questionnaire Survey

Structured questionnaire was prepared to generate the realistic and actual data from households' survey, hotel owner and tourists. The respondents were filled up the questionnaire themselves.

3.5.2 Key information on Interview

The primary data was collected from key informants local people, hotel owners and tourists using the semi or unstructured interview methods. The interview have been a cross checking for data obtained from questionnaire. The informants were interviewed on the impact of tourism on environment, sanitation, vegetation, socio-cultural impact etc.

3.5.3 Observation

The field visits of the study area have done based on the non –participatory observation, which helps to enrich the qualitative and quantitative data collection. In this researcher observed the daily life of people by watching and listening to their conversation. This was done during interviewing people, talking with them, during walking along the routs and traveling in the bus. This was done to know the actual condition of respondents, the condition of landscape, kind of flora and fauna, awareness of people, roads, income from tourism, economic status of the local people condition of tourism, socio cultural impact of tourism etc.

3.5.4 Focus Group Discussion

The focus group discussion was held in separate group with the participation of women and men. The discussion was focused more on women and poor group member who were not benefited well from tourism but affected from the degradation of surrounding environment.

3.6 Data Analysis

The quantitative data obtained from questionnaires were analyzed using statistical tools. The collected qualitative information is presented in descriptive way. The various information obtained are presented in appropriate tables and figures. They are categorized and tabulated according to the objective of the research.

CHAPTER-IV SETTING OF THE STUDY AREA

4.1 General Introduction of the Study Area

Panchase area is situated at the nexus of three districts (Kaski, Parbat and Syangja) with in 83⁰15'- 83⁰57' longitude. Panchase is bordered by three districts ie Syangja , Kaski and Parbat and five VDCs ie Bhadure Tamagi(KAaski) in the east and northeast, Arther,Ramja Deurali (parbat) in south and south west, Chitre(Parbat)in west and north and Bhangsing (Syangja) in the Eastern border. Around 18000people live in this area(VDCs) . The surrounding VDCs of Panchase are BhadureTamagi ,Dhikurpokhari, Kaskikot, Chapakot, Salyan, and Pumdibhumdi in Kaski district, Arther, Ramja Durali, and Chitre in Parbat and Bhangsing, Bangephadke and Aarukharka in Syangja.

in the western development region of Nepal. The area often reflected as panchase region that consists of panchase hill and its 15 adjoining VDCs of three districts. The region has a great biological, cultural, and religious diversity and natural beauty as well. Panchase have sub-tropical to temperate environment, different forest types (Dominant trees: Sal, Chilaune, and Katash, Rachan, Kharsu, Gurans, Phalat). There are more than 589 flowering plant species, 107 species of medicinal plants (45 locally used); 8 fiber yielding species, 23 species of natural dye yielding plants; 18 wild species potential for filiculture (except Orchids); 56 species of wild Mushroom (6 edibles); 98 different species of ferns (15 edibles); 113 species of orchids out of which 2 species species are endemic to Panchase namely *Panisea Panchasenensis* and *Eria Pokharensis*.(Subedi A.). Such diversity and beauty has made the region a potential place for the promotion of ecotourism. Recently, Tara Gaon Development Board with the collaboration of Ministry of Tourism and Culture has prepared the master plan for the development of rural tourism in the panchase region. Some works such as trail renovation and local communities' capacities enhancement activities supporting tourism has been initiated in the region to promote village based tourism

The economy of the Panchase region is largely subsistence agriculture and mounting compulsion for supplemental source of income and employment. One half of the households in the region are estimated to be unable to meet their food requirement from own production for more than six months in a

year. Per household buffalo holding in the region is twice that of the national average. This has been facilitated by their access to Panchase pasture where they keep their buffalo for most part of the year in a system of transhumance. More than one quarter (29%) of the forest in the region is being managed by local communities as community forest.

Panchase seems very potential for the bio-diversity richness and it needs to conserve. Conservation activities should be tie up with the livelihood of the community people.

Wild orchids are yet globally threatened due to their large scale habitat destruction, increasing rate of illegal trade, and effects of climate change. In many countries of the world, wild orchids' conservation programme has becoming the national priority actions, orchid sanctuaries/reserves have been established to ensure the long-term conservation. In Nepal, so far more than 412 species of wild orchids have been reported but many of them are found to be rare and threatened. Various studies conducted in the past have clearly indicated that Pokhara valley host the highest species richness in orchid diversity in the country and Panchase region is very rich in Biodiversity including the enormous habitat for many wild orchids. While comparing to area of Panchase region the number of Orchid species reported so far (over 113 species) indicate this area represent the richest diversity in Nepal. Therefore, wild orchid conservation of Panchase can play significant role to secure the genetic pool of Nepalese orchids for current and future use-values.

The biological, cultural and religious diversity which are being eroded due to the absence of formal management and Proper action plan. The forest of Panchase hill is used freely for various purposes such as grazing, fodder for livestock, and timber for household construction and agricultural tools. Besides community forest there is no formal management system. Realizing the importance of Panchase forest Department of Forest through District Forest office, Kaski planned for the preparation of Bio-diversity and Orchids conservation Plan.

4.1.1 Geographical Setting of the Study Area

The Himalayas is the youngest is the youngest mountain range in the world, and consists of highly metamorphosed complex rock like gneisses, Phyllis's, mica schist etc. However, the underlying rock is not of prime importance to the vegetation. Altitude, rainfall and aspect are the most important factors

determining the main vegetation types. The topography is extremely rugged with massive mountain ridges and gentle to steep slopes. The study site is found to be highly susceptible to erosions. Terracing is mandatory to control erosion when used for arable agriculture.

Because of uneven thickness of lacustrine sediments, Panchase have undulated topography. There are substantial numbers of flat patches "chours" in the forest, most renowned of which is Gopeko Chour. However, stiff slopes are also common. Generally the slope ranges from 210 to 520.

Panchase region consists of Panchase hill and its 15 adjoining VDCs of three districts of two zones Gandaki and Dhaulagiri of western development region of Nepal. The region lies in the mid-hills of Nepal extending between 83° 43' 69" to 83° 59' 5" E and 28° 8' 36" to 28° 18' 17" N. It covers 278.69 square km ranging from 784 to 2,517 meters above sea.

Total Area=278.69 Sq.km.

District	Name of Inner VDCs	Name of Outer VDCs	Total	Remarks
Parbat	Arthar Dandakharka, Ramja Deurali, Chitre	Tilahar, Pakuwa, Khuala Lakuri	6	
Syangja	Bangsing Deurali	Arukarka, Bange Phadke, Bhatkhola	4	
Kaski	Bhadaure Tamagi	Dhikur Pokhari, Chapakot, Pumdibhumdi, Salyan	5	
Total	5	10		

The Panchase region also includes a small lake which is situated at the altitude of 2,250 meters. The lake is considered as a famous site for religious pilgrimage for the people of the area during "Balchaturdasi" in November. Similarly, the majestic panoramic view of Dhaulagiri, Annapurna, Machhapuchhre, Manaslu peaks, sunrise and sunsets, enchanting view of Phewa Lake and Pokhara valley is a distinct feature of the Panchase hill. The hill receives snow during winter in December-January and receives highest rainfall as well (more than 5,000mm per year).

4.1.2 Climate:

The climate and vegetation described here refers to the entire Annapurna region of which study area is a small part. The study area has three main seasons, the monsoon during June –September (summer), a cool dry season during October- February (winter) and a hot/ dry season during March- may. The area receives the highest rainfall (approx. 3500mm/annum) of the country with occasional snowfalls and hailstorms (LAC, 2000). The high rainfall is due to its proximity to the Annapurna range and partly to the fact that the hills separating Annapurna range and Genetic plains are low (Stainton, 1972).

4.1.3 Infrastructure Setting

Facilities and services play vital roles in facilitating by bringing them to the attractions and allowing them to use the attractions. The facilities and services also contribute largely to magnify the value of attractions. With the increase in the number on tourists visiting Panchase, investment in infrastructure development such as water supply, road construction , electricity disttriburion,communication etc have increased , although the increase in not direct proportion.

4.1.4 Natural Resources

Natural resources management for sustainable Development". Environment resources limited. Study of feasible policies institutions and investment activates in Nepal with special emphasis on the hills, only the section that concerns tourism has been summarized. It deals with managing the impacts of tourism and infrastructure developments are considered. The chief sources impacting the hill resources base, natural resources tourism, which is growing annually in Nepal, imparts the resources base and the demand creates upon fuel wood environmental pollution and conflict with resources needs of the local people economically and it also created incentives for local resources management. It steps are taken to management has occur to manage impacts of tourism the study suggests management and monitoring on natural areas regulatory mechanisms; user charges and pricing; local incentives and diversification currently management and monitoring activities are under founded. Except in the case of kerosene use regulating mechanism is not prevalent user chare and pricing mechanisms are not being

used as tools to manage the environment. Incentives for local people have been provided in the parks in terms on energy management , infrastructure and conservation education, but even so, the process on involving local people in policy making, project planning and implementation has not been effective enough in any conservation areas of Nepal .

4.1.5 Ecology

Nepal has been divided into three ecological zones: tropical (Terai) in the south, the high mountains (Himal) in the north, and middle hills (Pahad) in between. Because of variation in the ecological zone ranging from less than 100m to 8,848m, the country is rich in the diversity of flora and fauna. The Panchase forest starts from 1,450 meters to 2,517 meters with sub-tropical to temperate mixed evergreen forest. Subedi A. has recorded more than 589 plant species including cultivated fodder and grasses in the Panchase area which is considered very rich in plant diversity. Species richness is most widely used to measure a biodiversity (Whittakar et al., 2001). Rakchan (*Daphniphyllum himalayense*) is the most common species in the area followed by Bilaune (*Maesa chisea*) and Lali Gurans (*Rhododendron arboretum*). Similarly, other species are Champ (*Michelia champaca*), Kharsu (*Quereus semecarpefolia*) and Phalat (*Quercus spp.*). Rhododendrons and oak are used to be dominant species in the forest which are now far less abundant and are replaced by Rakchan. Rakchan is dominant in most of the Panchase forest and is an indication of degraded condition of the forest.

4.2 Bio-Diversity of Panchase

There are different types of vegetation found in this place. The Land Resource Mapping Project (LRMP) has categorized the area mainly as 'deciduous mixed broad leaved forest' with a variety of maturity classes and crown densities. The general vegetation of Annapurna region had been described by stainton (1972). The forest type is related to elevation, as the altitude increase there is a gradual change in vegetation. The forest is greatly influenced by the high rainfall in this area; therefore broad leaf species dominates. Due to high precipitation there is abundance of epiphytes ferns and mosses. Forest of this study sites starts from ca.1450 to 2517m a.s.l, thus can be categorized as upper sub-tropical and temperate mixed evergreen

forest on altitude axis. Most of the sub tropical zone is dominated by Chilaune- Katus- Rachan1 where as the forest of Temperate zones dominated by khasru- Phalant- Gurans. In general, Rachan dominates the lower belt of Panchase lekh.

4.2.1 Major Vegetation Species

Following are the major vegetation species identified in the study area Abhijalo, Ainsellu, Allo, Amphi, Amriso Angeri , Anikale jhar, Arupae Babari, Badhar,Bajiradanti, Baklepat, Balu, Ban Gulab, Ban Karkalo, Ban Tarul, Banjh , Banmara , Bansilam, Batulopate, Beuli, Bhainse Kanda, Bhakimlo, Bhalayio, Bhang, Bhatte Jhar, Bhayakur , Bikh, Bilaune, Buki Phul, Chariamilo, Chilaune, Chiple Chiple Chirayito, Chuletro, Chutro, Daddabe, Datiwan, Dhature-Phul Dhotomoto, Dubo, Dudhilo,Durkaphal, Dursul, Eklebir, Epil Epil, Fulchiso, Furse, Gaiaainselu, Gandhae sag Gandhe, Gaulato Ghodtapre, Ghorikath, Ghyu, Gobre Salla, Gogan, Goldhari Kando, Guras, Haschur, Halhale, Hinguwa, Indreni, Jamanemanro, Jarbuta Jhyanu, Kabro, Kagiyo rukh, Kalikath, Kameri, Kandelunde, Kande Payiun, Kantakari, Khapal, Katus, Kaulo, Khanyiu, Khar, Kharsu, Khuirro, Kope, Kukurdhino, Kurkure Rukh, Kush, Kutmiro, Kutsimal, Lankuri, Lapsi, Lekh Sisnu, Likhebanso, Liso, Lokhta, Lunde, Mahuwa, Majitho, Malata, Malo, Marche, Maya, Mepro, Mothe, Musure Katus, Nagbeli, Nakkore, Nigalo, Nimaro, Nundhiki, Painyu, Pani saro, Pate, Patero, Patpate, Patyiauro, Phalantm Pyakse, Pyauli, Rachan, Raktanyaulo Jhar, Rani Bhalaiio, Rato siris, Resa, Sahadeva sahadevi Sangale, Sarpa, Makai Satawari Saur, Seto Ghasm Seto Kharsu, Seto siris, Silchane lahera,Siltimur, Sinfarne Lahera, Siru Sisnu, Sumre Kanda Supate Tanki, Tapre, Tejpat, Thakailo ,Tharkharo, Thaune , Thotne,Thulo Chulesi, Thulo Phalant, Titejhar, Titekath, Titepati, Tiwari Phul, Tree Fern, Tukiphul, Tuni, Utis,

4.2.2 Birds

Birds like Kalij, Dove, Koili, Nyquil, Luiche, Suga, Panidhukura, Jureli, Giddha, Kag, Chibe, Chil, Bangera, Phisto, Chamera, Latkosero, Caunthali, Dhobini, Kokole, Kuthurke, Lanche, Koteru, Jureli, Baj, Koiralo, Matikore etc are founded.

4.2.3 Wild Animals

The local residents report different types of wild animals,. The common wild animals are barking deer, rabbit, Leopardm Jackle, boar, dumsi, squirrel, tiger, monkey, etc.

4.3 Impact of ecotourism in Panchase

Tourism has the potential of bringing about changes in people's ideas, behavioral patterns, lifestyle, social system, values and norms, expectations, and other manifestation of material and non-material culture. (ICIMOD, 1997).

The impact of tourism on local cultural traditional and values is difficult is difficult to assess. Not only tourists but also other factors such as local people traveling for education, trade, and other purposes, to bring in new ideas and attitudes those in turn may result, changes in local cultural practices. Changes in people's behavior , dress, lifestyle, family and social structure, values and expectations , decline in local support for local tradition and institutions people's preference for tourist- related jobs over education, pollution of scared places, changes, in traditional architecture, and so on are generally argued to be the negative impacts of eco-tourism of culture. Economic impact are also important are caused by tourism, by economic factors, or by other factors.

It has brought several impacts upon different fields of economy. It has its impact on economic, social, and cultural environment of the country. It is a fact that eco tourism in Panchase is charactericised with multiplier effects.

4.3.1 Social-cultural Impact

The development of tourism industries in these remote areas brought a number changes on the lives of the local people, people got many jobs to do lad become expensive, modification occurred in tradition and life style, people got wider horizon and so on. The villagers have opportunity to learn many things from the tourists, they learn well as well as harmful things. The villagers learn quickly the life style of tourists, some languages, something

about electric and mechanical goods the tourists generally carry with them such as camera, transistors, binocular, etc.

When tourists arrive in Panchase most of the time, the villagers watch tourist's activities. The communications between tourists and villagers is always a problem unless some one helps them. Another activity of the villagers is to cooperate tourists by providing them firewood and other necessary items. Sometimes, the villagers sing and dance for the amusement of the tourists. The villagers are therefore cooperative towards tourists visiting Panchase. They do not have tendency to discourage tourists.

The villager's respondents feel that there is some harm associated with tourism development. The majority of them believe that villagers especially children and teenagers might learn bad habits from the tourists. Some respondents viewed that the development of tourism may make their villager unsafe, though some harms are associated with the development of tourism, they are actually insignificant as compared to benefits.

4.3.2 Environmental Impact

It is difficult to deny the fact that tourism spoils natural environment. Natural hazards happen due to deforestation, over grazing of animal's agriculture practices in unfavorable hill slopes and so on. Panchase is the sole source of fuel, fodder and timber to the adjoining villagers. The intensity of human impact is so immense that the forest near the settlement has transformed in shrub and bushy areas. Southern part of panchase hill adjacent to Kaule, Arther-9 , with in altitude of 1850m is completely denuded and form 1800m to almost 2050m one can barely see the big trees. Timber plants like Arupate and Champ are in verge of extinction and inhabitants are practiced of using low quality Rachan for timber ecause they have no alternative. Brewing alcohol consume large amount of fuel wood that results pressure on new and young trees. Almost all the households in the area have livestock. So introduction of alternative energy as biogas in the adjoining areas would be beneficial and ultimately help in reducing pressure on forest for fuel wood. Similarly, collection, of fodder from forest can be reduced by practicing agro forestry.

Transferring the livestock's form settlement to grazing around or Transhumance is traditional practice of Nepal. Inhabitants near Panchase used to bring Buffaloes to "goth" /Kharkas in panchase. It is estimated that some 200-300 buffaloes are brought to the higher pastures form 8 VDCs of

Panchase Region .They feed on valuable Amps and more ever on young fodder plants this rendering the natural regeneration of forest. Hand over of potential national forest that is accessible to the community is best way in generating ownership feelings for protection of panchase human impact and open grazing. Community forests near the settlement protect the core area that is panchase and fair equitable sharing of profit that is a generated from the CF would help in uplifting the socioeconomic standards needy groups of the area. Landslide or erosion is another threat for panchase. Numerous small medium sized landslides are seen around panchase. Bio-engineering practices plantation of appropriate plants species could prevent these soil erosion in sustainable basis.

The role of tourism in local deforestation, as well as the pace of that deforestation, has often been exaggerated, concern over the role of tourism in Sagarmatha National park was an important part in the rationale for the establishing the park. Even at current levels tourists certainly increase the local demand for fuel wood. In this context the increasing deforestation in panchase and is matter to be worried about it. It is due to partly by local people and partly by tourism development in these areas. The major reasons responsible for deforestation are construction of roads, building domestic and commercial use of the fuel wood, extension of new agricultural areas, these factors have affected the natural vegetation of these areas badly / Increase in population and new hotels have increased the demand for fuel wood. In this way the forested hills are becoming forestless very fast, which would sooner or later affect the natural beauty. Deforestation invites landslides. The major attraction of tourists to Panchase is natural sceneries. Thus, it is necessary to preserve and afforestation should be done wherever possible.

4.3.3 Negative Impact

This section includes the negative effects of tourist, on social values and norms and its consequences for traditional lifestyle including food, customs, folkdance, way of living and festivals, and disruption of traditional kinship and community bonds. It was found that there are fairly minor overall perceived negative effects of tourist, on the social life of the community.

The main impacts people reported are that the young people copy tourist's behavior, food and fashion. The older people are concerned with the young

peoples' response towards tourists. They reported that growing long hair and having an err-ring among local boys, and also wearing foreign cloths, smoking drinking beer and over familiarity between local boys and girls are the most common imitations.

The main reason for such demonstration effects is that people, particularly youngsters, value western culture. They think that Westerners are civilized and that what they do is right. Therefore, rather than feeling negative impacts, young people take these as social improvement.

In addition, local values in some extent have been found to be changed; people are becoming increasing oriented to earn money. Traditional folk dances are gradually disappearing and have been replaced by modern songs. The value of money has also led to disruption of traditional kinship and community bonds. Money is now more important than kinship. However, tourism was not found solely responsible for these social changes. Other driving forces responsible for such changes are found to be Radio T.V, people going overseas and the closeness of towns.

In the heart of Panchase increasing garbage is creating problem of sanitation, there has been a lack of efforts to maintain cleanness. People coming for trekking, picnic, sightseeing, etc just do not care for leaving behind dumps of tin, cans plastic items toilet papers etc in the spot, major interests in Panchase. The absence of public toilets is also helping ecological health hazard. It may not be a problem at present but in due course of time. It will be come serious one.

4.3 Demographic structure of the Study Area

Table 4.1 Population and households of Panchase region (population census, 2001)

Name of VDCs	Population	No of households	Household size
Inner VDCs			
Bhadaure Tamagi	3,831	762	5.0
Bansing Deurali	2,962	584	5.1
Arthar Dhandakhark	3,436	751	4.6
Chitre	2,229	509	4.4
Ramja Deurali	2,395	527	4.5

Outer VDCs			
Chapakot	3,081	638	4.8
Dhikur Pokhari	8,081	1,687	4.8
Pumdi Bhumdi	7,947	1,568	5.1
Salyan	4,121	806	5.1
Aruksharka	3,816	882	4.3
Bange Phadke	1,325	287	4.6
Bhatkhola	2,086	471	4.4
Khuala	2,493	519	4.8
Pakuwa	2,448	540	4.5
Tilahar	4,826	1,168	4.1
Total	55070	11699	

More than one half (54.7%) of the total population (14,853) in the inner VDCs is female and the remaining (45.3%) is male which means female dominates the sex composition of the population in the region. This proportion is different than the national scene. The proportion of male and female at the national level is 49.95 per cent and 50.05 per cent, respectively. Female domination in the population is the characteristics of a highly mobile society where young adults, primarily male out migrate for economic and other reasons. It was noticed in the field visit and subsequent discussions that a large section of young adults were out of the village for economic and social activities.

4.5 Socio-cultural Condition

4.5.1 Caste/ Ethnicity Composition of Panchase

Table 4.2 Inner-Panchase VDCs: Caste and Ethnic Composition, 2001 (in percent)

Caste/VDC	Bhadaure Tamagi	Bangsing Deurali	Arthar Dandakharka	Ramja Deurali	Chitre	Total	%
Brahman-hill	28.1	63.7	27.6	52.7	28.4	58.2	39.1
Kami	25.7	9.6	21.1	5.8	29.7	2791	18.8
Gurung	29.7	0.2	24.1	3.7	17.5	2448	16.5
Chhetre	3.9	15.6	11.1	26.2	8.7	1813	12.2
Sarki	0.8	1.1	10.4	5.7	7.0	714	4.8
Damai/Dholi	4.4	4.2	1.3	0.4	5.9	481	3.2
Gharti/Bhujel	1.6	2.1	2.3	3.0	2.1	320	2.2
Unidentified Dalit	3.2	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	197	1.3
Sonar	2.1	0.7	0.9	0.0	0.0	129	0.9
Thakuri	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.9	0.0	51	0.3
Sanyasi	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.4	29	0.2
Newar	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17	0.1
Muslim	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	7	0.0
Magar	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	6	0.0
Other	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.3	38	0.3
Total	3831	2962	3436	2395	2229	14853	100

Source: (Population Census, 2001)

Table 4.3: Outer Panchase VDCs: Caste and Ethnic Composition. 2001 (in percent)

Caste/ethnic group	Chapakot	Dhikur-pokhari	Pumdi-bhumdi	Salyan	Arukharaka	Bangefadke	Bhatkholar	Tilaha	Pakuwa	Khaura	Total	%
Brahman	43.5	57.3	45.2	29.4	40.5	24.6	17.9	14.3	48.6	39.0	15877	39.5
Chhetri	6.8	8.8	10.0	20.7	16.2	19.3	56.4	40.9	15.2	30.9	7733	19.2
Kami	13.6	12.1	10.1	24.8	16.0	5.2	8.0	9.5	10.5	2.7	4848	12.1
Gurung	11.5	5.0	17.3	10.7	13.7	37.9	1.4	2.4	0.3	0.0	3751	9.3
Sarki	6.8	1.9	1.5	1.8	7.0	5.3	5.8	11.0	16.0	9.8	2181	5.4
Damai/Dholi	5.9	6.2	2.9	2.3	3.4	4.9	9.3	1.0	1.4	9.6	1714	4.3
Magar	6.4	0.9	2.0	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.8	2.4	0.0	854	2.1
Sanyasi	0.0	2.4	1.0	2.5	1.4	0.0	0.0	2.7	0.6	3.7	666	1.7
Gharti/Bhujel	1.7	0.5	3.7	2.6	0.4	0.0	1.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	586	1.5
Unidentified Dalit	2.3	0.1	4.6	1.1	0.0	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	550	1.4
Thakuri	0.9	0.8	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	6.0	3.9	0.0	523	1.3
Sonar	0.0	2.5	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	269	0.7
Newar	0.0	1.1	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	2.2	0.0	0.0	247	0.6
Rai	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	100	0.2
Tamang	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	93	0.2
Muslim	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2	27	0.1
Other	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.1	4.1	205	0.5
Total	3081	8081	7947	4121	3816	1325	2086	4826	2448	2493	40224	100

Source: (Population Census, 2001)

The population Census 2001 reported 101 caste/ethnic groups in the country. VDCs from Panchase region represent more than 15 such groups. The main caste and ethnic groups in the region include Brahman/Chhetri, Gurung, Magar, Kami, Damai and Sarki although the area had been dominated by Gurung traditionally. The Gurungs who mostly employed British and Indian armies traditionally have moved to Pokhara. Recently, there is also an increasing trend of young married women whose spouses are engaged in foreign employment moving to urban area.

4.5.2 Religion, cultural practices

Hinduism and Buddhism are the two main religions being practice in the Panchase region. A few people practice other religions in the region as well such as Islam and Christianity. Nearly 87 per cent of the residents are Hindu. Although, people practice different religions in the region they are living in

harmony and are showing common concern for the development of Panchase region. The Hindu religious leaders are promoting Panchase as *panchadham* (a shrine of five deities) which have its own kind of significance in Hindu religion and culture. In December 1998, Hindu religious leader came from Kathmandu and performed a ritual activity called Kotihom around the panchase lake and collected the total amount of Nrs50, 000 as donation from the devotee who attended the Kotihom (TGDB, 2004). Since then the place has been re-named as Siddhasthan, or the place for self-realization (New ERA, 2000).

Table 4.4: Inner-Panchase VDC: Religious Composition of Population

VDCs/Religions	Hindu		Bouddha		Islam		Christian		Sikh		other		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	N0	%
Bhadaure Tamagi	3149	82.2	624	16.3	2	0.1	8	0.2	18	0.5	30	0.8	3831	100
Bangsing Deurali	2961	100	-	0.0	1	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0	2962	100
Arthar Dandkharka	2602	75.7	827	24.1	7	0.2	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0	3436	100
Chitre	1847	82.9	369	16.6	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0	5	0.2	2229	100
Ramja Deurali	2307	96.3	88	3.7	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0	2395	100
Total	12866	86.6	1908	12.8	10	0.1	8	0.1	18	0.1	35	0.2	14853	100

Source: (Population Census, 2001)

Table 4.5: Outer Panchase Region: Religious Composition of Population

VDCs/Religions	Hindu		Bouddha		Islam		Christian		Sikh		other		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	N0	%
Chapakot	3024	98.1	54	1.8	-	-	3	0.1	-	-	-	-	3081	100
Dhikurpokhari	7602	94.1	468	5.8	11	0.1	-	0	-	-	-	-	8081	100
Pumdibhumdi	6935	-	87.3	976	12.3	-	34	0.4	-	-	2	-	7947	100
Salyan	3711	90.1	404	9.8	4	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4121	100
Arukharaka	3576	93.7	234	6.1	-	-	-	-	5	0.1	1	-	3816	100
Bangphatke	865	65.3	301	22.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	159	12	1325	100
Bhatkhola	2065	99	5	0.2	-	-	8	0.4	-	-	8	0.4	2086	100
Khaula	2455	98.5	5	0.2	5	0.2	-	0	-	-	28	1.1	2493	100
Pakuwa	2437	99.6	11	0.4	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	2448	100
Tilahar	4596	95.2	219	4.5	5	0.1	3	0.1	-	-	3	0.1	4826	100
Total	37266	92.6	2677	6.7	25	0.1	48	0.1	5	0.0	201	0.5	40224	100

Source: (Population Census, 2001)

Nepal is rich in cultural which is one of the potential resources to attract tourists. People in the panchase region practice different culture along with different religion where each God and Goddess holds distinct importance. There are number of temples and shrines in the region and they are important for the touristic point of view as well. Buddhist temple at Arther Dandakharka VDC, Siddhabab temple and other temples and shrines at upper panchse and thulakhet, shiva temples and Kots at different locations are an example of touristic importance. Such cultural resources would give a new flavor to international and regional tourists.

The Panchase is getting further attention to develop it for pilgrimage tourists as well. The Panchase Lake is also known as Panchase Sarobar which is one of the attractions for pilgrimage tourists. Locals link Panchase Sarobar to Chyavan rishi who had regained his lost youth and vitality by the use of his self made medicine. Every year thousands of people visit panchase lekh during bal chaturdashi and other occasions to pay the homage to their deities and deceased.

Festivals characterized by the acts and performance of rites and rituals in Nepal are not only the symbol for pleasing Gods and Goddesses but also for warding off evil for pastoral and agricultural prosperity, longevity and personal health and happiness (NTB, 2004). There are number of temples and shrines in the panchase region and people perform puja to make God and Goddess happy for happiness or ward off evil. Since the people have belief in the afterlife they perform puja for happiness and rebirth depending on the calendar of festival. The table 6 shows the name of temple and shrines in the region and also their significance.

instruments

Nepal's culture has played an importance role in promoting tourism. Because of diverse ethnic groups in the panchase region there is an opportunity for tourists to see local cultural festivals. The Gurung celebrate Tamu Lhosar festival to communicate the beginning of the Tamu Lhosar New Year. During the occupation, Buddhists monks perform prayer at monasteries and put wholly flags on the top of their homes. The friends and relatives exchange greetings.

The festival symbolizes the occasion for people to come together for singing, dancing, and dressing up. Such

celebration of their own culture would attract tourists, especially those who are interested to learn the culture. The panchase is also denominated as *panchadham*, a shrine of five deities. As a result, the region has received further attention for developing pilgrimage tourism.

4.5.3 Agriculture

Crop production, livestock farming and forestry are main source of livelihood of people in this region. The crops grown in the area are maize, millet, paddy, wheat, potato, mustard and vegetables. People have intensified their farming along with the access to chemical fertilizer. Wheat and vegetables were the new crops introduced in the village once they started using the fertilizer. Although they introduced the new crops and intensified farming the crop production is decreasing gradually due to lack of the availability of fertilizer and labor. People in the area experienced the use of fertilizer in the farm land requires increasing the amount of fertilizer proportionately in the following year to get better harvest and lack of fertilizer hindered the production. Similarly, there is labor shortage in the region as there is an increasing trend of out migration. In fact, people who migrate, for any reason from the village either leaves their land to others to cultivate or leaves their lands fallow. It was estimated that over one-third of the cultivated land in the region is fallow. Many cases, fallow lands were being covered with bushes. Some empty houses were also observed in the village during the field visit and no one was taking care of those houses. Figure 2 shows the land use map of the Panchase region.

Table-4.6 : Land Cover Area of the Panchase Region.

S. No.	Land cover	Area (ha)	% of Total Area
1	Agriculture & settlement	11581.4	48.1
2	Forest	10335.2	42.9
3	Bush (Scrubs)	908.1	3.8
4	Grassland (Pasturland)	768.9	3.2
5	Wide Rever (with sand)	151.8	0.5
6	Lake (Ponds)	1.7	-
7	Swamp	54.5	0.2
8	Sand Area	261.0	0.8
9	Barren land	35.4	0.1
Total		24098.0	100

Source: Department of Survey, HMG-Nepal, 2004.

4.5.4 Livestock in Panchase region

The people keep an assortment of large and small livestock such as buffalo, cow oxen, and goat. Raising the buffalo based on transhumance is common practice in this region. Transhumance defines as transferring livestock from one grazing ground to another with the change of season. Transhumance has been a long-standing practice in high altitude mountain in Nepal. People from villages surrounding Panchase bring their livestock, mainly buffalos to higher pasture, commonly known as *goth* (huts used by herders). However, the number of household taking their livestock to *goth* and their number is in the decreasing trend due to change in the profession and also introduction of improved variety of livestock in the area. Some seven percent of the buffalo population in the region is estimated to be improved variety (New Era, 2000).

Table 4.7 Panchase VDCs: Livelihoods of the Households

VDC	Households Having								Total	
	Agricultural land only		land and livestock		Land, livestock and poultry		Other		No	Percent
	No	Percent	No	Percent	No	Percent	No	Percent		
Bhadaure Tamagi	84	11.0	457	60.0	167	21.9	54	7.1	762	100
Bangsing Deurali	19	3.3	350	59.9	168	28.8	47	8.0	584	100
Arthar Dandakharka	75	10.0	268	35.7	348	46.3	60	8.0	751	100
Chitre	31	6.1	173	34.0	242	47.5	63	12.4	509	100
Ramja Deurali	21	4.0	240	45.5	223	42.3	43	8.2	527	100
Total	230	7.3	1488	47.5	1148	36.7	267	8.5	3133	100

Source: (Population Census, 2001)

Table 4.8: Outer Panchase Region: Livelihoods of the Households (in percent)

VDC	Households Having								Total	
	Agricultural land only		land and livestock		Land, livestock and poultry		Other		No	Percent
	No	Percent	No	Percent	No	Percent	No	Percent		
Chapakot	44	6.9	350	54.9	209	32.7	35	5.5	638	100
Dhikurpokhari	141	8.3	884	52.4	428	25.4	234	13.9	1687	100
Pumdibhumdi	131	8.4	873	55.7	336	21.4	228	14.5	1568	100
Salyan	40	5.0	287	35.6	274	34.0	205	25.4	806	100
Arukarkha	47	5.3	469	53.2	273	31.0	93	10.5	882	100
Bangephatke	16	5.6	75	26.1	168	58.5	28	9.8	287	100
Bhatkhola	41	8.7	208	44.1	176	37.4	46	9.8	471	100
Khaula	34	6.5	195	37.6	264	50.9	26	5.0	519	100
Pakuwa	35	6.5	277	51.3	190	35.2	38	7.0	540	100
Tilahar	103	8.8	338	29.0	422	36.1	305	26.1	1168	100

In Tilahar 219 households reported to have none of agriculture land, livestock, and poultry.

Source: Population Census, 2001

Each village surrounding at the base of Panchase owns specific pastures at higher elevations and livestock are traditionally brought only to that particular grazing facility. During earlier times, many people had large flocks of livestock and they simply lives in those *goths* for months. Currently, there are eight *goths* (used to be more than 50 *goths*) only in the panchase hill who raise their livestock permanently. In fact, there is a tradition to leave buffalo temporarily in the higher pasture called lekh and bring them back to the village once they begin milking. They earn money by selling milk, ghee and young male buffalo. During the discussion, the buffalo population in the lekh was estimated to be between 1,000 to 1,500 which is lower than the buffalo population estimated by New ERA (2000). New ERA estimates each VDC brings some 200 to 500 buffalos to lekh.

4.5.5 Household operating small scale Non agriculture Economic activity

Local enterprises

Agro-based enterprise is seen as one of the most valued green enterprise with vegetable farming, horticulture, bee keeping, poultry and piggery. Bee keeping enterprise can help to diversify income of communities with less resource. For instance, landless and marginalized people of a VDC can get benefit from it. Besides, pollination by honeybees improves fruit and seed

set in the farming systems and the surrounding natural flora. There are 80 farmers who have adopted bee keeping in the region through 125 beehives. Similarly, the villagers are making money by selling seasonal and off season vegetables. The communities in this region sold the vegetables with the worth of Nrs1, 700,000 (MDO, 2006).

Organic coffee is being promoted as enterprise in the region with the support of International Development Enterprises/Tea and Coffee Global Development Alliance. So far, they have processed 5 tons of coffee with the help of coffee processing machine. Bio-briquette is emerging as an enterprise in the panchase region where it produced the total of 201 briquettes with the selling cost of Nrs10 per briquette. Similarly, tourism is also an enterprise for number of households who run hotels, restaurants, and tea shops in the region. There is also an opportunity to establish forest-based enterprise in the panchase region. For instance, lokta is common in the forest and it is being used for making paper.

Trade/tourism

Vegetables, organic coffee and bio-briquette are the important trade found in the panchase region. A coffee production committee is formed to promote the farming of organic coffee. One coffee processing machine (pulper machine) was handed over to harpan seed coffee production committee through which the farmers refined the coffee and made ready of 1.5 tons coffee with the equivalent of Nrs 210,000 to supply in the market (MDO, 2006). Tea and Coffee Global Development Alliance is helping to find the market for coffee. Similarly, the villagers are coordinating with Hotel Association Nepal to find market for bio-briquette.

Mining

The region contains some of the minerals however excavation has not been done except stone mine. There are also slate and magnesite in the region which can be exploited for making slate and chalk. Chalk making seems to be possible in Chapakot as there is supply of raw materials from the magnesite. Slate extraction is already in operation in Bhadaure Tamagi, Dhikur Pokhari, Salyan and Arther Dandakharka VDCs. However, they are not extracting the slate in a scientific way due to lack of technical knowledge. Environmental awareness is also lacking among the miners.

4.5 Tourist Arrival in Nepal

As already been mentioned the tourist started visiting Nepal freely soon after the event of democracy in 1950. But rapid progress of tourist arrivals in Nepal seems after the restoration of democracy 1990. Table 4.6 Presents trends of tourist arrivals from 1962 to 2010.

Table 4.9 Arrivals of tourists in Nepal

Year	No. of tourist	Index	Growth Rate
1962	6179	100	-
1963	7275	118	17.7
1964	9526	154	30.9
1965	9388	152	-1.5
1966	12567	203	33.9
1967	18093	293	44.0
1968	24209	392	33.8
1969	34901	565	44.2
1970	45970	744	31.7
1971	49914	808	8.6
1972	52930	857	6.0
1973	68047	1101	28.6
1974	89838	1454	32.0
1975	92440	1496	2.9
1976	105108	1701	13.7
1977	129329	2093	23.0
1978	156123	2527	20.7
1979	162276	2626	3.9
1980	162897	2636	0.4
1981	161669	2616	-0.8
1982	175448	2839	8.5
1983	179405	2901	2.3
1984	176634	2859	-1.5
1985	180989	2929	2.5
1986	223331	3614	23.4
1987	248080	4014	11.1
1988	265943	4304	7.2
1989	239945	3883	-9.8
1990	254885	4125	6.2
1990	292995	4742	15.0

1992	334353	5411	14.1
1993	293567	4751	-12.2
1994	326531	5285	11.2
1995	363395	5881	11.3
1996	393613	6370	8.3
1997	421857	6827	7.2
1998	463684	7504	9.9
1999	491504	7954	6.0
2000	463646	7504	-5.7
2001	361237	5846	-22.1
2002	275468	4458	-23.7
2003	338132	5523	22.7
2004	385297	5632	13.9
2005	375398	5587	-2.6
2006	383926	5609	2.3
2007	526705	6521	37.2
2008	500277	6025	32.45
2009	509956	6324	33.49

Source: Nepal Tourism Board

CHAPTER -V

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

5.1 Structure of the Respondents

5.1.1 Age Structure

Respondents' age covered all age group. Above 40 years age group represented less (only 18%) compared to a middle age group between 21-40 years (44%) and the age group below 20 years (38%). This can be related to the selection of respondents. However, in some cases, youngest household member were selected as respondents if the head asked them, or the household head was not available.

Table 5.1 Age composition of respondents

Age group	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Up to 20	30	38
21-40	35	44
>40	15	18
Total	80	100

Source Field survey, 2010

5.1.2 Type of House Holds of Respondents

Mainly two types of households have been found, which are indicated in the table. The table shows that 30% of the respondent household type is nuclear and 70% are in joint family.

Table 5.2 Household types of sample house holds.

Family Type	Number	Percentage
Nuclear	24	30
Joint	56	70
Total	80	100.00

5.1.3 Education Level of Local People and Hotel Owners

All sorts of respondents were taken into consideration for the study purpose. Following table shows different educational level of the respondents:

Table. 5.3 Educational Levels of the Respondents (Local people and Hotel owners)

Education Attainment	Numbers	Percentage
Illiterates	5	9
Primary Level	20	36
Secondary Level	13	24
Intermediate Level	10	18
Bachelor Level	5	9
Master Level	2	4
Above Master Degree	0	
Total	55	100

Source: Field Survey, 2010

The literacy level of the respondents was found to be 91%. The above table shows that maximum population (91%) had the education literacy followed by primary level (36%), Secondary Level (24%), Intermediate Level (18%), Bachelor (9%) and Master (4%). Therefore, the findings are the literacy rate is good of this area of people.

5.1.4 Occupation

Survey respondents were asked about their occupation. The response is shown as follows:

Table 5.4: Occupational distribution of the respondents

S.N	Primary Occupation	Number	Percentage
1	Agriculture	20	25
2	Teaching	8	10
3	Small business	5	6
4	Hotel/Teashops	18	22
5	Labor	7	9
6	Civil Services	8	10
7	Social Worker	6	8
8	Others	8	10
9	Total	80	100

Source: Field Survey, 2010

The table indicates that most of the respondents 25% had agriculture as their occupation. Rest of the respondents (75%) had other occupations as the sources income. They were teachers10%, Business6% , Hotel 22% , Labor 9% , Civil service 12% Social worker 8% and others 10% . More over, jobs directly related to tourism are mostly hotel/ lodge business, guide and souvenir shops. Partially tourism related job include other shops and few agricultural activities. The major findings from this, there are some jobs available in Panchase due to tourism development.

5.1.5 Economic Status of Respondents

Given table shows that different income level. 43.33% of respondents have below 1 lakh, 36.67% respondents have 2 lakh to 3 lakh or 11.67%of respondents have 3 lakh to 4 lakh.

Table 5.5 Economic Status of Respondents

Income level (In NRs.)	Number	Percentage
Below 1 lakh	35	43.33
1 lakh- 2 lakh	29	36.67
2 lakh – 3 lakh	9	11.67
3 lakh- 4 lakh	7	8.33
Total	80	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

5.1.6 Livestock Population of the local People

Local respondents have their livestock population in household as follows:

Table 5.6 Livestock Population of local people

Cattle	Number	Percentage
1-6	5	14
6-10	10	29
10 and above	20	57
Total	35	100

Source: Field Survey, 2010

The table shows that most of the households (57%) have 10 or over cattle, Like wise (29%) house holds have 6-10 cattle and 14% house holds have 1-6 cattle. There fore local people more cattle in there home because of there sufficient pasture land. Only few people are interested to work in tourism activities. So its major findings, they are decreasing of environment encroachment and deforestation of the study area.

5.2 Respondent's View to develop the Study Area (Local people and Hotel owners)

The respondents were asked about how could be developed of that area. 29% respondents gave emphasis on tourism development and modernization in agriculture, 18% respondents gave emphasis on tourism development and environmental conservation and same as respondents on tourism development and transportation, 13%, respondents emphasis on tourism development and education, similarly,, rest of the respondents emphasis on modernization in agriculture, environmental conservation, education, environment and health as well. The following table shows:

Table 5.7 Respondents (local people and hotel owners) view to develop the study area:

S.N.	Emphasis on	Number	Percentage
1	Tourism development and modernization in agriculture	16	29
2	Tourism development and environment conservation	10	18
3	Tourism development and employment	10	18
4	Tourism development and education	7	13
5	Tourism development and transportation	2	4
6	Modernization in agriculture and education	3	5
7	Environmental conservation and education	2	4
8	Environmental conservation and employment	4	7
9	Employment and health	1	2
10	Total	55	100

Source field survey, 2010

Thus 82% respondents gave emphasis on tourist. Like wise, a considerable number of respondents gave emphasis on environmental, education and employment, which are directly related with eco- tourism. Such response indicates the high potentiality of ecotourism on Panchase.

5.3 Prospects of Tourism in Panchase

In attempt to determine the prospect of tourism in Panchase, respondents were asked whether Panchase has potentiality in tourism development for the future.

Table 5.8 Prospect of tourism in Panchase

Prospect	Number	Percentage
Highly sound	25	31
Moderately sound	40	50
Not so good	15	19
Total	80	100

Source Field Survey, 2010

It indicates that 31% on the visitors are favour of the bright prospect of tourism in Panchase taking it as moderately sound 50% took it as highly sound, while very few visitors it , hence it can be concluded that majority of the respondents are in the view that Panchase possesses high potentiality of tourism. In general, it has been always praised by visitors for its natural beauty, for safety reasons and for its landscape. In this context, further initiations in the development and exploration of new tourism attraction could bring a growth in tourist inflow in the destination.

5.4 Major Sources of Tourists Attractions

The study area in an appropriate site for eco-tourism. The sources to tourist attractions like scenic attraction 35%, natural resources 15% and cultural diversity are abundant there. With the view of obtaining the attraction sources of ecotourism, people were and field visit was done. This gave following detail result based on the survey:

Table 5.9 Sources of tourist attractions

Tourist Attraction	Number	Percentage
Scenic Attraction	28	35
Natural Resources	12	15
Cultural diversity	8	10
Pleasure Environment and Natural Resources	9	11
Pleasure Environment and People Sanitation	6	8
Pleasure Environment and Cultural Diversity	10	12
Above All	7	9
Total	80	100

Source: Field Survey, 2010

5.5 Main Attraction of The Study Area

5.5.1 Introduction

Panchase region consists of Panchase hill and its 15 adjoining VDCs of three districts of two zones Gandaki and Dhaulagiri of western development region of Nepal. The region lies in the mid-hills of Nepal extending between 83° 43' 69" to 83° 59' 5" E and 28° 8' 36" to 28° 18' 17" N. It covers 278.69 square km ranging from 784 to 2,517 meters above sea.

Panchase peak and surrounding areas just adjacent to the Pokhara valley provide an exotic trekking option offering great natural sceneries as well as interesting culture. With several trekking options taking you from Pokhara city to the Panchase peak (2,517 m), it can be an excellent destination for visitors looking for a few days' trekking as well as to those interested in longer treks linking it to the Annapurna area trek. In spite of being close to Pokhara, this area has not been much explored by the tourists yet; so this pristine area offering majestic natural sceneries as well as rich culture of various ethnic inhabitants is an area highly recommended to visitors. You will be able to experience the area which is relatively pristine and yet you can have the basic amenities for accommodation, food and communication facilities, and of course the traditional hospitality of the local populations.

5.5.2 Natural Attraction

Panchase peak (2517 m): Situated on the west of Pokhara city, about a day hike away, this is the highest point in this area. Panchase, (literally meaning *Pancha*: Five, *Aasan*: Seats), is the meeting place of 5 peaks covered with lush green forest of diverse flora and fauna. There are old, stone-stepped pilgrimage approaches upon which one can climb past the grassland and paddy field to the vastness of Panchase, from where a magnificent view of Annapurna massif is visible so close as if one could reach out and touch them. Trekking around Panchase is a delightful journey indeed.

The longest chain of mountain range visible from Panchasse includes Mt. Dhawalagiri (8,172m), Mt. Annapurna I (8,091m) Mt Annapurna South (7,219m), Mt Hiuchuli(6,441m) Mt. Fishtail (6993m), Mt. Annapurna II(7,934m), Mt Annapurna III (7575m), Mt Annapurna IV(7525m), Mt Lamjung (6,998m), Mt. Manaslu and more. From atop Panchase, Mt Fishtail

seems to be nestled by Mt. Annapurna around her laps. Sunrise and sunset views from the top are spectacular and heavenly.

Panchase is also the main source of several water resources; Harpan *Khola* (river) that feeds into Phewa lake, Rati *khola* (Parbat), Jare *khola* (Parbat), Adhikhola and Seti (river flowing to Syangja to meet Adhikhola in Setidobhan)

Panchase Tal (lake) (.....m): Panchakosi sarobar or lake, a historical water pond surrounded by beautiful forests, contains water throughout the year even though there is no visible water source. It offers nice view of Himalayas and there is also a village nearby. Trekking time to Panchase peak from Tal is about 2 hours, and 1.5 hours from other places.

Shrawan Kumar "Samadhi": Shrawan Kumar's *Samadhi*, another religious spot is about 2.5 hours south downward from Panchase peak near a pond. According to legend in Ramayana, shrawan Kumar, who was loyal, loved and served his parents, was carrying his blind parent to Muktinath pilgrimage, while at the same time king Dasrath was hunting in the same place. When Shrawan Kumar was filling the water bucket to quench the thirst of his beloved parents, it sounded like an animal roar, and the king shot his arrow towards the roaring sound unfortunately killing Shrawan Kumar. Realizing this, the king asked forgiveness with the blinds, but they never forgave the kind and cursed him that he would suffer the same fate and cried till death. That is why the river sprouting from there is called *Aandhi Khola*, river from the tears of the blinds.

Bhanjyang (2066 m): This is a nice spot offering great view of the Phewa lake, view of mountains, including spectacular sunrise and sun set, village landscape (including Sidane, Kudbidanda, Harpan)and Harpan river valley. There are 4 hotels with beds for 10-15 people.

Sidane (.....m): A village about 15 minutes walk from Bhanjyang, interesting for rural livelihoods and Gurung culture. It is possible from here to make an early morning trip for the spectacular view of sunrise from Panchase peak.

Bhadaure Deurali (1640 m): This is a beautiful Gurung village where you can enjoy a view of Andherikhola river valley (which meets Harpan Khola), view of the Himalayan range and village landscape. In addition to hotel accommodation facilities for up to 40 persons, home stay facilities are also available, where you can experience typical Gurung family hospitality.

Arthar (1300 m): This is another Gurung village where you can also find home stay facilities and get familiar with interesting rural livelihood and culture. There is also a good view of Dhaulagiri range from this area.

Chitre (1500 m): Yet another interesting Gurung village with home stay facilities. Excellent view of Himalayan range including Annapurna and Dhaulagiri range can be seen from here.

Ramjathanti (1600 m): This is quite a large village, inhabited by Gurung and other ethnicities. interesting to explore. Excellent view of mountains can be seen from Ramjakot, the top of the hill about fifteen-minute walk from the village. Mt. Machhapuchhre (fishtail) can be seen resembling like the tail of a fish. You can also enjoy a good view of rural landscape in Parbat, Baglung, Syangja and Palpa.

Pame: This is on the north-western tip of Fewa lake, inside the Pokhara valley. If you walk along the lake side from Pokhara, it is after the end of the lake side street. It is a small market plat with few hotels, lodges and restaurants where you can taste fresh fish from the lake.

Ahaldanda: This place between xxxx and xxxx is a picturesque spot with sites for camping, offering great Himalayan view, camping sites, good view of Phewa lake, nice forest

World Peace Stupa (1300 m): On the top of Anadu hill on the Southern part of the Phewa lake, it is a great place for peace in mind with a beautiful Buddhist Stupa. This site is also excellent for magnificent view of the Himalayas, Phewa lake, and the Pokhara city. It can be reached either through about an hour's trek from the lake side after crossing the lake by boat, or about half an hour easy walk after getting off from a taxi ride for about thirty minutes from the lake side passing through a motorable road above the David's fall in the South of Phewa lake.

Flora and Fauna

As Panchasse receives a lot of rain throughout the year and is covered with lush green vegetation from subtropical to temperate forest all over, it also provides home to a wide variety of flora, fauna and is source of many rivers including Harpan River, the source of the famous Fewa Lake of Pokhara. Panchase area is also an orchid paradise with 113 species of wild orchids, including 2 endemic ones, have been found in panchasse, 5 species of rhododendron and many herbal plants such as Loth Salla, Titte, Kurilo, Naagbeli, Satuwa, Paanch Aaule and plants such as Loktha, Khashru, Champ, Phalat which are used to produce Nepali paper are found here. Leopard, bear, deer, several species of birds, butterflies and other animals also inhabit in the Jungle.

5.5.3 Religious and cultural attraction

Panchase, the 5 peaks which literally also means 5 sacred seats, is an ancient pilgrimage climb. The climb itself holds a great significance in Yoga. The temple of Shidda Baba (Lord shive), Homekunda (place for ritual of offerings to fire), Panchasse Lake, Balaji Phachyan Temple, Bouddha Stupas (about 200 years old) and coves where sager were believed to have meditated many centuries ago. The population of Panchase area is almost 100000 including Gurung, Brahmins and other ethnic groups living in the surrounding villages.

Festivals:

Balachuturdashi Festival (November/December) is the biggest festival in Panchase where people from all circle come to pay their homage to the mountain mother where first they cleanse themselves in the sacred Panchase Lake, make offerings, and start the Panchase climb up to the top during which they offer grains and rice to the earth which symbolizes the re-fertilization of the Earth mother. Devotees generally wear auspicious red colored dress. Shivaratri (mid February), Budda purnima (full moon, mid May) and the entire month of Shrawan (mid July to mid August) are the other special occasions when devotees come for pilgrimage climb to Panchase. On Buddha Purnima, birthday of Lord Buddha, holy books from

the 200 years old Gompa near Kusma village is carried around the villages by the devotees during special ceremony.

Table: 5.10 List of temples and shrines in the panchase region and their significance (adopted from TGDB, 2004)

Name of temples	Events/time	Significance
Siddha Baba	Mela on Bal Chaturdasi, Chandi Purnima and Ekadashi	Festivals for deceased; wishes for good happenings
Buddhist Monasty	Daily puja; as per the request of locals	Festival for Buddhist
Siddha Barah	Meal on Bal Chaturdasi	Festival for hindus & buddhist
Harpan Kot	Animal sacrificing ceremony	Festival for hindus
Harpan Devi	Daily puja; animal sacrificing ceremony	Festival for hindus
Barah Mandir	Ritual performance in memory of the deceased	Buddhist events
Navadurga Mandir	Durga puja during Dashain	Greatest national festival
Mahadev	Ritual performance	Pray for protection
Ramja Deaurali Kot	Panchabali (sacrificing 5 different animals at a time)	Make Goddesses happy to fulfill personal wish
Kotmaulo	Rituals and religious performance	Women's festival to wish their husbands happy and long life
Kal Bhairab	Ritual performance	Sacrifice animals
Shiva temple	Ritual performance	Pray for protection
Deurali Bhagawati, Banpala, Maisthan temple	Navadurga puja during Dashain	Greatest national festival

5.6 Access and trekking options in Panchase

Route 1: Pokhara - Peace Stupa - Panchase (for nature/peace lovers)

From	To	Road/trail	Means of transport	Travel time
Pokhara	Peace Pagoda (World Peace Stupa)	i. forest trail from across the lake side	boating to the other side of lake and then walk	1.5 hours
		ii. road up to Chhorepatan and then walk	bus/taxi along Siddhartha highway and then walk	20 minutes by bus and 1 hour on foot
		iii. metalled road up to Chhorepatan and then earth road	Taxi/jeep	30 minutes
Peace Pagoda	Bhanjyang	forest trail	walk	5 hours
Bhanjyang	Panchase peak	trail	walk	1.5 hours

A good breakfast or lunch is recommended at a restaurant in Peace Pagoda before heading for Bhanjyang.

Route 2. Pokhara - Arukharka - Panchase

From	To	Road	Means of transport	Travel time
Pokhara	Sarketari	metalled road (18? km)	Bus (from Prithvi Chowk)	1 hour
Khadketari	Arukharka	earth road	Jeep/walk	30 min/2 hours
Arukharka	Galyang	Earth road	Jeep/walk	20 min
Galyang	Bhanjyang	Earth road	Jeep/walk	1.5 hour
Bhanjyang	Panchase peak	mule trail	walk	1 hour

Road from Arukharka is in very poor condition)

Route 3. Pokhara - Khadketari – Panchase

From	To	Road	Means of transport	Travel time
Pokhara	Khadketari	metalled road (22 ?km)	Bus (from Prithvi Chowk)	1 hour
Khadketari	Bange	earth road	bus/jeep	30 min
Bange	Arthar	Earth road	bus/jeep	30 min
Arthar	Bhanjyang	mule trail	walk	1.5 hour
Bhanjyang	Panchase peak	mule trail	walk	1 hour

Arthar is a large Gurung village with facilities for home stay

From Arthar, one can also walk to Panchase peak in 2 hours along a direct trail.

Route 4: (for those interested in communities)

From	To	Road	Means of transport	Travel time
Pokhara	Pame	Metalled road (9 km)	Bus (from Hallan chowk, lake side)	30 mins
Pame	Thulakhet	Earth road (3 km)	Bus(from Hallan chowk, lake side)	30 min
Thulakhet	Ghantichhina	Earth road (3 km)	Bus(from Hallan chowk, lake side)	20 min
Ghantichhina	Kudbidanda	mule trail	walk	1.5 hour
Kudbidanda	Sidane	mule trail	walk	1 hour
Sidane	Bhanjyang			30 min
Bhanjyang	Panchase peak			1.5 hour

Restaurants/tea shops: Pame, Thulakhet, Ghantichhina, Bhanjyang

Lodging: Bhanjyang (there are 4 hotels with 10-15 beds each)

Possibility of homestay: Damdame (a village near Kudbidanda), Kudbidanda, Sidane

Route 5 Pokhara - Kande - Panchase

From	To	Road/trail	Means of transport	Travel time
Pokhara	Kande	Metalled road along Pokhara - Baglung highway	Bus, microbus, taxi, jeep	1 hour
Kande	Bhadaure Deurali	Earth road (6 km)	Jeep	45 mins
Bhadaure Deurali	Bhanjyang	trail along forest	trek	3 hours
Bhanjyang	Panchase peak	trail	trek	1.5 hours

Lodging/fooding available at Kande, Bhadaure Deurali, Bhanjyang

Route 6. Pokhara - Dimuwa - Panchase

From	To	Road/trail	Means of transport	Travel time
Pokhara	Dimua	Pokhara-Baglung highway (metalled road)	bus/micro bus/taxi	2 hours
Dimua	Ramjathanti or Chitre	trail	walk	3 hours
Chitre	Panchase peak	trail	walk	3 hours

Home stay facilities for lodging/fooding available in Chitre.

Route 7. Round Panchase

From	To	Road/trail	Means of transport	Travel time
Bhanjyang	Hile	trail	walk	1 hour
Hile	Tal	trail	walk	1 hours
Tal	Ahaldanda	trail	walk	1.5 hours
Ahaldanda	Bhanjyang	trail	walk	1 hour

Other options:

Linking to Annapurna trek: Panchase to Kande or from Panchase to Naya Pul via Dimuwa

Linking to Sirubari (community tourism): Arthar to Karkineta by road and then Karkineta to Sirubari by road, walking

5.7 Issues for Sustainability

Conservation issues are human action that adversely impact on wildlife, native plants, bio-diversity, orchids and natural communities and the ecological processes that sustain them. Conservation action plans are the measures taken to eliminate or minimize these impacts or to mitigate their effects. Therefore, determining the conservation issues is important to plan the conservation actions. In Panchase region, the specific conservation issues are identified which are described below.

5.7.1 Degradation of forest resources

The extensive use of panchise forest for various purposes has led the forest degradation. People use it because of free access to forest products and its quality as well. For instance, khasru (*Quercus semicarpifolia*) is considered good for fodder which is not available in the lower belt of panchise hill. People often go to the forest collecting fodder from khasru tree as feeding these species to lactating animals would increase the fat per cent in the milk. Lopping of fodder trees, especially kharsu is a distinctive feature of high altitude areas. Jackson (1999) estimates that about 85% of grass and tree fodder is obtained from common forests. Similarly, phalat is considered good timber tree for making *haris* (wooden plough beam) as it is strong and lasts for longer periods. There is a concept among the people that felling trees for *miyo* (pole for tramping) and *haris* does not lead the forest destruction and the common saying in the village is “*miyo ra haris le ban masidaina*” literally meaning felling trees for *miyo* and *haris* do not lead the forest destruction. The panchise forest is also being used for bamboo and nigalo. Similarly, collecting lokta and allo from the forest is also common. Lokta is being sold to Dhairang VDC where paper making factory is established.

Goth (huts used by herders) keeping in the forest is traditional practice in this area. *Goth* keeping is still popular as it provides the herders an opportunity to raise the livestock with low cost. There are thousands of livestock mainly buffalo who freely graze in the panchise forest. Such unrestricted grazing round the year has generated problems of regeneration in the forest. Similarly, they cut trees haphazardly without caring much of the forest to fulfill their forestry demands. Young trees and branches are cut arbitrarily ignoring many dead, fallen, malformed and diseases trees to give support for climbing types of vegetables such as cucumber and gourds.

Slow rate of tree growth make the Panchase forest vulnerable to disturbance and slow to recover. The species such as Khasru and Phalat has slow growth rate and the degradation of such species would not create resource scarcity only but also make the area sensitive to soil erosion. As the region received highest rainfall (more than 5,000 mm per year) there is high chance of soil erosion if we fail to maintain the vegetation cover. The combination of altitude, slow growth rates and steep slopes makes many high altitude areas highly sensitive to erosion following forest and grassland degradation (Stevens, 1993).

5.7.2 Declining biodiversity

Panchase is one of the most bio-diversity hotspot which is being degraded due to lack of proper management practices. It is indicated in the group discussion that all timber quality trees have largely disappeared from the forest due to needs of expanding population. Most valuable timber Lekh champ and Arupate are on the verge of extinction (New Era, 2000). There is also a threat to wildlife population due to an increasing poaching in the forest.

The mid-hills' ecosystem is less represented in the protected area management system (Acharya, 2004). The conservation of biodiversity is essential for human welfare. Biodiversity boosts ecosystem productivity where each species, no matter how small, all have an important role to play. Greater species diversity ensures natural sustainability for all life forms. Similarly, a healthy biodiversity provides a number of natural services such as ecosystem services (protection of water resources), biological resources (wood products) and social benefits (recreation and tourism) for everyone.

5.7.3 Degradation of watershed area

Panchase lekh is the source of several streams of which the prominent ones are Harpan Khola, Rati Khola, Aandi Khola, Mahabir Khola, Sawan Khola, Jare Khola, Ghatte Khola, and Tuni Khola. Among them, Harpan Khola is the main feeder river of Phewa Lake. It was learned that Phewa Lake has become smaller in size over the decades due to continuous deposit of sediments (see Box 1). Phewa Lake is major tourist attraction and also a source of livelihoods for the people of Pokhara and surrounding area. Similarly, the stream from panchase has been the source of drinking water and irrigation canals for adjoining settlements. Some 33 per cent of the total

discharge of the streams is estimated to be used for drinking and irrigation purposes (New Era, 2000).

5.8 Some of constraints for Tourism Development in Panchase

Although Panchase is a beautiful place to visit Nearby Pokhara, there are some of the constrains for tourism development. There lacks some facilities for tourism development and promotion. There are lacks of recreational facilities. If there would have been these facilities will have stayed for a longer period of time. Some of the constraints in Panchase are given below.

5.8.1 Transportation and communication

Transportation is considered to be the backbone of the tourism industry. It has vital role in tourism business. It is a primary services needed for the tourism in order to reach their destination. In any area tourist products or potentialities would be little importance if the location were inaccessible. The destination should be accessibility by mean of conductive transport system.

At the tourists are away from their home, they want to communicate their family, friends and relatives by easy means of communication. Though English is an international language, most of the people in the study area cannot understand different other language. The tourists visit from different countries not just from the English speaking countries. So, the language is the main problem for the local people in the society. Similarly, youths are used to slang words by copying from the visitors without knowing the exact meaning. For this very individual wants to use foreign languages to communicate with the visitors but not try to use Nepali language with them. The generation gap is being widened by the means of communication. In this way our national language is being phased out by the tourism activities.

5.8.2 Recreational Facilities

Growth of the tourism largely depends on the development of recreational facilities. There is no provision of recreational facilities such as parks and swimming pools.

5.8.3 Information center and Publicity

Information is an important aspect of any business activity. In the context of tourism business, they also plays an important role to develop and promote the tourism industry. That's why most of the tourists in Pokhara valley lack of knowledge about Panchase. There is no tourist information center in Panchase. There is no system to show and communicate about the facts of Panchase such as culture, religion, custom of different races, trekking routes, hotel facilities and their prices etc. There no sign post in the area and trekking routes showing the direction of hotels, temples, village etc. Effective advertisements and pamphlet about Panchase should be done through travel agencies.

5.8.4 Trained Manpower

Besides natural beauty, cultural heritage and hospitality of the people , skilled manpower is another aspect of tourism industry. Being services oriented and labor intensive industry, tourism needs skilled and professional manpower for quality services. Skilled manpower such as tourist guides and their hospitable is a precondition for quality tourism.

During the study it was found that there is a lack of trained guides who can explain in detail about Panchase to tourists. The available guide facility is not satisfactory. Majority of local peoples are illiterate, backward and poor. The increasing number of beggars by whom harsh the travelers is being also a problem. The training on how to deal with guests should be given to those who come into contact with tourists.

5.9 Strengths and Opportunities

The major strengths of the study area as identified for the field visit include:

- a) Harmonious people
- b) Mutual help concept
- c) Friendly nature of the people
- d) Honesty
- e) Realibity
- f) Hard working people
- g) culturally rich people

The major opportunities that have been documented are as follows:

- a) Creates employment
- b) Creates market for agricultural products
- c) Creates market for skill development activities
- d) Preservation of culture
- e) Improve the economic condition
- f) Exposure with external environment

5.10 General guidelines to conserve the potentiality

There is necessary to create strong conservation rules and also to enforce them. Moreover, plantation and drainage management system, on the lack facing slope is necessary which control landslides and erosion. Effective drainage system will be a positive way to maintain the biodiversity and reduce the problem of environmental degradation through deforestation. The group trekkers should be given strict order to control the garbage. Similarly, we have seen of their social and cultural heritage to the local people.

Environmental conservation

Ecotourism is eco-friendly, so every one should be friendly with nature, socio cultural degradation or wide scale deterioration of the environment should be controlled. Attention should be given to conserve rhododendron and orchid available there and need to be expanded. Tourism should have less negative impact on wild life preservation and behavior. Non biodegradable rubbish such as mineral water bottles chocolate, biscuits wrappers should be controlled to clean the environment.

For environmental conservation, we have to encourage using the alternative sources of energy solar, biogas etc. Government should take attention to control garbage at the initial state of tourism development and to harmonize tourism and environment. There is prime need of ecological should trekking practices. Attempts should be made to conserve their biodiversity. Culture and forest, garbage management should be done through foods, use of recyclable garbage etc. Proper management of human waste is also crucial aspect to be considered.

Cultural preservation

Individual tourists/ researchers should be encouraged to go to this area with the help of local guides so that interaction between them and the local people could be beneficial and cultural exchange could take place. Priority should be given to local tourists guides so that local people could directly help to boost up the local culture. There is no information centre it should be established to give cultural information with information booklet, detail cultural practices, the brochure and documentary etc. All need to respect local people, culture and resources and increase local clubs motivation to conduct cultural program in village, which could be helpful to exchange local culture between visitors. Moreover it is also beneficial to preserve cultural wealth to earn foreign currency.

Those all suggestions are connected with methods of ecotourism development. Besides these there are several problems faced by the tourists, motel owners and local people. Hence a strict policy measure seems to be appropriate to solve them. Ecotourism is sure to succeed if it follows suitable path and takes into account the recommendations offered here all the policy maker and related agencies.

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

6.1 Introduction

Tourism industry in its direct and service oriented sector has been developed in to a biggest and single most important sectoral industry in the world. It is one of the most important industries in Nepal too. Tourism can balance economic, social, cultural and environmental aspects of the destination area.

The past few decades have seen a steady expansion of tourism activity all over the world. There has been considerable growth in international tourism. The amazing changes in technology, transportation and communication in recent years throughout the world have triggered the development of tourism industry. Many countries have chosen, consciously or otherwise, path of developing large scale tourism as a major national activity.

The present status of tourism is analysis in terms of its general impacts on the economy, environment and the socio-economic aspects. The potentiality of the area is evaluated on the basis on number of tourists visiting the area , their purpose of visit and other natural as well as cultural assets of the area .

Thus , the Panchase area is rich in biological diversity since 284 species are recorded form the altitudinal variation of ca,1400m 2517m asl and still more than 50 herbs was unidentified. Entire forest receives good rainfall and thus the forest is luxuriant. Panchase forest is the sole source of drinking water and irrigation to the entire settlements around Panchase.

Total of three types of forest were recorded in Panchase. On the south facing slope above 2000m is mountain Oak forest which is represented by *Quercus semicarpifolia*, *rhododendrons* and *laurels*. North and North east facing slopes above 2000 m is East Himalayan Oak Laurel Forest which represented magnificent *Quercus lamellosa* tress and associated by *Symplocos ramosissima*, *Laurels*. Major part of forest that is below 2000m is all of *schima castaopsis* forest .On the south facing slopes , *Engelhardia spicata* and *Cleyera japonica* associates the forest while in the other faces *Daphniphyllum himalense* associates *Schima –Castanopsis* forest . On the Bhadure Tamagi, below 1500m, the *Schima –Castanopsis* forest is associated by *Quercus lanata*.

The transitional zone that is between 1900-2100 m is completely dominated by *Daphniphyllum himalense*. *D. himalense*, being a rapid colonizer replaces the original forest and ultimately makes its pure stand. Original forest of northern part of Panchase that is above Bhadure Deurali is completely replaced by *D. homeliness*.

The forest of lower belt on the southern side of Panchase is almost denuded. The inhabitants have regular access on the Jungle to fulfill the daily needs like fuel wood and fodder. Similarly, brewing of alcohol also needs quite large amount of fuel wood. The Trans human pastrolium like 'Goth' and 'Kharka' in the forest vicinity are the cause of forest destruction of Panchase Forest. Transformation of National forest to community user groups is most near the settlements Panchase. Along with other Trees, plantation of Fodder trees on the forest near the settlements will decrease the pressure n core Panchase forest.

Unsustainable management in Panchase has resulted in the depletion of timber trees like Champ and Aarupate. Trees fern is also becoming rare due to picking of aerial parts for pickle and vegetable.

Various Medicinal plants are found on the forest of Panchase as Chiraito, Satuwa, Kurilo, Majitho, Vyakur, Loath calla etc. NTFPs like Daphne, Molo, Allo, Nigalo, etc holds good prospect for the establishment of small scale forest based micro enterprise.

Nepal is a synonymous to tourism and is viewed as alternative source of economic development. The sunrise view, accessible trekking route for all age people, Several religious spots, the 180* view of the Annapurna and Dhawlagiri range along with Panchase lake with out source and Tarebhir has attracted many tourists in past and the number has increased in many flods in recent years . Also the formation of Panchse Area Tourism Master Plan and announcement of new trekking route via Panchase by the Ministry of Tourism will certainly help in tourist inflow. Thus, panchase holds good potential for short trekking route and is in practice. It can be developed as a spot of eco tourism, orchid sanctuary and as natural research laboratory due to its diverse vegetation and climate. Tourism itself can seek the market of domestic products like handicraft and other local materials.

Due to the high diversity in the ethnicity, Nepal is rich in indigenous knowledge. Major ethnic composition around panchase is Gurungs and Brahmins. They acquire a wide knowledge on the use of natural resources.

Among the 284 identified species, 98 species are found to have various uses, 40 species are found to have market value and are in trade. But the trades of these plants are negligible from Panchase area. The local inhabitants are using medicinal plants for their own purpose. Similarly, there are very few people involved in the medication. New generation are less interested in such practices so the knowledge they acquire is in threshold of extinction. Documentation and registration of such knowledge for the future generation is also an important agenda of 1992 Rio de Janeiro Convention Biological Diversity.

These above mentioned ecotourism activities could have significant impact on employment, education and culture, agriculture and income level of local people. It increases living standard of those people as a whole. Accessibility, pleasant climate, richness of natural beauty, suitable place for view point, religious places, historical places of Andha Andhi and Shrawan Kumar, high stock of biodiversity and native culture of simple and friendly people make Panchase unique eco-tourism destination.

Ecotourism principally concerns experiencing the natural or cultural environment without threatening it. In this point, the natural beauty and cultural purity of this area are still much undisturbed. Moreover, people's interest in increasing towards ecotourism development for their well being. They are curious towards tourists' oriented activities. They are eager to increase their economic condition and wealth. The field survey reflects that the local people are economically not so strong to high invest in tourism.

The increase in the infrastructure development such as construction of hotels, commercial shops, linking roads, uncontrolled animals pasturing, fodders for animals, fuel wood etc in the area are found to create impact upon the environment such as change in the scenic beauty of the green forest hills, enhancement of soil waste and sewage disposal problem, forest feeling rate change in land use pattern change in water run-off etc. Thus immediate initiation is needed for careful planning for further development various infrastructures in the area so as to ensure that these are in harmony with the natural and cultural environment.

We all have known that tourism is a labor intensive industry, which is suitable for developing countries like Nepal. Tourism is result of a movement of people as it is an economic activity but ecotourism goes a step ahead where not only the activities of the tourists are involved but also elements such as the conservation of ecosystem and sustainable

development. Natural beauty, biodiversity and living socio cultural religious heritage are the most preferred and successful environment for ecotourism. Therefore there can be exit harmony between ecotourism and environment.

Though ecotourism development there can be emphasis in education and awareness program, modernization in agriculture, conservation and management of view tower forest biodiversity, indigenous culture, Gurung dances a promotion in self employment.

It is seen that Panchase is inhabited mostly by Gurung and Brahmin along with other various caste and ethnic groups. The place is characterized with endemic as well as common culture. The topography of the study area is undulating the people are still suffering from lack of drinking water, not regular electricity, health centre, and eco tourist orientation activities. Most of the respondents preferred ecotourism related occupations and they were willing and interested in participation in ecotourism development so respondents provided a pretty good indication of the ecotourism potentiality, future development of the Panchase. Now the government declared it is the conservation area to conserve Orchids. Though Orchids are found all over Panchase, it was commonly found in old and undisturbed forest, especially on north and north east facing slopes. Orchids are the most fascinating and valuable flowers having high economic value in international market. The government has banned the collection and export of Orchids but in the future these orchids could be a viable source in generating foreign currency for the people on this region and a country as well.

Development on non-timber forest products as a source of employment and income for woman, the poor and the landless has the potential to integrate the relevant economic and environmental considerations. The market of NTFPs is expanding and this is an opportunity as well as challenges for one sustainable, efficient and equitable management has rendered plant of high commercial value in a state of threat. Most of the people in the rural areas use wild plants for food supplements, medicine, dyes fiber, clothing, construction energy and support to farm nuttiness and livestock feed.

Information on the ethno botanical plants of the project area is lacking and the work related to useful plants and ethnic groups hasn't been conducted so far. Hence, an attempt has been made to document the knowledge on useful plants with their habitat and user by the local communities. Beside this it has been attempted to alleviate the existing poverty by providing income and employment opportunities for small farmers and marginalized people and

hence to conserve the ecosystem and biodiversity for the proper management of the forest resources.

6.2 Conclusion

Tourism has its own specific characteristic according to its typological nature; tourism industry is a growing phenomenon of economic, social and cultural activities. Ecotourism is the best type of tourism industry. Rich nature and culture are major assets for ecotourism development. Through ecotourism it is possible to create link between local communities and tourists. Similarly local people participation in planning, implementation and management of their own socio culture and economic development and benefits sharing is one of the basic of ecotourism.

Panhase is well suited place to promote and expand ecotourism. So ecotourism development shows its status to be brighter Tourists can come to this place for sight seeing, trekking, sunrise set, recreational cultural study, observation and investigation etc. It is much better can be developed as wood free cooking area through use of alternative sources of nerdy such as solar, biogas, wind etc are the non polluting sources of energy.

Education and awareness is lacking in the case of ecotourism and their own natural and cultural assets. There are also the fewer positive social impacts. Opportunities to learn English, experience of the rest of the world, learning about to dress, clean, food hygiene etc and changing beliefs about social acceptance are the main educational and cultural experiences local people claim to learn from tourists. However, the support from tourism for the revival of local arts crafts and cultural activities weren't noticed since there is no provision of found generation from the visitors for such activities.

Anthropology of tourism is a way of cross cultural and the systematic methods of the interaction between the hosts and guests. Ecotourism activities bring change in land use pattern. So, households should be switched from traditional crops to high value cash crops that are demanded by tourists. In this context the scope for generating more income and off farm employment in rural area is enormous if more food, vegetables, poultry and livestock products demanded by tourists are produced locally.

Tourism development shall be better for the poverty reduction. In this way, tourists and local people both will be benefited. It also will help the local community to drive the tourism activities in sustainable way. The

development of tourism has negative and positive impacts of tourist. The higher degree of conceptual development of tourism will makes this area better ecotourism destination area.

However, on the basis of summaries to be conclusion ,there is various potentiality of ecotourism ;some of the problems exit in the area regarding tourism such as lack of information center facilities, trained manpower, and so some extent transportation, easy communication and Internet problems. All the stakeholders need to be united to solve the problem regarding tourism development and making the area as an ecotourism destination.

6.3 Recommendations

Long term management and preservation of biological diversity by the sustainable utilization of bio resource with the active participation of local people is essential in Panchase. Following recommendation has been suggested for the overall sustainable ecotourism development in Panchase based on the study.

1. Tourism information center should be opened in Panchase to provide the information of this region to the tourist visitors.
2. The condition of road to Panchase is to be improved. It is without proper repair and maintain.
3. Efforts should be made to develop trained and skilled manpower at local level in order provides efficient services up to the satisfaction of tourists.
4. Registrations of tourists visited in panchase should be conducted at check post both domestic and foreign.
5. Proper record of tourists' expenditures should be maintained by hotels and resorts.
6. Education level of local people should be enhanced so that they can get high level jobs in hotels and other tourism related services.
7. Basic physical infrastructures such as street lights, sanitation, and health post should be initiated.
8. Effective solid waste management system, need to be initiated and hygienic conditions should be maintained in the sightseeing and trekking areas as well.
9. it is highly recommended to formulate a comprehensive tourism plan of Panchase , so that panchase would be one of the attractive accessible outskirts tourist destination of western Nepal.

10. Existing clubs in Panchase should conduct cultural program to entertain tourists which also to generate funds for local development
11. Cultural heritages should be preserved.
12. The cultural integrity should be retained, which will be the main potential attraction for tourists.
13. Sound coordination should be needed among the interdisciplinary agencies.
14. Effective and strong participation should be needed among the organization.
15. Guest and host relationship should be establishment and promoted.
16. Despite the growing awareness about the environment as well as needs there is needed for the cultural and natural heritage awareness through the different programmers.
17. In high altitude deforestation, has increased, so, poaching forest clearing for cultivation illegal logging collection of fuel wood fodder a timber animal grazing and construction activities should be reduced.
18. Agro Based resources like cardamom and herbal plants given higher priority.
19. Panchase is the source of firewood, fodder, cattle-bed and other basic necessities for the inhabitants. Free seedling distribution program of preferred fodder tree species to local people should be done so as to encourage for private plantation.
20. Afforestation and reforestation programme on bare land marginal land and degraded forestland around village is recommended. Regarding the technical aspect of forestry in favor of local community and nature conservation, special attention should be paid for ecologically best adopted socially preferred and economically valuable species for plantation.
21. Fire wood as a sole source of fuel should be restricted. For this supply alternative sources such as micro hydro power and biogas seems outmost important to minimize the possible pressure on natural resources. Beside these, an improved cooking stove that saves fuelwood in some extent and improves health has to be promoted.
22. Controversial among the adjoining VDCs regarding the demarcation of forest of Panchase is one of the major causes of forest destruction, regarding in the loss of biodiversity. Initiative should be taken from respective agencies in sorting out this matter.
23. Transhumance practices are major cause in the study area that renders the regeneration of valuable plants thus creating losses of biodiversity. Some very strong and radical moves have to taken to

discourage the transhumance practice. Public awareness regarding the importance of minor forest products is a must. Beside this, introduction of improved breeds of cattle in order to reduce the number of less productive cattle is also recommended to minimize the dependency on forest.

24. Several human interference activities due to lack of ownership feelings among community people has resulted in the rapid destruction of natural forest. Thus, step should be taken towards the establishment of community forest near the settlements in order to conserve the valuable resources of Panchase.
25. Soil erosion is one of the hazards of Panchase resulting in the siltation of nation renowned Phewa lake awareness raising programmes on terrace farming along with construction of check dam and bioengineering works in the affected areas should be carried.
26. Lokhta, Allo and Nigalo are NTFPs of good market value and assurance. Cooperatives have to be established and local groups should be involved in establishing micro enterprise based on forest resources. Sustainable management of these resources will ensure the long term off farm income for the inhabitants around Panchase.
27. Panchase Lekh situated at the nexus of three districts i.e. Kaski, Parbat and Syangja have great biological and cultural diversity, religious value and natural beauties. Several activities supporting ecotourism should be undertaken for improving livelihood of adjoining communities.
28. The indigenous practice and knowledge of the people on the utilization of plant resources as medicine, food and tonics should be documented in further detail covering most part of Panchase region.
29. Lastly, this research has not covered the wide range of economic impact, natural resource, and socio-cultural impact to the local who are involved in handicraft business, shops and short trekking in villages. Similarly research can be done in the field of tourism promotional activities use of natural resources and conserve the ecotourism as well. Hence the future researchers can make their studies in these areas, etc.

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APPENDICES
ANNEX – I
Questionnaire for the Respondents

1. Name of the respondent:
2. Age(.....)15-20, (.....) 21-30, (.....) 31-40,(.....) 41-50, (.....) 51 and above
3. Sex: (.....) Male, (.....) Female
4. Native place(.....), Native urban(.....) migration If migration, migrated from? District..... Country.....
5. What things do you think , to attract for the tourism?(.....)view, (.....)Forest, (.....)Wildlife, (.....)Local culture, (.....)Peaceful environment (.....)All things /whole
6. What types of environment have created in this area for this tourism?(...) suitable,(.....) unsuitable, (.....) like previous, (.....) Don't know.
7. What sorts of role does the environment play for the development of tourism in your opinion? (....) Good, (.....) Bad, (.....) Has not play any role, (.....) Don't know.
8. What can we do for the development of the tourism profession in future? (.....) Save the culture, (.....) Preservation of forest, (.....)Preservation of wild animals, (.....) Preservation of infrastructure
9. Do you have any expectations from tourism? If yes what are they?
.....
.....
- 10.In your opinion can ecotourism contribute to the ecology and future Economy of the place? And how?
.....
.....
- 11.What do you fell about the number of tourist visiting in this area? Sufficient (.....) Insufficient (....) don't know (.....)
- 12.Have you done anything for tourism profession ? ((.....) Trekking , (.....) Administration of hotel (.....) Establishment of any institution on tourism development, (.....) Hand made goods, (.....) Work on preserving /protecting the environment , (.....) Nothing

13. Have you noted any adverse impact or negative effect of tourism to the local residents? If yes, what are those?

.....

14. How do you evaluate the following facilities in Panchase?

S.N.	Factors	Excellent	Good	Bad	Very bad	Don't know
1	Cleanness of the place					
2	Road condition to Panchase					
3	Sanitation					
4	Security					
5	Communication facilities					
6	Water supply					
7	Electricity					

15. Do you have any suggestion to the concern agencies to grow the tourism activities?

.....

16. Existing activities for the development ecotourism?

.....

17. What is your contribution in this respect?

.....

18. What can be done for future development?

.....

ANNEX-II
Questionnaire for the Hotel Owners

Name of the Hotel:

1. When the hotel was established? (20 / /)
2. How many hotels were there when you established your hotel?.....
3. What are the peak months and off-season period of tourist visit? Peak months.....toand off – season.....to.....
4. What is the average number of tourist visiting your hotel? Normally.....per day , Peak season.....per day and off-season.....per day
5. Generally, how long do the tourists stay in your hotels?
 - a. Few hours()
 - b. One night ()
 - c. Two nights()
 - d. Three nights ()
 - e. More than three nights()
6. How many tourists are visited in this area? Domestic(), SAARC (), Others()
7. How much a tourist normally spends per night (expect room charge)?
8. Are you satisfied with your income from the hotel? yes(), No ()
9. Is your business in profit at present? Yes(), No()
10. How many employees are there in your hotel?()
11. How much do you charge for the room? Rs..... for single bedroom and Rsfor doubles bed room.
12. What is your plan in business?
13. Do you think that the inflow of tourists had made tourist centre dirty? YES(), No()
14. If yes which place has gone to dirty?
15. How do the local people behave the tourists? a. Well Behaved () b. so. so () c. Misbehaved()
16. What is your opinion about the satisfaction of tourists after visiting this place? a. Fully satisfaction b. satisfaction c. Dissatisfied d. don't know
17. Have you reported any complains from tourists after visiting this place and what are these?
18. What are your suggestions for increasing on number of tourists and increasing benefits from tourism in this area?

ANNEX-III
Questionnaire for Tourists

1. How many times have you been in Nepal
.....
2. Is this is your first visit to Panchase?
Yes (), No ()
If no, how many times before
3. How many days do you think you will stay here? (.....)
4. What is the purpose of your visit?
 - a. Sightseeing () b. Entertainment () c. Study () d. Business ()
 - e. Eco-tourism trekking () f. Sunrise and Sunset ()
5. How do you feel about the price of lodging and fooding in Panchase?
 - a. Cheap b. Moderate c. Expensive
6. What do you think about the standard of lodging and fooding in Panchase?
 - a. Excellent b. Good c. Moderate d. Bad
7. In, your opinions, the people of Panchase are....
 - a. Very friendly b. Good c. Not friendly d. Bad
8. What do you think about the future prospect to eco-tourism in Panchase?
 - a. Very favorable() b. Favorable () c. Un favorable() d. Very unfavorable()
9. What language do you use to communicate with locals?
 - a. English b. Hindi c. Nepali d. Gurung e. Others
10. Do you see the future of tourism in Panchase?
 - i. yes ii No iii Don't know
11. How the tourism should be developed in Panchase?
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12. Do you have any comments regarding the eco tourism in this place?
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13. What are your suggestions to develop Panchase as an Eco-tourism centre (If any)?
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LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS



