

POTENTIALITIES OF RURAL TOURISM IN OKHARKOT VDC, PYUTHAN

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Central Department of Rural Development
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For Partial Fulfillment of M. A. in Rural Development

By

PAWAN KUMAR YADAV

Roll No.:- 281517/065

Central Department of Rural Development
Faculty of Humanities and Social Science
Tribhuvan University
Kirtipur, Kathmandu

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Declaration

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled 'Potentialities of Rural Tourism t in Okharkot VDC of Pyuthan District' submitted to the Central Department of Rural Development, Tribhuvan University, is entirely my original work prepared under the guidance and supervision of my supervisor. I have made due acknowledgements to all ideas and information borrowed from different sources in the course of preparing this thesis. The results of this thesis have not been presented or submitted anywhere else for the award of any degree or any other purposes. I assure that no part of the content of this thesis has been published in any form before.

Pawan Kumar Yadav

TU. Reg. No. : 6-1-54-168-2000

Date: 12 – 12 - 2072

(25 -03 -2016)

Recommendation Letter

This thesis entitled Potentialities of Rural Tourism in Okharkov VDC of Pyuthan District has been prepared by Pawn Kumar Yadav under my guidance and supervision. I hereby recommend this thesis for examination by the thesis committee as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development.

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Thesis Supervisor

Prof. Dr. Chandra Lal Shrestha

Central Department of Rural Development

Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Date: 19 – 12 - 2072

(01 -04 -2016)

Approval Sheet

The thesis, entitled Potentialities of Rural Tourism in Okharkot VDC of Pyuthan District submitted by Pawan Kumar Yadav to the Central Department of Rural Development, Faculty of Humanities and Social Science, Tribhuvan University, in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Master's degree (M.A.) in Rural Development has been approved by the evaluation committee.

Evaluation Committee:

Prof. Dr. Prem Sharma
Head of Department and External

Prof. Dr. Chandra Lal Shrestha
Supervisor

Date: 19 – 12 - 2072

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Rajpur-6, Dang

ABSTRACT

Tourism is an indispensable sector for country like Nepal, which is characterized by its panoramic natural beauty and its rich cultural heritage for generating much-needed foreign exchange earnings as well as employment. It provides entrepreneurial opportunities for small operators, can foster balanced development and empower rural communities, youth and women, and can dynamise other sectors of the economy as well.

Rural tourism is relatively, new phenomenon, which means tourism development in local setting at the stage of rural belief, values, norms, and religious practices, their daily home practices, family relation, agriculture etc. It makes their own world and a kind of circuit where people round around and create new interest to recreation and leisure in natural environment. Pristine culture, natural beauty as well as beautiful rural settlements and amazing life style could be major attractions of rural Nepal to tourists.

The study area includes Okharkot and its peripheral VDCs of Pyuthan district, Mid-western Development Region, Nepal. Covering the area of 2304.62 hectares, Okharkot VDC is one of the most significant historical destinations. Along with the expansive views of Jhimruk valley, there are lucrative panoramic views of mountain peaks and numbers of sophisticated natural and geographical sight scenes. The economic backbone of the VDC is agriculture. Most of the inhabitants of the VDC follow Hinduism as the main religion (CBS, 20011). Bhramin, Newar, Chhetri, Damai, Kami, Gaine, Kumal, Sarki, Sunar, Magar including Kham magar etc are the ethnic inhabitants of the VDC. Okharkot is the birthplace of the popular communist leader of Nepal, Mr. Mohan Bikram Singh. The VDC shelters 5,732 people with 1,202 households in total according to Population census 20011. It is also listed in IUCN's inventory of historic sites.

The main aim of this study was to explore the natural, cultural and historical assets of the study area and to analyze its rural tourism potentiality. This study was also focused to prepare travel itinerary for the promotion of rural tourism in Okharkot and its peripheral

districts. Similarly, it also focuses on identifying the various challenges for the tourism development of the study area.

Both qualitative and quantitative method were employed for this study. This study was based on both the primary data and secondary data. This secondary data were from census reports, journals, books, DEO reports, Village profiles, etc. related to the study area and tourism. Similarly, the primary data were collected from interview with local people, focus group discussions and field observation of the study area.

A pre-prepared questionnaire survey were attempted to collect the information and perception of key informants. The questionnaires were attempted among 103 households of the total households of Okharkot VDC.. Random sampling method was applied for the survey of household on the basis of land holding ownership. Besides, formal and informal conversation was also made to enrich the true data of the study.

Data were analyzed using different software Microsoft Excel (Microsoft) and Geographical Information System. The collected GPS markings were entered and thematic maps were prepared in combination with different layers as landscape, elevation, human settlement and vegetation pattern etc displaying the composite picture of study sites.

Furthermore, the primary and secondary data were interpreted in tables and diagrams in systematic way for easy interpretations. The field observation and data obtained through informal interview have been presented in lucid manner making compatible.

Findings of the study suggests that the study area is gifted with everything, required to be developed as the popular destination for tourists, both national & international. The district being enriched with the ancient temples, palaces (Kot) with immense historical importance, political history, diverse ethnic groups, dialects and languages, landscapes, biologically significant flora, fauna and wildlife, serenity and placidness of waterfalls and hill-sides serrated in the form of an endless series of terraces. If all these resources are integrated for tourism development, it can be developed as a visitor's dreamland for tourism destination. But the district still lags far behind in the perspective of tourism development due to lack of proper study, research and rigid planning in regard to the tourism. The publicity and well documentation of the tourism resources is very

poor. Besides, the level of community awareness, sensitivity to tourism issues and the care about the potential tourism resources is also null or very poor in the district.

Participatory tourism development in participation of local communities can play significant role to locally manage tourism creating viable economic opportunities as well as reduce environment issues associated with poverty and unemployment, hence the active participation of the local communities need to be encouraged for the sake of the promotion of tourism.

Similarly, the facilities of transportation, lodging/fooding and basic amenities like communication, internet and restaurants are poor in most all the tourism potential sites of the district while the availability of these facilities are much significant to develop the tourism.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1. Background

The uniqueness of Nepal with its panoramic natural beauty and its rich cultural heritage has attracted many people to this country. So tourism is an indispensable sector for country like Nepal, generating much-needed foreign exchange earnings as well as employment (*Pandey et. al, 1995*). It fosters learning experiences and appreciation of the natural environment, or some component thereof, within its associated cultural context. It provides entrepreneurial opportunities for small operators, can foster balanced development and empower rural communities, youth and women, and can dynamise other sectors of the economy as well. It has the appearance of being environmentally and socio-culturally sustainable, preferably in a way that enhances the cultural resource base of the destination and promotes the viability of the operation (*Garrod, 2003; Weaver, 2001*). It is increasingly being advanced as a strategy to help address economic and social problems in local communities, and as an appropriate and effective tool of environmental conservation (*Garrod, 2003*).

With the badge of adventure destination glittering and the adage “Atithi Devo Bhava” (Guests are Gods) embedded in our culture, the portfolio of tourism products never cease to mesmerize the visitors. The unparalleled cultural, geographical, ethnic and biodiversities of the country allure visitors to Nepal again and again which truly substantiates the spirit of Nepal tourism brand “Naturally Nepal, once is not enough!” ([www.nepaltourismyear 2011.com](http://www.nepaltourismyear2011.com))

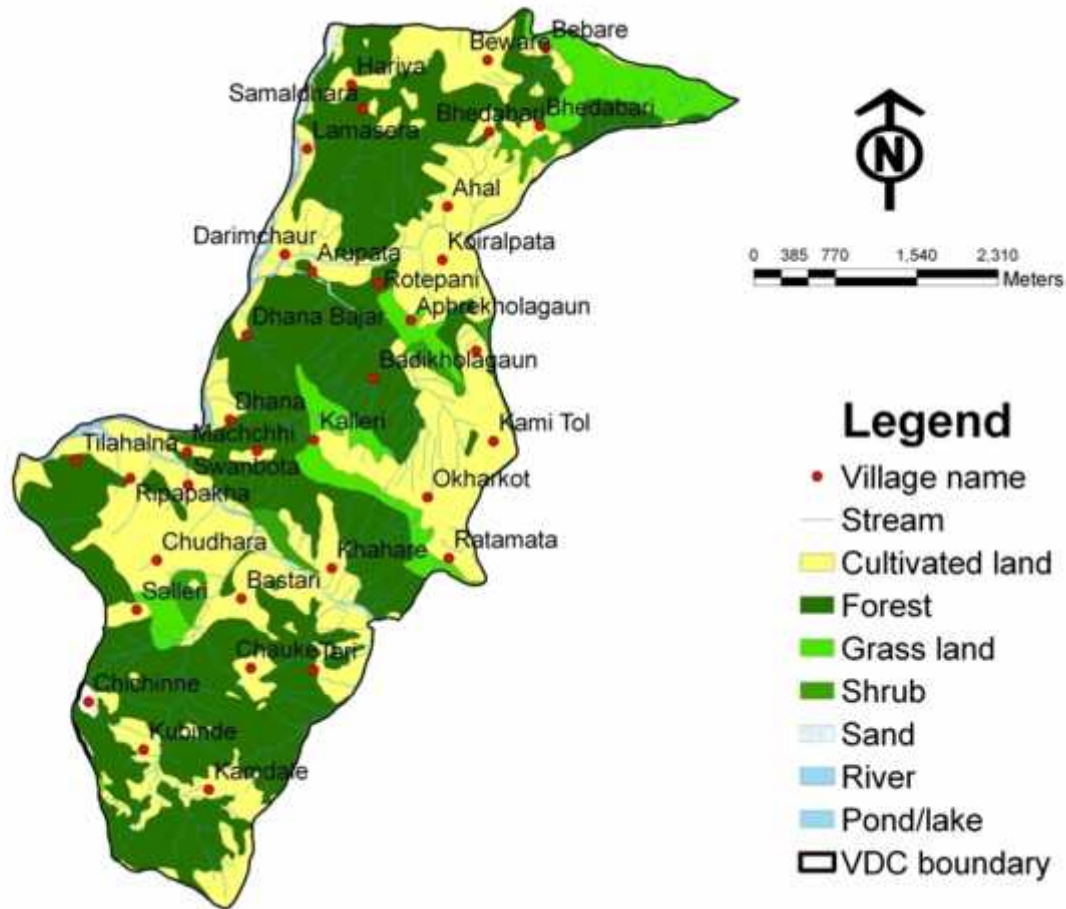
Government cultural and ethnic diversity, Pyuthan district poses great potential in the tourism development but less priority has been given for the promotion of tourism till date. Hence this is a nick time to explore the potential tourism sites in Pyuthan for the integrated development of Pyuthan.

1.2 Study Area

Locally known as Khalanga for its history as a military strongpoint, Pyuthan is situated on a mountainside about 500 meters above the intensively cultivated floodplain of Jhimruk Khola. Lying at an altitude of 911m above sea level, it has some of the most beautiful places representing verdant landscapes of nature and cultural diversity. Covering the area of 2304.62 hectares and population of 5494, Okharkot VDC is one of the most significant historical destinations. Along with the expansive views of Jhimruk valley there are lucrative panoramic views of mountain peaks and numbers of sophisticated natural and geographical sight scenes. The economic backbone of the VDC is agriculture. Most of the inhabitants of the VDC follow Hinduism as the main religion (CBS, 2001). Bhramin, Newar, Chhetri, Damai, Kami, Gaine, Kumal, Sarki, Sunar, Magar including Kham magar etc are the ethnic inhabitants of the VDC. (*Wikipedia.org/pyuthandistrict*)

Okharkot is the birthplace of the popular communist leader of Nepal, Mr. Mohan Bikram Singh. The VDC with the coordinates [28.14°N 82.98°E](#), covers an area of 10.03 KM². It is bounded by seven VDCs, Narikot, Badikot, Tusara, Libang, Bagemarot, Puja and Torwang. The VDC shelters 3,331 people with 581 households in total according to Population census 2001. Chettri, Brahmin and Dalit are the main inhabitants of the VDC. It is also listed in IUCN's inventory of historic sites.

The details of the study areas are described below:



Source: wikipedia.com

Figure 2: Map of Okharkot VDC

1.3 Statement of the Problem

Although, Nepal has a long history of tourism development, Nepalese tourism is limited in few destinations and areas of the country till date. The centralized nature of Nepalese tourism was not due to the lack of tourism potentiality at other places. What went wrong was the lack of willingness and initiatives from the concerned authorities and local leaders. As a result, a large proportion of population is far from the tourism benefits. Nepalese rural areas are enriched by unique cultural, historical and geographical heritages with immense potential of rural tourism development. Okharkot VDC is one of the potential tourism destinations for the rural tourism. However, due to the lack of exploration and publicity, it failed to acquire proper attention from tourism entrepreneurs and tourists. There are also some exemplary rural tourism destinations in

Nepal. Sirubari, Ghalegaoun, Ghanapokhara are some model rural tourism destination of Nepal where local people are handling the tourists at their community. In order to decentralize the tourism to the rural area where there are no other accommodation facilities, the concept of homestay has been introduced recently as a new tourism product. In this context, the proposed study will be noteworthy in exploring the tourism potential of the Okharkot VDC of Pyuthan district and provide baseline data for planning.

1.4 Objectives of the study

The general objective of this research is to develop baseline information of Okharkot VDC to support the sustainable planning for the tourism development. The specific objectives are:

1. To document remarkable tourism resources and generate baseline data for planning tourism development of Okharkot VDC
2. To develop itinerary for tourism promotion in the VDC
3. To identify the challenges while developing tourism related programmes

1.5 Rationale of the study

Okharkot VDC is rich in cultural diversity and is important from historical point of view. Enriched with historical places, natural wonders ancient temples and religious destinations; visitors may have the opportunity to experience many cultural festivals as well as the non periodic rituals. Although it encapsulates the diverse tourism resources for the tourism industry but still the VDC lags behind in the tourism perspective and promotion of ecotourism is still at brink. The VDC has tremendous potential of village tourism by which we could uplift the economic status of the villagers through the generation of income, employment and local markets for agricultural products and handicrafts. There has not been any effective step taken for the promotion of tourism in Okharkot. Although few studies have been carried out concerning the religious sites, socioeconomic status of the various communities of different sites but not a single study/research regarding the development of tourism has been undertaken. Hence, the need for this study is realized for the sustainable development of tourism in the VDC.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Review of literature is an integral part of a research undertaking to enrich the knowledge. Therefore, the literature review of the study has been focused on conceptualizing tourism and tourists including various concepts of tourism emerging in the domestic and international level such as: Rural Tourism, Sustainable Tourism, Eco Tourism and so on. The chapter also highlights the emergence of rural or village tourism in Nepal and its impacts on poverty alleviation.

2.1 Tourism and Tourist

Having derived from a French term '*tourisme*', tourism is a socio-economic phenomenon that compromises the activities and experiences of tourists away from their home environment. Swiss professors Hunziker and Krafts define tourism as the totality of relationship and phenomenon arising from the travel and stay of strangers provided the stay does not imply the establishment of a permanent residence and is not concerned with a remunerated activity.

As a service industry, tourism is operated by travel and tour operators and host destinations. However, it is not easy to define tourism as an industry. This is because tourism has very broad nature. It contains many other trades and industries such as the aviation sector, accommodation, rail, cruise and food service industries.

Similarly, a tourist is a person, who travels to a place away from his/her home and stays there at least 24 hours for leisure, holiday, recreation, etc. According to WTO, a person becomes a tourist if he/she stays at a place or country other than his own place of stay for a minimum of one night for leisure, recreation, holiday, medical treatment, study and business, and family mission of meeting. In this regard, sustainable tourism entails certain principles in which lowest possible consumption of non-redeemable resources is also a key among other principles.

Tourism is one of the fastest growing industries in the world. "Tourism is the totality of the relationship and phenomenon arising from the travel and stay. Of strangers provided the stay does not imply the establishment of residence and is not connected with a remunerated activity" - Swiss Professor - Humtike Kraft. Tourism has been defined by different authors and concerned organizations and yet there is no universally accepted definition of tourism. The Austrian Economist Sir Von Schullard (1910) has given the first definition of tourism. "Sum total of operations, mainly of economic nature, which is directly related to the entry, stay and movement of foreigners inside and outside a certain country, city or region". "Tourism, the new phenomenon of traveling in pursuit of leisure, culture and the quest for knowledge about alien land connotes the concept of tourism. The growth of tourism is closely related to the ease and speed of travel, economic growth and political development"-National Committee on Tourism India.

2.2 Tourism History of Nepal

Tourism history of Nepal starts when its first road system was built to connect the capital city Kathmandu to the Indian border in 1950 and Mount Everest (Sagarmatha) was first climbed by Sir Edmund Hillary and Tensing Sherpa in 1953. The opening of international level hotels in early 1950s and government's efforts to issue different tourism accts also facilitated the development of tourism industry in Nepal. Nepalese tourism got further momentum and spread after the starting to aviation services by the then Royal Nepal Airlines in late 1950s. Thereafter, the country became able to lure international tourists to explore its rich culture and picturesque Himalayan landscape. The tourism master plan (1972) has also provided guidelines for tourism development in Nepal. The plan has shown the potentiality of site seeing tourism. Various scholars have defined rural tourism, in different ways.

2.3 Rural Tourism

"A Rural Tourism Product is anything that can be offered to a tourist for attention, acquisition or consumption. It includes physical object services, venalities places and ideas too" (Niraula : 2003). Dr. Surendra Bhakta Pradhananga has defined village tourism as "Village tourism is a grass-root level of tourism designated at its own Nepali village style, mobilized by Nepali people themselves, their skill and resources displayed as village life style and

environment involved by groups of village tourists, assigned by Nepali adults authorities positively within its balance of social and environmental function and strengthen the village and village economy. Further more, he says, "village tourism is planned industry whose dimension is very broad. Benefits are shared by all in the equitable distributive pattern those who live in that touristic regions are considered participants in the tourism activities".

Nandita Jain says, "The concept of village tourism needs to be focused on few things as given below : transit trekking route – scenery, comfortable reason for stay, any special function or. New products, which the tourist do not get in any where and extra demands of tourist". Village tourism has emerged in against of urban specialty tourism. In the past, tourism has provided its benefit only to the limited people of urban area. The country like Nepal, which is dominated by villagers, turn into the developing country by the lack of village tourism development. The concept of village tourism is developed by Government of Nepal which focuses village tourism development through its different programs and policies. Nepal has so many villages, which has high potentiality of village tourism. Some of the villages have already taken as model village for tourism development like Sirubari in Syngja, Ghalegoan, in Lamjung and Bandipur in Tanahun.

Some of the concerned organizations have also defined village tourism "The Concept of village tourism in Nepal has become exemplified by Sirubari Village Tourism and is now understood as tourism to local villages providing home stays and cultural shows"- SNV Nepal. Village tourism development is a development of socio-economic development as well as environmental sustainability. "The increasing number of tourists and low spending behavior is a matter of concern for the environmentalist" – Arya, Ramesh C. (NEFAS - 1998: 86). Mr. D.P. Dhakal has commented Arya's version "A cost of tourist is low spending and Mr. Arya is right that they are fewer environments friendly". The impact of village tourism can be both negative and positive. In the negative side, it may change the culture, norms and values and damage the natural resources of the region. It may also rearrange the social stratification, put additional pressure on local people, change their rhythm of life, and threaten their privacy result in authentic presentation of local customs and tradition adapted to tourist wishes. On the positive side, village tourism encourages better use of available resources like land , labor, capital, natural and cultural attraction bring about the socio-economic change, contributes to the heritage protection and the conservation of the rural environment, provides more outward interaction for local

people and increase their change to learn about their culture. Therefore, sustainability in socio-cultural terminology is highly vulnerable. The natural and man-made beauty and wildlife reservation are the major attraction for the tourist. Because of this, their flow, duration of stay, types of visit and their expenditure behavior are the impact of tourism, which generate the income and employment to the Nepali villages. His Majesty's Government of Nepal has put some efforts for the development and promotion of tourism in the periodic plans since start. Here under are the brief objectives of the plans related to tourism.

The strength of Nepali tourism lies in rural areas, as it is the depository of culture, environment, adventure, religious and other tourism products. The true reflection of Nepal is existent only in rural areas but the promotion and development of these destinations are still overlooked. Nevertheless, deterioration of tourism products and overcrowding of cities has gradually compelled tour organizers to add new rural destinations in their packages to make it attractive. It is also true that the future of Nepali tourism lies in the rural areas and unless the local people own this venture, implementation of travel packages would not be feasible (Dhakal, 2005).

According to Webster new international dictionary, 1975, tourism is "Traveling for Recreation". Similarly the term tourism was first defined as the sum total of operations, mainly of economic nature which directly related to the entry, stay and movement of foreigners inside and outside a certain country, city or region. The function of tourism is to import currency from foreign resources into country. Its impact is what tourism expenditure can do to the hotelkeepers.

Thomas Cook developed the first concept of modern tourism. "Thomas cook" father of travel 1841 started tourism while as the first steamship was invented 1830 (CTEVT, 1997). He is respected as a father of modern tourism. The industrial revolution and mechanism increased the wealth and surplus time and developed the attitude of outgoing because of which such tourism became organized and established institution.

2.4 Importance of Rural Tourism

Tourism can contribute to development and the reduction of poverty in number of ways. Economic benefits are generally the most important element, but there can be social, environmental and cultural benefit cost. Tourism contributes to poverty reduction by providing employment and diversified livelihood opportunities. This in turn provides additional income or contributes to a reduction in vulnerability of a poor by increasing a range of economic opportunities available to individual and households. In Nepal, the incidence of poverty is high in rural areas, so, the Rural Tourism could be an effective means to alleviate the rural tourism by creating employment opportunities in the rural areas. tourism also contribute to poverty alleviation through direct taxation and generation of taxable economy growth taxes can be used to alleviate poverty through education, health and infrastructure development. It should not be forgotten that some tourism facilities also improves the recreational and leisure opportunities available for the poor themselves at the local level (WTO, 2002).

Despite an abundance of scholarly and professional literature to the contrary, the terms economic development and recruitment of manufacturing plans are often thought of as describing identical callings. Slowly and probably in part because so much attention has been given to the decline to of manufacturing growth of services topic, other industries are gaining the attention of development professionals and citizen group concern with economic development issues. Tourism is currently at or at least near the top the list of popular alternatives. The benefits of tourism can be substantial, but the industry also has a down side. Much of the literature suggests that the benefits of tourism outweigh the liabilities. Although some studies specially those dealing with tourism in third and forth world settings indicate that the net effects of tourism can be negative.

Many of the benefits of tourism are easily appreciated where as others are more obscured (Murphy, 1985). The more frequently mentioned of the potential direct benefits include.

1. Tourism is, by definition, an export Industry. As such, it has the potential to improve the regional balance of payments by increasing the demands for goods and services in a number of different sectors. This can be significant in rural areas where the export base is limited.
2. Diversification is a frequent goal of local and regional development planning efforts. In rural areas especially, tourism offers a means of' diversifying the economic base and reducing the seasonality in employment at the same time. For example, farmers or workers may find off

farm employment when a tourism spots are developed.

3. Public officials are generally supportive of tourism development efforts because they hold potential for increasing public revenue Both because of the direct investment in a region and personal income growth, local and state government can aspect increased property and personal tax revenues.

4. Finally, tourism has the potential to use ideal or excess capacity in declining regions. As a result; employment can be reduced and the fixed cost of infrastructure and institutional capacity can be spread over more consuming units.

It is important to acknowledge that tourism is an industry, firm and agent of development and change. It includes low use of resources operates one of sustainable bases with proper control and management. In addition to the above direct effects, there are significant indirect economic benefits. The principal indirect benefit is the multiplier type impacts initiated by tourist spending In addition, identified six impacts than can be considered to be positive externalities or spin off benefits.

1. The tourist industry leads to the development of an infrastructure for visitors as well as local residents.
2. Jobs are made available for the relatively unskilled workers of the region.
3. Tourism can be the main component a regional policy aimed at achieving an equitable balance between the industrialized and non industrialized area in a region.
 - a) The tourist Industry may contribute to the development of other industries, such as rather goods, handicrafts, jewelry, textiles, glassware, food and beverage, specialty confectionary, recreational equipment and supplies and any other items consumed by tourist or by tourist serving firms.
4. Development of tourist industry may promote a better image of the region in the eyes of the nation and thereby enable to achieve other objective such as business recruitment and retention.
5. Tourism can build local self-esteem by demonstrating that the area is, indeed, desirable.
 - b) Mien potential direct benefits are taken together with indirect or spin of benefits, an extensive list a created, moreover most regions will find the list seductive. Rural regionswith limited options for growth and developments are particularly likely to find the tourism option as difficult

2.5. Rural Tourism model in Nepal

Community Owned Tourism Model (Sirubari)

Sirubari is a model village tourism managed by locally owned Village Tourism Development Committee. It has a home stay concept and tourist is accommodated by the committee, a package is made incorporating accommodation, foods, cultural programme, village tour etc. and tourist is charged in accordance with the package consumed. It is the first of its kind in Nepal and become very popular. For some years after it is operation in 1999. Many villagers involved in home stay and cultural group/dance left the place in the period of conflict. The Sirubari village has not yet made any initialization of solar power, nor biogas as Rotary International Support them with cows. Still, the majority of depends on fire wood only about 40 percent of them are utilizing liquid petroleum gas (Upadhyay, 2008). The whole ambience of the village is very tidy and attractive. All the lodges are very neat and clean. There is mother group (Aama Samuha) who are also very active for the village development.

This community owned tourism model has been a successful model in the sector of rural tourism in Nepal and has been replicated successfully in other villages too.

Beside these, Narphu, Lumbini, Chepang, Pasgaon, Dhading, Sailung, Siklish, Siurung, Balanthali, Sivapuri, Bhujung, Gorkha, Ganga Jamuna and Nagarkot have already gained popularity for village tourism.

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

Both quantitative and qualitative types of data were used for the study. All physical evidences, opinion, preferences and impacts were observed during the study. Information were based both on primary as well as secondary source. Besides, formal and informal interviews, pre-consultation meeting, public meetings and focal group discussion were conducted to enrich the true data of the study.

3.1 Identification and Selection of Potential Tourism SITES

For the smooth conduction of the research in the study area, identification and selection of the potential tourism site in the concerned VDC is very important before field visits, which is carried out through following methods:

3.1.1 Review and collection of secondary information

Various plan and policies, books, annual reports, district profile and other publications from different governmental and non-governmental organizations, related websites and online publications etc were thoroughly reviewed to identify potential tourism products of the districts.

3.1.2 Pre-consultation meeting

Pre-consultation meeting at VDC level were conducted with the representatives of political parties and various communities to document and identify the most potential tourism products of the Okharkot VDC.

3.2 Field visit of potential tourism sites

After the selection of the potential tourism products with their own identity and significance, field visit was conducted in the selected sites of the VDC. The sites in the respected wards of the VDC were observed from the following perspectives as to the development of tourism:

-) Socio-economic status
-) Environmental status
-) Tourism Status
-)

3.3 Individual Perception Measure

A pre-prepared questionnaire survey were attempted to collect the information and perception of key informant that would help in preparing a genuine report. The questionnaires were attempted among 10% (103 households) of the total sample size (1039 households) of Okharkot VDC that would represent the whole study area. Random sampling method was applied for the survey of household on the basis of land holding ownership. Besides, formal and informal conversation was also made to enrich the true data of the study.

3.4 Focal Group Discussion

Focal group discussions were conducted in Okharkot VDC to collect relevant information on the potential of Tourism development in the VDC. FGDs majorly focused on potential tourism sites, their historical, cultural and religious importance; challenges and hindrance for overall tourism development in the VDC.

3.5 Data Analysis

Data were analyzed using different software Microsoft Excel (Microsoft) and Geographical Information System. The collected GPS markings were entered and thematic maps were prepared in combination with different layers as landscape, elevation, human settlement and vegetation pattern etc displaying the composite picture of study sites.

Furthermore, the primary and secondary data were interpreted in tables and diagrams in systematic way for easy interpretations. The field observation and data obtained through informal interview have been presented in lucid manner making compatible.

CHAPTER IV

PROSPECTIVE OF RURAL TOURISM IN OKHARKOT

The study primarily focused on the potential tourism sites in Okharkot VDC of Pyuthan district. This chapter includes the socio-economic, environmental and other prospective of the VDC accordance as the need of rural tourism development in the VDC. As socio-economic and environmental status and potential tourism sites of the peripheral VDCs are import for the development of tourism in Okharkot, relevant data of the peripheral VDCs have also been included together.

4.1 Socioeconomic Status

4.1.1 Population and Ethnicity

According to the population census by CBS in 2001, the total population of Okharkot is 5494 and total households 1039 with average household size of 5.29. Similarly, the sex ratio is found to be 85.52. Chettri (Gharti chettri) are the major inhabitants of Okharkot VDC, holding 51% of the total populations followed by Brahmin (23%), Dalit (17%), Magar (7%) and others (2%). The sex ratio and the ethnic diversity on Okharkot VDC are clearly shown in the graph below

Table 4.1: Population

Male	Female	Total
2,531	2,963	5,494

Source: CBS, 2001

Table 4.1 and diagram shows the composition of population on the basis of gender. Out of the total population (5,494) of the Okharkot VDC, 2,963 (54 %) are female and 2,531 (46%) are male.

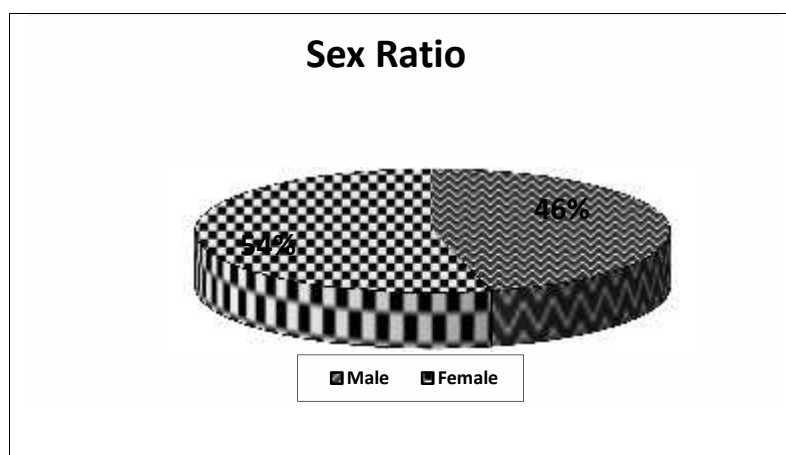


Table 4.2: Ethnic Diversity

Ethnicity	Population (%)
Magar	7%
Chhetri	51%
Dalit	17%
Brahmin	23%
Others	2%

Source: CBS, 2001

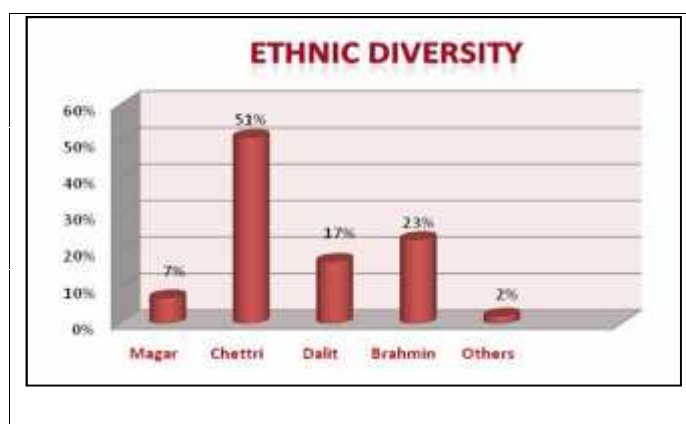


Table 4.2 shows the ethnic diversity in the Okharkot VDC. Chhetri (Gharti chettri) are the major inhabitants of Okharkot VDC, holding 51% of the total populations followed by Brahmin (23%), Dalit (17%), Magar (7%) and others (2%)

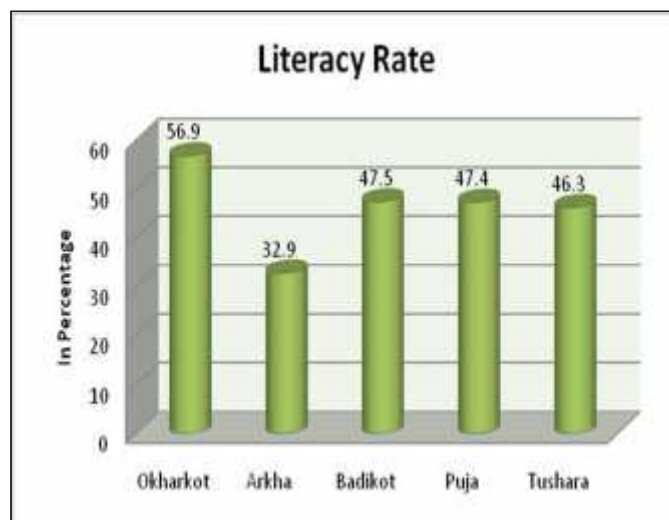
4.1.2 Education

Literacy rate of Pyuthan district is relatively good, with 46.57% literacy rate of the population above 6 years. Okharkot had the highest literacy rate (56.9%) compare to its peripheral VDCs, Badikot (47.5%), Punja (47.4%), Tushara (46.3%) with lowest literacy rate in Arkha (32.9%).

Table 4.3: Literacy rate of Okharkot and its peripheral VDCs

VDC	Literacy Rate
Okharkot	56.9 %
Badikot	47.5 %
Punja	47.4 %
Tushara	46.3 %
Arkha	32.9 %
Pyuthan district's average	46.57%

Source: CBS, 2001

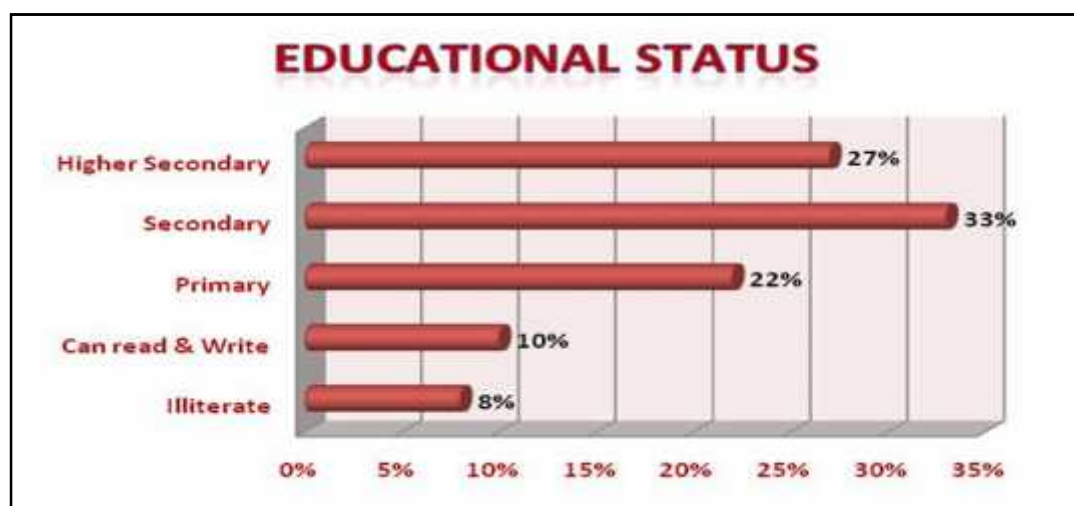


Similarly, from the questionnaire survey in Okharkot VDC, the percentage of respondents going to Secondary school is high followed by Higher secondary (+2, Bachelor and Masters), primary level and those who can read and write. Very few percentages of respondents were found illiterate which is clearly illustrated in the graph.

Table 4.4: Education status of Okharkot VDC

level of education completed	population
Higher Secondary	27%
Secondary	33%
Primary	22%
can read and write	10%
Illiterate	8%

Source: field visit, 2011



4.2 Environmental Status

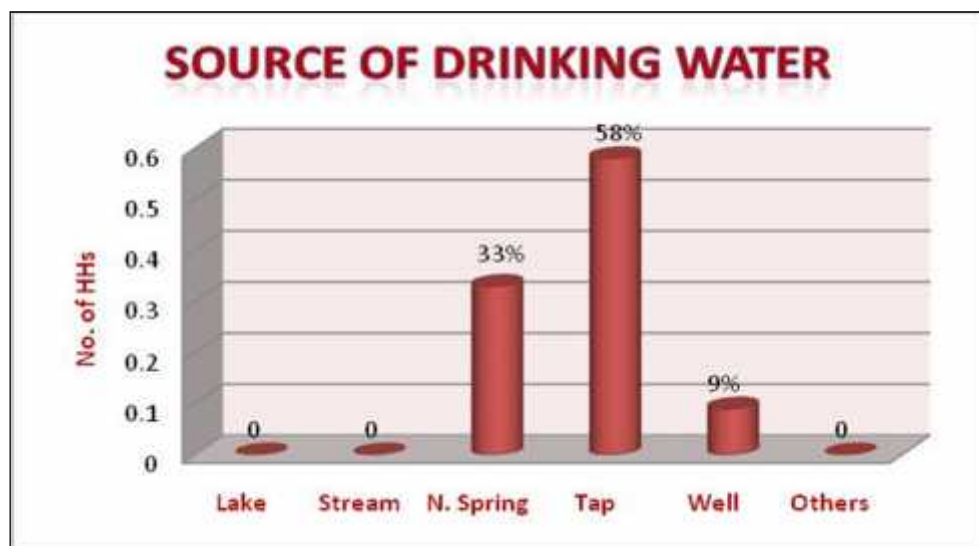
4.2.1 Source of Drinking water

Most of the respondents in the study area are dependent on tap for drinking water (58%). About 33% rely on natural spring and very few (9%) used well as a source of drinking water, as illustrated in figure 8.

Table 4.5: Source of Drinking Water in Okharkot VDC

Lake	Stream	N. Spring	Tap	Well	Others
0	0	33%	58%	9%	0

Source: field visit 2011



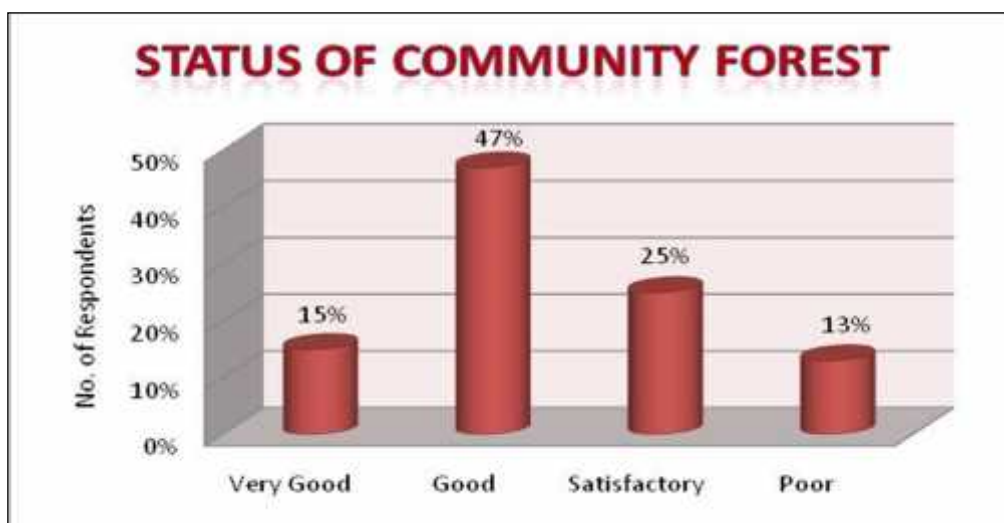
4.2.2 Status of Community Forest Management

The HHs responses on the community forest management were very good (15%), good (47%), satisfactory (25%) and 13% of the respondents feel that the community forest is very poorly managed. The status of Community forest as per the response of the respondents is shown in the figure.

Figure 5.6: Status of Community Forest

Response	very good	good	satisfactory	poor
Number of Respondents (%)	15%	47%	25%	13%

Source: field visit 2011

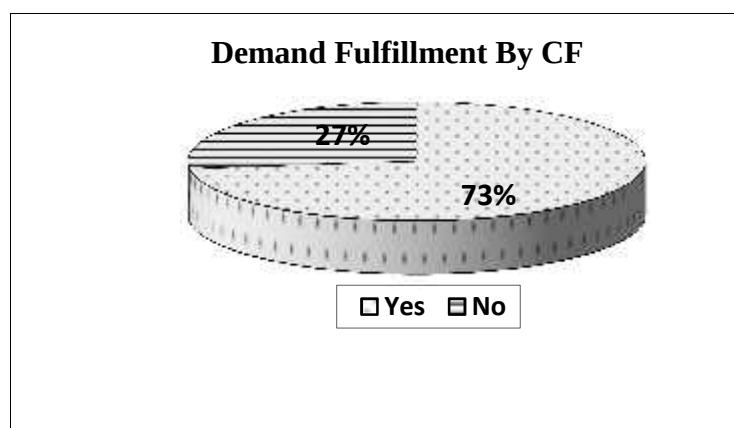


Similarly, from the survey, it was found that Community forest fulfilled the demand of about 73% of the respondents while 27% of the respondent's requirement is not fulfilled by Community forest, which is clearly shown in figure 7.

Table 4.7: Demand fulfillment by Community Forest

Response	Number of respondents
Yes	73%
No	27%

Source: field visit 2011



4.2.3 Flora and Fauna

Pyuthan district is rich in floral diversity. The study areas in Pyuthan district has the dominant vegetation of Sal (*Shorea robusta*) followed by Salla (*Pinus roxburghii*), Chilaune (*Schima wallichii*), Gurans (*Rhododendron sps*), Khayer (*Acacia catechu*), Chyuri (*Aesandra butyracea*), and Dalchini (*Cinnamomum tamala*). Similarly, Mango (*Mangifera indica*), Orange, Guava (*Psidium guajava*), Painyu (*Prunus cerasoides*), Khanayu (*Ficus semicordata*), Sisnu (*Urtica dioca*), Dudhilo (*Ficus nemoralis*), Rato Mula (*Raphanus sativus*), Masoor (*Lens culinaris*), kafal (*Myrica esculenta*), Chanp (*Michelia champaca*), Kurilo (*Asparagus racemosus*), Bamboo

(*Dendrocalamus strictus*), Amriso (*Thysanolaena maxima*), Tooni (*Toona ciliate*), Katus (*Castanopsis indica*) etc are common in Okharkot VDC.

Medicinal plants like Timur (*Zanthoxylum armatum*), Ritha (*Sapindus mukorossi*), Harro (*Terminalia chebula*), Barro (*Terminalia bellirica*), Amala (*Phyllanthus emblica*), Tite (*Swertia nervosa*), Bojho (*Acorus calamus*), Panchaunle (*Dactylorhiza hatagirea*) etc are also found in the Okharkot.

Similarly, Pyuthan district is rich in faunal diversity as well; a home to several significant species of mammals, reptiles and birds.

1. Mammals: Leopard (*Panthera pardus*), Dumsi (*Sus salvanius*), Ratee, Bandel, Ghoral (*Naemorhedus goral*), Spotted Deer (*Axis axis*), Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), Monkey (*Macaca mulatta*), langur (*Presbytis entellus*), Rabbit, Percupine (*Hystrix indica*), Nyauli, Ban-biralo.
2. Birds: Kaliz (*Lophura leucomelana*), Vulture, Eagle (*Aquila spp*), Jureli, Chifal kira, Danphe (*Lophophorus leucomelana*), Titra, Parrot (*Loriculus vernalis*), Dhukkur (*Streptopelia senegalensis*), Ban-kukhura, Peacock, Owl,
3. Reptiles: Cobra (*Naja naja*)

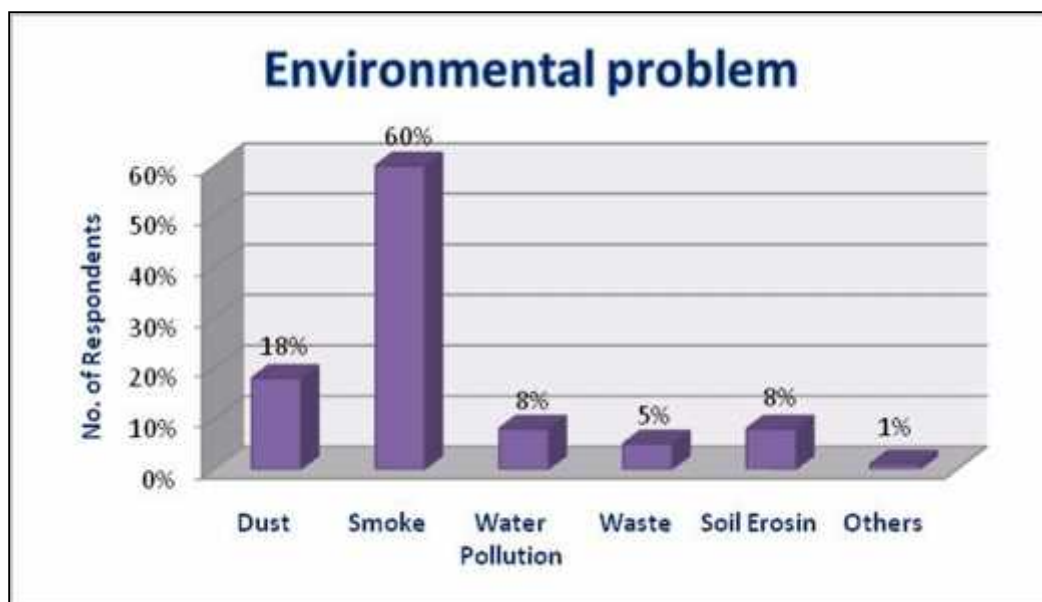
4.2.4 Environmental Problems

The major problem of Okharkot VDC, according to the respondents is Smoke from fuel wood (60%) followed by Dust (18%) as road construction is underway at several places. Water pollution and Soil erosion shared equal percentage ie. 8% only and waste (5%) is rarely a problem in the study area.

Table 4.8: Major environmental problem

Types of problem	Dust	Smoke	Water Pollution	Waste	Soil Erosion	Others
No. of Respondent	18%	60%	8%	5%	8%	1%

Source: field visit 2011



Similarly, most of the waste generated in the study area in Okharkot VDC are usually burnt down or decomposed. About 37% of the respondents dump their waste haphazardly in open places and only 28% of the respondents had applied composting practices at their houses.

Table 4.10: Types of Solid Waste Disposal

Dump	Burn	Compost	Decompose	Others
37%	42%	28%	42%	5%

Source: field visit 2011



4.3 TOURISM STATUS

4.3.1 Knowledge on Tourism

From the response of the respondents in the study area, it was clear that about 57% of the respondents knew the definition of tourism while 43% of them had no idea about the definition of tourism. Similarly, majority of the respondents (73%) believed that tourists don't visit the study area while only 27% responded that tourist do visit there.

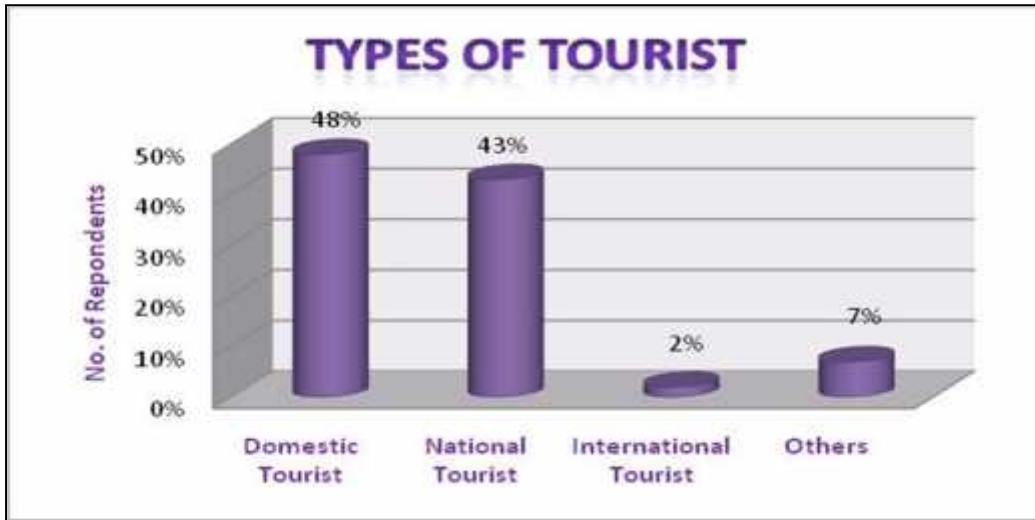
4.3.2 Types of Tourist

In average the response of the total respondents of the study sites on the flow of tourist Local (visitors within the district), national (visitors within the country), international and others were 48%, 43%, 2% and 7% respectively, which is shown in the following table and chart.

Table 4.10: Types of tourists

Types of tourists	Share in total arrival
Local	48%
National	43%
International	2%
Others	7%

Source: field visit 2011



Source: field visit 2011

4.3.3 Purpose of Visit

In average the purposes of visit of the tourists in the study sites were recreation (14%), study (36%), religious (18%), sightseeing (11%), historical (18%) and hike (4%). The responses of the respondents on the purpose of visit are shown in the table 4.11.

Table 4.11: Purpose of visit

purpose of visit	recreation	study	religious	sightseeing	historical	hiking
percentage share	14%	36%	18%	11%	18%	4%

Source: field visit 2011



Figure 8b: Purpose of Visit

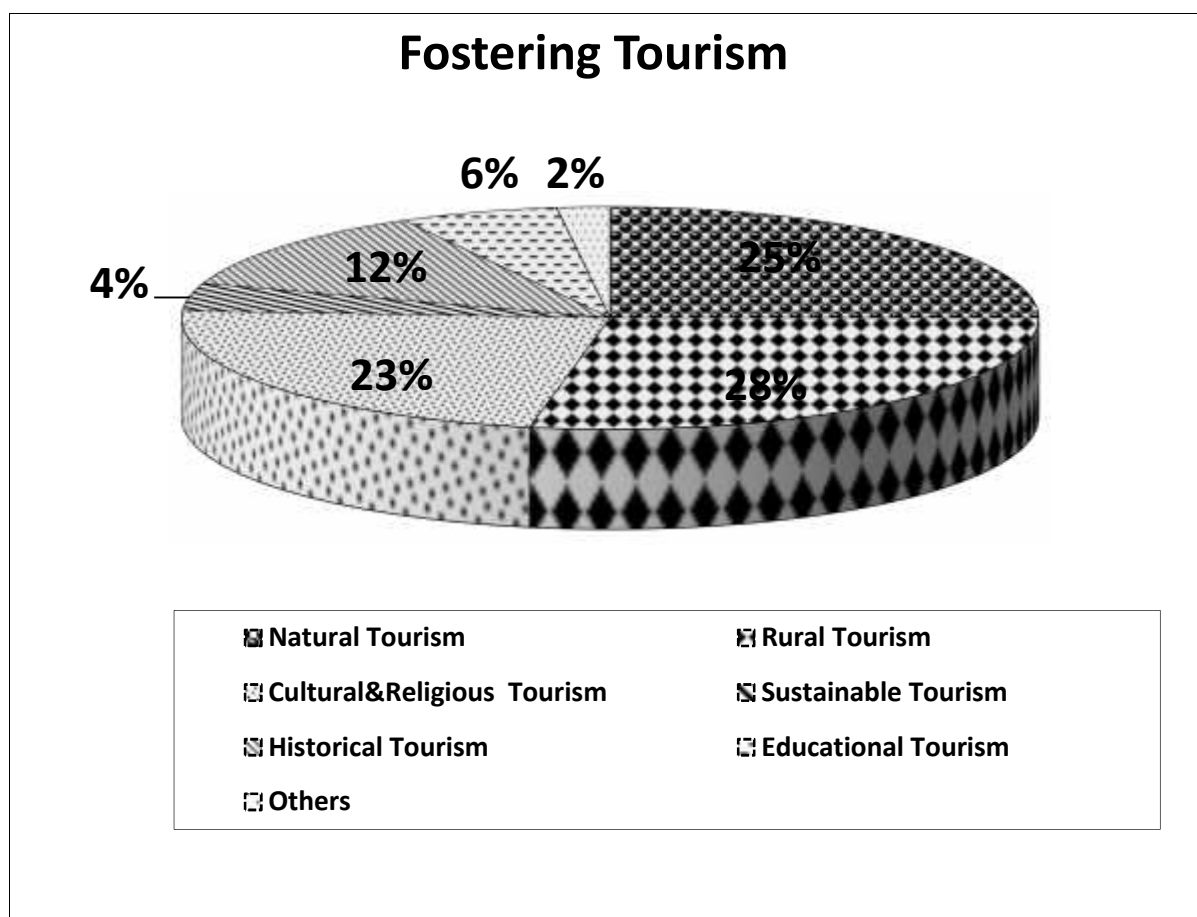
4.3.4 Tourism that may foster

In average the response of the total respondents of the study sites on the means of tourism that may be well developed in the future were natural (25%), rural (28%), cultural & religious (23%), historical (12%), sustainable tourism (4%), and education tourism (6%). The response of the respondents in the study site is shown in the following table and chart.

Table 4.12: tourism that may foster

Types of tourism	Natural	Rural	Religious	Historical	Sustainable	education
Respondents in percent	25%	28%	23%	12%	4%	6%

Source: field visit 2011



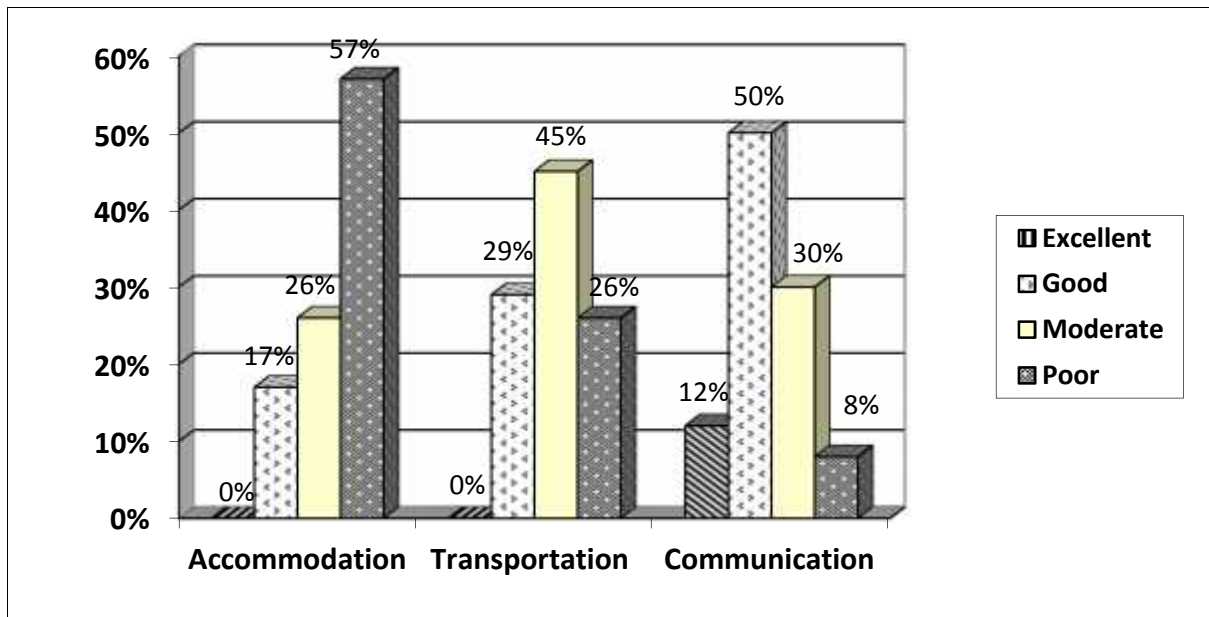
4.3.5 Tourism Facilities

In average the response of the total respondents of the study sites on the available facilities of accommodation in the study sites were good (17%), moderate (26%) and poor (57%). Similarly, for transportation facilities, the response were good (29%), moderate (45%) & poor (26%) and for communication facilities, the response were excellent (12%), good (50%), moderate (30%) & poor (8%).

Table: 4.13: tourism facilities.

Facilities	Excellent	Good	Moderate	Poor
Accommodation	0	17%	26%	57%
Transportation facilities	0	29%	45%	26%
Communication Facilities	12%	50%	30%	8%

source: field visit 2011



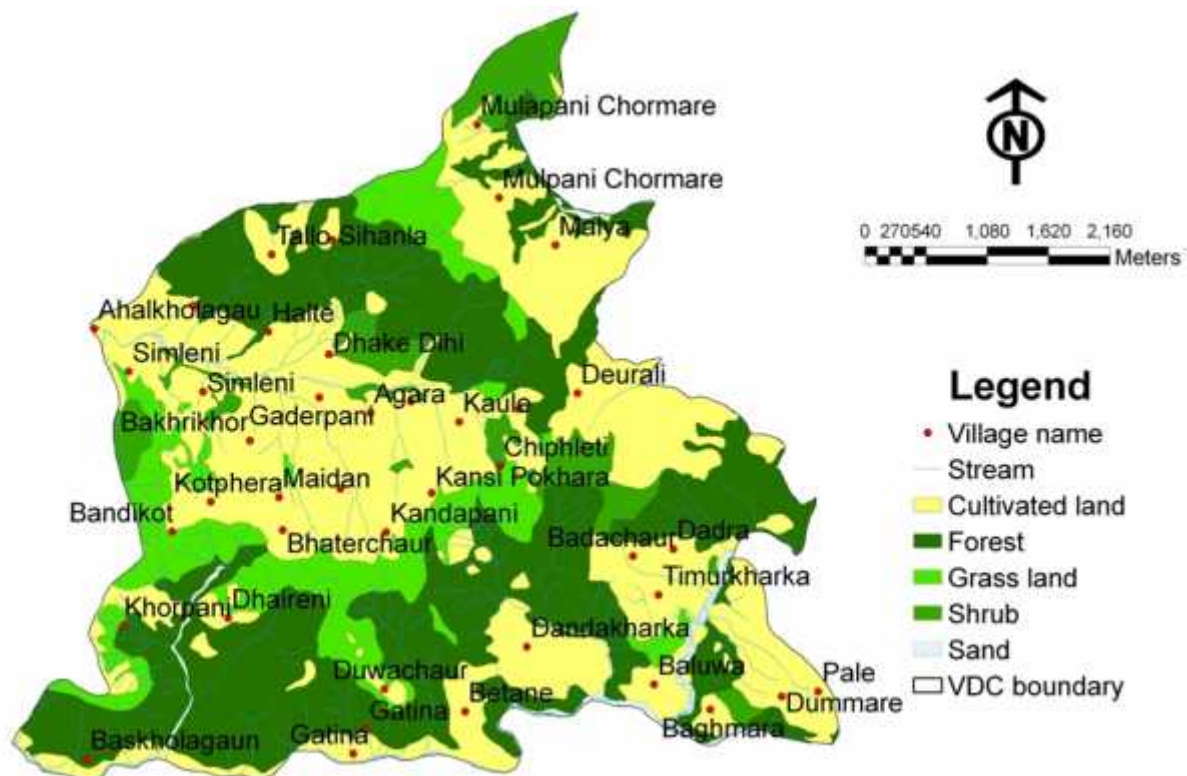
4.3.6 Potential Tourism sites

From the questionnaire survey and FGD in the study area, several sites were enlisted which have the potential to be developed as touristic destination in Pyuthan district. Most of the respondents find Swargadwarii and Gaumukhii as the potential tourism site. Similarly, Kot of Okharkot, Badikot, Ikhnakot & Gandhikot, bank of Jhimruk Khola, Gurans Danda and Ithanathan also have potential to develop as popular touristic sites. Diyalna chaur, Tarakhase chaur, Dhadyaan and Khung ko dhuri can also be the major destination in Pyuthan for tourist in the near future. The list of the potential tourism sites of Pyuthan district are given in Annex 4.

Potential Tourism sites around the periphery of Okharkot VDC

1. BADIKOT

This VDC covering an area of 45.47KM² with co-ordinates [28.15°N](#) & [83.03°E](#) is surrounded by four districts, Narikot, Khung, Okharkot and Bangemarot. It has a total population of 4,426 with 834 households and average household size of 5.32. The VDC is majorly inhabited by Chettri, Brahmins and Dalit.

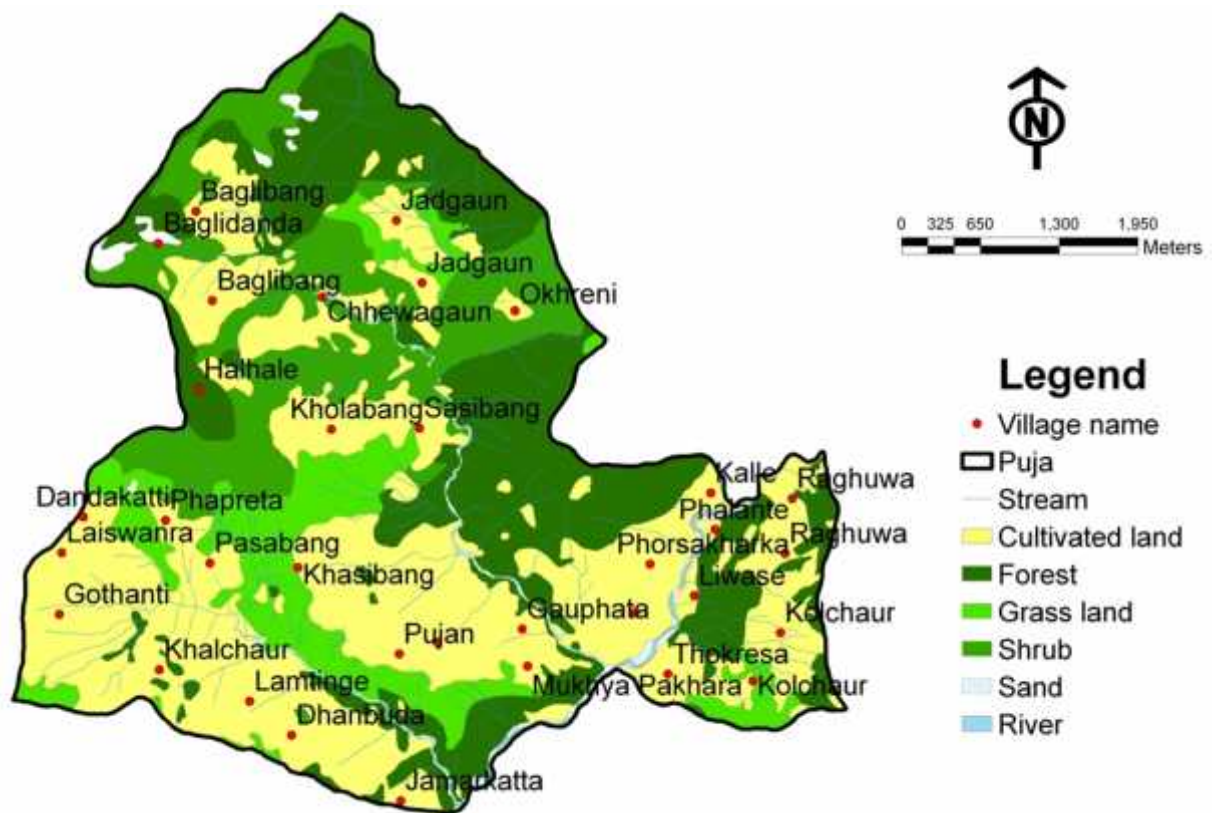


Source: Wikipedia.com

Figure 9: Map of Badikot VDC

2. PUJA

The VDC with the geographic location [28.24°N & 82.99°E](#), covers the area of 16.07 KM² sheltering the total population of 4578 with total households of 862 and average household size of 5.31. The VDC is adjoined with Akhra, Khung, Rajbara, Khawang, Libang and Gulmi district in the west. Chettri, Dalit, Brahmin and Sanyasi are the major inhabitants of this VDC.

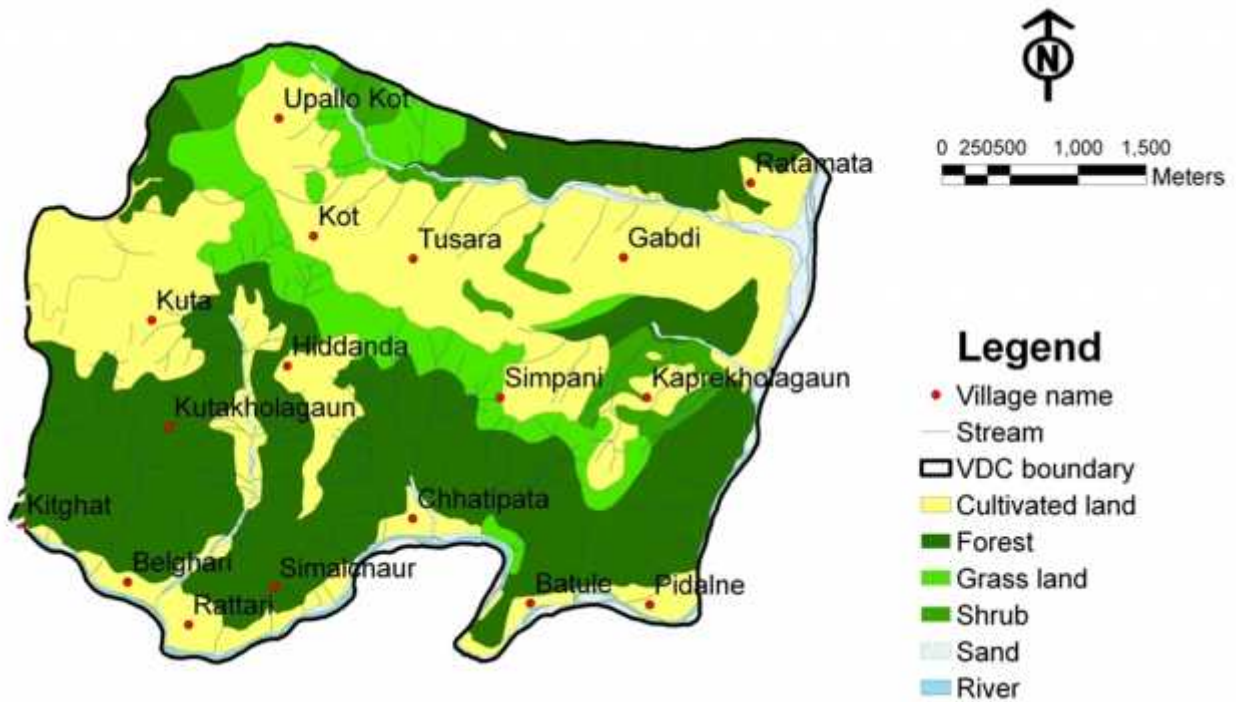


Source: Wikipedia.com

Figure 10: Map of Puja VDC

3. TUSHARA

The VDC wraps 18.36 KM² of the Pyuthan district and lies at [28.16°N](#) & [82.95°E](#). It is surrounded by four VDCs i.e. Libang, Lung, Torwang and Okharkot. The VDC with total population of 5641 has 1072 households with average household size of 5.26. Majority of Chettri, Brahmin, Dalit and Magars are found in this VDC.

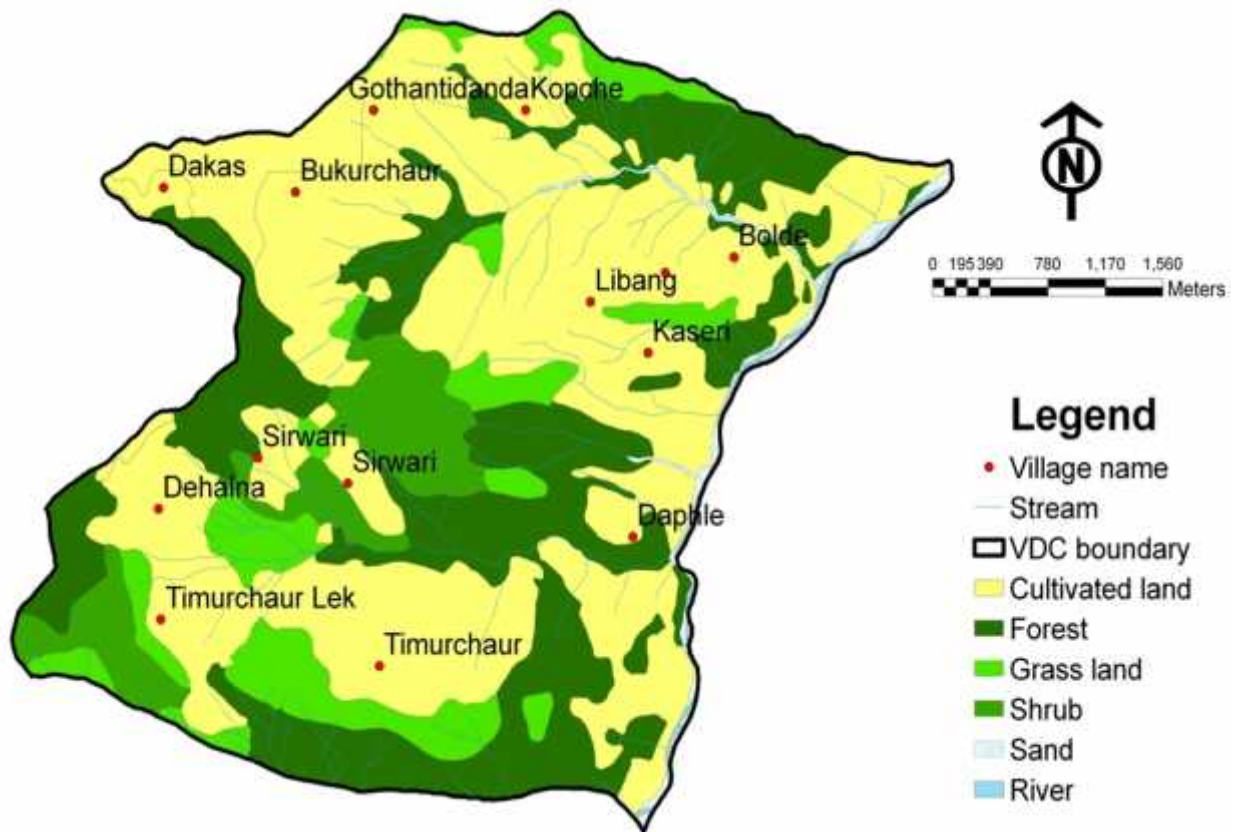


Source: Wikipedia.com

Figure 11: Map of Tushara VDC

4. LIBANG

Libang covers the total area of 16.44km² and is located in 28°18'N 82°38'E. The VDC holds the total population of 4270 living in 735 houses. The VDC is bordered by seven VDCs namely, Puja, Khawang, Lung, Tusara, Okharkot, Narikot and Khung. The VDC is majorly inhabited by Magar, Chettri, Brahmin, Sanyasi, Newar and other indigenous people.

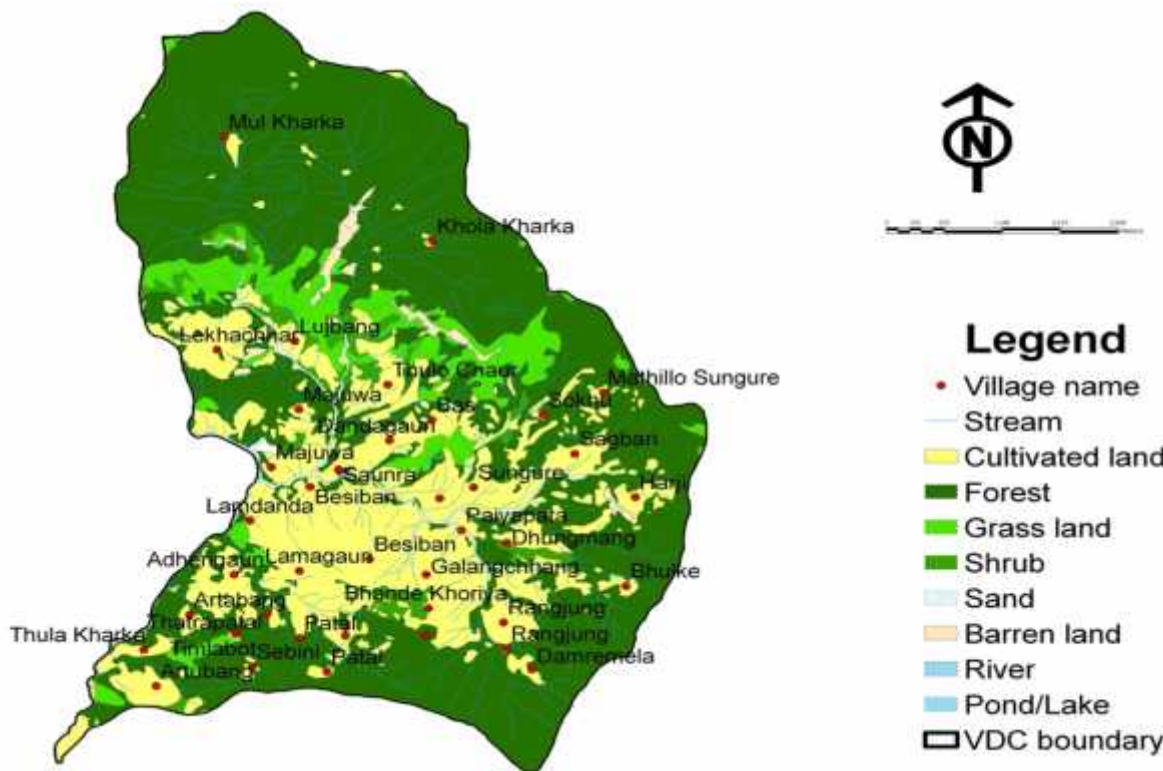


Source: Wikipedia.com

Figure 12: Map of Libang VDC

5.ARKHA

Arkha with geographical location of 28°27'N & 83°07'E covers an area of 104.35 KM². The VDC has total 4493 population and 792 households with average household size of 5.67. This VDC is mainly bounded by Rajbara and Puja of Pyuthan, Baglung district in the north and Gulmi district in the west. The VDC is mainly inhabited by Magar, Dalit and Sanyasi.

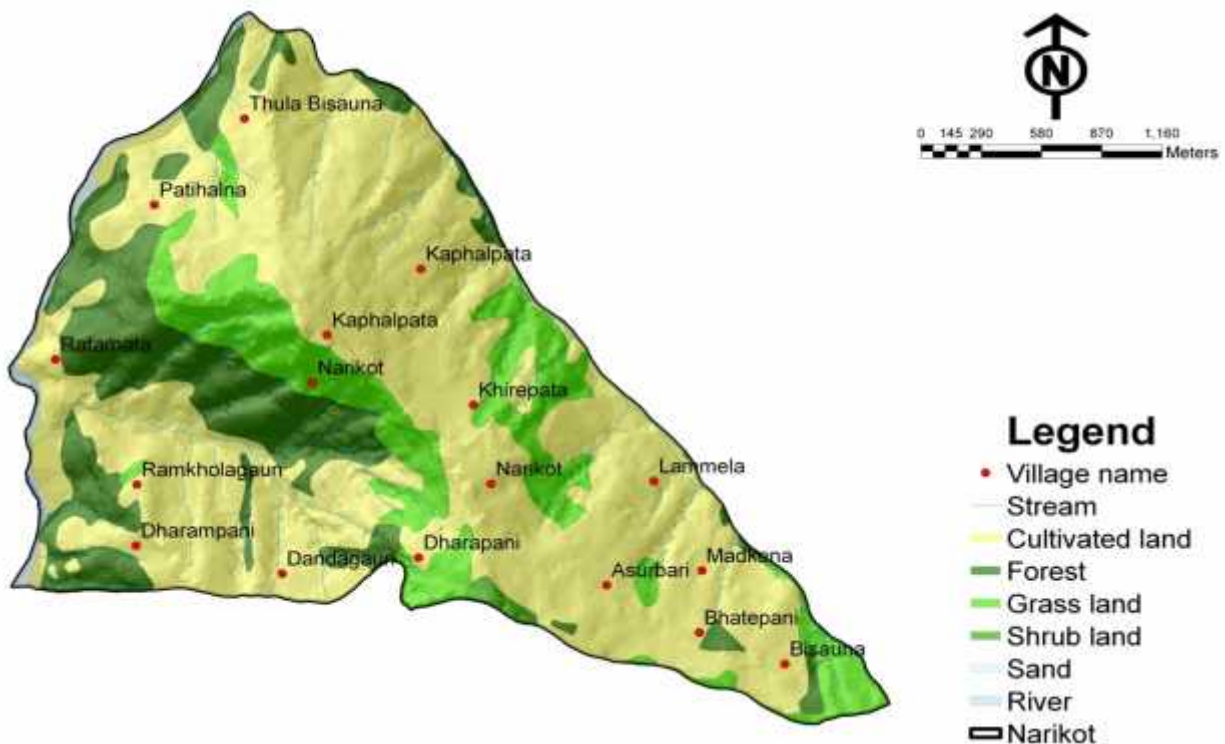


Source: Wikipedia.com

Figure 13: Map of Arkha VDC

5. NARIKOT

Narikot with the geographical location of 28°24'N & 83°05'E covers an area of 11.15 KM². It has the population of 3144 and 602 total households with average household size of 5.22. The VDC is surrounded by 4 VDC's of Pyuthan district namely Okharkot, Badikot, Khung and Tushara. The VDC is mainly inhabited by Magar, Chettri, Dalit and Sanyasi.

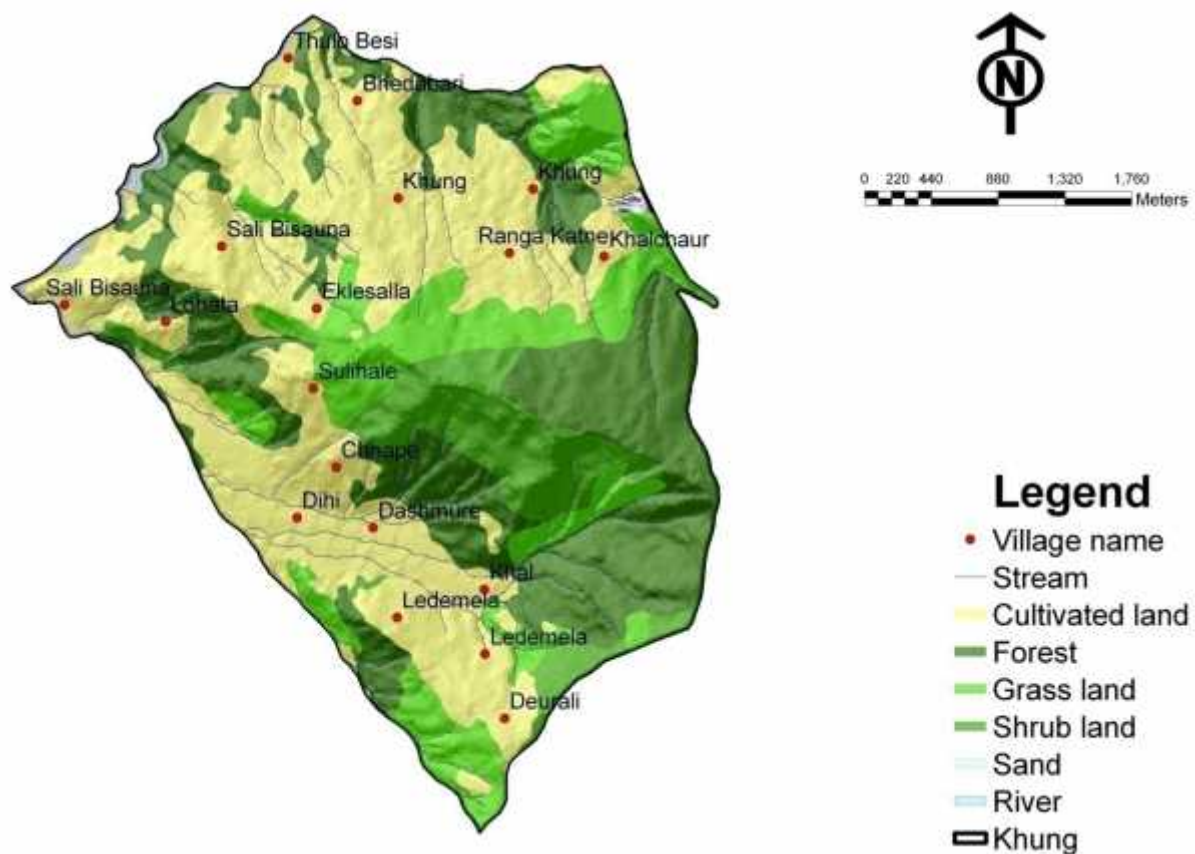


Source: Wikipedia.com

Figure 14: Map of Narikot VDC

6. KHUNG

Khung VDC is located in the geographical location of 28°26'N & 82°07'E ,covering an area of 9.54KM2. The VDC has the total population of 2740 with total 530 households. The average household size is 5.17. The major inhabitants of Khung VDC are Chhetri, Dalit and Sanyasi followed by few Brahmins, Thakuri and Magars. The khung VDC is bordered by Gulmi district in the west, and Narikot and Libang in the east, Puja in the north and Badikot in the south.

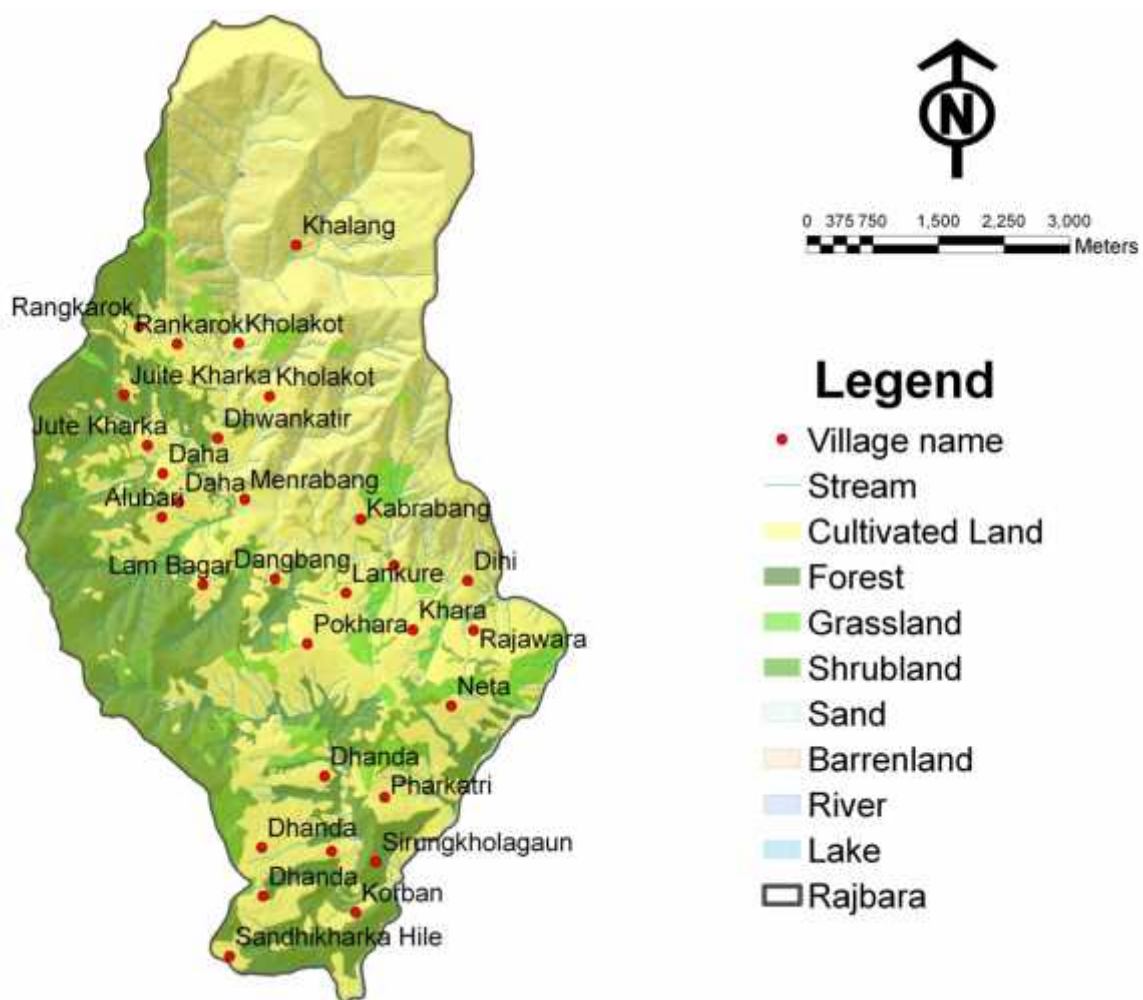


Source: Wikipedia.com

Figure 15: Map of Khung VDC

8. RAJBARA

Rajbara VDC of Pyuthan district is located in the ...28°29'N & 82°09'E, covering the total area of 12.09KM². It has a total population of 4138 and 700 households with average household size of 5.91. Magar, Dalit and Thakuri are the major inhabitants of Rajbara VDC, which is bordered by Arkha in the west, Baglung district in the north, Swaliwang and Khawang VDC of Pyuthan in the east and Puja in the south.



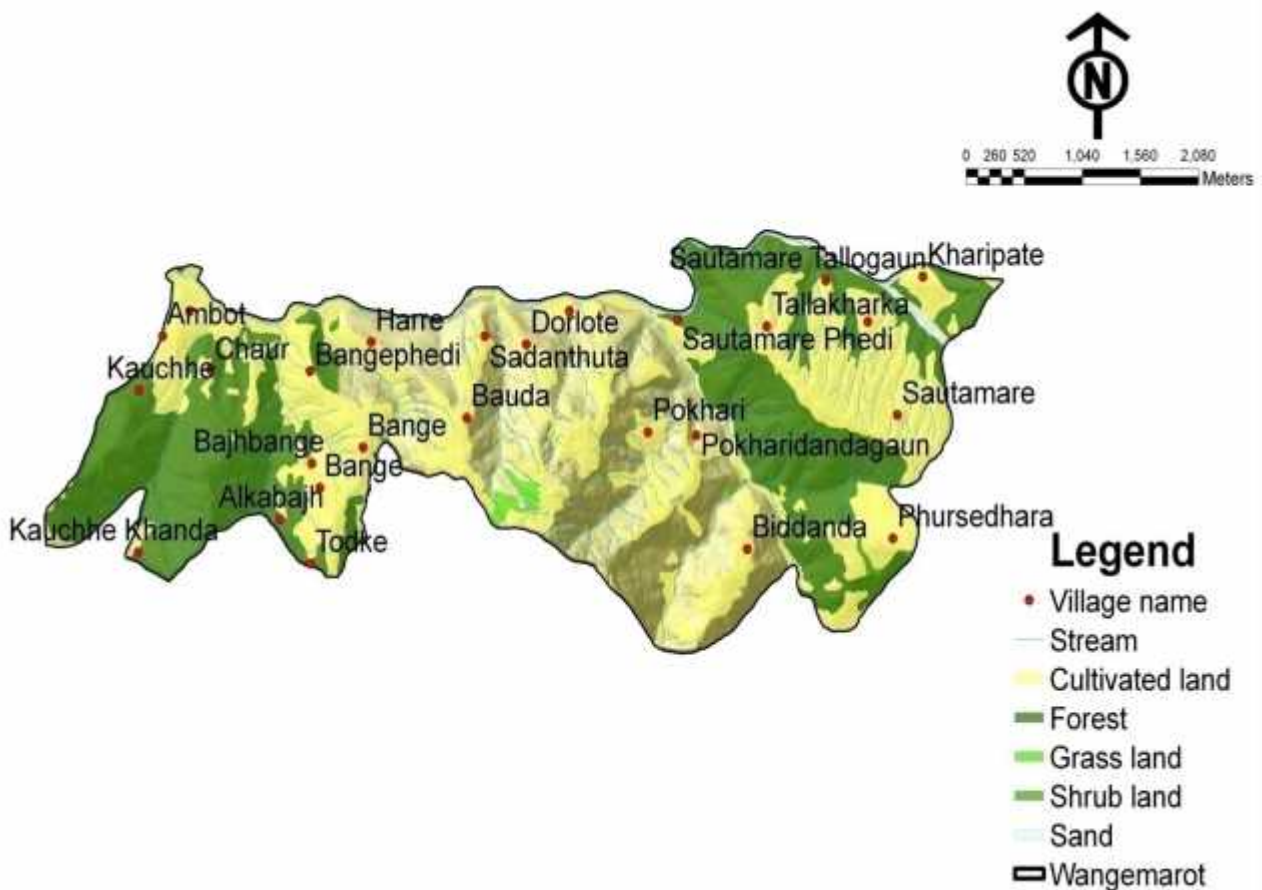
Source: Wikipedia.com

Figure 16: Map of Rajbara VDC

BANGEMAROT

Bangemarot VDC of Pyuthan district lies in the geographical location of 28°28'N & 82°16'E , covering the total area of 11.64KM². The VDC is the home of 4339 population with total number of households 855 and average household size is 5.07. Magar, Chhetri, Dalit and few Brahmins are the major inhabitants of Bangemarot VDC. The VDC is bordered by Gulmi district in the west, Badikot in the north, Okharkot in the east and Chuja in the south-east.

9.



Source: Wikipedia.com

Figure: Map of Bangemarot VDC

4.4.1 Socio- Economic Details of Peripheral VDCs of Okharkot

The population size of peripheral VDCs of Okharkot i.e. Badikot, Punja, Arkha, Libang, Tushara, Narikot, Khung, Rajbara and Bangemarot are 5151, 4578, 4493, 4270, 5641, 3144, 2740, 4138 and 4339 with total household size of 969, 862, 792, 1072, 602, 530, 700 and 855 respectively. The average household sizes are 5.32, 5.31, 5.67, 5.81, 5.26, 5.22, 5.17, 5.91 and 5.07 respectively which are almost compatible with national average 5.44. Sex Ratio is found to be 83.23 for Arkha, 85.54 for Badikot, 86.39 for Punja, 93.73 for Libang 86.84 for Tushara, 85.26 for Narikot, 95.29 for Khung, 86.22 for Rajbara and 83.38 for Bangemarot.

Literacy rate is for Arkha, Badikot, Puja, Libang, Tushara, Narikot, Khung, Rajbara and Bangemarot is 32.9%, 47.5%, 47.4%, 37.4%, 46.3%, 45.6%, 55.2%, 37.6% and 43.2% respectively.

Table 2: Households and Population Details of Peripheral VDCs of Okharkot

VDC	No. of HHs	Avg. HH size	Total Popn	Male Popn	Female Popn	Sex Ratio	Literacy (%)
Arkha	792	5.67	4493	2041	2452	83.23	32.9
Badikot	969	5.32	5151	2374	2777	85.54	47.5
Puja	862	5.31	4576	2121	2455	86.39	47.4
Libang	735	5.81	4270	2066	2204	93.73	37.4
Tushara	1072	5.26	5641	2622	3019	86.84	46.3
Narikot	602	5.22	3144	1447	1697	85.26	45.6
Khung	530	5.17	2740	1337	1403	95.29	55.2
Rajbara	700	5.91	4138	1916	2222	86.22	37.6
Bangemarot	855	5.07	4339	1973	2366	83.38	43.2

Source: CBS 2001

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

This study focuses on tourism perspectives of Okharkot VDC of Pyuthan district. It attempts to identify the potential tourism sites of the Okharkot VDC and its peripheral area. It also tries to develop an itinerary for tourism development of the VDC and identifying various challenges for the same.

Descriptive as well as explorative research design is used in this study. Both the quantitative and qualitative data has been used in analyzing the tourism prospective and potential challenges that may arise for the development of the tourism in the study area.

Both primary and secondary data collection methods were used in conducting the study. Primary data were collected by a number of ways including field visit, perception measure through well designed questionnaires and focus group discussions. Simple random sampling was applied while selecting sample for questionnaire purpose. A total of 103 (10%) households out of 1039 households were selected as sample for questionnaire purposes.

Pyuthan district is rich in floral diversity. The study found various tourism attractions that the Okharkot and its peripheral area could offer to attract domestic and foreign tourists in the district. The study area is enriched by diverse vegetation, wildlife and culturally rich ethnic communities settled traditionally in lap of hills. Similarly, the geographical location and structure comprising panoramic hills, planes and artistically inclined landscape could also be the major attraction to fostering tourism in the district.

Panoramic rhododendron forest, local species orange, red radish, medicinal plants like Harro, Barro, Timur, Ritha, Tite, Amala are some special types of vegetation that Pyuthan offers to its visitors. Mammals like Leopard, Ghoral, Porcupine, Rabbit, Spotted Deer, Fox, Bandel, Ratee and birds like- Kaliz, Eagle, Vulture, Danphe, Titra, Parrot etc are major wildlife of the district to

attract wildlife lovers. Similarly, Sorathi and Maruni of Magar communities, Diwali Puja of indigenous Gharti Chhetry, traditional process of making iron and copper pots and weapons by Bishwokarma communities among others are some live cultures that Pyuthani people uniquely possess to offer.

Beautiful Rock Garden (a garden of artistic giant natural rocks) situated at a hilltop of Okharkot VDC, historically and archeologically important Okharkhot (temple of Goddess) situated at the highest altitude of the district, Diyalnechour, (open hilltop grassland) located at Tusar VDC in the lap of rhododendron forest, religiously famous Gaumukhi (a hindu pilgrim situated at a natural cave) and Bahis Dhara Chhahara in Arkha VDC are some notable places with high tourism attractions in the study area.

Despite these attractions, nothing has been done to promote domestic as well as international tourism in the district. The publicity, proper study and concrete is lacking for promoting the tourism in Python. Similarly, level awareness among people, documentation, and conservation of tourism resources is also found poor. Likewise, the facilities of transportation, lodging/fooding and basic amenities like communication, internet and restaurants are poor in most all the tourism potential sites of the district while the availability of these facilities are much significant to develop the tourism.

5.2 CONCLUSION

Pyuthan district is gifted with everything, required to be developed as the popular destination for tourists, both national & international. The district being enriched with the ancient temples, palaces (Kot) with immense historical importance, political history, diverse ethnic groups, dialects and languages, landscapes, biologically significant flora, fauna and wildlife, serenity and placidness of waterfalls and hill-sides serrated in the form of an endless series of terraces. If all these resources are integrated for tourism development, the district can be developed as a visitor's dreamland for tourism destination. But the district still lags far behind in the perspective of tourism development due to lack of proper study, research and rigid planning in regard to the tourism. The publicity and well documentation of the tourism resources is very poor. Besides,

the level of community awareness, sensitivity to tourism issues and the care about the potential tourism resources is also null or very poor in the district.

Development of the district as the popular touristic destination is not possible with one man's effort. Hence, the participation of local communities can play significant role to locally manage tourism creating viable economic opportunities as well as reduce environment issues associated with poverty and unemployment, hence the active participation of the local communities need to be encouraged for the sake of the promotion of tourism.

Similarly, the facilities of transportation, lodging/fooding and basic amenities like communication, internet and restaurants are poor in most all the tourism potential sites of the district while the availability of these facilities are much significant to develop the tourism. Hence effective study, planning, management and control should be ensured for the sustainable growth of tourism in Pyuthan district.

5.3 Recommendations

Though there are various remarkable tourism attractions in the study area, they need various interventions to make them salable in domestic and international market. Based on its findings the study recommends that

- a. There is a need of a comprehensive study to identify the tourism resources of the district.
- b. A tourism master plan of the entire Pyuthan district should be made first to increase provide guideline for the efforts from the individual village development committees.
- c. Various tourism awareness programmes should be conducted in the village and district level.
- d. Participatory conservation programme of various potential tourism products including natural, historical and archeological as well as cultural should be launched in local level.
- e. Peoples awareness should be increased regarding the sanitation and environment protection.
- f. Condition of physical infrastructure including, roads, electricity, drinking water should be improved.

- g. Various trekking routes around the main tourism attraction should be developed in coordinating with experts.
- h. Various promotional and publicity activities of the tourism attraction should be organized in order to attract tourists in the district.
- i. Local businessmen should be encourage to businesses targeting visitors.
- j. Local govern bodies should be encouraged to invest its development budget to conserve and develop tourism resources.
- k. There is also need of active coordination from the local level to the central level tourism organizations in promoting local tourism.

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ANNEXES

Annex 1:

LOGFRAME FOR TOURISM PLANNING

S. N	Activities	Proposed Sites	Concerned Authorities	Year		
				I	II	III
1	Awareness & Training in Tourism & Sanitation	Okharkot, Arkha, Puja, Tushara, Libang & Bandikot	DDC, VDC, I/NGOs, concerned authorities	☐		
2	Drinking Water Supply Management	Mainly Okharkot, priority will be given to other 5 VDCs also	DDC, VDC, Drinking water supply office		☐	
3	Community Forest Management Training	In all study VDCs except Arkha	DDC, VDC, DFO and other concerned authorities			☐
4	Commercialization of local products	In all study sites	DDC, VDC, cottage industries, Handicraft associations, concerned authorities			☐
5	Exploration of Copper mines	Puja	Nepal Government, Dept of Mines & Geology, DDC, VDC and concerned stakeholders		☐	
6	Construction of Rock garden	Takura of Tushara & Dhadyaan of Okharkot	NTB, DDC, VDC, Concerned stakeholders & Locals		☐	
7	Construction of View Tower	Kot of Okharkot,	DDC, VDC, NTB,	☐		
8	Homestay Management	Chauke of Okharkot, Gaumukhee, Pidalne, Thulachaur, Libang, Rajbara	DDC, VDC, NTB, locals, concerned stakeholders	☐		
9	Horse Riding	Khahare to Kot of Okharkot	VDC & locals	☐		
10	Scheduled Transportation	Bagdulla-Machhee-Thulabesi	DDC, VDC, Dept of Road, concerned stakeholders (local Transportation service committee)	☐		
11	Development of Trekking Route	1. Machhee-Ammare danda-Hira pokhari village-Thulo Pokhara-Fedi Kharka-Okharkot	NTB, DDC, VDC	☐		

		2. Thulabesi-Aglungfedi-Arkha-Thulachaur-Gaumukhee-Rajbara-Punja-Libang-Tushara-Tusharakot-Takura-pidalne-Machhee-chaukee			
12	Historical Museum	Okharkot (Rich Magar culture, linguistic diversity, traditional dresses etc)	Arkha VDC and the locals	☐	
13	Live Museum (to reflect typical Nepali village and their culture)	Arkha (Magar community)	Okharkot VDC and the locals		☐
14	Organic Farming	Chaukee of Okharkot (as traditional agricultural farming is still in practice over there (ie. no pesticides or inorganic fertilizers are used)	VDC, Locals, District Agricultural offices, concerned stakeholders	☐	
15	Renovation	Kot of Okharkot, Gadhikot, Ikhnakot and Tushara, Gaumukhi	Dept of Archaeology, DDC & VDCs	☐	
16	Park Establishment	Johi Thumko of Okharkot	DDC, VDC and local community	☐	
17	Advocating for Airport	Diyalna Chaur of Libang	Nepal Government, DDC, VDC, concerned stakeholders (Nepal Airlines Corporation, Civil Aviation Authority), Donor Agencies		☐
18	Media for publicity	In all VDCs	NTB, Media house, DDC, VDC, I/NGOs, Nepal Government, local communities	☐	

Annex 2:

Suggested Itinerary of Tourism Potential Sites of Pyuthan

Map: Suggested Itinerary of Tourism Potential Sites of Pyuthan

Day 01: Bhaluwang

Leave Kathmandu to Bhaluwang by bus and stay at the hotel.

Day 02: Machhi

One can have an easy access to Machhi from Bhaluwang by bus after the light refreshment. The place is so called because of its shape resembling fish (*machha*). After lunch in Machhi, interested candidates can have short trek to rock garden locally known as “Dhada” or enjoy swimming in Jhimruk khola as well. One can get the eye catching view of the Jhimruk and Gartang River thereby and the floodplain and of course Pidalne.

Pidalne has an emblematic beauty of the natural assets. Though it is near to Machhi, it is much peaceful and has a sound sanitation status. The availability of fresh water and view of wide agricultural plots further adds the interests of visit and treks.

Day 03: Machhi to Okharkot

After breakfast, one can have short trek to Chaukee via Chudhara and enjoy lunch there. After the scheduled lunch, visitors can proceed to Kauchee and from Khahare, visitors can enjoy horse riding in the evening to Okharkot as well. Visitor can have the glances of natural divas and view the rural life style much closely during their home stay. One will have to take the home stay at Hirapokhari, Okharkot.

Day 04: Okharkot to Ahalkhola

Early in the morning, at around 6:15 am, the visitor can have the dazzling view of sunrise from the Kot of Okharkot after a short trek of about 30-45 minutes. Okharkot is significantly prosperous with the natural assets and panoramic views to make the adventure more interesting and impressive. There, the visitor can also see the history of Petty Kings (*Bhure Takure Raja*). Besides, the attractive snow piled peaks of Himalayas thereby adds more gratification to the visitors during the trek. They can also turn around to have the view of *Raj Danda* which is seen once annually. Overall, the visitor can enjoy knowing the historical facts and evidences there in the Kot. The remnant of the Historical Palaces can be still seen there.

After that, the visitor will have to head towards Maidana of Bandikot, shortly 1-2 hours from Kot and this is the place where one can have rest and enjoy their lunch. After the lunch, the visitor will have to move to Gadikot of Bandikot which is around 1-1.5 hours away. On the way to Gadikot, one can have the glimpses of glorious temples that are associated with the history of Gadikot. This place is also embellished with the natural assets and is much significant from the aspects of religious tourism. The visitor will have to move forward to Ahalkhola to spend the night.

Day 05: Ahalkhola to Thulabesi to Thulachaur of Arkha

After light breakfast in Ahalkhola, the visitor will have to proceed to Thulachaur. One can choose either Darimchaur-Thulabesi-Thulachaur route or Bandikot-Narikot-Khung-Thulabesi-Thulachaur route. The first route is a bit shorter (around 6-7 hours) than the second one. One can reach Darimchaur from Ahalkhola in an hour easily and then Thulabesi for lunch. But one will have to trek around 11-12 hours through the second route. During the trek, the visitor gets the opportunity to enjoy the wonderful creations of nature, a popular destination for natural tourism. The visitor can also have the view of fascinating scenario on the bank of Jhimruk River. Visitors can have rest and lunch in Narikot. From Narikot, they will again proceed to Khung. After spending about 2 hours to enjoy the natural view from *Dhuri* (peak) in Khung, visitors can proceed to Thulabesi and enjoy home stay there.

From Thulabesi, the visitor will have to proceed to Arkha via Aglung Phedi-Artubang-Arkha trekking route. This route too is nearly 5-6 hours trek route and lies on North of Pyuthan. The mountains, agricultural plots, mild climate and hospitality of the people thereby have a positive impression in the hearts of visitors.

Arkha is the sacred land of the Magar community and is one of the fundamental sites for fostering the cultural and natural tourism. The visitors there gets chance to interact with the typical villagers with their unique identity and see their domestic products as well. The flora and fauna available are the source of attraction for the visitors arriving there. Finally, the visitor will have to make a home stay at Thulachaur of Arkha for that night.

Day 06: Gaumukhee to Rajbara

On this day, after the morning breakfast, the visitor will have to proceed to Gaumukhi which is a short trek of around two and half hours from Thulachaur. On this route, the visitor gets opportunity to witness the natural scenic beauty of the hilly range.

Gaumukhi is primarily significant because it is the place of the origination of Jhimruk River. The hot water spring there, is also the point of attraction for the visitors. The place has so nomenclature because of its shape resembling cow. The river seems to be originating from the mouth of the cow shaped source. There is a great festive celebration in every *Makar Shankranti*. Besides, Baiesmul Jharana is also the next source for alluring the visitors passing over there. Visitors after taking rest and finish their lunch, can proceed to Rajbara which is 3-4 hours away. They can have their stay there that night. Rajabara is also an important place for viewing the cultures of Magar community.

Day 07: Puja to Libang

In the early morning, after light breakfast, the visitor will have to proceed to Libang via Puja which is approximately 4-5 hours away from Rajabara. At Puja, the visitors can see diversity in culture, difference in their costumes and so many religious heritages. They can also stare at the silver mine at Jadgau which lies along the Libang-Libang lekh route. The route passes through the Rhododendron and Kafal forest which fascinates all the visitors and fills their heart with romances of pleasure.

Day 08: Tushara to Pidalne to Machhi

After their scheduled breakfast, the visitors having a short trek of 15-20 minutes can get over Diyalna Chaur which is covered with the Rhododendron and Kafal forest. It is a wide land with the mountainous beauty. The visitors feel as if watching the mountainous diva standing on the plain Terai. Besides, the visitor also gets chance to visit the legendary Goddess temple which is festively worshipped every six months with the sacrifice of small black goats. This place is also an important site for the religious and natural tourism. After having lunch at Tusara, visitors can visit Tusara Kot. They can taste the typically fresh oranges, kamala and other fruits there. After wandering there for an hour, they visitor will have to move down towards Pidhalne via Jiunepokhara-Takura-Chipchipe-Odhar-Pidhalne route. It seizes around two hours to travel through the route. During the trek, the visitors can pass through the jungles, rivers viewing all the natural beauties.

The visitors will get back to Machhi by the evening. They can enjoy having funs in their mess and reviving their memories of their trek. The next day, they can depart for their hometown from Pyuthan.

Annex 3:

TOURISM POLICIES UNDER VARIOUS PLANS

1. First Five-Year Plan (1956-1961)

Visits of Nepal by foreigners, except with special permission of the rulers of the time, were very limited till the political change of 1951, which led the doors of the nation open to all, paving 12 way for the development of tourism as an economic activity. For the first time in course of planned development of the country, attention was drawn towards tourism during the First Five-Year Plan of 1956. The First Plan had envisaged the programs of publishing guidebooks to attract tourists towards natural, historical and religious spots of the country with the intention of earning foreign exchange. However, the global publicity in the international media on the success of the first climbing of Mt. Annapurna, one of the eight thousand meter peaks in the world in the year 1950, could draw tremendous attention towards Nepal than the publicity initiated by Nepalese guidebooks.

Realizing the tremendous potentiality of developing tourism, a permanent institutional arrangement in the form of Tourism Development Board was established in the year 1957, which later turned into full-fledged Department, in course of the implementation of the first Five Year National Plan. During this period, under the French Assistance Program, Mr. George Lebrec, French Consultant in the year 1959 prepared first tourism plan for Nepal as "General Plan for the Organization of Tourism in Nepal". The Plan had focused more on preparation of publicity materials and need of separate office for Tourism.

2. Second Three-Year Plan (1962-1965)

During this Plan period, collection of information on tourist arrival was initiated which has proved very helpful to have authoritative data base for further planning and policy formulation in developing tourism sector in the country. Statistical format developed for recording tourism related information has been consistently maintained till today and has been major source of data since then for all the studies and analysis conducted in this sector. By the end of Three Year Periodical Plan, the total number of tourists visiting Nepal was recorded to be nearly 10,000 a year.

Identification of potential sites for tourists to visit as Pokhara, Lumbini, Nagarkot, Kakani, and Daman is another focus of the plan. Programs initiated for the infrastructure development to make these sites and spots worthy and possible to be visited by tourists including encouragement to invest on accommodation facilities from the private sector business entrepreneurs have led the real foundation of developing tourism.

3. Third Plan (1965-1970)

On the basis of the increased flow of tourist arrival during the first and second periodical plans, it was practiced to have vision of quantified forecast targeting to double the number of tourists by the end of the plan period. Preservation of cultural heritage, supply of hotel beds, and air transport development are the focused programs to cater the twenty thousand tourists which was based as 10 percent of the total visitors expected in neighbouring India. However, the arrivals exceeded far more than the expected level. This plan had initiated for a separate Master Plan to develop Lumbini as a religious tourist site. A high level Tourism Development Committee was formed in 1969 intending to find ways to give special thrust in tourism planning.

4. Fourth Plan (1970-1975)

It was clearly realized by the period of this plan the ended of a longer-term national concept in developing tourism with policy package to achieve sustained growth of arrival and foreign exchange in supporting overall development objective of the economy. As such Tourism Master Plan was initiated and prepared in 1972 with technical assistance from Germany. This is the ten years perspective plan defining programs and projects to lead course of Nepalese tourism in developing independent Nepal Style Tourism along with the identification of specific market segments. The perspective plan has also indicated the need to adopt the concept of decentralized pattern of tourism development in Nepal in order to benefit wider mass at grass root from tourism activities turning the diverse attractions into real economic value.

Along with the growth in number of arrivals, expanding supply capacity in terms of hotel beds in and outside Kathmandu, air transport facilities, and human resource development were considered in a comprehensive way during this plan period. Establishment of Hotel and Tourism Training Center with tripartite agreement between His Majesty's Government, United Nations

Development Program, and International Labour Organization had contributed tremendously in upgrading quality service of tourism industry in Nepal.

In the decade 1965 to 1975 tourist arrivals averaged annual growth of 26 percent. It is very interesting to note the changed twining of tourism sector with other related sector during the different phase of the plan. Tourism was presented along the Trade sector during the first Plan, while it was seen with industry sector in the Second Plan, and during the Third Plan tourism 14 programs are more tied up with archaeological explorations. During the Fourth Plan tourism is seen planned more from the economic and environment perspective.

5. Fifth Plan (1975-1980)

This Plan intended to implement the suggestions envisaged in the Tourism Master Plan. Production and distribution of publicity materials in the form of brochures, advertisement, photo slides, motion pictures were substantially intensified under the program component of this plan. Promotional campaign to establish Nepal as best destination had been the priority programs with wider participation in travel tourism fairs and exhibition organized in tourists generating markets. Need of marketing Nepal as a tourism destination was recognized in this plan and to realize it, a separate "Nepal Tourism Marketing Strategy" (1976-1981) was prepared by Joseph-Edward Susnik. This Strategy perceived to make Nepal as a gateway for South and South East Asia on the basis of Nepal being a cradle of religions and culture influencing history and life of major parts of Asia. It had also recommended two separate agencies for infrastructure development and marketing promotion.

There has been substantial increase in supply of hotel beds during this period as a result of encouraging investment from the private sector supported simultaneously by the government owned bank. The Nepal Industrial Development Corporation (NIDC), which as a government bank invested a sum of Rs. 115.4 million in tourism industries during this plan period. As a result total number of Hotel beds increased from 1663 in 1974/75 to 6838 by the year 1979/80. In order to facilitate accessibility constraint in visiting Nepal, Tribhuvan Airport of Kathmandu as the only international airport of the country was upgraded to the standard of modern jet services. With the establishment of separate Ministry of Tourism in the year 1977 as envisaged in the

Tourism Master Plan, the priority of the government in developing tourism in the country got well reflected. Similarly Tourism Coordination Committee formed in 1978 under the chairmanship of Tourism Minister was envisaged to address the issue of effective coordination among diverse public as well as private agencies.

6. Sixth Plan (1980-1985)

This plan adopted basic policy guidelines to use the tourism infrastructures more effectively and to make the existing sites and spots more attractive. Potentiality of resort tourism was identified as it prioritized in developing new tourist resorts. For the first time this plan gave specific attention on backward linkage by spelling out to maximize the use of domestic products in tourism industry reducing the use of imported goods.

During this period, a National Tourism Promotion Committee was formed in 1981 intending to involve the personnel from related government agencies and representative from private sector industries to determine the course of inter-agency coordination and promotional programs in the context of erosion on the arrival growth rate. Committee had prepared a National Tourism Promotion Report, which stated specific actions relating to infrastructure, tourism service, human resource, publicity, institutional restructure to be followed and implemented to enhance the quality of tourism, to generate further growth in arrivals, and to increase supply capacity of industry. However, except bringing civil aviation under the Ministry of Tourism, other actions could not effectively be implemented. On Nepal's request, Pacific Area Travel Association (PATA) Marketing Task Force in the year 1983 prepared a Marketing Plan, which had recommended an autonomous Nepal Tourism Promotion Board to have research based marketing programs with the full involvement of private sector industry representatives.

During this period in 1984 a review was conducted on Nepal Tourism Master Plan of 1972 with technical assistance from European Community. The review reinstated the relevancy of longer term policy contents and conceptual assumptions of the Master Plan, and suggested various destination oriented marketing programs.

7. Seventh Plan (1985-1990)

This Plan intended to focus on yield rather than number of arrivals. The objective was spelled out to attract upper class tourists to increase foreign exchange earnings from tourism. It also indicated the need of drawing private sector investment for creating tourism facilities in those areas where the basic infrastructures are in place. This plan recognized to encourage domestic tourism particularly to address seasonality issue in order to sustain industry.

For the first time an exercise was started in the year 1987 specifying an ambitious longer term quantified arrival target of receiving one million tourists by the year 2000 in the planning history of tourism development. Hotel beds and air seats requirements were calculated to meet the target and incentive package to mobilize private sector investment were designed. The charter air flights to Nepal were granted permission to operate during this plan to compensate the infrastructure limitation in air transport.

Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with Tibetan Tourism Authority in the year 1985 had opened up new dimension in Nepalese tourism. It had been added advantage to both Nepal and Tibet in developing combined travel and tour package to draw attention particularly of long haul tourists. Handling Tibet tour via Nepal had been new course of business to Nepal tourism industry.

During the period Nepal Rastra Bank carried out a study on patterns of tourist expenditure to estimate the value addition and import contents, and to estimate income and employment generation in the tourism sector. The study concluded the need to have different approach to develop tourism compared to other industry due to its differential nature. On the basis of analysis of the information, the study suggested to liberalize foreign exchange policy, emphasize special activity products as trekking, have aggressive marketing, expand international and domestic air service, and develop integrated policy approach.

Similarly, a study for the tourism programs conducted by Touche Ross, tourism consultants supported by Asian Development Bank in 1989/90, suggested the need of developing tourism on the basis of Eastern, Central and Western axis of Nepal. This report of Nepal Tourism

Development Program covers product development, marketing strategy as well as institutional development. Tourism infrastructure Development Project was formulated on the basis of this report funded by Asian Development Bank.

The completion of the consolidation work of the runway and the parallel taxiway at Tribhuvan International Airport has made possible the operation of bigger jet aircrafts. Constructions of International Terminal Building, Operation Building, and Control Tower along with other back up service infrastructure in Kathmandu airport have greatly helped to enhance tourism.

8. Eighth Plan (1992-1997)

This plan attributing high priority to the sector once more reiterated the need to reconsolidate the policy package to guide the development of tourism to contribute substantially to the national economic development due to enormous potentiality of resources to attract tourists in the country. It is aimed to develop Nepal as a final destination for tourists.

National Civil Aviation Policy announced in the year 1992/93 adopting liberal aviation and air transport strategy affected direct positive bearing to enhance and develop tourism during this plan. Along with this policy, substantial numbers of Private air operators were encouraged to provide domestic air services in the country.

During this Plan separate tourism policy was formulated in the year 1995 which further reinstated the significant role to be played by private sector in the industry to create facilities as well as generate demand to visit Nepal by effective implementation of marketing programs.

9. Ninth Plan (1997-2002)

This plan stressed the need of increased participation of private sector in managing tourism industry while limiting role of the government as a facilitator. Policies and programs under this plan were determined under the longer-term perspective of tourism with twenty years forecast. By the end of the plan period it was expected to have tourist arrival of 676,414 with 13 days of average length of stay, US \$ 60 per capita per day of tourist spending.

Implementation of "Visit Nepal Year 1998" during this period had succeeded considerably to activate grass root level community of potential destination sites of the country to participate in presenting their heritage for the purpose of tourism.

Formation of autonomous Nepal Tourism Board with majority representation from private sector industry for the first time as a step in privatizing full-fledged government Department of Tourism is a significant outcome during this plan. Permission to domestic airlines to start their services abroad breaking the monopoly right of national carrier and bringing culture under the ministry of Tourism renaming it as Ministry of Culture, Civil Aviation and Tourism are some of the major steps taken during this plan.

10. Tenth Plan (2002-2007)

Re-establishing Nepal as a prime destination globally, expanding tourism earnings to rural areas, improving qualitative services and emphasizing living heritage of culture for tourism attractions are the longer-term vision adopted in this Plan. Domestic tourism is considered as an alternative. Involvement of non-governmental agencies in protecting, managing culture resources, and enhancing tourism awareness is another novel dimension incorporated in this plan. Along with this these, this plan has emphasized on promotion tourism potential sites with respect to natural beauty and biodiversity.

11. Interim Plan (2007-2010)

The three years interim plan has clearly addressed the spirit of ecotourism and has stated that the potential tourism should be promoted with respect to biological diversity and natural beauty. In fact, the plan has focused more on natural resources and on biodiversity.

Annex 4:

List of potential tourism sites of Pyuthan District

1. Gaumukhi
2. Sworgadwarii
3. Diyalna Chaur
4. Kot of Okharkot
5. Kot of badikot
6. Baismul Jharna
7. Dhadyaan
8. Gurans Danda (Community Forest)
9. Ratamata Daha
10. Ikhnakot/Ithnathan
11. Jagera Taal
12. Tara Khase Chaur
13. Bank of Jhimruk Khola
14. Sattalle Gufa
15. Batase Salla
16. Khung ko Dhuri

Annex 5:

List of Photographs



Photo 2: Machhi



Photo 3: Flood plain, forest & Jhimruk khola



Photo 4: House of Communist leader



Photo 5: Kot of Okharkot



Photo 5: Beautiful Sunrise from Okharkot



Photo 6: Dhadyaan



Photo7: Ithnathan



Photo 8: Takura of Tusharakot



Photo 9 & 10: Carving local products



Photo 11: Deulee



Photo 12: