

**PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF ECO-TOURISM
IN BANDIPUR, TANAHUN DISTRICT**

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This thesis entitled "**PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF ECO-TOURISM IN BANDIPUR, TANAHUN DISTRICT**" has been prepared by Krishna Prasad Adhikari under my supervision. I hereby recommend this thesis for examination by the Thesis Committee as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of MASTER OF ARTS in ECONOMICS.

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APPROVAL LETTER

We certify that the thesis entitled "**PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF ECO-TOURISM IN BANDIPUR, TANAHUN DISTRICT**" submitted by Krishna Prasad Adhikari to the Central Department of Economics, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of **MASTER OF ARTS in ECONOMICS**, has been found satisfactory in scope and quality. Therefore, we accept this thesis as a part of the said degree.

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ACRONYMS

ACAP	Annapurna Conservation Area Project
BDC	Bandipur Development Committee
MOCTCA	Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation
R&D	Research and Development
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
CBT	Community Based Tourism
PGS	Paying Guest System
PGH	Paying Guest House
NGOS	Non Government Organizations
INGOS	International Non Government Organizations
TMC	Tourism Management Committee
TDMC	Tourism Development Management Committee
NTB	Nepal Tourism Board
NPC	National Planning, Commission
TU	Tribhuvan University
NATHM	Nepal Academy of Tourism and Hotel Management
WTO	World Tourism Organization
ECTP	Eco cultural Tourism Project
CCODER	Centre for Community Development and Research
MOF	Ministry of Finance
WTO	World Trade Organization
WB	World Bank

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The origin of tourism can be traced to the earliest period of human habitation on the globe. Of course, there exist difference between modern traveling and traveling during the early period. Nevertheless it is the habit of traveling which has initiated the growth of the survival and existence of early men. With the advent of civilization and change in the human outlook, the mean of tourism has been shifted form the necessity to the desire of taking marvelous adventures. Tourism is a difficult phenomenon to describe because there is no single definition that is universally accepted (Upadhyay, 2008).

The tourism industry has fascinated the whole world. Most of the nations have recognized the economic advantages of tourism. Tourism is a fruitful procedure for transferring the real resources from industrially advanced countries to developing countries. It is also one of the important sources for earning scarce foreign exchange and generating employment. Tourism is a highly labour intensive industry offering employment to both skilled and semiskilled manpower. Being a service-oriented industry, it creates employment opportunities for the local people as well. The employment generation of tourism industry is more important in a developing country where the level of unemployment and underemployment tends to be high. Besides, providing employment, tourism can be a tool of regional policy aimed at achieving an equitable balance between major industrial areas and the rest of the country. Thus, tourism enables transferring the resources from one part of the country to another.

The tourism industry makes tremendous contribution to the improvement of social and political understanding between people and the countries. Traveling in different countries fosters better relationship between people of various places. Personal and international contacts have always been an important way of sharing and spreading ideas about other cultures. Thus, tourism is an important media to promote cultural exchange and international co-operation. Nepal can not isolate itself from changing global trends of institutionalizing the tourism business.

Historically, tourism in Nepal can be broadly divided into two phases.

a. Ancient Period

i) Before Unification ii) After Unification

b. After 1950

a. Ancient Period:

i) Before Unification

Authentic records of the ancient history of Nepal are not readily available. Most of it is surrounding in mystery with only the legends giving some flickering light. One such legend tells the story of "Manjushree Bodhi Satwa" from China. It is believed that Kathmandu valley was a lake before Manjushree cut an opening at the rock-hill at Chovar by a stroke of his scimitar and drained the lake water to make Kathmandu fit for human habitation. It is said that the first ruling dynasty in Nepal was the Gopal. King Bhuktaman was first king of the dynasty. After decline of Gopal dynasty, Kirata dynasty is said to have visited Nepal during the reign of Sthunko, the 7th Kirata king in 6th century. In the 7th century Shankaracharya visited this place. In 249 B.C, the Emperor Ashok of India visited Nepal as pilgrim (Lamsal 1997).

When the Lichhaves come to power in 400 A.D, recorded history began and the golden age in the history of Nepal was started. The nation entered a new phase of prosperity in art and culture. Kailas Kuta Bhawan and Managriha both places were the creation of those days. In this period contemporary Chinese visitors like "Huen-Tsang", "Li-y-piao", "Wang Hiuentse" passed through Nepal and wrote many historical account about it. Arniko, the famous Nepalese artist went to china and developed there the pagoda architecture with a group of Nepalese artists in the invitation of the Emperor of Mongolian Empire "Kubla Khan" in 13th century.

When Malla dynasty came to power, there was a significant development of arts and culture. The Krishna Mandir of Patan, Nayatapol temples were built during this period. By the construction of these numerous temples, today Kathmandu valley is recognized as the cities of temples which are main attraction of tourists till now.

ii) After Unification

In the late 18th century, Prithvi Narayan Shah conquered Kathmandu valley and unified the petty or communal states into a single kingdom, Nepal. "In this period, King Girban Bikram

Shah, put Nepal on a collision course with the British-East India Company. The war took place in 1814 was concluded in 1816 under the treaty of Sugauli. After the treaty of Sugauli, a British Resident was appointed in Kathmandu. Dr. Wallich visited Nepal in 1817 and carried on his Botanical researches for a year" (Lamsal, 1997).

During the reign of King Rajendra Bahadur Shaha, Jung Bahadur Rana rose to the power and laid the foundation of an autocratic Rana regime, which lasted for 104 years. In this phase tourism development was at snails pace. Rana's were afraid of the political consciousness of Nepalese people from foreigners because they believed that foreigners visiting Nepal would lead to political revolution. That is why only selected people from India and the diplomats of Britain were allowed to enter the country. Indians were allowed to stay only 3 days during Shivaratri. But on the other hand, Jung Bahadur Rana visited England in 1856 and Sir Brain Hodgson, Sir Joseph Hooker travelled the country for Botanical Surveys and collection of Nepal's flora and fauna. King George V came for his famous shoot in Nepal terai in 1911. The Prince of Wales visited Nepal in 1921 on the invitation of Rana Prime Minister. Those visits were only for hunting and for research purposes (Lamsal 1997).

b. After 1950

The concept of tourism development in Nepal began only after the 1950's political change. In this period, a great political change took place in Nepal. The revolution of 1950/51 ended the Rana's monopoly of family rule and they were overthrown from the power. From viewpoint of tourism, the great revolution of 1950 was a boom for Nepal. After 1950's revolution, Nepal's expanding diplomatic relations, her membership of UNO (1955) and other world organization like IUOTO, WTO, UNESCO, FAO, WHO etc, conquest of Mt. Everest by Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary all aided in the boom of tourism (Satyal, 1997).

"In 2nd May 1956, the coronation of King Mahendra was regarded as the first great landmark in development of tourism and this incident attracted many tourists to Nepal. This was the most colorful and picturesque event of that year. Similarly the first group tours consisted of 12 Americans and 2 Brazilians organized under the pioneer body of Sir Thomas Cook and sons arrived at Kathmandu in the autumn of 1956" (Satyal 1997)

Gradually, the government of Nepal felt that the dependable source of foreign exchange earning would be from tourism industry. Tourist Development Board was established in 1957 and a Tourist Information Center was established in 1959 with a view to promote tourism.

His majesty's government of Nepal set up the Tourism Development Board and it was replaced by a full-fledged Department of Tourism within the Ministry of public works, Transport and Communication in 1962. After a great deal of improvement in this industry, this sector was transferred to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in 1967. It was recognized as an industry in the year 1967. The Department of tourism functioned under various ministries up to the end of February 23, 1997, when a separate Ministry of Tourism was formed to look after tourism development. Nepal further succeeded to get the membership of different international tourism development institutions such as IUOTO, SATC, PATA and ASTA. During short period of 1950-1966, Nepal had improved a great deal in tourism industry, The number of tourist arrival in 1961 was 6,179 and the foreign exchange earning from tourism in 1965/66 was \$ 3,99,000 (Lamsal 1997)

During the period 1966-1968 the government policy was made to increase the accommodation facilities, improve transportation systems, and modern accommodation. Tourism Industry thus became the leading foreign exchange earner and source of government revenue.

Ever since its establishment, the Department of Tourism has made a surprising headway by creating a tourist country; regulating the hotels, lodges and other catering units; issuing the recommendations of licenses for the running and establishment of hotels; activities for the abolition, relaxation, and simplification of entry and departure formalities for foreign visitors; and encouraging international conventions in favor of tourism and the application of their provisions. The Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation now functions as the National Tourism Organization and is responsible for all policy matters relating to tourism at the national and international levels. The Department of Tourism was the main organ for the execution of the policy set down by the Ministry of Tourism. Similarly Nepal Tourism Master Plan 1972 and New Tourism Policy 1995 were introduced by the Government for tourism development in Nepal. To implement these and other similar programs, policies, etc. efficiently, Nepal Tourism Board was established under the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation in 1997.

The contribution of tourism to the economy of Nepal, and as a source of foreign exchange earning has been quite encouraging. It contributes roughly about 15.2 percent of the total foreign exchange earning and 10 % of employment in the organized sector. In addition, tourism products are major exports of Nepal. Tourism will help to improve the living

standard of the people and reduce the level of poverty by increasing employment and income opportunities in the days to come (Nepal, 2003).

Tourism if cultivated properly may help a country to earn foreign exchange as well as friends from across the land seas helping to forge link of mutual understanding and appreciations for a better world of tomorrow. Thus, tourism is emerging as good option for rural development as well as for uplifting living standard of people in developing countries like Nepal.

Tourism is a vague and broad terminology, which may be defined as "Some of the phenomenon and relationship arising from interaction of tourist business suppliers, host government and host communities in the process of attracting and host in this tourists and other visitors" (Macintosh, 1995). In wide and comprehensive term, tourism as the science, art and business of attracting and transporting visitors accommodating them and graciously catering their needs and wants. On the other hand Eco tourism is new concept; it is quite popular in tourism literature and tourism activities at present. Eco tourism is specific terminology which refers to the purpose full travel to natural areas to understand the natural, cultural history of environment, taking care not to alter the integrity of the ecosystem while producing economic opportunity that makes conservation of natural resources financially benefit to the local citizens.

Growth and development of traditional mass tourism in the environmentally fragile areas caused destruction and deteriorating the fragile environment results the ecosystem eroded or disturbed .To get rid of the problems of traditional mass or quantitative tourism the alternative concept of environment friendly eco tourism was introduced in early 1980s. Adventure, trekking, wildlife seeing, rafting, hunting, bird watching, sightseeing village tour, jungle safari, kayaking, canoeing, mountaineering etc. are the activities of eco tourism that have high potentialities in new genre of tourism. There is a growing market for eco tourism across the World in present. Eco tourism comprises over 50% of the total tourist business worldwide & growth in eco tourism shows as increasing trend in the worldwide tourism industries.

Nepal is a single destination of the worldwide eco tourism because of recognizing as the living museum, Shangri-la root of the World, birth place of the apostle of peace, country of living goddess, nice hospitality of Nepalese people, city of golden pagodas and parasols, Himalayan pilgrimage, wildest dream of Kew, nature amphitheatre, melting pot of Hinduism

& Buddhism, many kingdoms of sixty ethnic groups and seventy five spoken languages, birth place of Sita, abode of Shiva, land of mysticism & eroticism, land of nonstop festivals, home land of numerous of flora and fauna ,barboring four heritage sites two cultural e.g. Kathmandu and Lumbini & two natural e.g. Sagarmatha and Chitwan national park and rest place of wild animal and bird varieties etc. are explicit of self explanatory our incomparable & prosperous natural cultural heritage. Thousands of visitors come to Nepal & its myriad exotic natural, cultural, and spiritual features that exceed the further prospect of eco tourism in Nepal; therefore Nepal has been ranked among the top ten-eco tourism destinations in the world. Similarly recognized as top destination for trekking in its mountains and hills.

For the tourism development, the role of government is undeniable. There is no single model of government structure to deal with the matters pertaining to tourism. Nevertheless, it is accepted that there are certain areas where the government has responsibilities. To list few of these:

-) To establish the framework within which tourism's public and private sector will operate;
-) To provide necessary legislation, regulation, controls, which will be applicable to tourism. It includes protection of the environmental and the cultural heritage;
-) To construct infrastructure, land, river, air transport facilities and communications;
-) To develop human resources with appropriate training for tourism industry;
-) To develop tourism policy with complete plans;

To undertake above responsibilities there is obviously need for a multidimensional support of government organization. Tourism development is a comprehensive and continuous process. It requires a strong commitment from the government level, first and from the other public institutions, private sector institutions and the community as well.

The government's role in tourism is crucial in the following aspects:

-) Branding the nation as a whole into the global market;
-) Developing new destination;
-) Maintaining and preserving the resources in the existing destination;
-) Providing conclusive environment for other public and private sector.

So, the public sector is an important in tourism development (Upadhyay, 2008).

Concept of Ecotourism

Eco-tourism is relatively a new concept. It is becoming quite popular in tourism literature and tourism activity at present. It is also gaining coinage among academics, researchers and practitioners in different parts of the world ever since the concept was introduced in the early 1980's. Ecotourism is interrelated with the overall growth of tourism in the world today. Ecotourism as a sector of tourism industry is still in its infancy, but an analysis of the market where it has made strong inroads indicate that developing countries, with their variety of physical attraction, have most of the natural qualities necessary to position ecotourism as a prime offering of their tourism industry (Upadhyay, 2008).

Interest in economics has arisen from a combination of increasing demand for authentic tourist experiences and increasing interest in environmental conservation. It appears that Hector Ceballos-Lascurain coined the term ecotourism in 1983.

Ceballos – Lascurain defines ecotourism as “Tourism that involves traveling to relatively undisturbed or uncontaminated natural areas with the specific objective of studying, admiring and enjoying the scenery and its wild plants and animals as well as any existing cultural aspects (both past and present) found in these areas. On the other hand Ziffer defines ecotourism as “A form of tourism inspired primarily by the natural history of an area, including its indigenous culture and the ecotourism visitors relatively undeveloped areas in the spirit of appreciation, participation and sensitivity” (Ziffer, 1989). In the Nepalese context, Ecotourism is not a precise term. In Nepal, a broad definition of sustainable tourism or ecotourism is adopted as “any style and type of tourism that has the potential to bring benefits to the local economy whilst contributing to natural and cultural resources” (NTB, 2001).

Ecotourism is known as active tourism, sustainable tourism and its ultimate goal is to benefit local people by uplifting their economy and protecting their socio-cultural heritage as well as conserving natural environment. In this concept, no tourist allowed to disturb local socio-cultural and environmental balance. According to Chauhan, 2004; Ecotourism has benefited the environment by stimulating measures to protect physical features of the environment historic sites and monuments and wildlife; nature areas are becoming major attraction and constitute the basis for what is now known as nature tourism or ‘ecotourism’. As a concept as well, it should have a minimum impact on soil, water, air, flora, fauna and bio physical

processes, use little energy cause little pollutions; educate the tourists; and contribute to the welfare of local and indigenous population. Trekking, hiking, bird watching, nature photography, wildlife safaris, camping, mountain climbing, fishing, snorkeling, river rafting and canoeing, and botanical and zoological studies are some of the favorite forms of ecotourism. Experiencing others cultures especially those of rural or native people who have traditional relationships to the land, is usually an important aspect of such travel. Ecotourism can be fun recreation as well as education (Jha, 1999). Travel to remote or natural areas, which aims to enhance understanding and appreciation of the natural environment and cultural heritage while avoiding damage or deterioration of the experience for others (Figgis 1992). Therefore the principles of ecotourism should emphasize the importance of environment however, ecotourism experiences have been affereal as educational, outdoor or adventure travel experiences for many years, Ceballos Lascuraines definition of ecotourism incorporated two elements – tourism to undisturbed areas and an emphasis on education,conservation and cultural sustainability with the condition that economic activity generated by ecotourism should directly benefit the local or host community and environment.

Similar definition has been given by the Ecotourism Association of Australia 1992 as “Ecologically sustainable tourism that fosters environmental and cultural understanding, appreciation and conservation.

Thus, all the definitions of different scholars and ecotourism organizations have come on similar conclusion as the ecotourism is nature based tourism that is ecologically sustainable and is based on relatively undisturbed natural areas; is non-damaging and non-degrading; provides a direct contribution to the continued protection and management of protected areas used; and is subject to an adequate and appropriate management regime (Valentine, 1991). These definitions quoted above suggest that ecotourism is comprised of:

-) The natural environment
-) Ecological and cultural sustainability
-) Education and interpretation; and
-) Provision of local and regional benefits.

When Hector Ceballos – Lascurain coined the term ‘ecotourism’ in 1993, it was not the only one being used to describe the new form of nature travel that was developing (Butter, 1992).

Scace et al; (1991) have identified 35 terms that ‘may possess links to ecotourism. Among the best known of these are: nature tourism, nature – based or nature – oriented tourism, wilderness tourism, adventure tourism, green tourism, alternative tourism, sustainable tourism, appropriate tourism, nature vacations, study tourism, scientific tourism, cultural tourism, low impact tourism, agro – tourism, rural tourism, and safe tourism. These terms share some general concepts, but they are not synonymous. To assume that they would be to make ecotourism a catch – all term to be applied indiscriminately to almost any activity linking tourism and nature (Farrell and Runyan, 1991, cited by Butlor, 1992).

Thus ecotourism appears to have much in common with the concept of alternative tourist, or appropriate tourism’ which has been discussed with in the tourism industry for over a decade. For instance, it provides its greatest benefits through pursuit of a widespread but controlled ‘small is beautiful’ philosophy (Lascurain, 1996).

Eco-tourism Guideliness (Tourist Service Centre)

-) Do not take anything away, only memories.
-) Come, see and conserve
-) Nothing beats walking
-) Trees are meant to grow – don’t make on open fire, firewood is scarce, avoid misuse
-) Littering is careless manners, burn or bury paper and carry away all non-degradable garbage. Resist the graffiti. itch.
-) Bury your waste; attend the call well away from the water source.

Requirement for Ecotourism

If an activity is to qualify as eco-tourism, it must be demonstrate the following 9 characteristics.

-) It promotes positive environmental ethics and foster ‘preferred’ behavior in its participants.
-) It does not degrade the resource. In other words, it does not involve consumptive erosion of the natural environment.
-) It concentrates on intrinsic rather than extrinsic values.

-) It is oriented around the environment in question and not around man. Eco-tourists accept the environment, as it is, neither it to change or to be modified for their convenience.
-) It must benefit the wildlife and environment. The environment must attain a net benefit, contributing to its sustainability and ecological integrity.
-) It provides a first – hand encounter with the natural environment.
-) It actively involves the local communities in the tourism process, so that they may benefit from it, there by contributing to a better valuation of the natural resources in that locality.
-) Its level of gratification is measured in terms of education and appreciation rather than in thrill-seeking physical achievement; the latter is more characteristic of adventure tourism.
-) It involves considerable preparation and demands in – depth knowledge on the part of both leaders and participants. The satisfaction derived form the experience is felt and expressed strongly in emotional and inspirational ways.Cited from (Lascurain, 1996)

For the purpose of development and promotion of eco tourism and conservation of environment and its biodiversity, the government has initiated 5 conservation areas, 4 wild lives reserves, 1 hunting reserves and 10 national parks including Apinampa conversation area in Darchula, Gauri Shankar conservation area in Ramechhap, Dolakha and Sindupalchok districts and Banke national park in Banke and Dang have been declared. From 9th five years development plan the government has paid attention to the concept of eco tourism development and promotion, afterwards government organization, civil society, NGOs, INGOs etc. are showing their interest in nature based tourism contribution to both conservation and poverty alleviation.

Among the popular eco tourism destinations of Nepal, Bandipur is one which, a splendid variety of natural and cultural beauty crammed into one small area combination of long arrays of mountain peaks, picturesque of village inhabited by simple and friendly ethnic groups mostly newar, situated in panoramic beauty of nature and culture, the pleasant climate make the Bandipur areas most popular ecotourism destination. Wonderful and delighted area of Bandipur located at Tanahun district, southern corner of Gandaki zone, south of the Prithivi highway midway pokhara to Kathmandu, 7 km.away from Dumre bazaar.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Tourism is the backbone-leading sector for the economic development of developing countries like Nepal, however it has not been developed, pro poor has not been addressed. Tourism is the result of movement, entry, & stay; it is a composite product and out comes of attraction, accessibility accommodation and amenities. Elements and components of tourism are the prime factors or indicators of the development of tourism. Development and scope of tourism depends up on the quality and quantity of products/components. However most of potential tourist destinations except few destinations e.g. Kathmandu, Pokhara, Chitwan are deprived of transportation, communication and accommodation & amenities as well as lacking the identification of new potentialities & its development, advertisement and promotion, thus the promotional effort of tourism are so ineffective that large chunk of probable tourists do not know about Nepal in international front. Even though it is generally recognized that peace is pre condition for tourism, relationship between tourism and peace is tenuous and security is backbone for the betterment of the tourism, Nepal could not maintain conflicts, civil war, violence and disturbances. Most of tourist destinations have been impaired by conflict of people war.

Although the contribution of tourism for the development of national economy significantly high about (4%) and 18% of total foreign exchange earnings (Hummel, 1999) majority of the population lies in rural areas (85.8%) people of rural areas have not now been able to create much economic development. Very little benefit from tourism is distributed in or returns to the population of hills and mountains. A first estimate reveals that roughly trekking tourists visiting rural areas in the hills and mountains spend with US\$ 57 million per year in Nepal. Of this amount US \$ 52 million is paid for trekking agencies in Kathmandu and Pokhara. Over US\$ 2 million is paid for trekking permits and more than US\$ 1 million is paid for entry fees to protected areas. Less than 10% is spent locally and of this more than half is spent in the ACAP region alone. In more remote rural areas less than 1% is spent locally. Village people, culture, tradition, flora & fauna ,views of natural beauty, touristic activities as trekking, mountaineering, paragliding, skating, rock climbing, bee hunting etc are the major tourist products found only in rural areas in Nepal but unfortunately the owners of those products have been deprived of the benefit from the tourism industry. It is estimated that these tourists spend less than 10% of their money locally.90% of their money is spent in cities especially for travel agents, tourism organizations and industries.

Therefore, there is lacking of a careful planning to provide the benefits for local people and avoid the well documented negative side effects of tourism on the rural ecology, culture and economy without adequate planning and tourism development only richer individuals and urban based organizations will benefit from the economic opportunities of tourism and tourism may in fact may increase the economic environmental and socio cultural problems of the area visited.

Eco tourist loves to nature and enjoys its unique beauty. Produce by diversity in flora and fauna, topography, climate etc but rapid growing population deteriorate the forest to fulfill theirs needs. It causes deforestation, bio diversity loss, landslide, flood and soil erosion, such effort ends the panoramic & wonderful/magic scenic beauty of environment or the products of tourism. The native Nepalese cultural products as folk songs, flute tune, feast and external products are replacing festivals, rites and rituals. Red mud walled, thatched roofed round houses being replaced by boom buildings. The dressing pattern, smile and hospitality all native aspirations are lost. The great prospect of eco tourism in Bandipur is not still studied or researched and government has not put this tourist destination on national tourism map.

The present study has been tried to answer the following research questions:

1. What is the present situation of tourism in Bandipur?
2. What are the major problems of eco-tourism in Bandipur?
3. Whether there is a prosperous future of eco-tourism in Bandipur?
4. What is the socio-economic and environmental impacts of eco-tourism in Bandipur?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is to explore the prospects and problems of eco tourism development and its effects on the livelihood of local people & environment of Bandipur areas.

The specific objectives are as follows:

1. To study the present situation of tourism in Bandipur.
2. To explore the major problems and prospects of eco-tourism in Bandipur.
3. To access socio economic and environmental impacts of tourism in Bandipur.

1.4 Importance of the Study

Bandipur is paramount of socio-cultural and natural assets. It is a place of god gifted natural assets, panoramic, scenic beauty of mountains, Himalayas, river basin, wild life, favorable climate & other attraction which may be of great interest for the tourists, even though it has a lot of assets for the development and promotion of eco tourism, they are not in use regarding to eco tourism purpose, this study explored the feasibility/potentiality of eco tourism in Bandipur and its surroundings. This study analyzed the problems concerned to the development and promotion of eco tourism in that area. That is why this study can be the crucial importance for the eco-tourism planners, policy makers, governments, NGOS and INGOs etc.

Now, socio- cultural products are being depleted & natural environment is deteriorated. Tourism in Bandipur does not address the poor local people; the benefit from tourism is also not equitably distributed. On the other hand the government has not given priority to the development and promotion of eco tourism destination, so this study found out the reason that cause above problems as well as recommended the proper solution. In this contest the concept of eco-tourism is only the alternative to cope these problems. Therefore this study can be crucial significant for the resolution.

1.5 Limitation of the Study

-) This study covers only historical significant and natural paradise areas of Bandipur, Tanahun district, Gandaki zone.
-) The study was confined only the problems and prospects of eco tourism in Bandipur .
-) The study explored some pleasure and adventure eco treks.
-) This study was very specific within a case study of Bandipur.

1.6 Organization of the Study

The whole study has been categorized into six main chapters as:

Chapter I: Introduction: Chapter first is the introductory part of the research which deals with background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, limitations of the study.

Chapter II: Review of related literature: In this chapter review of related literatures have been made. In this part theoretical review as well as empirical review is discussed. In theoretical review, conceptual part relating to eco-tourism is included. Similarly in empirical part previous researches have been included.

Chapter III: Research methodology: Research methodology is the guideline of any research works. In this part research methods adopted in this research have been discussed.

Chapter IV: Prospects of eco-tourism in Bandipur is included.

Chapter V: Data presentation and analysis: This is the main body of the research which deals with the systematic presentation and analysis of data have been made.

Chapter VI: Problem of eco-tourism in Bandipur is analyzed.

Chapter VII: Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations: This is the concluding chapter of the study which deals with summary of the study, conclusion and recommendations for further improvement is made.

At the end of the chapters bibliography and other supporting materials have been incorporated.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

Tourism is one of the largest industries of the world. It is known as white or smoke less, service oriented intangible industry. It is a recent phenomena and travel is an ancient phenomena. In the past, large merchants, pilgrims, scholars etc. traveled in search of ancient texts, trade and commerce. After industrial revolution, ILO took the initiative of giving paid holidays at six weeks per year, growing industrial activities, population growth, new settlement and growth of new towns and cities, railways system and steamship for the need of individual travel especially western society gave birth to a large and prosperous growth of tourism in the world.

Tourism does not exist in isolation. It consists of certain components, three of which may be considered basic ones. These basic components are attraction, access and accommodation. The knowledge of tourism components and their interrelation is essential. Willingness to travel is affected by several factors. It is an outcome of attraction, access, accommodation and amenities. Therefore it is important to identify and categorize components of tourism. The quantity and quality of tourism components determine tourism success in any area (Upadhyay, 2008).

In context of Nepal, the history of tourism is not so long. After the advent of democracy in 1951, Nepal formulated an open door policy. When late Mr. Tenjing Norgay and Mr. Admond Hillary climbed Mt. Everest then worlds' attraction was focused on Nepal and subsequently a tourism industry began to develop smoothly.

Further more, the Draft Tourism Industry Strategic plan was presented to the MOCTCA in May 2004 and it examines and highlights following issues

-) The need for strategic repositioning of product
-) To cussing well researched market, dynamics and distribution influences
-) The need to trend the destination
-) Changing destination perception to high light diversity of product
-) Focusing the development of air access which is related to origin market demand in conjunction with industry.

-) Integration training accreditation and professionalism with needs of the market
-) Harnessing tourism to help poor people become less poor, developing product and skills in areas of Nepal.
-) The need to constantly upgrade marketing skill

The plan identifies 5 priority clusters for development and marketing as follows:

-) Culture, tradition and people
-) Cities and touring
-) Out doors and adventure
-) Religion and pilgrimage and
-) Nature and wild life

Tourism activities of the 004/005 observed 14% increases in visitor arrival numbers to Nepal. A total of 385,297 visitors came to Nepal during the year with 13.51 days of average length of stay. In terms of volume and value based markets, there was a parallel growth. A healthy growth of 17% was observed from the volume generating South Asian market and a similar percent rises in value-based markets of Europe. The growth however was not satisfactory enough to fulfill the supply capacity of Nepalese tourism industry. As of last year, the number of hotel beds has already reached 39,107 with 996 registered hotels. With a large bed night capacity and lesser demand, there is a widening gap between tourism demand and supply situation today (Nepal Tourism Statistics 2004)

2.1 Benefits of Ecotourism

In developed countries, mass tourism had caused many social ills via, alcoholism, commercialization of sex, organic diseases and social crimes. In developing countries, tourism has accelerated begging problem, and some beggars have under taken it as a profession. Tourism has also brought changes in the life style of local people, and they loose their adherence and attraction towards their own heritage (Jha, 1999). Indeed, overuse, resulting in degradation of the environment, loss of economic benefits due to damage to the resource or the local community, and disruption of local cultures or values, are often cited as drawbacks to eco-tourism. But if tourism is damaging a natural resource, then it is not eco-tourism. True eco-tourism can in fact be one of the most powerful tools for protecting the environment (Veballos-Lascurian, 1996).

There are ample benefits of eco-tourism. It can provide income and employment contributing to development, enabling public enjoyment, and understanding, and it also can justify nature protection (Jha, 1999). Eco-tourism potentially offers national, regional and total economic benefits similar to those of other types of tourism activity. Full economic potential at different aspects of economy is yet to be substantiated by specific studies (Ziffer, 1989).

A new concept, called eco-tourism, has emerged as a replacement to mass tourism as a way to reduce adverse impact on nature, Eco-tourism is a response to the negative effect that mass tourism has had on the culture and geography of countries. In reality, eco-tourism is a culturally and environmentally sensitive travel that contributes to conservations and management of natural areas for sustainable economic development (Gurung, 1997).

Many countries have developed, and several countries are developing guidelines and standards for tourists and tour operators to ensure that eco-tourism is environmentally and culturally sustainable. Nepal has developed some guidelines for tourists. Eco-tourism trips in general should include: pre-trip preparation, environmental impact, resource impact, cultural impact, wildlife impact, environmental benefits, advocacy and education, etc. (Jha, 1999). Being community and natural resource based, eco-tourism provides an opportunity to harness indigenous knowledge for the social-economic benefit of rural poor communities. Eco-tourism's proponents argue that eco-tourism 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 (Chauhan, 2004). Developing eco-tourism product requires minimal impact and ecologically sustainable approaches to tourism planning development and management. Community participation in decision-making, planning and participatory techniques at a grass-roots level are key methodologies enveloped in Nepal for eco-tourism development (NTB, 2001).

Recently, eco-tourism has been defined as sustainable tourism. Sustainable tourism, as defined by Travis and Ceballos-Lascurain, is tourism that is developed and managed in such a way that all tourism activity which in some way focuses on a heritage resource (be it natural or cultural)-can continue indefinitely. In other words it does not detract from efforts to maintain that resource in perpetuity (FNNPE, 1992). De Kadt also uses "sustainable tourism" as the broadest descriptor, employed to denote all types of tourism, whether based on natural

or human-made resources that contribute to sustainable development (1990, cited by Healy 1992).

In recent years a specific category of nature-based tourism has developed along these lines, “Ecological tourism”, or “eco-tourism” as defined by IUCN. Eco-tourism program is ‘environmentally responsible travel and visitation to relatively undisturbed natural areas, in order to enjoy and appreciate nature (and any accompanying cultural features – both past and present) that promotes conservation, has low visitor impact and provides for beneficially active socio-economic involvement of local populations (Ceballos-Lascurain, 1993a). The Eco-tourism Society’s definition is similar: “eco-tourism is responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and sustains the well-being of local people” (Blangy and Wood, 1992).

For World Tourism Organization (WTO) ‘sustainable’ tourism present tourists and host regions while protecting and enhancing opportunity for the future. It is envisaged as leading to management of all resources in such a way that economic, social and aesthetic needs can be fulfilled while maintaining cultural integrity, essential ecological processes, biological diversity and life support system (Pandey, 2003).

Revenues collected from ACAP helps to educate children and adults, form and strengthen local institutions, build infrastructure, develop local income sources; conserve natural and cultural heritage, information and services provided by ACAP.

2.2 Global Initiatives

The UN had designated the year 2002 as the International Year of Eco-tourism (IYE) and World Eco-tourism Summit (WES) was held from 19 to 22 may, 2003. There was huge focus on the regulation of eco-tourism in future. It was felt that eco-tourism could be developed in partnership, in the management of culture, resources in rural areas and it can be successful in tourism industry. One of the key outcomes of the conference was the establishment of the South Asia Network for Eco-tourism (SANE).

Asia Pacific Eco-tourism Conference (Apeco-2002) held form 3-6 October 2002 in Malaysia. The conference was organized to create awareness on essentiality of eco-tourism in

sustainable socio-economic development through environment and natural resource conservation.

2.3 Eco-tourism in Nepal

Nepal ranks among the least-developed countries in the Asian and Pacific Region. In 2001 its per capita income was \$ 742 (CBS). Its high population growth rate, landlocked position, low rate of domestic savings, a harsh terrain that provides few natural resources and a sensitive physical environment constrain the economy's development potential. The government's principal efforts are directed toward identifying and mobilizing resources for balanced economic growth. The sustainable development of the tourism sector is an important way of (i) promoting and managing the country's cultural, ecological and environmental heritage; (ii) generating a demand for goods and services through increased tourist arrivals and higher spending; (iii) increasing foreign exchange earnings; and (iv) reducing poverty by diversifying the benefits of tourism, throughout the country. Nepal's advantage in tourism signified by its access to the Himalayas, its unique culture, and its historical heritage; are universally recognized. Realizing above the tourism sector has been accorded high priority by the government of Nepal in the current Three Years In Plan (2011-2013).

Eco-tourism in Nepal is based on three premises, which are (i) promoting people participation in planning and management of tourism; (ii) increasing cross-community development, nature conservation and tourism linkages and (iii) using tourism incomes to safeguard resources on which it is based (Upadhyay, 2008, p. 71).

Having adopted the eco-tourism model in its program for mountain trekking, jungle wildlife viewing, and village culture study, Nepal has tried to fit it into the country's unique physical and cultural geography (Chauhan, 2004). There is evidence of a growing market for more specifically organized village tourism experiences, particular form culture-seeking European segments and comfort-needing North American and Asian non-trekking visitors (NTB, 2001). The global tourism patterns have prompted adventure tourists and eco-tourists to visit new area and spend liberally to new destinations (Pandey, 2003). A relatively new style of eco-tourism is village tourism. The network of home stays, teahouses and small lodges that have emerged in villages along Nepal's popular trek routes are among the most successful examples of village tourism in Asia (NTB, 2001).

Country's Ninth plan's policy and implementation strategies include promotion of eco-tourism (Niroula, 2003). 'Promotion of qualitative and sustainable tourism' is one of the objectives of Tenth Plan. Second strategy of Tenth Plan gives emphasis on the use of locally produced goods and services to return back the major earnings of tourism in local areas. Likewise fourth strategy of Tenth Plan adopts eco-tourism to develop Nepal as a major eco-tourism destination. Programs such as environment conservation and pollution management, alternative energy, employment creation, fostering of awareness come under these strategies to promote eco-tourism (Tenth Plan).

Prof. Lars Eric Inblad, the father of eco tourism defined the concept of ecotourism as "it is simple, more global and wide." Therefore his concept and definition are used. According to him the meaning of eco tourism in a single word "Respect" Respect is the root of every thing worthwhile and good. Respect to nature, local people, culture, history, community, aspirations and tourist themselves. He further defines the concept of eco tourism as a multidisciplinary equity approach where disciplines can be allies rather than inevitable adversary and can avoid negative dimensions like where:

"The fisherman becoming a trinket sales man.

The pretty young girl becoming prostitute

The beautiful estuary the garbage dumps" (Lindblad Lars Eric, 1993, "Travel industry in the eco tourism presented paper for conference)

The term "Eco tourism" means ecological or environment friendly tourism; it must have five major components- travel, environment, economy, culture, people and development or change. Therefore eco tourism is sustainable development or overall changing dimensions; it enhances the conservation of local environment and promotion of local economy.

Eco tourism has been described as a small group, appropriate travel and socially responsible tourism; it is compatible travel with sound environmental principles to avoid disturbances or damage to the social and physical environment. So following should be the principles of eco tourism:

-) Minimal negative impact on the environment
-) Increase contribution to environmental protection dynamic.

-) Create necessary funds to promote sustainable promotion of ecological, social and cultural resources.
-) Contribution to the economic and social well being of local people
-) Promote moral and ethical responsibilities and behavior toward the natural and cultural environment

2.4 Tourism Policy, 2065

Tourism policy 2065 classified that, to achieve the targets of Nepal Tourism Year 2011 it is necessary to develop overall tourism development .Since the campaign focus on overall tourism development , it aims to see at least 40 percent of the arrivals beyond the percent tourism sites. The other objectives of the campaign are: to improve and extend tourism related infrastructure in existing and new tourism sites, enhance the capacity of service providers, and build community capacity in the new areas cater to the need of the tourist. Broadly, the Tourism Policy 2065 came up with objectives:

- i. To develop the national economy through differential and widen of tourism sector by creating the self–employment of citizen with eco-tourism and rural develop contact with poverty management and improving their life standard;
- ii. To develop the Nepal as attractive and main destination as tourism view by searching, conservation, participation and developing the questing and abstract ,natural, cultural, biological and manmade heritage of Nepal;
- iii. To develop, widen and preservation of tourism sector through secures definite and regular airlines and land transportation services;
- iv. To use of such resource and means as long term in the process of tourism infrastructure development and building for using natural resources and means.

To achieve the above stated objectives, explicit policies were set:

- i) Regional plan and annual programmers are promoted making future planning along with regional development concept for the development and spreading of tourism industry.
- ii) Rural tourism will be promoted as a sub-sector of tourism business. The right structure will be made the excluding society in nation building like women, Madheshi, aborigines will get bonus through inclusive and co-operative system.
- iii) International tourism will be promoted as sub-sector of tourism business.

- iv) Tourism industries will be divided on the basis of their facilities and service tourism industries will be classified as big, middle and small industries on the basis of facilities and capacity which they provide.
- v) Investment will be opened on the basis of national investors in middle and small tourism industries and big tourism industries, public private partnership through the national and international investors. For the development of infrastructure program will run as legal system and concept of construction, ownership, mobilization and handover.
- vi) Air service will make secure regular and fix which played a great role for the development of infrastructure of tourism sector.
- vii) Private sector will be promoted as facilitators, mobilizer and coordinator for development and spreading of tourism services and goods and government for infrastructural development.
- viii) For spreading to quantitative and qualitative tourism service human resource development and management, future Master plan making and implementation, data collection and use like programmers are launched with co-ordination of private sector. Modern communication techniques and needed security services will be managed for tourists.
- ix) The sector of environmental conservation will be given priority and implementation will be made effective for development, construct and mobilization of tourism development.
- x) United programs will be launched by co-operating with related ministry and its sectors for mobilization and infrastructural development and widen of various activities related with tourism business.
- xi) A high level tourism council and tourism development coordinating committee will be formed making co-ordination between inter-ministry and it's under sectors for the effective implementation of tourism policy.

The Economic Survey (Fiscal Year 2010/11), which has been, published by ministry of finance of Nepal has reported that the foreign exchange earnings from tourism sector in Rs.28139 million in fiscal year 2009/10, which was 27960 million in fiscal year 2008/2009. During the first eight month of fiscal year 2010/11, Rs.13510 million was earned from the

tourism sector. The foreign exchange earnings during the first eight month of fiscal year 2010/11 accounted for 22.5 percent of to total foreign exchange earned from total export of foods and services and 7.5 percent of the total foreign exchange earnings.

Analyzing the tourist's number visiting Nepal, growth rate and their stay period in Nepal, the number of tourists have been found to have increased by 18.21 percent from 509,956 individuals during January 2008 to January 2009 to 602,867 individuals during January 2009 to January 2010. During the first period as mentioned above, the average stay period per tourist was 11.32 days while the second period as mentioned above, the average stay period per tourist reached 12.67 days. During January 2009 to January 2010, 10.46 percent tourists came for recreation, 11.65 percent for trekking and mountaineering, 16.81 percent for pilgrimage, 3.55 percent for business, 4.37 for official visit, 1.6 percent for meeting / seminar, 0.12 percent for rafting, 41.88 percent for other purposes and 9.56 percent for reasons unknown.

2.5 Tourism Vision, 2020

Tourism Vision 2020, the vision 2020 complements the national endeavor of economic reform and incorporates a spirit of inclusiveness for a broad-based enabling focused change in tourism sector. In the context of growing expectation of the people, government intends to develop tourism aiming two million annual arrivals by 2020 adhering people-centered approach admits the global challenges of climate change, economic disparity, and unstable energy price.

The main goals of vision 2020 is to increase annual international tourist arrivals to Nepal to two million and augment economic opportunities and increase employment in tourism sector to one million. The main objectives of this vision are:

- i. To improve livelihoods of the people across the country by developing integrated tourism infrastructure, increasing tourism activities and products, generating employment other deprived community and spreading the benefits of tourism the grassroots level;
- ii. To expand and extend tourism products and services in new and potential areas of Nepal by enhancing community capacity to participate in tourism activities;
- iii. To publicize, promote and enhance the image of Nepal in international tourism source markets.

- iv. To enhance the flight safely and aviation security, extend air connectivity and improve capacity and facilities of national and international airports.
- v. To attract new investment in creating new tourism facilities, products and services.
- vi. To complete these objectives following intermediate and long term actions are adopted.
 - i) Nepal tourism Year 2011 shall be observed with active involvement of people and participation from public and private sector.
 - ii) Initiation for second international airport, regional airport, and regional airport and services improvements of existing international and domestic airports with needed security.
 - iii) Enhancing air connectivity is urging international airlines including budget carries to operate flights to Nepal.

The long term actions are:

- i) Infrastructure development in tourism including construction of second international airport and developing airports in Nepal and Bhairawa into regional international airports.
- ii) Development and promotion of home-stay and community based tourism products and domestic tourism activities.

The above review of literature shows that there is highly potentiality of eco-tourism in Nepal. To upgrade the life standard of people who are living in remote village of Nepal eco-tourism is a way by participating them with tourism activates. Though the MOCTCA has planned for the development of eco-tourism in a national level but it is not sufficient for the overall development of local level. In the case of Bandipur it has done some study but they are not sufficient to enhance the development of eco-tourism. Having such a paramount of socio-cultural and natural assets, god gifted natural assets, panoramic, scenic beauty of mountains, Himalayas, river basin, wild life, favorable climate & other attraction which may be of great interest for the tourists, even though it has a lot of assets for the development and promotion of eco-tourism, they are not in use regarding to ecotourism purpose, this study explored the feasibility/potentiality of eco-tourism in Bandipur and its surroundings.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

As the ultimate target of this study is to identify the problems and prospects of eco-tourism in Bandipur. The design to the study is made to derive conclusion answer to the subject matter. This study followed the combination of exploratory or formulative, descriptive and diagnostic research design.

3.2 Rationale of the Selection of Study Area

Bandipur is located at 27.56 N, 84.25 E and an elevation of 1030m on a mountain saddle (Mahabharat range) approximately 700m above the Marsyangdi River Valley, 143 km to the west of Kathmandu and 80 km to the east of Pokhara. Since 1998 it is connected by a 8 km access road from Dumre (Kathmandu-Pokhara highway). Until then there was only an unreliable road, in monsoon usually not accessible or only by tractors. The mountain saddle, just 200m long, is barely wide enough to accommodate the main street lined by 2 –3 storey buildings on either side. At the backsides of these houses the mountainsides steeply descend and the gardens are only accessible by stairs.

Tourism has been recognized priority sector. It is considered as key to strengthening the national economy, improving living standard and reducing poverty as well as helping to preserve cultural tradition and historic monuments (NTB, 2001). To meet the above goal, the government has considered eco tourism as an important strategy. This study covers the nine wards of Bandipur VDC in Tanahun district. The area is purposively selected because the area has got better tourism access. Most of the people of Bandipur bazaar and surrounding area benefited by tourism industry directly and indirectly .The flow of tourists in Bandipur is increasing day by day it's popularity is also expanded from the local level to international level. People of Bandipur have awareness about the tourism and to promote the industry. They are making infrastructure on tourism industry to get maximum benefit. Eco tourism project has being launched since 2004 to 2006. Bandipur Development Committee has also being involved to development infrastructure and tourism awareness programs due to get maximum benefit from tourism industry. But the emerging and crucial issue is that whether the larger section of the deprived groups is benefited or not, People's consciousness toward

the environmental hazard by tourist activities and tourism industries which may hamper the internal sanitary structure of locality. Like this, another major concern from the side of local people is that the vividness of fair and equitable distribution of benefit as well as mechanism to bring the local people into meaningful participation process.

Bandipur a beautiful mountain village having necessary basic tourist infrastructure and being centrally located between Kathmandu, Pokhara & Chitwan offering diversity of panoramic natural assets & cultural heritage to promote and develop as popular tourist destination in national and international arena. But the potentiality of such triangular destination from three hub centers is not still highlighted in national and international front. Even though Bandipur selected as a model village in the national map of tourism, it does not address for sustainable rural development by conserving environment as well as benefiting majority of the poor section of Bandipur areas. Bandipur full of nature paradise and socio cultural diversified has a huge potentiality of eco tourism but some challenges and constraints are emerging day by day. Therefore, if the tourism activities managed efficiently these above issues/problems may be resolved easily and local people will benefited as environment preservation. The rationale of the selection of the study area is to improve the socio economic status of local people by generating employment opportunity, income generating activities and vocational trainings to conserve the natural resources (environment) by sustainable utilization of them.

3.3 Sampling Procedure

Of the nine wards, the four wards have higher flow of tourists. So these four wards were selected as sample. Various types of tools and techniques were applied to select samples. In this study judgment method was adopted to select the sample units. Local people, leaders, intellectuals, tourists, hotel owners, key informants etc were selected purposively.

Out of 598 households of Bandipur 10%, 60 households of Bandipur were selected through random sampling & purposively. Each respondent was taken from that selected household, which also represents both sexes. The tourist respondents were selected through chance sampling. At least 35 tourists both domestic and international were dealt with the researcher. There were only 8 hotels and lodges operating at that time. All of them were interacted to quest the fact and figure. Similarly all the owners of paying guesthouse were dealt with to get in depth information about tourists & other tourism related subjects.

3.4 Source of Data Collection

For the data to be reliable and authentic, quantitative and qualitative data were obtained from primary source by using different data collection tools and techniques and secondary sources.

3.4.1 Primary Source of Data

Primary data was collected through household interview by structured questionnaire and observation of different activities by hotel, restaurant and local agencies etc.

3.4.2 Secondary Source of Data

Secondary data were obtained from various published & unpublished information sources i.e. relevant literature, library study, news papers and journal of tourism, research report & annual report of NTB, BDC & ECTP etc.

3.5 Data Collection Tools and Techniques.

To collect reliable and authentic data, the researchers employed various research tools & techniques, which were dependent on the nurture of the study. The following tools and techniques were adopted to obtain primary data and information.

A. Questionnaires Survey

Structured questionnaires for local people, hotel and lodge owners and tourists were prepared to draw socio economic information of the local residents, potentiality of ecotourism in Bandipur. Present scenario of tourist movement and the condition of infrastructure, socioeconomic and environment impacts of tourism in Bandipur etc which helped to visualize the problems and prospects of ecotourism in Bandipur.

B. Key Informant Interview

Structured questionnaires for local elites, local experts ,development workers, hotels managers and owners, former VDC members, school teachers and entrepreneurs as well as

business men were asked to collect the essential information related to existing scenario of tourism and prospects of ecotourism and hindrances of the tourism profession.

C. Field Visit and Observation

It was done in imbedded form during accomplishing the other activities in destination area. It is recognized as major tool to sketch the condition of infrastructure, glance over the scenic beauty, sanitary situation of the area, as well as prevailed culture and tradition, tourist arrivals, satisfying and interesting manner/behavior of tourists were recorded indirectly and photographs were taken.

D. Focus Group Discussion

Focus group discussion is major tool to acquire essential information from participatory approach and best verification procedure immediately. During the collection of information FGD was held in field. Participants were from local levels basically key informants and number was concised at the range of 8 to 10. During the FGD researcher facilitated the program. The researcher analyzed the problems and prospects of ecotourism. A brief check list was developed for the task.

3.6 Methods of Data Analysis

The data obtained from the field survey were coded and categorized according to requirement. Then the coded data were converted into tables with numbers, averages and percentages through computer office programs as MS Word and MS Excel. Different statistical means like diagrams and tables were used in presenting the data. Statistical methods like percentage analysis were used to analyze the quantitative data. Since the study is qualitative description and explanation were made to analyze the quantitative data.

CHAPTER - IV

PRESENT SITUATION OF TOURISM IN BANDIPUR

In this chapter the collected data is analyzed for fulfillment of the objectives of the study. Information available from the primary as well as secondary source is analyzed and interpreted. Generally, the information on the number of tourist arrivals in Nepal and Bandipur, purpose of visit, seasonal distribution of tourist arrivals by major continents, means of transportation used by tourists, length of their stay, expenditure pattern, income variation, numbers and investment pattern of the hotels, lodges and paying guest houses, perception of local people, hotels and lodge owners and tourists towards the development and promotion of ecotourism as well as socio economic and environmental impacts of tourism in Bandipur etc are analyzed in this chapter.

The analysis and interpretation is mainly based on questionnaire collected from local people, tourists, key informants & hotel owners.

4.1 Present Information about Tourist and Tourism

During the field visit of researcher, 35 tourists (domestic and international) visited Bandipur were asked to fill up the questionnaire on which the following result is based.

4.1.1 Tourist Arrivals in Nepal and Bandipur

Even though the political crises is taking place all over the nation, the flow of tourists visiting Nepal has not decreased significantly during these last years. A total of 378712 in 2009 & 448769 in 2010 visited Nepal is shown in below table:

Table No. 4.1: Total Tourist Arrivals in Nepal upto 2001 to 2011

Year	Total Number	Tourist Arrival by Air	Tourist Arrival by Land	Average Stay(in days)	Annual Growth Rate (%)
2001	361237	299514	61723	11.93	-22.10
2002	275466	218660	56808	7.92	-23.70
2003	338132	275428	62704	9.60	22.70
2004	385297	297335	87962	13.51	13.90
2005	375398	277346	98052	9.10	-2.60
2006	383926	283819	100107	10.20	2.30
2007	526705	360713	165992	11.96	37.20
2008	500277	374661	125616	11.78	-5.00
2009	509956	379322	130634	11.32	1.90
2010	602867	448800	156067	12.67	18.21
2011	736215	545221	190994	13.12	22.10

Source: Nepal Tourism Statistics, 2012.

Table 4.1 shows that there is great fluctuation in tourist arrival in Nepal. In 2001 and 2002 flow of tourist is decreases in double digit due to civil war in Nepal but after establishment of peace volume of tourist has increases in double digit.

Table No. 4.2: Flow of Tourists in Bandipur (2011/2012)

Types of tourist	Foreign	Domestic	Total
2005	256	100	356
2006	2600	1300	3900
2007	2600	2000	4600
2008	2800	2600	5400
2009	3300	2800	6100
2010	3700	4200	7900
2011	4100	5000	9100

Source: Tourist Information Center, 2012. .

While the trend of tourist arrivals in Nepal was in increasing rate. Tourist flow in the year 2005 is 356 from foreign and domestic while it is 9100 in the year 2011. Domestic tourists are less than foreign tourists. Maximum tourists visited to Bandipur is the year 2011 i.e. 9100. Out of them 4100 are from foreign countries and 5000 are domestic.

4.1.2 Tourist Visiting Purpose

Tourists visit Bandipur for different purposes which may be classified into pleasure and relax in natural beauty, wildlife and animals, peaceful environment, sight seeing, cultural monuments, study and research work, adventures, pilgrimage, etc. for this a set of questions was asked to 35 visitors during the field visit to identify the purpose of visit.

Table No. 4.3: Tourist Arrivals by Purposes in Bandipur

Purpose of Visit	Number	Percentage
Natural beauty	13	37
Wild life and animal	2	6
Peaceful environment	6	17
Sight seeing	7	20
Cultural monument	4	11
Study and research	3	9
Total	35	100

Source: Tourist Information Center, 2012.

From table 4.3 it is shown that the highest number of visitors representing 37% for natural beauty, Sightseeing purpose is in second position with 20%, peaceful environment purpose represents 17% ,cultural monument 11% as well as wild life and research and study representing 6% and 9% respectively.

4.2.3 Tourist Arrivals by the Nationality

The field visit was conducted during the period of political crisis still existing in Nepal. So the research could not encounter a number of tourists in Bandipur as much as expected. 35 tourists were surveyed during the field visit whose nationality is shown in following table.

Table No. 4.4: Tourist Arrivals by Nationality

S.N.	Country	No	Percentage
1	Nepal	14	39
2	UK	5	14
3	USA	3	9
4	Denmark	2	6
5	France	7	20
6	German	3	9
7	India	1	3
	Total	35	100

Source: Field Survey, 2012

Though Bandipur attracted tourist from different countries in the past, during the field visit researcher met tourists basically from 6 foreign countries. It was delighting to see more international tourists during field visit. The respondents selected for the study consists 39% from Nepal, i.e. domestic tourists. 61% from abroad (20% from France, 9% and equal from German and USA, 14% from UK.6% from Denmark and 35 from India)

Domestic tourist from Pokhara, Gorkha, Lamjung, Chitwan and Kathmandu are increasing day by day. Attractive picnic spots (Tudikhel), the large table top field which offers a magnificent views of the Himalayas ,the Marshyangdi valley spread out all the way to the base of Manashlu Himal) Public hospital, silk farm, Goat farm research center, educational institutions, cultural feast & festivals etc attract the domestic tourists in Bandipur.

4.2.4 Tourist Arrivals by Age and Sex Composition

Out of 35 tourist who are found in field there age and sex group is presented in below table.

Table No. 4.5: Tourist Arrivals by Age and Sex Composition

Age class	No of respondent	Percentage	Male	Female
Below 15 years	3	9	2	1
16-30	8	23	3	5
31-45	4	11	3	1
46-60	12	34	7	5
61 above	8	23	6	2
Total	35	100	21	14

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

The table reveals that majority of tourists belongs to 46-60 years has preferred to visit Bandipur. This constitutes 34 % of total. Like this 16-31 and 61 above groups constitute same rank with 23% . 31 - 45 age group has followed second last position followed by 11% and below 15% constitutes only 9%. On the other hand the figure shows that among visitors the number of male is greater than female.

4.2.5 Means of Transportation used by Visitors/Tourists

Bandipur is hillside resort situated at central point of popular touristic destination e.g. Kathmandu, Pokhara and Chitwan. It is just 10KM away from Dumre Bazar. The various means of transportation like travel coach, local buses, cars, bicycle and private vehicles are available for tourist to travel from Kathmandu , Pokhara and Chitwan . Even Bandipur is in high altitude (1030 m. above sea level) it is accessible by very nice road transportation used by the visitors visiting Bandipur is presented in below table.

Table No. 4.6: Means of Transportation Used by Tourists

Means of transportation	No of respondent	Percentage
Local bus	3	9
Car or own vehicle	20	56
Travel coach	10	29
Motorcycle/cycle	2	6
Total	35	100

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

The above figure and table represent the majority of tourists 56% visited Bandipur by car or their own vehicle, 29% tourists traveled by travel coach & remaining 15% by local bus &

motorcycle (9% and 6%). Some of the richest and elite local people of Bandipur are operating large scale of tourist industries arranging the very short term package of Bandipur (one night two days) for the tourists who are planning to visit whether Kathmandu or Pokhara or Chitwan. They provide even their own vehicles to the tourists.

4.2.6 Length of Tourist Stay in Bandipur

Most of the domestic tourist stays in Bandipur less than 6 hours. They come here for the purpose of picnic and excursion tour specially Goat farm Research Center and silk farm Research as well as scenic beauty such tourists do not leave significant impact in destination. Not only the number of tourist is crucial, length of tourist stay has also vital role in development of tourist industries .Length of tourist stay depends up on the time, money and desire of tourists. The duration of the tourist stay by types of tourist visiting Bandipur may be seen from table below.

Table No. 4.7: Length of Tourist Stay in Bandipur

Duration	No	Percentage
Day excursion or below 24 hours	9	26
24 hours	3	9
One night two days	4	11
Two days	11	31
Between 2-4 days	8	23
Total	35	100

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

The above table represents that 31% of the visitors comes for two days. Day excursion represents 26 % .similarly more than two days and less than four days ,one night two days & twenty four hours represent 23%, 11% 9% respectively.

4.2.7 The Expenditure Patterns of Tourists

Expenditure pattern of tourists is most important factor contributing to the development of tourism industry. Tourist with out buying local products or paying them while getting services or socio economically helping local community do not leave any significance in the destination area. The expenditure pattern of the tourists in Bandipur is presented below in tabulated form.

Table No: 4.8: Expenditure Patterns of Tourists in 2012.

Per day per tourist Amount US \$	Domestic	Percentage	International	Percentage
Below 20	11	79	5	24
20 to 30	3	21	6	29
30 to 40	0	0	10	47

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

The above table 4.8 and figure show that about 45% of tourist visiting Bandipur spends less than US \$ 20 in lodging and fooding. Basically these are change made by the home stay & small lodge owners. Domestic tourists and international tourists spend less than \$ 20 constitutes 79% and 24 % respectively. Similarly 21% domestic and 29% international tourists expenditure falls under the 20 to 30 \$ category. Like this 47 % of international tourists spend above \$ 30 per day and domestic tourist relating to this category is nil.

4.2.8 Price & Standard of Lodging, Fooding and Behavior of Local People to the Tourists

Price and standard of lodging & fooding has to be fair in comparison to its quality. Higher the price and lower the standard of products never attracts the tourists in the destination. To make the destination attractive, the relation of price and quality should be positive. Similarly hospitality of employees of tourism industries signifies for this issue. Prices, standard of lodging, fooding and behavior of local people to the tourists are given in table.

Table No. 4.9: Price of Lodging and Fooding

High	Low	Relevant
9	4	22

26%	11%	63%	
Standard of Lodging and Fooding			
Excellent	good	Satisfactory	poor
9	3	20	0
28%	9%	63%	0
Behavior of local people			
Pleasing	Appreciable	Not remarkable	poor
8	27	0	0
23%	77%	0	0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

The above table shows that 63% visitors remarked the price as relevant in case of price of food and lodge. 28% Visitors opined the price is high and 11 % visitors stated it as cheap. Similarly 63% respondents viewed the quality of lodge as satisfactory, 28% respondents remarked under excellent category and 9% visitors opined as good. In case of behavior of local people 77% visitors appreciated the quality and 23% visitors pleased with.

4.3 Present Situation of Hotels/Lodges in Bandipur

Hotel industry is a dominant factor for the development of tourism sector, hospitality, amenities, food and beverages, sanitation and beauties of surroundings are the components of hotels. Service delivery mechanism influences the quality and standard of hotels. In case of Bandipur, touristic activities were increased after the road constructed from Dumre bazaar to Bandipur in 1974. After that there was a felt need of hotels and lodges. Now there are 5 paying guest houses, 8 hotels/lodges & one resort. Most of the paying guest houses are not operating and very few are not running well.

4.3.1 The Investment Patterns of Hotels/Lodges in Bandipur

The standard of hotels/lodges depends on the patterns of investment primarily.

Table No. 4.10: Investment Patterns of Hotels up to 2012.

Types of hotels	Investment in Rs.	No. Hotels/Lodges	Percentage
Standard class	More than 5 million	8	16.67
Moderate class	1 to 5 million	13	27.08
Low class	more than 1 million	11	22.92
Home stay	Below 80 thousand	16	33.33
Total		48	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

The table 4.10 reveals that the investment of standard class hotels is categorized more than 5 million investment which comprises 8 (16.67%) hotels. Least investment is shown in home-stay which has below 80 thousand investment comprises 16 (33.33%) of total hotels and restaurants.

4.3.2 Income Variation of Hotels in Bandipur

There is the direct relationship between the standard of hotels, tourist inflow and annual income of the hotels. There are only two standard hotels specially one is 'Bandipur Mount Resort' and another is 'Bandipur World Inn Hotel'. They have very nice accommodation facilities for the tourists in the village context. Therefore most of the foreign tourists prefer to stay in these hotels. Therefore their annual income is also higher than other hotels.

Table No. 4.11: Hotels and Average Income in 2012.

Types of hotels	Annual income	Number	Percentage
Standard	More than 1500000	8	16.67
Moderate	500000-1500000	13	27.08
Low	100000-500000	11	22.92
Home-stay	Below 100000	16	33.33
Total		48	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

According to above illustrated table 16.67% hotels income has remained more than 15 lakh and moderate level hotel have 5 lakh to 15 lakh average income per year. Similarly low class hotels have 1 lakh to 5 lakh average per year income and Home-stay have below 1 lakh income per year.

4.3.3 The Sources of Market for Goods Used in Hotels

Local markets are not sufficient for the goods used in hotels. Especially green vegetable, meat, milk, butter, ghee, seasonal fruits and handicrafts are available for hotels but out of them, the owners of the hotels have to import from Kathmandu, Pokhara as well as Dumre bazaar. The following table represents the market sources.

Table No. 4.12: Source of Market for Goods Used in Hotels in 2012.

Markets	Goods purchased in percentage
Bandipur	20%
Dumre	35%
Out side the district	45%
Total	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

Out of total percentage 20% goods were purchased in local market (Bandipur) .Similarly Dumre just 10 km. away in where 35% goods were purchased for the purpose of hotels and lodges in Bandipur. These goods which are not found in local markets were purchased from outside the district specially Kathmandu, Pokhara etc. It occupies 45% of total marketable goods. Hence, the Bandipure, mostly the people of Bandipur bazaar are highly benefited from tourism development.

4.4 Structure of the Respondents

4.4.1 Age and Sex Structure

Different age and sex groups of respondents were found in Bandipur. The following diagram depicts that most of the respondents were taken from economically active age group and from the side of male group

Table No. 4.13: Age Group the Respondents

Age group	Respondent Number	Percentage	No of family
0- 15	10	17	55
15-30	25	42	116
30-49	12	20	61
49-60	8	23	32
Above 60	5	8	24
Total	60	100	288

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

The above table shows that the majority of the respondents and their family members were at the age group of 15-30 which has taken 42% as economically less important than the age group of 30 to 49 which has comprised 20% and signified the highly economically important group.

The above figure shows that there is no big gap between the numbers of male and female where as male had 51% and female 49%.

4.4.2 Classification of Households According to Cast/Ethnicity

Cast or ethnicity is significant variable of our society and has played vital role in social process as well as structure. In case of Bandipur there was dominancy of Newar community followed by Chhetri, Bramhan, Gurung, Magar were also taken accordingly. The great ethnic diversity in Bandipur Bazaar is vividly pictured in following table.

Table No. 4.14: Classifications of Households According to Cast / Ethnicity

Cast	No of respondents	Percentage
Newar	15	25
Bramhin	11	18
Chhetri	10	17
Gurung	7	12
Magar	11	18
Schedule cast	6	10
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

The above table represents that among 60 total local people 25% were from Newar community followed by Brahmin and Magar by similar of 18%. Chhetri constituted third stage with 17%. Gurung and scheduled cast fall under 12% and 10 % respectively.

4.4.3 Number of the Local People Directly Involved in Tourism Industry

Tourism is an opportunity for the unemployed and for the tourist products/ services to be sold. During the last few years, the tourism industries could not achieve progress due to violence of the nation and political instability in the nation. Such worse situation of the nation decreases the involvement of the local people in tourism industry in Bandipur. Though the local people are engaged in tourism directly in Bandipur, it is very little number comparing with the employment provided by other tourism area. The table below reveals the fact.

Table No. 4.15: Numbers of Local People Directly Involved in Tourism**(i) High Level Hotels in Bandipur Surroundings and Employment Status**

Hotel name	No. of employment			Trained			Untrained			No. of rooms	No. of beds		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total		Single	Double	Total
1. Mountain Resort	10	5	15	10	5	15				39	9	30	39
2. Gaun Ghar PVT	4	7	11				4	7	11	15	25	4	29
3. Hotel Old Inn	8	6	14	8	6	14				20	26	11	37
4. Bandipur Village Resort	4	3	7	4	3	7	2	3	5	15	10	5	15
5. Bandipur Guest House	3	5	8	1	2	3		1	1	6	2	10	12
6. Himalayan Hide Way	6	1	7	6		6				9		9	9
7. Green Part Resort	7	2	9	1		1	6	2	8	19	26	3	29
8. Hotel Depche	2	2	4	2	2	4				7	3	4	7
Total	44	31	75	32	18	50	12	13	25	130	101	66	167

(ii) Medium Level Hotels in Bandipur Surroundings and Employment Status

Hotel name	No. of employment			Trained			Untrained			No. of rooms	No. of beds		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total		Single	Double	Total
1.Pipal Chautari Hotel and Lodge	3	3	6				3	3	6	10	17	4	21
2.Green Hill's View Hotel and Lodge	2	1	3				2	1	3	5	5	6	11
3.Tindhara Hotel and Lodge	1	2	3				1	2	3	3	1	8	9
4.Namaste Hotel and Lodge	1	4	5				1	4	5	4		8	8
5.Shrestha and Restaurant	2	1	3				2	1	3	1		2	2
6.Hill's view Hotel and Lodge	2	4	6	1	1	2	1	3	4	4	2	6	8
7.Newa Guest House	3	1	4				3	1	4	5		8	8
8.Milan Hotel and Lodge	2	1	3	2		2		1	1	3	3	3	6
9.Bandipur Rest House	2	2	4				2	2	4	21	1	20	21
10. Pardhan Family Guest Accommodation	2	3	5	1	1	2	1	2	3	4	4	2	6
11. Khadea Mai Guest House	1	2	3				1	2	3	4	8		8
12. Raksha Hotel and Lodge	1	2	3	1		1		2	2	4	10		10
13. Hill way Café	2	2	4				2	2	4	2	5		5
Total	24	28	52	5	2	7	19	26	45	70	56	61	117

Source: Field Survey, 2012

From the mentioned table 5.15 (i) there are 8 hotels which are categorized into high class in Bandipur. They have been providing altogether 75 employees. Mountain resort have been providing the job opportunities for 15 employees out of them 10 are male and 5 are female, they all are trained employee. Hotel Depche have been providing the least number of employee which is 4. Out of 75 employee, 50 are trained and 25 are untrained employee found. Similarly, Mountain resort have highest number of beds which is 39 and least in Hotel Depche i.e. 7.

The above table 5.15 (ii) shows the employees and the situation of number beds provided in each hotel and resort. Medium level hotel and restaurant have been providing altogether 52

employees. Out of them 24 are male and 28 are female. The maximum number of beds have been providing by Pipal Chautari Hotel and Lodge which is 21 out of 17 are single bed and 4 are double bed.

4.4.4 Number of Local People Indirectly Involved in Tourism Industries

Tourism has multiplier effects; it has two sides at the same time. One is direct effect and other is indirect effect on the destination. The local people of Bandipur were also engaged in indirect employment/seasonal employment in tourism industry. Most of the local farmers ,small retailers, owners of cottage industries (Handicraft producers, ready made food producers) trained educated youngster, porters even those local people who exhibit typical cultural show peaces etc were indirectly benefited by the tourism industry in Bandipur. The data concerned to indirect employment is presented in table .

Table No. 4.16: Indirectly Involvement of People in Tourism Industry in2012.

Sector	No.	Percentage
Agriculture	18	30
Trade & business	10	17
cottage industry	12	20
other tourist activities	5	8
Not involved	15	25
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

The above table reveals that 75% local people were indirectly involved in tourism industry and only the remaining 25% did not involve in any type of touristic actives either directly or indirectly. Majority of the local people were being benefited by the development of tourism in Bandipur.

Thus tourism is an important industry in Bandipur. It can accelerate the pace of overall development of Bandipur, If tourism inflow increases in country as well as in Bandipur.

4.4.5 Respondent Views to Develop the Bandipur

During the field visit 60 respondents were asked about how their VDC could be developed. The number of respondents and theirs views are vividly pictured in the table below.

Table No. 4.17: Different Sectors of Development and VDC In 2012.

Sector	No of Respondents	Percentage
Tourism development and modernization of agriculture	18	26
Tourism development and environmental conservation	15	22
Tourism development and education	6	9
Tourism development and transport	7	10
Modernization in agriculture and education	13	19
Environmental conservation and employment	3	4
Environmental conservation and education	3	4
Employment and health	4	6
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

Among the total respondents 26% gave emphasis on tourism development and modernization in agriculture, 22% respondents gave emphasis on tourism development and environmental conservation. 9% respondents gave emphasis on tourism development and education, 10% respondents gave emphasis on tourism development and transportation 19 % respondents focused on modernization of agriculture and education 4 %,4%,6% respondents gave emphasis on environmental conservation and employment, environmental conservation and education , and employment and health respectively.

Thus 78.32 % respondents gave emphasis on tourism. Likewise, a considerable number of respondents gave emphasis on environment & employment, which is directly related with ecotourism. Such responses indicate the high potentiality of ecotourism to develop Bandipur.

4.5 Tourism Infrastructures in Bandipur

Transportation, Attraction and Amenities are the major components of tourism. Whenever the one element lacks in the destination, the others cannot attract sufficient number of tourists. So, tourism infrastructures play a vital role for the rapid development of tourism, it includes transportation, accommodation, water power, security, medical facility, communication,

bank, sports etc. Available tourism infrastructures that exist presently in Bandipur are as follows:

- i. Transportation facility
- ii. Accommodation facility
- iii. Catering facility
- iv. Security facility

i) Transportation facility

Transportation facility is the key factor which makes the travel possible from one place to another. Bandipur is hillside resort, centrally located or hob centre, among the major tourist destinations e.g. Pokhara Chitwan and Kathmandu. It is just 143 KMS away from Kathmandu, 8kms away from Dumbre bazaar mid way of Prithivi Highway neat and clean-pitched road over looking panoramic Mountain range, greenery belt of beautiful villages. Bandipur is accessible from major tourist destinations of the country by bus, car, coach or local bus or jeeps from Dumbre.

ii) Accommodation facility

Accommodation is the process of adopting adjustment, which is an important ingredient of tourist industry. A large number of tourists visit a particular destination or town simply because there is a first class luxury hotel or resort which provides excellent services and facilities. Resort complexes, Hotels, Motels, Youth Hotels, Holiday centers, Inns, Farm Houses, villas, Apartments etc are the different forms of accommodation.

Even though, there are not so many accommodation facilities provided to the tourists the present demand of accommodation facilities of the tourists have been met in Bandipur. Home stay (paying guest system), hillside resorts, standard hotels as well as many small scale hotel industries are in Bandipur. The standard of hotels depends on the price charged, facilities and investment basis. On the above basis, hotels, of Bandipur are divided into four categorie

iii) Catering facility

Presently, there are seven hotels and lodges that can provide catering facilities but their services and catering system are different from one to another, first class hotels offer continental dishes with hot water services, guide, garden and parking facilities even swimming pool facilities. Another second and third class hotels commonly offer Nepalese and Indian dishes. In brief, lodging and fooding cost is moderate in Bandipur.

Since the few decades, the numbers of hotels and lodges have been operating but the actual facts and figures of the numbers, facilities and charge system are not available now. Distribution of accommodation capacity in the year of 2004/005 is presented below.

Table No. 4.18: Accommodation capacity in the year of 2011/12

S.N	Types of Accommodation	No.	Percent	Rooms and beds			Total	
				Single	Double	Beds	Rooms	beds
1	Paying Guest Houses	13	46.42	5	19	41	24	41
2	Lodges	14	50	14	10	20	30	58
3	Resorts	1	3.57		12	24	12	24
	Total	28	100	7	41	85	96	123

Source: Field Visit, 2012.

The trend of distribution of accommodation capacity has changed slightly within two years. The table showing the distribution of accommodation capacity in the year of 2012.

Table No. 4.19: Distribution of Accommodation Capacity in High Class and Moderate Class Hotels

Types of hotels	No. of beds		
	Single	Double	Total
High class hotel			
1. Mountain Resort	9	30	39
2. Gaun Ghar PVT	25	4	29
3. Hotel Old Inn	26	11	37
4. Bandipur Village Resort	10	5	15
5. Bandipur Guest House	2	10	12
6. Himalayan Hide Way		9	9
7. Green Part Resort	26	3	29
8. Hotel Depche	3	4	7
Total	101	66	167
Moderate class hotel			
1. Pipal Chautari Hotel and Lodge	17	4	21
2. Green Hill's View Hotel and Lodge	5	6	11
3. Tindhara Hotel and Lodge	1	8	9

4.Namaste Hotel and Lodge		8	8
5.Shrestha and Restaurant		2	2
6.Hill's view Hotel and Lodge	2	6	8
7.Newa Guest House		8	8
8.Milan Hotel and Lodge	3	3	6
9.Bandipur Rest House	1	20	21
10. Pardhan Family Guest Accommodation	4	2	6
11. Khadea Mai Guest House	8		8
12. Raksha Hotel and Lodge	10		10
13. Hill way Cafe	5		5
Total	56	61	117

Note: Rooms providing in low class hotels and home-stay have not found.

Source: Field survey, 2012.

From table 5.23 it is found that total rooms available in high class hotels is 167 in which 101 are single bed and remaining 66 are found double beds. Similarly, in moderate class hotels total rooms are found 117 in which 56 are single bed and 61 are double bed type.

The price variation of accommodation is also a crucial factor for the growth of lodges as well as tourism industry.

Table No. 4.20:Charges of Accommodation According to the Standard

Category	On season US\$		Off seasons US\$		Types of Hotels
	Nepali	foreigner	Nepali	foreigner	
For single	15-20	15-25	10-12	12-15	First class
For double	20-25	20-30	10-15	15-20	First class
For single	5	7/8	5	7	Second class
For double	5	7	5	7	Second class
For single	2/3	3/4	2	3	Third class
For double	2	3	2	3	Third class

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

The table shows that the charges of accommodation according to the standard is not high. Price is very much lower than its standard. Charges on season and off-season are not significant differenced.

CHAPTER –V

PROSPECTS AND PROBLEMS OF ECOTOURISM IN BANDIPUR

5.1 Prospects of Eco-Tourism in Bandipur

Bandipur was once a prosperous trading center with Magar settlements. In the early nineteenth century Newars from Bhaktapur settled here after the eradication of Malaria. The Newars developed Bandipur as a main transit point of India-Tibet trade and gradually the place changed into a Newar settlement with flourished culture, tradition, building and locality of them.

According to the relevant literatures, Bandipur society development committee provided further move to develop Bandipur as a rural tourism destination. Then after, this organization launched a program as Bandipur Eco-cultural tourism project (2004 to 2006) which became milestone to develop Bandipur as attractive tourist destination with adequate information and infrastructure. The main object of this project was to develop and promote Bandipur as a tourism destination; enhance, upgrade and conserve the built and natural environment of Bandipur.

In present, Bandipur eco-cultural tourism project is terminated. Bandipur society development committee is playing very crucial role to collaborate different concerned agencies and Nepal Tourism Board for the further move of Bandipur. Recently NTB and BSDC are organizing Bandipur festival which also contains the main broad objective to promote Bandipur as a prosperous and self-reliant tourism destination.

Bandipur is a tourist paradise. This place offers varieties of attraction to the visitors. Visitors from all over the world have been visiting Bandipur to experience its cultural heritage, views of world famous Himalayan peaks, unique architecture preserved in ancient towns and the flora and fauna of this wonderful land.

Prospect of tourism development in any area are influenced by different tourism components, whether they are present or absent in the destination. Diversity in nature and culture is the major component of ecotourism development. Prospect of ecotourism in Bandipur is described as follows:

5.1.1 Diversity in Nature

i) Scenic Beauty

Its medium elevation, excellent view of the Himalayas (Dhaulagiri, Annapurna, Manaslu, Ganesh, Langtang Himal, the Marsyangdi Valley, Mount Manakamana and Gorkha with its high perching palace), relatively easy accessibility and, of course, old Newari town flair, make Bandipur an interesting tourist site from which a few guesthouses and a hotel at the northern end of the Tundikhel try to benefit. It may well be that the seclusion of Bandipur saved the Newari architecture of its buildings which otherwise would have been replaced by faceless modern types found in many other towns of Nepal. The and various Newari and Magar festivals, which until recently have been held for own purposes several times a year, can also be of interest to tourists. Sorathi and Chutka dances are very popular. Due to the distance and poor accessibility of many of the home villages of pupils at Bandipur schools a number of houses have been turned into boarding houses. Many Magar and Gurung men serve as Gurkha soldiers.

II) Favourable and pleasant Climate

Bandipur, “All seasons for all reasons” located in Mahabharat range at an altitude of 1030 m. above sea level ,hilltop settlement faced directly snow capped mountains to the north and opened small hills and huge Terai Plains to the south has moderate cool temperate all the years around the maximum temperature in winter is between 18 to 20degree Celsius ,while the minimum temperature plummets to 20 degree Celsius, In the summer season the maximum temperature goes up to 30 degree Celsius and the minimum temperature dips to 12 degree Celsius .Due to the pleasant and favorable environment of Bandipur all round the years, visitors from different countries can enjoy summer vacation in Bandipur.

Especially Bandipur is life reviving destination for the medical tourists. Natural treatment for the sick visitors (suffered from tropical disease) is also possible in open hill top area like Bandipur.

During the field visit 8 hotel/lodge owners were asked whether the most of tourist prefer the best month to visit Bandipur. All of them agree in most of tourists visiting Bandipur in

September, October, November, December and April. A little bit tourist flow has been seen in January & February.

iii) Biodiversity

Diversity in flora and fauna is the product of nature .Bandipur VDC is enormously important from the biodiversity aspect. The ecosystem of Bandipur comprises aquatic, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. According to the opinion of the local people more than 200 specie of forest plants, more than 70 species of birds and 35 species of wild animals have been found in Bandipur VDC.

The major vegetations specially are Sal, Sallo,Katus ,Chilaune ,Champ, Simal, Siris , Bel, Utis, Im, Chuletro, Dhupi, Amala, Bar, Pipal ,Lakuri, laligurans, Lalupate, Sunakhari, Nigalo Bans, Anp ,Kimbu , Amba, Naspatti, Bhakeamilo, Anar, Ritha,Kaphal. A number of medicinal plants (herbs) are found in this area. Similarly varieties of bird species like kande Bhyakur ,Malewa ,Maina, koili, Nyauli, Luinche, Kaliz, Dhobi Chara,Ban kukhuro are found.Like this some wild animals like, Bagh, Bhalu Mirga, Chituwa, Bandar, Syal, Bandel, Dumsi,,Kharayo, are the major of this area.

iv) Siddha Cave and Patalidwar

Siddha cave (probably the biggest cave in Asia) is situated in the north direction of Bandipur bazaar. It takes an hour walk downwards from hilltop Bandipur bazaar to cave, from Bimal nagar (on the Prithvi Highway) , one can reach there with in half an hour. The way inside the cave is 18 feet width and 50 feet height. The cave is huge and dark where numerous sub trials, george and holes created by waterfall can be found . Big rock cliff carved different magical figures deep wide and long size of cave can attract the visitors. It may take approximately 2 hours to observe the cave inside. The visitors can study the stalactite stalagmite structure in the cave, which also has a size able bat population. It is said that this cavern has not been fully explored , which provides just that extra little bit of excitement as the visitors head in. Patalidwar is another popular cave which has religious significance for the locals. The local called it as a way to go inside the earth. Patalidwar about one and half hour away by the way of Dhungebari. The visitors have lamps or torches, Candle, to explore this three storied geological marvel.

v) Rocky slopes

Rock climbing is being popular in mountain tourism. Very steep and very high rocky slopes are also major elements attracting visitors in Bandipur. Tundikhel, Tandrang-Tundrung Chunpahara, Raniban rocky slopes can be used as rock climbing activities in Bandipur.

vi) Eco trekking

Among the tourist adventure activities in Nepal trekking is by far the most popular. The diversity in Nepal's nature & range of exotic culture makes this country ideal for trekking. The major trekking sites are Everest region, the world's best trekking trail Annapurna region, Langtang area etc. In very short listing of trekking of Nepal, Bandipur is also most potential destination due to possessing most unusual & delightful trekking routes. Numerous foot trails constructed in ancient period and carrying historical and traditional significance, running as spider webs are in Bandipur.

Table No. 5.1: Prospect of Eco-Trekking Routes Presented in Following Table

Places	Time	Peculiarity	Outlet to
Bandipur to Ramkot	1:30 hour	A typical Magar village ,thatched and slate roofed round houses. Ethnic people and their culture	Return back to Bandipur
Bandipur to Mukundeshwori	2 hours	Temple, weapons of king Mukunda Sen, 13 th century king and broken palaces pond etc. flora and fauna ,typical culture	Return to Bandipur or go ahead to Chaudibarahi then Damauli
Bandipur to Siddha Cave	30 m. to 1 hour	Bats ,rocks , statues, wonderful cave flora and fauna in jungle	Bimal Nagar (on the way of Prithvi highway)
Bandipur to PataliDwar	1.30 hours	A way to go inside the earth, wonderful cave, typical settlement of Bramhan ,Gurung and Magar etc.	Satrasaya Phant
Bandipur via Hilekhadka to Chhimeshwori-	4 hours	Forest of Rhododendron ,views of cascading Marshyngdi, half garland of Himalayan and plain of Terai	Aanbu Khaireni
Bandipur to Chhaaudi barahi	6 hours	A holy place sacrificed shrines , typical culture of ethnic groups, Nature diversity	Damauli
Bandipur to Saranghat, Chipchipe,Devghat to Chitwan	2 days	Rafting in Seti and Trishuli , cross villages trekking through the typical ethnic villages holy place Devghat.	Chitwan
Bandipur to Andhi Mool	3 hours	A holy place ,sacrificed fish pond	Satrasaya Phant
Bandipur to Dumre	1hour	Views of Himalays, flora and fauna in jungle	Dumre Bazar

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

On the way of traveling, the tourist enjoy with farmers in agricultural farms, culture (Rodhi, Chutka, Balun, Sorathi), foods (Gundruk ,Dhindo, Daal, Bhat,Dahi, Mahi, Raksi, Tumba, Jand etc.)

The visitors can do paragliding, rafting, in Seti and Trishuli, rock climbing, bee hunting etc.

5.1.2 Sight Seeing Around Bandipur by Walk

A number of places are favorable for sight seeing around Bandipur by walk which are illustrated in table.

Table No. 5.2: Sight Seeing Around Bandipur By walk

S.N.	Name of the places	Time taken from Bandipur bazaar	What to see
1	Agriculture research center (Goat)	45 Minutes	Different types of goat , trees
2	Bhanu high school	5 Minutes	Oldest school of Tanahu district
3	Gurunche hill (with Thani Mai Temple)	50 Minutes	From where you can see beautiful valleys and hills , 180 degree views of Himalayas and human shaped Bandipur etc.
4	Bhanjyang	30 Minutes	Paragliding spot and resting place(Chautaro)
5	Baghtal (Tiger top)	1 Hour	Good spot for watching Sunrise
6	Sericulture/ Silk farm	30 Minutes	Life cycle of silkworm to silk thread, items made from cocon and silk plus beautiful berry garden and forests ,hills etc.
7	Bandipur guest house	5 Minutes	Oldest typed palace house and museum
8	Bazaar Area		Wooden craft, slate roofed full of art, architecture and culture and parallel lined houses
9	Padam Pustakalaya		60 years old community library
10	Bindhyabasini temple		100 years old Temple
11	Paharapani Mahadev	15 Minutes	Deep gorges ,Gupteshwor Mahadev, Oldest bathing place of Bandipure
12	Tundikhel	10 Minutes	Ground from where you can see scenes of forest, valleys, Marshyangdi river plus ranges of Himalayas
13	Bandipur mountain Resort	10 Minutes	A well fascinated resort in the heart of pine trees, beautiful garden things remind ancient civilization, swimming pool etc

14	Martyr's Memorial park/Hospital area	20 minutes	See this park for good scenarios. And remember martyrs
15	Baralthok	20 minutes	A specific Magar village
16	Khagda Devi Temple	10 Minutes	100 years old temple , Big festival in Dashain time
17	Notre Dame School	10 Minutes	One of the best and popular school of Nepal for the quality education
18	Tin Dhar Holy Place	20 minutes	Full of Temples ,shrines ,natural spring water etc
19	Slate quarry	30 minutes	Slate stone Bandipur product
20	Silthok /Gadhi	20 minutes	A specific Magar village
21	Rani ban	30 minutes	A beautiful well preserved forest full of birds ,different trees, flowers etc
22	Solay river, Aspate	1 hour	Visit this river for swimming
23	Tandrang –Tundrng cavern (a sound of stone can be heard when stone is throne)	15 minutes	A deep cavern where you can through stone and hear the eco sound
24	Seto Gurans child care center	10 minutes	Health care center

Source: Field Survey, 2012

5.1.3 Socio-Cultural Diversity

Unless and until offering attractive and unique features in the tourist destination, the tourist will not be motivated to visit particular place. Various components play a vital role to attract the visitors in particular destination. Socio cultural assets are also crucial component to pull the visitors traveled. Sites and areas of archeological interests, historical building and monument, place of historical significance, museum, modern culture, political and educational institutions religious institutions etc are socio cultural products in any destination. National festivals, arts, handicrafts, music and folklore, native life and customs etc are also traditional products. These above all socio cultural or traditional products are the great assets of Bandipur to compel the tourist to travel , stay and enjoy for more and more days in there, as they expected.

Bandipur, an ancient Newari mountain town , untouched by modernization and local with an abundance of ancient houses , temples of great significance and historical architecture, this

medieval era town boasts festivals all year around, besides a plethora of cultural offerings neighboring Magar, Gurung, Bahun, Chhetry, Damai and Sarki villages all contribute to the cultural diversity of the region.

5.1.4 Historical Monuments

I) Medieval Hilltop Town

Main bazaar of Bandipur is occupied by ancient Newar settlement. Newars had migrated from Kathmandu valley during the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century. The typical Newari houses in main bazaar built on double lane and the main street & permanent paved by the slate stones. Major things to observe are wooden craft, slate roofed houses, full of art, architecture and cultural and parallel lined houses.

ii) Bindebasini Temple

Bindebasini Temple is located at the center of the Bandipur bazaar. This pagoda roofed temple was built 100 years before. Wooden carvings and details brass work make the temple replicas of pagoda structures of Kathmandu valley. Bisket jatra (Newari festival) on the occasion of every new year is celebrated at the temple.

iii) Mahalaxmi Temple:

It is located in the southern part of the bazaar just five minute walk to downwards from the main Bazaar. Pagoda style exquisite woodwork in its struts, doorways and arches decorate the temple. Newar community in particularly & other cast people in general worship Mahalaxmi as the goddess of wealth.

iv) Khadga Devi Temple:

It is most revered shrine in Bandipur. The two storied Khadgadevi temple is famous for Khadga which exists still today. The Khadga is said to have been left by Mukunda Sen who was given the sword by Shiva as a 'gift of divinity' has been kept wrapped in cloth. The temple is opened once a year in October during the Dashain festival when 50-60 livestock are sacrificed at the temple's premise. During this period local people as well as people of neighboring districts come to worship goddess.

v) Mukundeshwori

The hilltop shrine of Mukundeshwori where the 10th century king Mukunda Sen of Palpa had maintained his hide out. This site is an hour & half away. On the way, the priest in Muchchuk village shows the visitors the artifacts left behind by that famous king: a blow horn, Damarus & Chimta, Khadga, Sikka etc used during the time when Nepal was still struggling under the 2200-2400 principalities. The shrine here is festooned with numerous belts tridents and it is especially revered by Gurung tribes.

vi) Gurunche Hill(Thani Mai Temple)

It takes roughly 25 minutes to the top north east of main bazaar where there is a small shrine as well as the Thani Mai temple and a Chautaro or rest platform, Thani Mai temple a Shrine temple revered specially by Magar groups established in 1997 holds strong religious belief with in the villagers. The temple invites number of devotees from Bandipur and it's surrounding as well as Chitwan ,Kathamandu,Gorkha etc. The devotees visit the temple every Tuesdays and it holds more importance in the months of December and January when week long poojas are observed. The visitors /devotees can enjoy the bird eye view of the Bandipur area and the Himalayas that fills the horizon.

vii) Tundikhel:

Tundikhel is a large table top field located northern part of Bandipur Bazaar. It is famous for sight seeing of half garland of Himalayas, Cascading Marshagdi river and its basin. Mahabharat mountains, it is popular among domestic tourists for picnic spot as well as international tourists for camp fire.

5.1.5 Colorful Festivals

Diversity in cast system produces the multiplicity of festivals in Bandipur. Almost Bramhan, Magar, Gurung and other ethnic groups of Bandipur have their own specific festivals celebrated in different occasions. Among them some major are as follows:

Table No. 5.3: Colorful Festivals

Name of the festivals	Belongs to
Gaijatra	Newar
Lakhe Jatra	Bramhan and other cast groups
Ropain Jatra	All cast groups
Bagh Jatra	Newar and other cast groups
Khadag Jatra	Magar
Bisket Jatra	Newar
Doko nach	Magar and Gurung
Ghatu nach	Gurung
Rodhi nach	Gurung
Chudka nach	Bramhan and Chhetri
Balun /Bhajan	Bramhan and Chhetri

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

Beside these, festivals of national character like Dashain, Shivaratri, Holly, Tij, Krishan Asthami, Fagupurnima, Tihar etc are also widely observed by the locals of Bandipur.

5.5 Problems of Eco-Tourism Development in Bandipur

As a new tourist destination, Bandipur possesses in finite challenges and problems to promote ecotourism. Antagonistic relation exists between the problems of destination and tourist visit. The length of stay of tourists can be increased by providing modern and recreational facilities. The major challenge promoting ecotourism in Bandipur is how to increase the number of tourists especially domestic tourists and length of their stay. Similarly, advertisement and publicity, peace and security, accommodation facilities and effective communication facilities etc are lacking.

I) Transportation and Communication

Transportation is a vital tourist infrastructure until and unless availability of transportation facilities, no tourist can reach the destination. The road from Dumbre to Bandipur is in good condition but local buses are not available some jeeps are providing services but not on time. They are uncertain and not comfortable. Tourists from Kathmandu, Pokhara Chitwan can only reach Bandipur directly if they have their own vehicle or reserved one. The trail repaired from Bimalnagar to Bandipur called “Bandipure Ukalo” is not proper. At the few places along the way, there needs to build rest house (Pati Pauwa) drinking water facility, arrows, symbols for tourist direction. Horse riding along this trail may be popular to reach Bandipur

Communication is equally important to develop the tourist business. Only the telephone service is available in Bandipur. Net, Internet, fax services are lacking

ii) Drinking Water

Drinking water is a universal need. Problem of drinking water is the root cause that arises so many problems in a place. In Bandipur the previous pipeline made during Rana Regime is being insufficient now due to rapid increasing population density. Paying guesthouses, hotels and lodges facing drinking water problems in Bandipur mostly.

iii) Trained Manpower

Tourists are being confused in Bandipur due to lacking trained guide and naturalists who can explain in detail about vegetation and wild animals in jungle, mystery of traditional, cultural importance of Bandipur. In paying guesthouses, hotels/lodges even also resort; there are not trained and skilled employees sufficiently.

iv) Health and Sanitation Problem

Solid waste management and dumping site belonging is most important problem in Bandipur. Lacking proper health care centers, clinical and medical facilities, ill managed hospital without doctor and medicine while they are in need, negligence of senior staffs of the hospital etc create a great problem for not only visitors but also local people.

v) Lack of Recreational Facilities.

Colorful feast and festivals, rites and ritual, swimming pool, picnic and sport ground, paragliding, bird watching and so on may be developed as the recreational products for tourists in Bandipur but they are lacking in the destination.

vi) Seasonal Fluctuation of Tourist Arrival

Fluctuation of tourist arrival in peak and off seasons is a crucial problem of hotel owners in Bandipur. It is discouraging them to increase investment due to seasonal industry several number of man power remains idle in off-season.

vii) Lack of Tourist Information Center and Publicity

There is still not only a tourist information centre in Bandipur. Tourists visiting Bandipur are suffering from in correct information and guidance. Similarly there is no record of tourist arrivals, their stay, income generation from tourists etc. Therefore it is urgent need to establish tourist information center in Bandipur to develop and promote the destination. Publicity and advertisement of Bandipur is also lacking National and International level publicity and advertisement of Bandipur is most essential now.

viii) Lack of Good Quality Hotels

Even though hotels and lodges exist in Bandipur, their quality of food and beverage services and management is poor. Neat and clean environment, well managed hotel activities, trained staffs, hygienic and tasty foods beverages, sufficient number of rooms and beds and well hospitality of staffs in hotel etc enhance good quality of hotels, but these mentioned above are lacking in some extent in Bandipur.

ix) Lack of Travel Trekking Agencies.

Travel and trekking Agencies are not operating in Bandipur. The way has still not be developed to connect Bandipur from major hob centers e.g. Kathmendu, Pokhara and Chitwan. Therefore, to increase tourist movement in Bandipur, travel and trekking agencies have to be established soon.

x) Lack of Peace

Political crisis is the major obstacle or problem to develop and remote tourism development in Bandipur.

xi) Lack of Marketing

The supply side of tourist products and services is much stronger than the demand side of tourist products and services in Bandipur. Socio cultural and natural products await the visitors to be consumed. Unfortunately, such paramount assets or products have not consumed by the visitors as much as expected due to lack of marketing such products in national and international level.

In addition, illiteracy, backwardness, poverty and deprivation of local people, lacking in benefit sharing on the basis of equality, coordination among tourist entrepreneurs, social problems on the basis of a cost system, rich and poor, ecological problem (landslide, deforestation erosion, garbage disposal) etc hamper severely in the process of ecotourism development and promotion in Bandipur.

CHAPTER VI

SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF ECON-TOURISM IN BANDIPUR

6.1 Impacts of Ecotourism in Bandipur

Ecotourism is one of the fastest growing trade in the worldwide tourism industry. It affects the village society and socio economic patterns of the people. It influences food habits, family structure, religion, language, and psychology of the local people. The conceptual meaning of ecotourism is the purposeful travel to natural areas to understand the natural, cultural history of environment, taking care not alter the integrity of the ecosystem while producing economic opportunity that makes conservation of natural resource financially benefit to the local citizens (ecotourism 1992). It is not exclusively an economic phenomenon. It also involves socio-cultural, political and environmental aspects.

6.1 Economic Impact

Ecotourism helps to keep local craft industries alive, save the traditional weaving and wood carving, generate employment and income, develop infrastructures and numbers of industries. It has multiplier effects on different dimensions of development.

Table No. 5.21: Direct Local Employment and Salary Pattern In 2012.

Salary pattern (Rs. Per month)	No. of unskilled employees	Percent	No. of skilled employees	Percent	Total	Percent
Below Rs. 4000	12	17.14	8	14.03	20	15.74
4000-6000	18	25.71	12	21.05	30	23.62
6000-10000	15	21.43	19	33.33	34	26.77
Above 10000	25	35.71	18	31.58	43	33.86
Total	70	100	57	100	127	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2012

Among eight lodges & hotels, altogether 127 local employees have got employment opportunities. Above table reveals that 57 local employees are skilled and remaining 70 are unskilled working in different hotels & lodges in Bandipur. 15.74% of local employees (skilled and unskilled) are getting below than 4000 (Rs) salary per month, 23.62% are drawing 4000-6000 (Rs) salary per month. Similarly 26.77% are drawing 6000 to 10000 (Rs.)

salary per month, only 33.86% of total local employees are drawing above 10000 (Rs) salary per month.

The fact is that the local people are directly benefited by the development of tourism industry in Bandipur. It seems that the further development of tourism in Bandipur is likely to raise economic condition of the people. It is only the feasible industry to achieve the overall development of the areas. For the local people's economic well being, it is necessary to co-ordinate the activities of local people with tourism activities e.g. farming, horticulture, dairy production, curio shopping, pig family, traditional or cultural show etc. may be flourished and rural poverty may be eliminated.

In brief, ecotourism activities may bring drastic change in economic sector of Bandipur by addressing employment and income opportunity for local, market for local production and permanent source of foreign currencies earning if it has the proper planning and implementing the ecotourism policies and strategies.

6.2 Social Impact

“If tourism cultivated properly only help a country to earn foreign exchange as well as friends from across the land seas helping to forge link of mutual understanding appreciation for a better world of tomorrow”. Late king Birendra. Therefore, tourism brings a significant change in the society. Similarly, the flow of domestic and international tourists has kept a great impact on socio-cultural life style of the people of Bandipur. Almost cultural and traditional assets were forgotten with the flow of out migration. But last few decades, Bandipur was promoted as an important tourist destination having living ancient or historical arts and artifacts, buildings, cultural monuments as well as panoramic natural beauty. Slowly and gradually, tourists visiting Bandipur increased then local people realized to preserve their typical identity that attracted tourists. So now the culture and tradition of Gurung, Magar, Newar, and Brahman has been revived. Paying guest house system has made men, women and children of village aware of neat and clean, sanitation, food hygiene and hospitality especially Newari women and men address the new comers/visitors as ‘Babu’ and behave politely. Great changes in people's attitude, behavior, knowledge and language have been found by the influences of tourists visiting Bandipur.

6.3 Environmental Impact

Tourist movement in Bandipur is not remarkable and tourist stay is not longer than average one night two days now. Domestic tourists visit Bandipur for excursion tour, research and study. Therefore tourists do not impair the local environment. Bandipur as an emerging tourist destination is not suffering from negative impact of tourist activities. In some extent, dusty and muddy streets around the villages, plastic bags, empty bottles, agricultural wastes, ill managed drainage systems and garbage etc hamper the neat and clean environment.

Increasing trend of population and decreasing trend of forest areas shows that if the local community do not become aware of deforestation and biodiversity loss, the environment will be worse very soon. One of the main cause of deforestation and its rooted problem is increasing the number of firewood users and not expanding alternative sources of energy e.g. Solar, Bio-gas. The energy source of use is presented in following table.

Table No. 6.2: Energy Source of Use in 2012

Firewood		Kerosene		Biogas		LPG	
No. of HH	Percentage	No. of HH	Percentage	No. of HH	Percentage	No. of HH	Percentage
9	15	5	8.33	10	16.67	36	60

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

Above table reveals that 15% of local people use firewood for cooking 8.33% of local people use kerosene and remaining 16.67% of local people use biogas, LPG gas users are found maximum i.e. 60%. To conserve the environment the utilization rate of firewood particularly and of kerosene and LPG generally has to be reduced by increasing the utilization of alternative sources of energy e.g. Biogas, Solar system etc.

Ecotourism activities safeguard the environment or these activities play positive role in conservation and preservation of environment. Eco-tourists always attempt to provide knowledge and awareness in conservation of environment and also residence form host place may know a lot from them. The following table shows the overall environmental quality of Bandipur.

Table No. 6.3: Increasing and Decreasing Trend of Given Subjects

Subjects	Year 065			Year of 066			Year of 067		
	Increased	Decreased	Balance	Increased	Decreased	Balance	Increased	Decreased	Balance
Domestic Animals	15	5	40	15	5	40	15	5	40
Pasture land	10	20	30	10	20	30	10	30	20
Jungle	20	30	10	15	35	10	5	40	15
Agricultural land	50	-	10	40	10	10	40	5	15
Settlement	60	-	-	60	-	-	60	-	-
Tourist flow	60	-	-	60	-	-	60	-	-
Population	60	-	-	60	-	-	60	-	-

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

CHAPTER-VII

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Summary

Eco-tourism is a new concept; it is a quite popular in tourism literature and tourism activities at present. Eco tourism seems to be a catchword that means many things to many people. To some it means ecologically sound tourism. To others it is synonymous with nature tourism. Eco tourism in both these but it must go a step further; it must be a force for sustaining natural resources, eco tourism is nature travel that advances conservation and sustainable development efforts. It seems that development of the eco tourism concept has led to a concept based on the desire to have an ideal tourism term like must be and should be in these definitions indicate this desire. There are however almost no indications on what ideal is and how the development of this ideal situation should be organized.

Bandipur, a new emerging ecotourism destination characterized with natural beauty, scenic attraction and cultural diversity. It is the land of nature gifted and natural paradise overlooking the incredible expanse of the Marsyandi river valley and lush terraced fields, offering a breathtaking sweep of spectacular Himalayas with lofty peaks from Langtang in the east to Dhaulagiri in the west. Similarly, it is an ancient Newar mountain settlement untouched by modernization and laced with an abundance of ancient houses, temples of great significance and historical architecture, this medieval – era town boasts festivals all year around, besides a plethora of cultural offerings, neighboring Magar, Gurung, Bahun, Chhetri, Damai and Sarki villages all contribute to the cultural diversity of the region.

Bandipur is rich in natural diversity offering subtropical monsoon to cool temperate monsoon type of climate, a number of flora and fauna inhabitants in its surroundings seem to touch the heaven. To experience heavenly beauty and relaxation, the peace and tranquility of timelessness, a stay in Bandipur is the ideal choice.

It is inhabited by simple and friendly people having their professions as agriculture, livestock raising, tourism and cottage industries, which play the vital role in the economy of the people. Almost all the people are engaged in agriculture. But in recent years the area is becoming very popular for ecotourism, most of the tourists visit this area for trekking, sight seeing,

natural beauty, cultural monuments, wildlife and vegetations, paragliding, bird watching, study or research. These ecotourism activities can have significant impact on employment, education, culture, agriculture and income level of local people. It can increase living standard of these people as a whole.

Accessibility, pleasant climate, richness of natural beauty, suitable place for view point, high stock of biodiversity and native culture of simple and friendly people make Bandipur unique ecotourism destination.

In the past days, this area was introduced as business centre. Flow of people from Terai and Himalayas was high but after the construction of Prithivi Highway and transfer of Headquarter of Tanahun to Damauli, the treasure of this place was forgotten or put in shadow. Just few years ago, (about Visit Nepal 1998) the hidden treasure of Bandipur has been reviving slowly and gradually. Tenth five year plan has also selected Bandipur as a model village for CBT development. Several organizations have been working to develop and promote tourism industry in Bandipur. Now this place is popular as unique ecotourist destination.

Eventhough, Bandipur has a huge prospect or potentiality of ecotourism development, it has some major challenges and problems e.g. transportation and communication, trained manpower, health and sanitation, recreational facilities, seasonal fluctuation of tourist arrivals, tourist information centers, good quality hotels, peace and security etc. If present problems and changes have been over come, Bandipur may be developed and promoted as ecotourism destination.

The field survey shows that Bandipur is economically very poor, agricultural land is not fertile and not irrigated, a little bit prospect of income generation from horticulture is seen but labour force is lacking, young generation migrated to Kathmandu and abroad countries in search of job and education. Rest of the aged people is engaged in agriculture and livestock rising. In spite of this, people are eager to welcome tourists and swear to be hospitable and respect to all the foreigners. Therefore, huge potentialities as well as problems of ecotourism development in Bandipur are existing to develop and promote prospects of ecotourism by transforming them into tourist products. The goal of ecotourism can be achieved with poverty alleviation, employment opportunity creations, and income generation in Bandipur.

7.2 Conclusion

In Bandipur, tourism already exists but in low volume and there is high potentiality of ecotourism. Bandipur requires ecotourism which is one of the few economic opportunities, creating cash, income and employment. So, ecotourism development in Bandipur helps to benefit local communities and uplift the rural economy. Nature conservation and cultural preservation require ecotourism because it can generate the income to pay for the conservation and preservation efforts and safeguard, the attractions. Rich nature and culture are major assets for ecotourism development. Through ecotourism it is possible to create link between local communities and tourists. Active local people's participation in planning, implementation and management of their own socio-economic and political development, and benefit sharing is one of the basic issues of eco-tourism eco-tourist equally cares to the sustainable use of natural resources.

Bandipur has a great prospect of ecotourism. Tourists can come to this village for sightseeing, ecotrekking, recreation, culture study, observation and investigation, bird watching, paragliding, rock climbing, wildlife and animals etc. Tourist infrastructures are also sufficient but education and awareness is lacking in the case of ecotourism and their own natural and cultural assets Bandipur has not been developed as a wood free cooking area though the use of alternative sources of energy.

Bandipur to Ramkot ecotrekking, Bandipur to Chhimkeshwari ecotrekking, Bandipur to Chhabdibarahi ecotrekking, Bimalnagar to Bandipur ecotrekking routes are unique and mysterious trekking routes having biodiversity cultural diversity especially typical Magar settlement with round houses, Ghumaune Ghar, the forest of the rhododendron and orchid on the way. The site is characterized with historical monuments and Newar settlement, religious sites as well as especial cultural item, such as Rodi, Ghantu, Sorathi, Maruni, Bisket Jetra, Doko Nach, Bagh Jatra, Lakhe Jatra, Balun, Chudka and club's cultural programs. The local people are honest, helpful and friendly, who are ready to provide home stay services making clean and favorable environment to tourists. Local foods (Dindo, Gundruk) and drinks (Chhang, Raksi, Omelet beer etc)are available there.

In brief, ecotourism can be only a strategy to cope rural poverty and deprivation. Therefore problems and challenges of ecotourism should be over come and development and promotion of ecotourism should be accelerated ahead. For this, there is necessity to integrate tourism

and management, nature conservation and management, cultural resource conservation and community development for the benefit of local people and tourists. If ecotourism is adopted, there will be very bright future of Bandipur. It can bring drastic changes in the socio-economic condition of Bandipur. Ecotourism here will conserve the nature and culture with sustainable use of resources by involving local people if it is well planned and managed. With combined efforts, it is sure that we can make tourism in Bandipur ecologically sound economically viable and culturally acceptable for sustainable utilization of natural resources.

7.3 Recommendations

The problem of poverty and deprivation is rooted deeply in rural economy. Rural Development aims to uplift the rural life of people by alleviating poverty-connected problem. There are many ways and means of developing uplifting rural life. One of them is tourism in general and ecotourism in particular in such rural areas, which are similar to Bandipur having huge prospects of eco-tourism. Therefore, this study shows that ecotourism is only alternative vehicle for the upliftment of overall dimensions of the rural life. Following recommendations for the solution of challenges and problems of ecotourism as well as for the improvement of the ecotourism potentiality/prospects have been given to the local peoples.

-) Eco-tourism is eco friendly, so every one should be friendly with nature to develop eco-tourism.
-) Eco-tourism development should consider the nature environment and benefit of local people for sustainable development of eco-tourism.
-) Possible socio-economic and cultural impacts of tourism should be considered in the development of tourism.
-) Tourism should be less negative impacts as deforestation, deterioration of sanitation of water, impact on wildlife population and behaviour.
-) Non-bio-degradable rubbish such as mineral water bottles, chocolate, biscuits wrappers should be controlled.
-) Provide higher education for the young generations about their social and cultural heritages.
-) Under ecotourism region of Bandipur, green fuel wood is not allowed. So there must be the introduction of alternative source of energy.

-) Lodges and hotels should be managed, food and service delivery mechanism should be improved.
-) Only quantity of hotels and lodges cannot maintain the demand of tourists. So, quality hotels and lodges need to be increased.
-) Communication quality is not developed. Email, Internet, fax system should be established.
-) There are not any check posts, police stations so, provision to maintain peace and security should be realized.
-) To control garbage, there should be several rubbish pits to gather the wastes.
-) The government should pay attention to control garbage at the initial stage of tourism development. Therefore, local people, local government & non-government organizations should be coordinated to manage the garbage problems.

Beside these recommendations, there are several problems faced by local people and tourists hence following policy measures seem to be appropriate to solve them.

-) To promote sustainable tourism, priority should be given to responsible traveler that conserves the local environment and cultural heritage; it improves the welfare of local peoples. Optimum benefit should be given to local population. Ecotourism should not be regarded as an independent or isolated phenomenon rather it should be regarded as an integral component of the general development of the area.
-) Both the Government and NGO's should actively take part to mobilize the local peoples to protect resources and the environment.
-) Emphasis should be given to develop the infrastructures such as transportation network, information network and management in order to encourage mountaineering expedition in the area.
-) Government with the help of local peoples should maintain the major trekking routes, campsites along with the facilities like drinking water and sanitation.
-) Priority should be given to local employees so that local people could be directly benefited. It will definitely help to boost up the local economy.
-) Tourism Development Management Committee (TDMC) is essential to institutionalize and establish the rules and regulations but there is lack of such institutions in Bandipur. There is only an institution as Bandipur Samagik Bikas Samiti working for the good will of tourism but not sufficient to manage and develop tourism.

-) Paying guesthouses are limited, those that operating presently have poor living condition, poor hygiene and sanitation. Therefore, paying guesthouses should be increased, improved and developed by providing concession credit program and awareness programs like trainings and seminars.
-) Local natural and cultural tourism products like orange, slate and silk etc should be promoted within tourism. The product of silk like sweater, globe etc should be provided to tourists as the local gift for memory.
-) Similarly, street lights should be installed which will have positive effects to the beautification of the village.
-) Viewpoints should be constructed in order to enjoy the scenic beauty of nature.
-) There is the information centre from where the visitors could get the information about Bandipur and its surroundings, so, it appears necessary to be introduce the information centre with information booklet detail route map the brochures visual show etc.
-) There are not any medical halls, clinics and health post except Bandipur Hospital that is also in worse condition. Similarly there are limited numbers of communication services. Medical facilities, telephone and security should be developed and extended.
-) Information containing board along with the trekking route is very important which contains height of the place, distance of the destination and the distance of the campsite.
-) Proper advertisement and publicity is lacking. Therefore, the urgent need is to open the tourist information service centre in different touristic areas, organize different cultural programs and exhibition just to acquaint Bandipur.
-) While tourists visiting Bandipur, they don't stay even a night and they don't buy local goods and services. Such activity of tourists doesn't leave any significant impacts on the local people. Therefore, it is must important to extend the average stay of tourists.

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APPENDIX
QUESTIONNAIRE

Questionnaire for Hotel Owners

1. Name of the respondent.
2. Age () 16-25, () 26-30 () 30-45, () 46-55, () 56 and above
3. Sex () male , () female
4. How many rooms and beds are available in your hotel/lodge?
5. What are your rent for rooms and beds?
Double bed (), Single bed (), others ()
6. Generally, how long do the tourists stay in this area?
() Few hours, () One night
() Two nights, () Three nights, () More than three nights
7. How much do you earn per month from tourism business?
A. Rs. 5000-Rs 10000
B. Rs. 10000-Rs. 20000
C. Rs. 20000 and above
8. Are poor people benefited from Tourism Business?
a. Yes b. No
9. If not what are the reasons behind?
a. Domination of elites
b. Low income
c. Lack of awareness
d. Lack of training
10. What things do you think, to attract for the tourists?
() lake, () forest () wildlife
() local culture, () others
11. What is liked by the tourists most in Bandipur?
() physical thing, () natural thing, () medical thing,
() cultural thing () don't know
12. How many people get employed in your hotel?

Kerosene oil.....% LPG.....% Coal.....%
Other.....%

25. What are the unique features of Bandipur as model tourists village?

26. What improvement Bandipur village need?

27. What is the main source of income in Bandipur Village?

Focus Group Discussion with the Local People

1. How is the prospect of tourism in this region?
2. Can tourism help reduce poverty?
3. What are the major negative and positive impacts of tourism in your society?
4. Are poor benefited from tourism business?
5. What is the level of people's participation of tourism activities in this region?
6. What are the major challenges of tourism promotion?
7. Has tourism created to improve living standard of local people?

Interview with the key informants

1. What are the major things that lure you to visit Bandipur?
2. What is your nationality?
3. Through which transportation means you arrive here?
4. How can this region be made a popular destination?
5. How can tourism help reduce poverty?
6. What are the major challenges of tourism promotion in this region?
7. How can domestic tourism be made sustainable?

Questionnaires to Tourist

1. Name of the respondent.
2. Age () 16-25, () 26-30 () 30-45, () 46-55, () 56 and above
3. Sex () male , () female
4. What is your purpose to visit this place?
() a. Natural beauty b. Wild life and trekking roots
 c. Cultural monuments d. All of them
5. From which country do you come this place?
 a. Nepal b. UK c. USA
 d. German e. Others.....
6. In which transportation do you prefer to visit the place?
 a. Local bus b. Car or own vehicle c. Travel coach
 d. Motorcycle
7. How many days do you stay this place?
 a. Day excursion or below 24 hours b. 24 hour
 c. One night two days d. 2-4 days
8. What is your feeling in price and standard of lodging, fooding and behavior of local people toward tourists?
 a. Excellent b. Good c. Satisfactory d. Poor
9. How much dollar will you spend during this time?
 a. Below 20 dollar b. 20 dollar c. 30-40 dollar
 d. More than 40 dollar
10. What did you find the feeling of local people about tourists?
 a. Excellent b. Good c. Satisfactory d. Poor
- 11.

Questionnaire for local people

1. Name of the respondent.
2. Age () 16-25, () 26-30 () 30-45, () 46-55, () 56 and above
3. Sex () male, () female
4. What is your occupation?
() Farming, () , service, () business, () others
5. Which religion do you follow?
() Hinduism, () Buddhism, () Christianity, () others
6. What is your feeling about tourism?
7. Are you benefited from Tourism Business?
a. Yes b. No
8. If not what are the reasons behind?
a. Domination of elites
b. Low income
c. Lack of awareness
d. Lack of training
9. What things do you think, to attract for the tourists?
() lake, () forest () wildlife
() local culture, () others
10. What is liked by the tourists most in Bandipur?
() physical thing, () natural thing, () medical thing,
() cultural thing () don't know
11. Generally, how long do the tourists stay in this area?
() Few hours, () One night () Two nights, () Three nights, () More than three nights
12. Do you know relationship between tourism and agriculture?
13. What is the role of tourism to boost up agriculture in Bandipur?
14. How is the follow of tourist in Bandipur?
15. What are the problems for development of tourism business in Bandipur?

16. What are you expecting from government to develop tourism business in Bandipur?
17. Whose idea initiated people in Bandipur to start Rural Tourism?
18. What are the tariff rates for foreign/international and domestic tourists?
19. How was Bandipur before it started up their homes to accommodate visitors?
20. Whether there is scope for expanding households' participation in Rural Tourism as tourists volumes increased?
21. Whether the concerned local institutions are aware to face the challenges of increasing visitors flow, creating link with local development and diversifying in tourism product to increase visitor stay?