

CHAPTER -I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Situated in south eastern part of Bajura district, Badimalika region is really a charming area not only for the religious significance but also for the natural rich endowment. It includes the enormous flora and fauna, pastureland, beautiful views of different Himalayan peaks, forest surrounding by its bottom areas, different types of settlements and many more. Naturally this area is still untouched for sightseeing, recreation, trekking and so on.

Badimalika region of Bajura district is still very pious and the tourist potentiality is very high. It is very delicate in nature. Therefore, the tourism should be considered in such a way that the environment will be preserved. Tourism must be eco-friendly in nature. Due to the fragile natural beauty of Badimalika region, eco-tourism is more suitable and appropriate because the area is still remained protected and tourism prospect may increase accordingly. In Nepal the concept of eco-tourism is just at the initial stage. The great diversity of natural resources procures high potentiality for eco-tourism development. Nepal is a country where tourism can play vital role to the economic revolution in coming days. However, most of the population of the Bajura district is dependent on the agriculture; development of the tourism is the future dream of Bajureli people. Natural setting of Badimalika is considered divine gift for eco-religious tourists. Badimalika temple, Nateswori temple, Kailash temple, Triveni, Pastureland, beautiful views of mountains, forests, streams, waterfalls, wetlands, caves, lakes and many more can easily attract the national as well as international tourists. Socio-cultural characteristics such as compact form of settlements, caste diversities, and festivals, folk songs and dances, local traditional ceremonies are also the assets of the area for the ecotourism development.

Nowadays the term eco-tourism is become very much popular and spreading rapidly all over the world. In 1991 the ecotourism society (ETS) has defined ecotourism as “responsible travel to natural areas that conserve the environment and sustain the wellbeing of local people.” (Epler Wood 1996 cited in Limbu, 2001). Small, landlocked and independent country Nepal lies between 80°4' and 88°12'

east longitude and 26°22' and 30°27' north latitude and surrounded by the China in the north and India in the east, west and the south. Ecologically Nepal has been divided into three parts Viz. Mountain, Hill and Terai. Out of the total area of 147,181 sq/km Mountain covers 35%, Hill covers 42% and the Terai covers 23% of the land area. Due to the excessive increase of the population it has more than 25 million populations and is scattered according to the different ecological zones i.e. Mountain 7.3% Hill 44.3% and Terai 48.4%. Eight of the world's 14 highest peaks, waterfalls, lake of clean water, swift flowing rivers, fertile land, ancient temples, beautiful durbar square, unique flora and fauna with so many attractive places are the specific feature of Nepal.

Socio-culturally Nepal is a multilingual, multi-religious, multi-ethnic and multi-cultural country. In the high northern mountains adjoining to the Tibetan border and its ethnic groups, in southern plains Aryan Hindu caste groups and the admixture of above mentioned two groups of population reside in middle hill of the country. Nepal is an agricultural and among the poorest countries in the world. Above 80% of the total population relies mainly on subsistence type of agriculture but around half of the farmers suffer from food deficit for six months, life expectancy, literacy rate, PCI is very low compared to the many countries of the world. Rural country Nepal lies in rural areas because more than 85% of total population still resides in rural areas with nominal access of education, health, employment and other services. The meaning of development in Nepal is the development of rural people who are suffering from inadequate food, shelter, clothes, basic health, education, safe drinking water etc. The 44% of the rural households are estimated to live below the poverty line.

In order to accelerate rural development many efforts have been made, many programs have been launched, many resources have been used from both government and non-government and foreign sides, but unfortunately these efforts seem largely unsuccessful and in many cases the situation is getting worse. The gap between poor and rich has been widened although poverty alleviation is a main goal to overcome the incidence of present situation but those who are left aside from the main stream of national life still stuck up where they had been. Now it is time to minimize all these problems and add new vistas for a smooth and sound development of the country corresponding to tourism in rural areas. For the increasing development needs of the country, the earnings from agriculture industry and foreign trade are not adequate. Therefore, the need is to search the

potential avenue for foreign exchange, for which tourism could be the gateway to give a new lease of life in Nepalese economy.

Tourism is important in Nepal not only for import sources of foreign exchange earning but also for generating employment. Natural beauties and rich resources could do a lot for the development of tourism. By developing the environment friendly tourism in Badimalika region, it helps to preserve the natural purity, socio-cultural norms and values, create new jobs, prevent rural out migration and living standard which is very essential for that area.

A future development concept of ecotourism was conceived at the tourism industry workshop “ecotourism in Nepal future directions” on 6 December 2000. It was then refined as a result of a Nepal Travel Industry Survey, endorsed by the second industry and stakeholders’ workshop “ecotourism in Nepal- the way forward” on 14 march 2001, and confined by key HMG stakeholders at the ADBTA tripartite meeting in 8 may 2001(Pokherel, 2003).

Regarding the natural and cultural diversity, Nepal is an extremely rich country. Altitudes range from just about 60m to Mt.Everest 8848m the world’s highest peak; Nepal offers a wide range of national habitats, from sub tropical jungles of the Terai to the high altitude deserts of the Tibetan pleatue. Equally rich in the cultural heritage of the country, which is manifested in great diversity, numerous festivals and architectural monuments, the unique natural, cultural, and social environment of Nepal attract lacks of foreign tourists every year. Tourism is an important sector of the national economy contributing more than 22% of the total foreign exchange earnings of the country and about 4% of NGDP. More than 2 lakh people in Nepal are directly and indirectly employed in tourism industry. Thousands of visitors from abroad come to Nepal to quench their visual thirst and its myriad exotic natural cultural and spiritual features.

Nepal has immensely diverse and undulating topography, varied climate and mix of people that contribute to produce a magical attraction for the tourists. Walking in the interior of the country follows ancient foot trails which meander through the scenic rivers intricately terraced fields and forested ridges connection picturesque hamlets and mountain village. For the nature lovers and pleasure seekers Nepal can provide many attractions. The sightseeing, jungle safari, trekking, white water rafting, sport fishing, mountaineering, mountain biking, sharing the real happy and joyful life patterns of simple and friendly ethnic people.

Thus tourism is emerging as the good option for the rural development as well as for uplifting the living standard of the rural people especially in Nepal. Tourism in Nepal is heavily based on nature and natural resources. Most of the tourists coming to Nepal visit undisturbed natural areas such as mountains, lakes, national parks and conservation areas for their amusement and recreation (Dhakal, 1998).

The country Nepal occupies just 0.03 percent of the world's landmass, it accounts for 2.04 percent of flowering higher plants, 8.6 percent of birds, 4.27 percent of mammals, and 0.2 percent of fishes of the world. There are 213 families, 1496 genera and 5833 species of flowering plants and gymnosperms in Nepal (UNEP, 2001). Experts estimate that there are about 6973 species of higher plants in the country, of which 315 species are endemic. Altogether 9 plant species are evaluated as endangered, 7 as threatened and 27 as rare species. Nepal has plants up to 6300 species in the Himalayas (Weaver, 2001).

So far 847 birds (two endemic) and 185 mammals (one endemic), 100 reptiles 43 amphibians, 185 of fresh water fishes, 656 species of butterflies and 144 species of spiders have been recorded (UNEP,2001). At present 26 mammals, 9 birds and of reptiles are listed as endangered. They are also mentioned in the world listings of endangered animals (MoPE, 2000).

In spite of the hardship of economic development, Nepal has tremendous potential of tourism industry due to its unique topography, diverse climate and rich biodiversity. The opportunity has been further enhanced due to social and ethnic diversity, different cultures, customs and rituals of the people. There is no doubt that if developed well, tourism could be a very important source of gross domestic products and a means of foreign exchange earnings. Government of Nepal has already realized the fact and various efforts have been carried out to increase the number of tourists visiting and their stay in the country "visit Nepal 1998" program was one of the most important events toward this direction (HMG, 1998b). However the development is not satisfactory as the contribution of tourism to GDP was only 2.6 percent during the fiscal year 2002/03(HMF, 2003).

This spectacular geography is also one of the richest found anywhere in the world. The country has about 60 of ethnic groups and sub groups who speak over 100 languages and dialects. Nepal offers an astonishing diversity of sightseeing attractions and adventure opportunities found nowhere else on earth. Major tourist attractions involve Himalayas and the natural beauty of the country which is known

throughout the world. Most tourists gaze at the mountains from the different parts of the Nepal. Nepal's natural beauty continues to attract travelers from all over the world who come to experience for Nepal's uniqueness as a trekking destination.

Eco-tourism can be a means for rural development because rural area is already rich in natural and cultural resources. It can help economic growth, benefits the rural population and protect the natural and cultural heritage for both tourism and local inhabitants. It can provide incentives to rural people to increase production on a sustainable basis to raise the demand of locally produced goods and services and to improve the living conditions and welfare of the local people creating off-farm employment and income generating opportunities in remote areas.

Ecotourism emerged as a reaction to the negative effects of tourism. Increasing global concerns for the environment produced ecotourism which tried to shy away from commercial destinations and focused on environmental themes.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The natural and cultural beauty of Nepal, especially the hilly area of the country which possess many natural wonders and has not been the subject of development, tourism development to these areas can generate income and employment to mitigate rampant poverty of such areas. Ecotourism plays an important role in promoting good environment and ecology and preservation religious, cultural practices. While the good management of environment can be the attractive point for the tourism development, tourism like any other industries can be sustainable and long lasting.

Although Nepal is underdeveloped rural country, yet it has very rich natural assets. Flora, fauna, wild animals, birds and many more varieties are found within this small territory.

Tourism is the most sensitive industry and requires awareness among the people for its prospects. Especially ecotourism plays an important role in sustainable development protecting and promoting good environment and ecology. Therefore it is necessity to find out problems and prospects of ecotourism in rural areas. In this context it is urgent need to conserve the Badimalika area from the possible encroachment of grazing, excessive tourist pressure and other human

intervention activities. If we conserve the endangered flora and fauna, grazing lands, herbs and natural beauties we will get environmental, socio-cultural, economic and ecological benefits from it. Badimalika is very much potential destination for pilgrimage, recreation and trekking because of its unique characteristics like mountain views, wild life, beautiful forests, peace and tranquility, local culture, hospitality of local people. Most of the people visit this area for pilgrimage, scenery observation and trekking.

Badimalika is surrounded by the different caste groups i.e. Brahmins, Kshetri and so called untouchable ones. Basic infrastructure development is almost nominal condition. People are used to visiting there from the different parts of India and different parts of Nepal. It is necessary to make aware to local people about the potentialities and possible benefits from tourism. Tourism can be the reliable industry for the improvement of economic status of the villagers and finally to the whole nation.

This small study is to reveal the problems and prospects of ecotourism in Badimalika area. This study will help to develop future plan of tourism regarding Badimalika area. If the tourism activities are carried on minimizing the effects related to the environment and socio-cultural aspects, there would be promotion and development in ecotourism and that would bring rural poor in the mainstream of national economy. In this regard there would be possible of ecotourism development even with the help of small financial undertakings.

Since most of the tourist attractions of the country has its own geo-socio - cultural identity. It therefore demands specific tourism development plans and actions within the umbrella of an overall tourism perspective of the country. Being a resident of Bajura district a thesis research related to the Badimalika area came as an obvious choice. Besides time and cost considerations familiarity with the area, language advantages, the feeling of doing something for the Badimalika area and also the privilege of having to produce the masters research on ecotourism in Badimalika acted upon to select the topic.

Various studies have been carried out on highlighting the various aspects of tourism in different parts of Nepal but these studies have not seemed to address the problems and prospects of tourism about the Badimalika region in comprehensive manner so far. Thus the main purpose of the present study is to assess the problems and prospects in the tourism sector in Badimalika area. Unless

and until the basic problems and prospects are identified and analyzed the efforts to develop tourism would not be effective. Therefore, the extensive study is needed in order to establish tourism as one of the most promising and prosperous sectors of Bajura. In this perspective, series of questions may be raised such as:

-) What are the basic problems of ecotourism development in Badimalika?
-) What are the prospects of ecotourism development in Badimalika ?
-) What are the major problems of ecotourism and what sort of planning and strategies should be adopted in order to solve them in a sustainable manner?

Thus the comprehensive research is essential in this field to find out the main problems, prospects and recommendation especially in Badimalika.

1.3. Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study is to document the present state of the ecotourism and its prospects and problems in Badimalika area. The specific objectives are:

- To study the present situation of ecotourism in Badimalika
- To investigate the prospects and potentialities of eco-tourism in that area.
- To identify the major problems of eco-tourism development
- To draw facts and suggest the ways to harmonize the tourism with environment.

1.4. Scope of the study

Ecotourism is newly emerged but very much popular one of the components of tourism. Being an important smokeless industry, most of the countries in the world are involved to promote and flourish the tourism because it is the main source of foreign exchange earnings.

Badimalika is the enormously well known cultural and natural destination of far-western region. Due to the lack of many basic research studies it is lagging behind from the national interest. In this context, new tourism potential products should be explored to increase the flow of the advanced tourists so that environment would be sound and it would contribute to raise the living standard of the people. This study has focused on the problems and prospects of the ecotourism development in that area. The findings of this study will be helpful to planners, policy makers, researchers, I/NGOs, development agencies to conduct the development programs and further research in similar area.

This study has covered only the Badimalika and its surrounding parts which is about 50km south from the head quarter Martadi. This study has been focused mainly on ecotourism problems and prospects of that area. The size of respondents is limited. The interview has been conducted with local people, tourists, tourism related authorities and so on. This study is micro level and the findings of this study cannot be generalized because the subject has still remained unexplored. Thus this study will provide focus on this issue.

1.5. Rationality of the selection of the study area

Badimalika, the famous religious and naturally beautiful place of far-western region, is situated at around 4040m from the sea level. It is surrounded by the green forests from its bottom. Badimalika periphery is full of natural vegetation, pastureland, flora and fauna, different unidentified natural/medicinal herbs, waterfalls, wetlands, ponds, beautiful views, various castes and different types of settlements. Badimalika area is the suitable place for eco-religious tourism development. The rationale of the selection of the area is to promote eco-religious tourism and benefit all the people by revealing the factual information. It has wide prospects for the development of tourism but there are no macro and micro level study related to this issue. Though there are many problems to make a destination really eco-religious destination, but mutual efforts from all sides will make it easier and possible. So, it is very relevant area for the selection of the study.

CHAPTER-II

LITERATURE REVIEW

“Tourism is an activity generating a number of economic and social benefits. It not only augments foreign exchange earnings, the scarce resources of the country but also creates employment opportunities, direct and indirect and induced employment, through backward and forward linkages with other sectors of economy such as agriculture, industry, other service sectors etc,. It provides a vast spectrum of employment ranging from highly skilled persons to unskilled workers. It also opens up new horizons for employed and partially employed people from different walks of life. Linkages of tourism sector with other sectors of economy can also be viewed in terms of multiplier effects of tourist expenditure. The money spent by foreign tourists in the country tends to percolate through many levels stimulating domestic flow of income through several streams. It generates additional income at each round of spending resulting in a multiplier effect on different sectors of the economy”(NTB, 1989:20). Tourism being a labor intensive activity, it generates employment opportunities to the vast number of unemployed and underemployed people of the country. Even though the total number of people employed in tourism sector has not been estimated exactly, it could be said that a substantial number of people in Nepal are engaged in tourism, directly or indirectly (Puspa, 1999:7)

Tourism is sensitive to world economic and political conditions. It can occur on a large scale where the great majority of people enjoy some prosperity and peace. Tourism and holiday making on global as well as national scale is a manifestation of prosperity and peace. As a great number of people in many countries have higher living standard. They can afford to set aside a proportion of their incomes for holidays and recreation. The annual migration of people began rather more than a century ago about the present day exodus especially in relation to international tourists is essentially a post second world war phenomenon. The period between two world wars can also be associated with the great movement of people for the purpose of tourism as a result of development of various modes of transport especially the motor car and the airplane.

Tourism has developed very rapidly after the 2nd world war. As the world began to settle down after the year of readjustment immediately after the war

ended in the year 1994. There has been a remarkable rapid increase in both domestic and international tourism. The United Nation reported that in the ten years period between 1955-1965, the number of tourists arrivals in some sixty five countries triple from 5.1 to over 15 million (Sapkota,2002; p: 29)

In the past, the term tourism has often been applied to only pleasure travel. This definition is too limited. Hotels, transportation, food services and shops are interested in sales to all travelers, no matter their purpose. Furthermore, if planning is to be comprehensive, it should include all the elements that need to be integrated for best success of all motivated agencies (Gunn, 1994; 29). Tourism involves travelling and a temporary visiting to a place away from home. This change of place should be voluntary. The treatment of tourism exclusively as a form of leisure is too limiting (Przeclawski: 1993, 11). Tourism could simply be regarded as the process of the change of place in space by an individual or a group of people, a temporary change of the place of sojourn (przeclawski: 1993). The definition of tourism identifies the several characteristics of tourism as mentioned below (Collier: 1989, 3):

- Tourism involves a complex set of interrelationships between people, places and products.
- These interrelationships evolve through the transportation of people to various destinations outside of their normal place of residence, and their stay at those destinations.
- The duration of the visit must generally be of a short term nature.
- Tourism is essentially a pleasure activity in that it does not involve earning related travel even if the associated income is not earned in the destination, region or country. (Pradhan,1997; p:17-18)

“Ecotourism is environmentally responsible travel and visitation to relatively undisturbed natural areas in order to enjoy and appreciate nature (and any cultural features) that promotes conservation; has low negative visitors’ impacts and provides for beneficially active socio-economic involvement of local population.”(IUCN1996) cited in Dhungana, 2006; p: 9

World Tourism Organization(WTO,1993:23) defines ecotourism as ‘tourism that involves travelling to relatively undisturbed natural areas with the specified object of studying, admiring and enjoying the scenery and its wild plants and animals as

well as any existing cultural aspects (both of the past and present) found in the areas.’(Dhungana, 2006; p: 9).

Scace et al. defines ecotourism as “an enlightening nature travel experience that contributes to the conservation of the ecosystem while respecting the integrity of host communities.”(Dhungana, 2006; p: 9)

Black (1996) has defined ecotourism as “an experience with a focus on the natural and cultural environment ecologically sustainable activity, an activity with a predominant educative and interpretative programme and an activity that contributes to local community groups and projects and to the conservation of the surrounding environment.”(Dhungana, 2006; p: 9)

Martha Honey outlines seven points that define ecotourism at its best.

1. Involves travel to natural destinations, usually remote and under environmental protection
2. Minimizes the adverse effects of development, attempts to limit damage to the ecosystem.
3. Builds environmental awareness and insight into natural and cultural history.
4. Provides direct benefits for conservation.
5. Provides financial benefits and empowerment for local people and communities.
6. Respect local culture and strives to have a minimal effect on the environment and people.
7. Supports human rights and democracy.

Ecotourism seems to be a catchword that means many things to many peoples. To some it means ecologically sound tourism. To others, it is synonymous with nature tourism. Ecotourism both these things but it must go a step further. It must be a force for sustaining natural resources. Ecotourism is nature travel that advances conservation and sustainable development. It seems that the development of the ecotourism concept had led to a concept based on the desire to have ideal tourism term like must be and should be in these definitions indicate this desire. There is however almost no indication on what ideal is and how the

development of this ideal situation should be organized (Kunwar, 1993) - cited in Limbu, 2001; p: 9)

According to D'amore (1990; p: 62) "ecotourism is a form of culturally and environmentally sensitive travel which fosters and environmental ethic among travelers and also contributes to the conservation and management of natural areas for long term sustainable economic development."(Cited in Pokherel, 2003; p: 13)

Ecotourism is relatively new concept which is of interest not only to those in the tourism industry, but also to development professions, policy makers and local communities as a potentially uncreative mechanism for conserving the natural resource base. The objective of ecotourism despite often ambiguous is to attract tourists to natural areas and use the revenues for local conservation and economic development activities. (Erika, 1990; p: 67 cited in Pokherel, 2003; p: 16)

Ecotourism is also seen as an interfacing o conservation concerns and tourism interests, setting free the synergy required to jointly preserve the quality of the environment while protecting nature and promoting tourism. It is a timely strategy that is vital to the maintenance of healthy ecosystems along with economic benefits to any host area communities. Therefore, ecotourism has been viewed as a new tourism strategy that balances development and economic gains by benefiting both nature and destination areas (Farrel and Runyan, 1991).

The term 'ecotourism' is defined as travelling to relatively undisturbed natural areas with such objectives as studying, admiring and enjoying the scenery with its flora and fauna, as well as the people who live nearby, their culture and relationship to the land. Nature travel is and experience that contributes to conservation of the environment while maintaining and enhancing the integrity of the natural and socio-cultural elements. Ecotourism is also seen as an interfacing of conservation concerns and tourism interests, setting free the synergy required to jointly preserve the quality of the environment while protecting nature and promoting tourism. Ecotourism is now seen as a model of development in which natural areas are planned as part of the tourism economic base and biological resources and ecological processes are clearly linked to social and economic sectors. Ecotourism is conservation led. It has emerged as a result of increasing global concern for disappearing cultures and ecosystem (Pradhan and Pradhan, 2006; p: 363)

Ecotourism becomes an oxymoron bringing visitors to fragile environment and ruining them rather than preserving them. But, many people quarrel with the word 'ecotourism'. If someone considers the two parts of the word ecotourism- 'ecology' and 'tourism' - the inconsistencies are apparent. (Kunwar, 2006; p: 162)

Ecotourism is a form of culturally and environmentally sensitive travel which fosters an environmental ethic among travelers and also contributes to the conservation and management of natural areas for long term, sustainable economic development (Gurung, Ghaana Shyam, 1993 cited in Gautam, 2005; p: 14)

Ecotourism is the one part of the sustainable tourism the increasing popularity of ecotourism is a positive development for a country like Nepal. Ecotourism has tremendous potential to help our tourism industry. Endowed with a wealth of natural beauty and rich cultural heritage, our country is ideally suited to take advantage of evolving situation and changes interests and preferences in the tourism market. There is however inherent risks involved in any tourism or ecotourism initiative. The vulnerability of our natural and cultural resources being promoted must be carefully assessed to make certain that they are not threatened by any planned activities. A sound tourism and ecotourism strategy should provide and promote protection for the environment economy sustainability, cultural integrity and enhancement of education values. (NTB, 2001 cited in Gautam, 2005; p: 19)

Ecotourism to be successful must promote sustainable development by establishing a durable productive base that allows local inhabitants and ecotourism service providers to enjoy rising standards of living. And eco-tourist project must incorporate the social dimensions of productive organizations and environmental conservation. Based on experiences of the over wintering, reserves of the monarch, butterfly in west central Mexico, he suggest that unless ecotourism activity incorporates the local society into services planning and provision and includes programs to meet the fundamental needs for income and employment for all people in the region, the special qualities of the site and its flora and fauna may be irreparably damaged (Bakin.D, 1996 cited in Gautam 2005; p: 19)

Ecotourism focus on local cultures, wilderness adventures, volunteering, personal growth and learning new ways to live on our vulnerable planet. It is typically defined as travel to destination where the flora, fauna and cultural heritage are the primary attractions. Responsible ecotourism includes program that

minimizes the adverse effects to traditional tourism on the natural environment and enhance the cultural integrity of local people. Therefore, in addition to evaluating environmental and cultural factors, initiatives by hospitality providers to promote, recycling energy efficiency, water reuse and creation of economic opportunities for local communities are an integral part of ecotourism(Pleumaron,2005 cited in gautam,2005; P:20)

The concept of rural tourism is one of home stay with an emphasis on interacting and living with the host community. It offers the visitors and opportunity of experience the first hand the culture, customs and daily life of the host household and the community. Some trekking is involved but the village experiences natural, social and cultural are the main tourism product (Baskota and Sharma)

Johnson (1994) highlights the significance of tourism by quoting that many countries that have been seen their natural resources depleted and their cities polluted with heavy industry see tourism as a clean way to economic prosperity. They see tourism as a way to increase foreign exchange, improve the economy, provide employment, generate tax revenue, promote other industries such as retail sales and decrease reliance on natural resources and polluting industries. He further agrees that tourism can benefit the quality of life in local communities as well as by helping to modernize and utilize transportation, providing employment, raising the educational level of local people and broadening their world's view and rekindle interest and pride in communities' cultural heritage and the arts.

The concept of the 'Father of Ecotourism' is simple global and widely accepted. Therefore, his concept and definition are used. According to him the meaning of ecotourism in a single word is 'Respect'. Respect is the root of everything worthwhile and good. Respect to nature and local people, culture, history community, aspirations and tourists themselves. (Dhakal, 1998; P: 10)

Nepal to the outside world by and large remains as a country with mountains only. The diversity of Nepal has not been projected till the extent of having much more than just the mountains. Nepal on the other hand is a land with extreme diverse flora and fauna that needs focused marketing. "Though the country is only of the size of North Carolina of the United States, it has exotic destinations, rarest species of birds, animals, flowers, weather and all that can be combined to make a wonderful product within a limited area. Moreover, the

facilities blended with the culture and the hospitality adds essence to the image of the country.”(Satyal, Y.R., 2000).

The ecotourism in other words, incorporates both a strong commitment to nature and a sense of social responsibility. That responsibility extends to the sensitivity of the travelers. The term ‘responsible travel’ another aphorism for ecotourism, encapsulates its aims.

The growing interest in ecotourism among the governments of developing countries, commercial operators, aid organizations, and conservationists speaks to its enormous economic and conservation potential. Eco-tourists spend billions of dollars each year. But the importance of ecotourism lies beyond these figures. Eco-tourists like to use local resources and local expertise. That translates into import savings, environmentally sensitive designs, and local participation in the travel industry. Eco-tourism’s emphasis on local resources and employment makes it attractive to the developing countries. Ecotourism is about creating and satisfying a hunger for nature, about exploiting tourism’s potential for conservation and development, and about averting its negative impact on ecology, culture and aesthetics (Lindberg and Hawkins, 1999).

Ecotourism is a complex and multidisciplinary phenomenon. There are many facets that must be addressed if it is to be successful for those involved: consumers, managers, native peoples and suppliers. Detailed and systematic inventories of the eco-touristic attractions (both natural and cultural) of a country, a region or a site should be elaborated, bearing in mind that these inventories are different from those of a scientific nature and that they should reflect the attractiveness of the features listed (land not merely constitute and unemotional and clinical description of their biological or archaeological significance). - (the ecotourism society, 1999; p: 13)

In recent years a specific category of nature based tourism has developed along these lines that are ecological tourism or ecotourism. The term is first coined by Hector Ceballos-Lescurain in 1998. The term came into existence (vogue) after a wider debate of several years among scientists and organizations. Before the selection of the term (as Ceballos Lascurian cites in his book *Tourism, Ecotourism and Protected Areas*, 1996), there were 35 identical terms identified to describe the new form of nature travel that was developing among the best known of these are; nature tourism, nature based or nature oriented tourism, wilderness tourism,

adventure tourism, green tourism, nature vacations, study tourism, scientific tourism, cultural tourism, low impact tourism, agro-tourism, rural tourism and soft tourism. These terms share some general concepts (particularly in that they are alternative to mass consumptive tourism) but they are not synonymous. But, finally, in 1988 after a wider debate the term ecotourism selected; to make it a catch all term to be applied indiscriminately to almost any activity linking tourism and nature. (Bhatt,Damodar Prasad,2006)

Ecotourism is assessed from various perspectives. According to Scarce (1993) nature travel is an experience that contributes to conservation of the environment while maintaining and enhancing the integrity of the natural and socio-cultural elements. He presents it as a new tourism strategy that balances development and economic gains by stimulating local economies. It is seen as a new force that can benefit both nature and developing destinations, while it is also expected to be simply a travel to enjoy and appreciate nature (Filion et. All.....1994 cited in Sapkota, 2004; p: 6)

It promotes a code of ethics in relation to other species that grants rights of continued existence to those species; it promotes non-destructive, aesthetic, spiritual values. And it actually does something for wildlife in so far as it provides humans with an economic and moral incentive to set aside and maintain space (habitat) for wildlife and it discourages harassment” Gauthier,1993(cited in Sapkota,2004; p: 7)

Ecotourism differs from other forms of tourism particularly due to the opportunity for observation and learning it provides to tourists and its contribution to cultural conservation and long term sustainability of communities and natural resources. Therefore, it is a form of sustainable tourism that benefits the community, environment and local economy. This may be achieved through various means such as employment for local people or programs where tourists contribute money or labor to community activities such as tree planting or conservation of local monuments or sites (SNV, 2003)

In order to protect the environment it is important that local people are provided with alternatives. In this regard, ecotourism is expected to be a sustainable and relatively simple alternative. It is expected to support local communities while allowing for continued existence of the natural resources base (Scace, 1993). However, such expectations cannot be fulfilled unless the resource

on which it is based on protected against unplanned extraction. Therefore, proper arrangements must be made to educate travelers about the importance of the ecosystems they visit and ensure active involvement of locals and tourists in conservation efforts. Also, with the justifiable aim of creating benefits for communities, measures can be taken to empower them through fostering a sense of pride in their natural resources and enabling them to exert control over their development (MoPE, 2004).

Ecotourism is carefully planned tourist activity (whether natural, historical, botanical ornithological or archaeological tours) that is compatible with sound ecological principles, ecotourism results in on ecological change damage from group impact on national parks and or natural history resources. It is the philosophy to travel companies to support/use the destinations local resources. Operators lodging, guides and other tourist facilities or services and of showing evidence of continued support for the destinations conservation/preservation program and long term planning (Limbu, 2001)

Kamal (2001) in his thesis “Ecotourism for local community development in the mountain areas: A study on the potentiality of ecotourism in the Chittagong Hill tracts of Bangladesh” tries to focus the enormous potentiality of ecotourism for local community development in the CHT area. The maximum importance is given in thesis on how to improve the socio economic condition of the large portion of the people of CHT area through tourism industry. The thesis analyzes the role and implication of ecotourism industry on the protection of natural environment.

Ecotourism is one of the fastest growing trends in the tourism industry. The term ‘ecotourism’ is generally used to describe tourism activities that are conducted in harmony with nature as opposed to more traditional ‘mass’ tourism activities. Eco tourism society 1992 defined it as purposeful travel to natural areas to understand the cultural and natural history of the environment taking precautions not to alter the integrity of ecosystem while producing economic opportunities that make the conservation of natural resources financial beneficial to local citizen (Puspa, 1999; p: 31).

Ecotourism is environmentally friendly tourism where both host and guest are aware of environmental degradation as a result of participation in tourist activities. Protection and preservation of nature as well as socio-cultural environment while travelling have attracted the attention of all to tourism.

Although it is a new concept, it has become quite popular in tourism literature and tourism activity (Puspa, 1999; p: 24)

Dhakal (1998) studied “Ecotourism in Nepal: A case study of Pokhara Valley”. The study concluded dissertation that the ecotourism resources found in Pokhara. The services like guides physical security accommodation food and beverages, tour, travel and trekking agencies are able to satisfy tourist well. The information services available in Pokhara are not sufficient to satisfy them (Sapkota, 2002).

Ecologically sustainable tourism is one that fosters environmental and cultural understanding appreciation and conservation. Ecotourism in nature based tourism that is ecologically sustainable and is based on relatively undisturbed natural areas. It is non-damaging and non-degrading, provides a direct contribution to the continued protection and management of protected areas and it subject to an adequate and appropriate management region. They have noted negative environmental impacts that could result from nature based tourism. If proper management is not done one must be aware of physical impacts including clearance, damage to vegetation, soil, compacting and erosion. (Velentine, 1991, Mathson and Buckley 1999, cited in Limbu, 2001; p: 8)

The determinations of carrying capacity of the tourist area and facilities are stressed because tourism often threatens natural environment of overuse and over development. It is essential a high level of environmental quality to ensure sustainability of tourism. A suitable environmental planning is necessary to meet the growing demand of the area. Both regional environmental principles and tourism environmental ethics must be applied to minimize tourism’s negative impacts (Inskeep, 1987; cited in Pokherel, 2003; p: 13)

Ecotourism is one part of the sustainable tourism. The increasing popularity of ecotourism is a positive development for a country like Nepal. Ecotourism has tremendous potential to help our tourism industry. Endowed with a wealth of natural beauty and rich cultural heritage, our country is ideally suited to take advantage of evolving situation and changes interests and preferences in the tourism initiative. The vulnerability of our natural and cultural resources being promoted must be carefully assessed to make certain that they are not threatened by any planned activities. A sound tourism and ecotourism strategy should provide

and promote protection for the environment economy sustainability, cultural integrity and enhancement of education values. (NTB, 2001)

Ecotourism in various guises has been introduced around the globe-most visibly in the developing world and with particular focus on countries such as Nepal, Costa Rica, Belize and Thailand (Scace:1993,61). Increasingly, ecotourism businesses are returning a portion of their revenues to support management of resource areas that attract visitors. This symbiotic relationship fosters resource protection as well as good business. This ideal however requires care in planning, development and management (Gunn: 1994, 120).

Ecotourism is defined as nature travel that contributes to conservation and respects the integrity of ecosystems and local communities (Scace: 1993, 74). Generally ecotourism is recognized to link in some way the low impact use of the resource base, environmental conservation and sustainable economic activity. Ecotourism does not degrade the resource. There is no erosion of resource integrity. (Pradhan, 1997; p: 27)

Curiosity about unheard, unseen and unknown is a basic human nature. This type of behavior leads human beings to new places and people. Since through long time immemorial, people have travelled a long way from their home to explore new places and people. Later on, this type of activity was termed as tourism. Basically, tourism is a leisure activity of temporary nature and does not involve earning related activities. It is international in nature (Singh, 1989 cited in Shrestha, 1999; p: 14).

Ecotourism, mass tourism, village tourism and sustainable tourism is how tourism is divided. Although ecotourism is not a new concept in Nepal, people oriented management plans for the sustainable use of natural resources and cultural assets are being emphasized in order to channelize benefits to the affected communities (Bhandari, 1997:1). In ecotourism not only the activities of the tourists are involved but also elements such as the conservation of ecosystems and sustainable development (Kunwar, 1997:65). It is a catchy word meaning with ecologically sound tourism or nature tourism. So it is a force to sustain natural resources in any area.

Ecotourism can be summarized as a form of culturally and environmental ethic among travelers that contributes to the conservation and management of natural areas for long term leading to sustainable economic development. This

shows that ecotourism is very much advantageous approach of (tourism) development. For developing countries it attracts persons, who are tolerant and even interested in experiencing small scale, locally operated accommodations, and built by local people with local materials. It emphasizes the employment of local people. Its advocacy is to 'respect' to nature, local people, history community, aspiration and tourists themselves (Adhikari, 2004:7).

Tourism Master Plan (1997) has provided guidelines for tourism development in Nepal. Sight -seeing tourism, trekking tourism, recreational tourism as well as internal pilgrims are the potential aspects of Nepalese tourism. This plan indicates tourism can be one of the most important industries to achieve the aims like increasing foreign exchange earnings, develop profitable sector of the private economy creating an impulse towards the development of national and regional economy and diverting development impasses to the retarded regions. This plan shows that Nepal has been spending large amount of foreign exchange to import basic tourism components. To make the favorable balance of foreign exchange, this plan has formulated policies like reduction of imports, developing saving habits, strict control over foreign exchange and development of air services as well as travel agencies (Shrestha, 1999:17).

Whenever and wherever we are asked to preface our motherland's identity, almost every Nepali head held high, chest thrust out and filled with patriotic arrogance-will say "the land of majestic mountains", "the roof of the world", "the land where the Buddha was born and the heaven where the great lord Shiva found refuge from pain" and "land of the audaciously brave warriors, the Bir Gorkhalies".

Introducing the great land Nepal to foreigners seems quite easy, but how many of us have and intimate knowledge of our motherland? (The Kathmandu Post daily Saturday, May 17, 2008; city post I)

Ecotourism is a complex and multidisciplinary phenomenon. There are many facets that must be addressed if it is to be successful for those involved: consumers, managers, native peoples, and suppliers. Detailed and systematic inventories of the eco-touristic attractions (both natural and cultural) of a country, a region or a site should be elaborated, bearing in mind that these inventories are different from those of a scientific nature, and that they should reflect the attractiveness of the features listed (and not merely constitute and unemotional and clinical description of their biological or archeological significance). Adequate

physical facilities in and near natural areas are required for the effective development of ecotourism. Appropriate planning, design, and building criteria must be applied, minimizing impact on the environment, providing for a certain degree of functional self-sufficiency, and adding to the quality of the visitor's experience. Interpretive centers are sadly lacking in most protected areas of developing countries. Special attention should be addressed to providing facilities which are attractive, pedagogically appropriate, and easy to operate and maintain, always in accordance to the social and economic reality of each case since many protected areas are located in sites of difficult access, and far from traditional services, it is wise to apply what is loosely termed as "eco-techniques" such as solar energy (for heating water and/ or providing electricity), capture and reutilization of rain water recycling of garbage, natural cross-ventilation, and the use of native building materials and techniques. Buildings, roads, nature trails, signs, observation towers and blinds should all be carefully designed so as not to abruptly interfere with the environment, as well as serving to enhance the visitor's experience (Ecotourism, 1999:14)

Visible to all, Nepal's natural attractions, resulting from physical, historical, cultural monuments, and temples, art treasures and festivals and its wildlife are the best attractions for the foreign visitors. Nepal Himalayas and their scenic beauty are also the prominent attractions to the visitors. Nepal is the country of Mt. Everest, the land of Yeti, and land of Buddha. It has various snow peaked mountains, rivers and lakes, conducive climate and mysterious charms are inviting the visitors of the world. Cultural, religious and natural resources are the three major attractions of Nepal which have eight cultural and two natural world heritage sites. It offers natural based tourism activities like trekking, mountaineering, rafting and wildlife sanctuaries as well as culture areas, people based and man- made attractions (Shrestha, 2000). Considering the historical background, geographical situation and socio-cultural wealth, there are enormous tourist potentialities in Nepal and the tourism industry has been playing a significant role in the country's economy. (Shrestha, 1978) views that people from east and west are attracted to visit Nepal due to having all important ingredients for tourism development (Adhikari, 2004:13).

CHAPTER-III

METHODOLOGY

Various research tools and methods are utilized to make the research study more scientific, reliable, practical and systematic which is mentioned in this chapter.

3.1. Sources of Data and Information

Data were collected mainly from two sources viz. primary and secondary. Primary data and information were obtained and extracted from field visit survey, field observation, focus group discussion, questionnaires, and key informant interview and so on by the researcher himself. For the data to be reliable and authentic, qualitative and quantitative data were carried out. Similarly secondary data and information were obtained mainly through DDC, I/NGOs reports working in that sector, concerned VDC, Ministry of Tourism, Nepal Tourism Board, CBS, ICIMOD, SNV, published and unpublished books and articles, online sources and so on.

3.2. Review of the Literature

Relevant literatures were thoroughly reviewed in order to collect secondary information regarding problems and prospects of eco-tourism including other relevant information of the study area.

3.3 Methods of data Analysis

The obtained data from different tools and techniques have been used according to requirement. Different statistical measures like diagrams, charts and tables are used in presenting the data. Since the study is based on qualitative description and explanations are done to analyze the qualitative data.

3.4. Limitation of the study

This study has covered only the environmental, natural paradise and socio-cultural significance of Badimalika area of Bajura district. The study has been confined only within the major problems and prospects of eco-tourism in that area.

3.5. Research Design

As the ultimate goal to this study is to investigate the problems and prospects of ecotourism in Badimalika, the design to the study has been made to derive conclusion to the subject matter. This study has followed the combination of exploratory, descriptive and diagnostic research design. This research design has helped to interpret the quantitative as well as qualitative data and findings.

3.6. Universe and Sampling Procedure

Various tools and techniques have been applied to select sample units. Out of nine wards of the Kailashmandu VDC three tourism concerned wards 9, 7 and 4 were selected for the sample. Out of the 300 households 30 households that are 10 percent were taken out through simple random sampling, purposive sampling, and convenient sampling.

3.7. Key informant interview

Key informant interview was conducted in the area with the tourism related persons, local leaders, gentlemen, academicians and different activists.

3.8. Tools and techniques of data collection

Different tools and techniques were adopted to collect various types of data and information according to their nature. These data collection tools and techniques are follows:

3.8.1 Questionnaire

Questionnaire is the best tool for data collection. A set of structured questionnaire was prepared to get information from the tourists and local people. In such a way, quantitative and qualitative data were obtained.

3.8.2 Interview

Interview was useful to understand the attitude of local people towards tourism impact on socio-cultural as well as natural environment and perception of tourist towards the destination. To take reliable information, key informants were also selected for interview including related and informed persons.

3.8.3 Observation

In this study, semi-participatory and field observation were adopted for collecting related information. Observation played great role to check the reliability of the information. There things, places, people and tourists were observed during the field visit which has given clear cut picture of this area and their activities.

3.8.4 Focus Group Discussion

Focus group discussion was conducted to know the relevant data and information. In this study, tourism related persons, society's gentlemen/generalists, social activists and local leaders were selected. It has also given clear picture of the study supporting real information.

CHAPTER-IV

THE SETTING

4.1. Bajura district and study area at a glance

Second last one of the remotest districts of Nepal, Bajura is very backward, poverty ridden and deprived from the main stream of the nation. Local hearsays are in practice about how its name was existed. In the medieval period the land of Bajura district was under the Jumla (Singa) regime. Central rule was run from the Jumla but representatives used to stay in the Bajura district too. Small adjoining palace was here in this district. Bajura is the reformed another name of 'Barjukot'. Later on after 1471B.S Sinja state became fragile and divided into many principalities. During the period of Ananta Paal in 1849 B.S. Bahadur Shah conquered the Bajura district and adjusted within the Nepal.

Even after the advent of democracy in 2007 B.S. aristocratic economic system, subsistence production system didn't let the people to utilize the individual freedom and autonomy. So, now in Human Development Index Bajura district is in the 74th position. Further information is mentioned as below:

A) Political and Administrative System

Bajura district is located in the Seti zone of Far-western Development Region. Having 27 VDCs district headquarter is Martadi.

B) Geographical Boundary

It is the hilly district covered by the other neighbouring districts Mugu from the East, Bajhang from the west, Humla from the North and Achham and Kalikot from the south. Its geographical location is 28°18" to 29°5" north latitude and 80°90" to 81°5" east longitude. It has lowest altitude from the sea level 726m and highest altitude 7036m named Saipal Peak. The headquarter of the district lies in the 1554m height from the sea level.

C) Land use

Total land area of Bajura district is 218800ha in which cultivable land is 20155ha and Irrigated land is 3015ha. Maximum rainfall is 80mm (Kimni of Toli VDC) and Minimum rainfall is 25mm.

D) Demographic situation according to the census of 2058

Agriculture dominated district Bajura has total population of 108730 according to the census 2001. Of them number of female is 54797 and of Male is 53933. Household number is 20477 and number of family member is 5.3 for each average family. The Population density is 48.4/sq km an major castes are Bramin, Kshetri Thakuri, Sarki, Kami, Damai, Bhote etc. Per Capita Income is Rs.3228 an Average life expectancy is 41 years.

E) Health condition

Health condition of the Bajura district is very pitiable. There is only one hospital without any proper infrastructure and good service. Number of health post is eleven; number of sub-health post is sixteen and one Ayurvedic medical.

F) Communication situation

Communication service system of Bajura district is satisfactory. Total telephone line is 150, number of PCOs is 6, VDCs with telephone service is 5, Regional post office service number is 8 and sub-post office service number is 18 according to the district profile 2001.

G) Educational status

Total literacy rate of Bajura district is 23.34 percent

H) Religious and tourism destinations

<u>Name</u>		<u>Destinations</u>
Badimalika, Nateswari	-	Kailashmandu VDC
Budinanda	-	Kolti VDC
Chhededaha	-	Gudukhati and Aatichaur VDC
Khaptad National Park	-	Kanda VDC

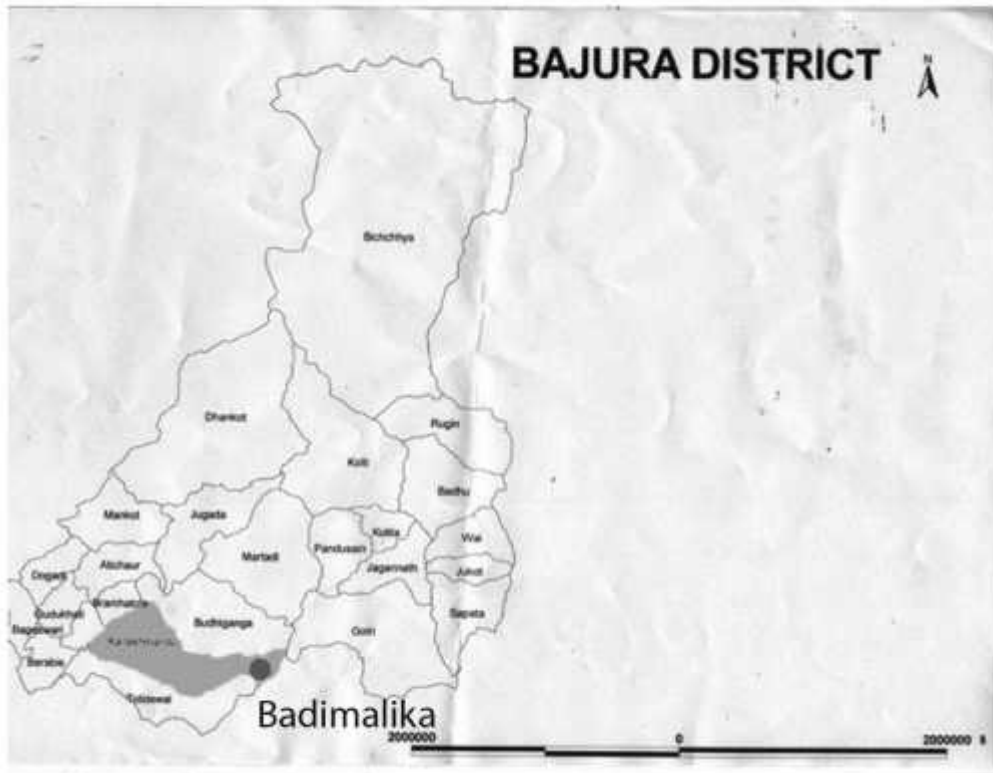
I) Security condition

District police office, Martadi

Airport security guard, Kolti

Police post, Dogadi

Nepal Army, Gorakh Daal, Martadi



Source: Bajura District Profile, 2058

4.2. Geographical Location

Bajura district is situated in the far-western part of Nepal. It is located between 28° 18" to 29° 5" north latitude and 80° 90" to 81° 5" east longitude. The boundary of Bajura district is Humla in the north, Achham in the south, Kalikot and Mugu in the east and Bajhang in the west. Its total area is 218800ha. It has unique geographical settings. Land pattern is uneven from high hilly area to snowy mountainous one.

Badimalika, Triveni and its adjoining areas are the panoramic celestial places located in the south eastern part of Bajura district. This place is the border of Kalikot and Kailashmandu VDC of Bajura district.

4.3. Climate

Climate of destination should always be kept in mind without which tourism development is not possible. It determines natural vegetation, precipitation potential and suitability for human habitation and bio-diversity. Flow of tourists, flourishing of the tourism market is also determined by the condition of climate of the particular destination.

The climate of the Badimalike area has extreme cold in the winter season. The elevation of this area is about 4040m from sea level. The temperature falls minimum - 10⁰c to -18⁰c and rises maximum up to 10⁰c to 25⁰c. The rainfall pattern is uneven and snowfall is heavy in winter. So, in the summer time the climate, environment and weather remains sound and very enjoyable. This destination attracts the many tourists from April to September. High mountain peaks are looking as though they are the pearl and diamond. Other sight and scenery can also view from there.

4.4. Land/ soil use Pattern

Bajura is the high hilly district and having rugged topography. In the mountain part residual soil is found mostly on the ridges and slopes. In Bajura top soil is scanty particularly where sandstones, clay and limestone mainly form the fundamental soil materials. Fertile Cultivable soil is less found in Upper belt of Bajura. Red, yellow and white soil could be found in some parts of the district. Out of the total land more than 46 percent of the land is covered by the forest and pastureland but residential area has covered very low which are shown in following table.

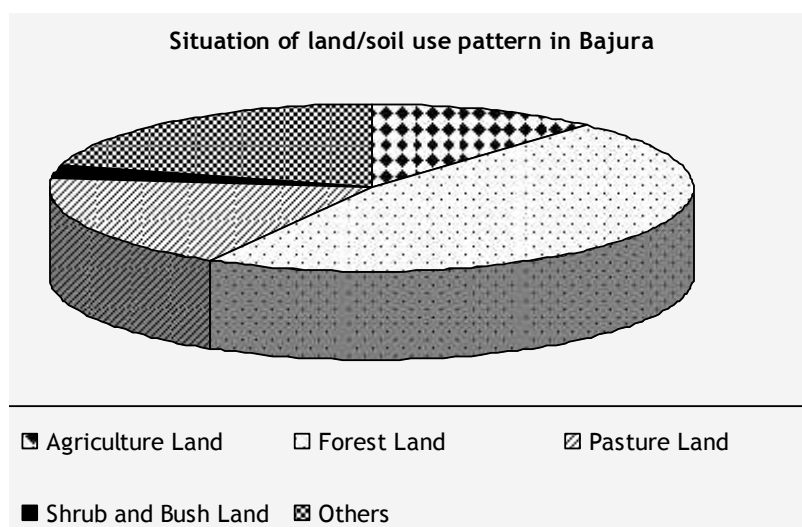
Table No. 1
Situation of land/soil use pattern in Bajura

S.N.	Sector	Covering area (Hector)	Percentage
1.	Agriculture Land	23,345	11.6
2.	Forest Land	94,150	46.6
3.	Pasture Land	38,095	18.8
4.	Shrub and Bush Land	4,495.50	2.2
5.	Others	42,090	20.8
Total		202175.5 ha	100

Source: District Profile of Bajura, 2001.

This land use pattern of Bajura district has been shown in the following figure:

Figure No. 1



4.4.1 Rivers and Lakes

Water is the precious natural resource of Nepal 'cause it is the second richest country of the world. Development and uplift of the country is only possible if water resource is properly utilized and used. Water is used for drinking, bathing, washing and cleaning, agriculture, industries, and hydropower generation, religious and recreational activities such as swimming, rafting, boating, and fishing and so on. Therefore Bajura district can't be absent from this natural resource, which reflects the prospect of eco-tourism. Rivers, small streams, lakes, waterfalls are so beautifully following from top of the hills to their downward areas.

More than a dozen perennial rivers and streams are in Bajura, i.e. Budhiganga, Malagad, Barjugad, Managad, Kordigad, Bauligad, Tipadikhol etc. In the same way there are also many lakes i.e. Dhalpuridaha, Chhededaha, Budhinandadaha, Khaptad daha, etc. Similarly there are many wetlands all over the district periphery. Therefore, Bajura district is very rich by its rivers, lakes and wetland

4.4.2 Flora and Fauna

Bajura is rich in bio-diversity. Various types of flora and fauna are found due to its diverse climate and topography. So, this district can be the destination for the environmentalist, scientists, tourists and academic researchers of different

discipline from around the world. Some of the major flora and fauna of Bajura mentioned below:

I. Flora (NTFP / Medicinal plants)

Bojo (*Acorus Calamus*), Jimbu (*Allium hypsistum*), Nigalo (*Arundinaria Falcata*), Bhojpatra (*Betula utilis*), Katush (*castenopsis indica*), Panch Awale (*Dactylorhiza hatagirea*), Niuro (*Dryoathyrium Boryanum*), Allo (*Gerardiana diversifolia*), Okhar (*Juglans regia*), Pudina (*Mentha arvensis*), Kaphal (*Myrica esculenta*), Jatamasi (*Nardostachys grandiflora*), Kutki (*picrorhiza scrophulariflora*), Amla (*Phyllanthus emblica*), Padamchal (*Rheum australe*), Soonpati (*rhododendron anthopogon*), Ainselu (*Rubus ellipticus*), Ritha (*Sapindus mukorossi*), kush (*vetiveriana Lawsonii*), Sugandhawal (*Valeriana Jatamansi*), Timur (*Zanthoxy lum armatum*), Guchhi chyau (*Morchellavulgaris*), Yarsagumba (*cordyceps sinensis*), Lali Guransa (*Rhododedron*), Oak etc.

II. Fauna (wild life)

- i) **Wild Animals:** Deer, Bear, Ratuwa, Tharal, Ghoral, Leopard, Malsapro, Dumsi, Wolf, Jackal, Wild dog, Monkey, Wild buffalo, etc.
- ii) **Wild Birds:** Danfe (Lophophrous), Munal, Kalij (wild pheasant), Chyankhura (Redlegged Partridge), Lunche (wild fowl), Crow, Eagle, Pigeon, Titra, Dove, parrot, sparrow, swan, woodcutter, Blackbird, owl, Bulbul bird etc.

4.4.3 Nature, culture and Adventure of Study Area

Badimalika is rich in eco-tourism resources, which is also famous for trekking and gateway to Mount Kailash and Mansarobar Lake. All places of Badimalika have unique culture, nature and adventure which reflect the prospect of eco-tourism. Richness in bio-diversity, environment and natural wilderness including cultural richness provides also wide scope for the tourism industry in Bajura. Nature, culture and adventure of this region are listed below:

Table No. 2

Major Nature, Culture and Adventure of Badimalika Area

S.N.	VDC	Culture	Nature	Adventure
1	Budhigan ga	<p>Ornaments:- ring, Muga, garland, bangle clothing:- Bakkhu, Daura and salawar, topi, gunyu, choli, patuka, woolen trouser, Khasto, Dhoti, stacoat, Barko, Peticoat, Blouse, and other cloths</p> <p>Festivals:- Chaitre Dashain, Badadashain, Tihar, Maghe Sangranti, etc</p> <p>religious site:- Kordithan,</p>	<p>Streams/River:- Kordigadh, Managadh, Budhiganga, etc, Flora: Katuki, Titepati, Asuro, Aallo, Timur, Dalchini, Kaphal, Siris, Tuni, Mel, Bhimal, Amala etc.</p> <p>Fauna:- Wolf, Jackal, Wild cat, Musk deer, One horn deer, Ratuwa, Kaliz, chhakhura, Titra, Dove, Ban Kukhura,</p>	<p>rock climbing, mountain biking, trekking, horse racing, Heli-Skking,</p>
2.	Kailashm andu	<p>Ornaments: Garland, Bulaki, Chapki, Tilahari, Sirbandi, Bali, Dhugri etc.</p> <p>Clothes: Bakkhu, trouser, Votoes and others.</p> <p>Festivals: - Deuda dance, Anante fair, Shivaratri fair, Chaitoli fair etc.</p> <p>religious site:- Nateswori temple, Kailashmadu temple, Maure Shiva mandir, Budimai temple etc.</p>	<p>Pasture: - Patabagar, Halenibiya, Bisnapani etc.</p> <p>Rivers/Lake: Budhiganga, Malagadh, Nilakhali, Dhalpuri lake and many streams.</p> <p>Flora: Yarsagumba, padam chal, wild pine, Katus, Simal, Kharik, Trikhula etc.</p> <p>Fauna : Jharal, Ghoral, Jackal, Fox, Wildmice, Thar, Musk deer etc.</p>	<p>Rock climbing, Rafting/ Kayaking, mountain biking, hunting, honey hunting, trekking etc.</p>

Source: Field survey, 2008

4.5 Pattern of Tourism Development in Badimalika

Badimalika is open and living ethnic museum which is also hidden and treasure High hill pastureland. It is a home place of goddess Malika, diverse Biodiversities, nature and environment which is located at the remote mountain area. It is very famous for pilgrims, grazing land and herbal plants so far.

The history of tourism in Bajura is not so long. After the declaration of Khaptad as a national park and later tourist destination, the concept of tourism development came into being in the district. Though religious tourism has been practicing since the ancient time, but tourists by different purposes started to come only after 2007 B.S. Still most of the tourists come for pilgrimage in the Triveni, Badimalika Temple and Nateswari Temple. April to September is best season for tourism.

4.5.1 Tourism Products of Badimalika

Tourism product means sum total of natural, historical, cultural, technical and human (man- made) attractions which satisfy to the tourists. So, tourism product is the total experience a tourist will have when visiting a tourist destination. This total experience will include geographical location, climate, nature and man- made attractions, cultural and historical features, infrastructure (transport, power supply, water supply, fuel communication links, etc) and superstructure (Hotels, resort, restaurants, Motels, clubs, entertainment centers etc). Badimalika is rich in tourism products, but, it is weak in infrastructure and super structure. Respondents in the destination were asked which of the following products would be more attractive to the tourists. The response was as follow:

Table No. 3

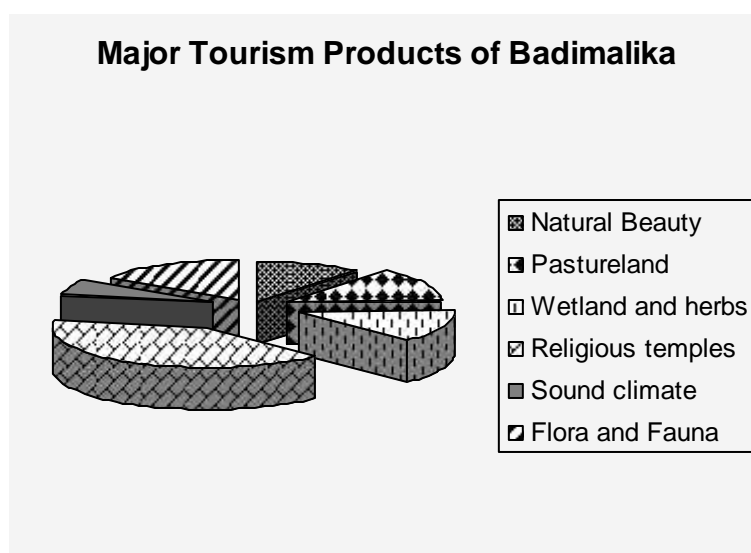
Major Tourism Products of Badimalika

Tourism Products	No of Respondents	Percentage
Natural Beauty	5	11.1
Pastureland	6	13.3
Wetland and herbs	6	13.3
Religious temples	18	40.0
Sound climate	3	6.67
Flora and Fauna	7	15.6
Total	45	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Major Tourism Products of Bajura are clearly shown in the following figure:

Figure No. 2



4.5.2 Tourists' Purpose of visit

In Nepal, most of the tourists visit with various purposes such as trekking, mountaineering, rafting, kayaking, jungle safari, research, to observe unique culture art and architecture, to spend leisure time etc. Tourists visiting Badimalika periphery were found mostly with the purpose of pilgrimage to Badimalika Temple, pious area of Triveni, graze the domestic animals and research. At the time of field survey, 45 tourists were asked about the purpose of their visit and other aspects in Badimalika, who were from Kailali, Kanchanpur, Darchula, Bajhang, Bardia, Banke, Jumla, Humla, Kalikot, Uttranchal Pradesh of India and many more. It was found

that majority of tourists said that Badimalika and Triveni are very pious places. There are many problems for tourism development but many more prospects behind these problems if properly planned and managed. The table below clarifies the purpose of visit of tourist in Badimalika.

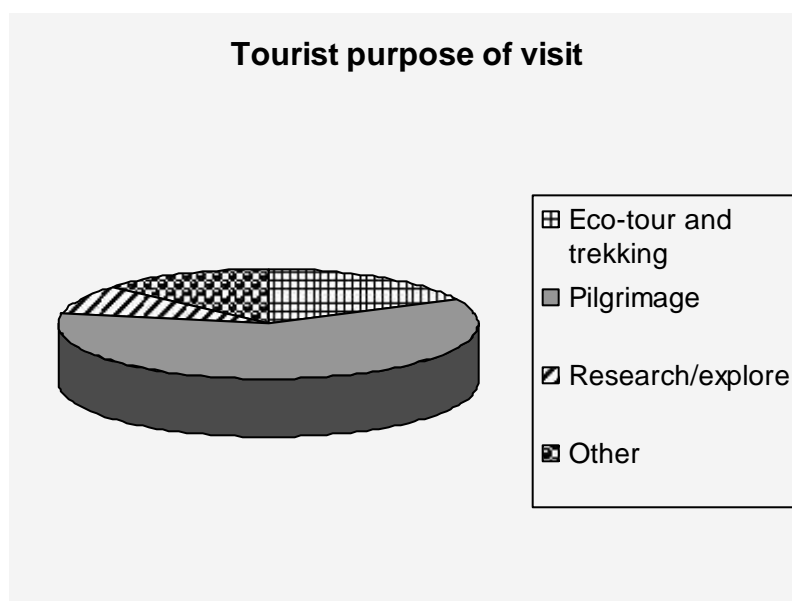
Table No - 4
Tourist purpose of visit

Purpose of visit	No. of Respondent	Percentage
Eco-tour and trekking	8	17.78
Pilgrimage	27	60.0
Research/explore	4	8.9
Other	6	13.3
Total	45	100

Source: Field survey, 2008

Out of the total 45 tourist respondents, Majority of tourists, 60% visited Badimalika for pilgrimage, while 17.8% visited for eco-tour and trekking. Similarly, 8.9% of the tourists were found visited with the purpose of research and remaining 13% visited Badimalika for other purposes (entertainment, to spend leisure time, to observe culture etc). Figure can make clearer about Tourist Purpose of Visit as follows:

Figure No. 3



4.5.3 Behavior of Local People and Tourists

In Bajura district, Majority of the tourists visit in Badimalika area when religious fair takes place because it is very much popular for the praying goddess as well as more rich in nature, culture and adventure than other parts of Bajura. The local people of study area complained that the behavior of tourists is good but not satisfactory because length of stay of the tourist at their area is short. So, tourists don't buy anything except taking photos.

Table No. 5

Behavior of Local People and Tourist towards Each Other

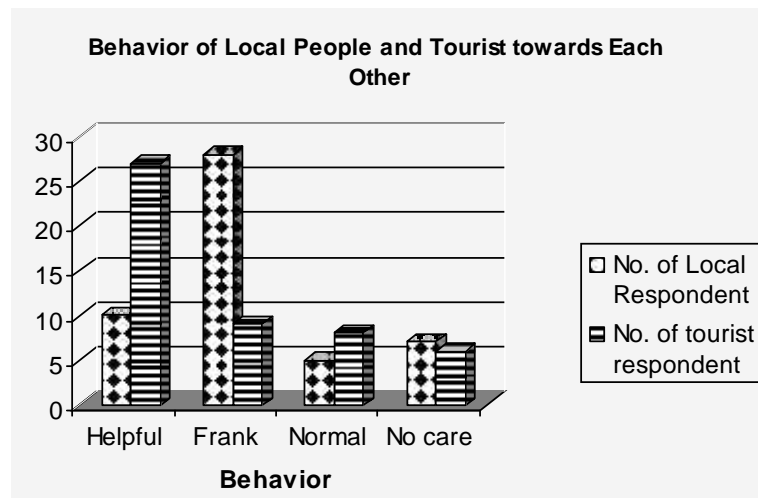
Behavior	No. of Local Respondent	Percentage	No. of tourist respondent	Percentage
Helpful	13	28.9	19	42.2
Frank	22	48.9	9	20.0
Normal	6	13.3	11	24.4
No care	4	8.9	6	13.3
Total	45	100	45	100

Source: Field survey, 2008.

The table No. 5 clears that out of the total 45 local respondents, 28.9% said that the behavior of tourist towards local people (host) is 'helpful'. Similarly, 48.9%, 13.3% and 8.9% respondents said 'Frank', 'Normal' and 'No care' type respectively. From this, we can understand that majority of the tourist behavior towards local people is Normal type.

Out of the total 45 tourist respondents, 42.2% said that local people behavior towards tourists is 'Helpful', while 20.0% said 'Frank'. Similarly, 24.4% said that the behavior of local people is 'Normal' and 13.3% said 'No care' type. In this way, local people are helpful because majority of tourist said so. Below is the figure for more clear:

Figure No. 4



4.5.4 Tourism activities

Bajura is a high fertile land for tourism development and it is also home of caravan i.e. yak caravan, sheep, goat caravan and mule caravan, which is diverse in culture and nature. Although the district is full of natural and cultural beauties, tourism has not been developed as expected. If tourism is developed, it can be leading sector of district development.

In Bajura, a few tourism activities have been done for tourism development of Bajura but it couldn't help to make strong root of tourism development. So, tourism development of Bajura and the flow of tourists in Bajura are very slow and low, which reflect less potential of increasing the number of tourists in future. For tourism development of Bajura, NGOs and government sector has nominally initiated to formulate some local tourism policies, plans and strategies.

Table No. 6

Badimalika, Triveni and Nateswori routes and walking days

Place	Travel time (Approx.)	Available facilities
Martadi-Triveni-Badimalika	3 days	Local snacks and foods, motels, campsite and local lodges
KNP-Chhededah-Martadi-Badimalika	6 days	Hotels and Lodges, Local Snacks, Campsite and local lodges
Maure- Nateswori- Dhalpuri- Bisnapani- Badimalika	2 days	Natural water bath, views, local snacks, local food items, campsites, motels and monasteries
Ramarosan- Chhatara- Triveni- Badimalika	4 days	Local lodge, Local snacks, monastery and campsite and beautiful scenes
Kordha- Ghodapatan- Bitarchinna- Triveni- Badimalika	2 days	Local food items, monasteries, temporary hotels and lodges, panoramic views etc.

Source: Old documents.

CHAPTER - V

ECO-TOURISM RESOURCES

This chapter is one of the key sections of this study which mainly highlights about the eco-tourism resources of the study area. Therefore, this chapter is broadly divided into two main sections. The first section includes the eco-tourism resources in Badimalika area whereas the second section describes the major tourism spots of that area.

5.1 Eco-tourism Resources in Badimalika area

Badimalika and its adjoining areas are rich in eco-tourism resources. There are many mountains, lakes, rivers, waterfalls, hot spring, flora and fauna, temple and monasteries (cultural heritage), etc which are mentioned below.

5.1.1 Mountains

Situated at very high altitude Badimalika itself is a mountain. There are many peaks and mountains that can be easily viewed from its top. Saipal Himal, Tele peak of Dadeldhura, and many peaks of Bajhang, Kalikot, Humla, Mugu, Achham are seen from there. These mountains and their adjoining areas can be famous for mountaineering and trekking, if eco-tourism is developed in this area. According to local people, they are not of less importance like Mt. Annapurna, Mt. Kanchenjunga and Mt. Everest.

5.1.2. Lake and Rivers

Many beautiful lakes, waterfalls, spring and rivers are in the adjoining areas of Badimalika. Such as Budhiganga, Bauligadh, Kordigadh, Managadh, Malagadh, Nilakhali Khola, Triveni river etc. More than 12 perennial rivers/streams are in this area. Budhiganga can be the ultimate rafting/kayaking, boating, fishing destination for tourists. Kimni waterfall, Ninakhali waterfall, Kordha waterfall can be appropriate destination for seeing and bunzy Jumping. Dhalpuri Lake and Thamra Lake can be the famous boating destinations. In this way, other beautiful lakes, waterfalls, spring and rivers are also important from the tourism point of view.

5.1.3 Flora and Fauna

Badimalika is situated in the very high altitude having different types of flora and fauna. It is rich in bio-diversity. As a result many kinds of medicinal plants and various fauna are available in the area, which shows that it can be

health and research destination. Many kinds of medicinal plants are used as medicine according to the expert of Ayurveda (healer) some are exported to foreign market for sale. Many forest animals and birds likewise bear, leopards, panther, Ratuwa, Chital, Tharal, Ghoral, Jackle, Dumsi, Kastiri, Jhallar etc also give pleasure to the tourists. But, we should be careful from illegal activities.

Badimalika is also well known for medicinal plants and floristic plants of exceptional qualities which are rarely available in other parts of the world i.e. Yartsagumba, Panchaule, Bhojpatra, Jatamasi, Guchhi chyau etc. These days, this system of medicine (Ayurveda) is becoming more popular even in the advanced countries like USA, UK, Canada, Japan etc. So, Badimalika's (eco) tourism can be easily famous in the world and then rural and community development is possible through ecotourism development.

5.1.4 Cultural Heritage

Adjoining VDCs of Badimalika viz. Martadi, Budhiganga and Kailashmandu are the living museum for cultural heritage. Many foreign and domestic tourists are used to visiting to this area for studying social and cultural customs and traditions. It is also a home of various festivals, holy places and historical places. Trek to Triveni- Badimalika- Nateswori has helped to increase pilgrimage and cultural tourists in that area.

Original 'Khas' culture, clothing and ornaments, hospitability of this area are plus points of cultural heritage. Many temples/madues likewise Kailash temple, Nateswori temple, Budimai temple, Kordha madu etc and monasteries are very interesting holy places to visit, which are ancient and historical too. The following table shows the importance of cultural heritage from the tourism point of view.

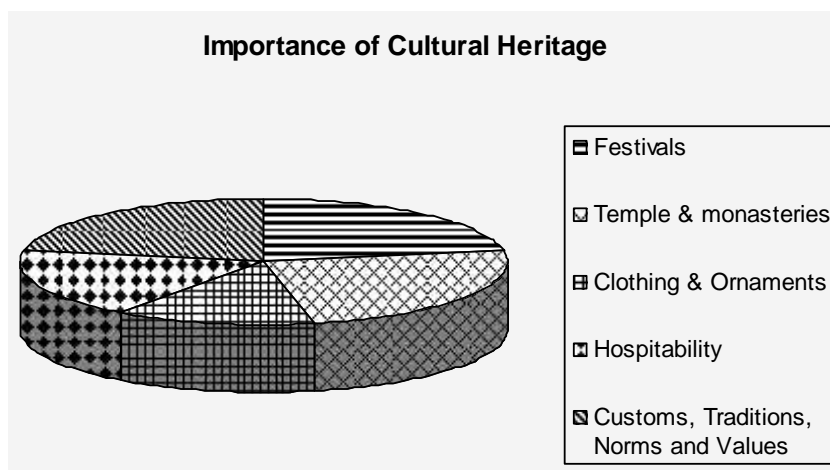
Table No. 7
Importance of Cultural Heritage

Cultural Heritage	No. of respondents	Percentage
Festivals	10	22.2
Temple & monasteries	11	24.4
Clothing & Ornaments	6	13.3
Hospitability	8	17.8
Customs, Traditions, Norms and Values	10	22.2
Total	45	100

Source: Field survey, 2008.

Among the total 45 respondents, 24.4% respondents said that temples (Madues) and (monasteries) are more important from the tourism point of view, which is the highest, while 22.2% respondents said other customs and traditions, norms and values. Similarly, 22.2% said festivals, 17.8% and 13.3% respondents said that hospitality and clothing and ornaments are more important from the tourism point of view respectively. Below figure shows the table description like this:

Figure No. 5



5.2 Major Tourism Spots in Badimalika

Badimalika has lots of tourism spots which are natural scenic, culturally unique and spectacular panoramic attraction for the tourists. Most of the tourists visit this area for the trekking to Triveni-Malika-Nateswori and for the research studies in many aspects. Badimalika is really celestial one where tourists forget everything about the world and feel as if they are in the Heaven. But Lack of proper publicity, advertisement, infrastructure and superstructure, it is backward and tourists can't reach and visit this area due to the remoteness. There are lots of remarkable tourism spots. Some of them are described below:

5.2.1 Budhakordha

Budhakordha is one of the gateways to Badimalika. It is the naturally beautiful place and can get after overtaking the Kordha village. It is the open space from where the Badimalika hill can be viewed in front of its face. Covered with forest from the upper part, it is famous for animal husbandry and potato cropping system. Tourists have to spend one night enjoying with the buffaloes and herders. In the winter season animals are driven towards the low land villages.

Different varieties of milk products and wild animals' meets are served to the tourists there.

5.2.2 Lade Patan

It is the pastureland named Lade patan where buffaloes, horses, sheep, goats, mule are left free. Care takers live there temporarily in the constructed huts (Gharchhana). No single tree can be found because it is in very high altitude. Different grass plants are found for grazing the wild as well as domestic animals. It has undulating topography and tourists can enjoy there in the pristine state of nature by sightseeing, taking photograph, and enjoying with animals and grassland.

5.2.3 Ghoda Patan

After the long straight upward forest foot trail, the popular place named Ghoda Patan comes. It is very celestial looking place where the small season buffalo huts are constructed. Very far distance sceneries, green forest and many more things are beneath to it. Tourists use to reside there with the animal herds in the night. Different varieties of local food items and milk products made by them are by heart cheaply served. Hotels and motels for the trekkers are also temporarily available there.

5.2.4 Bhitarchinna

Walking with the many pilgrims, researchers, relax takers one can get to the Bhitarchinna within two hours from Lade Patan. This place is said to be the gate way to the Triveni. Temporary lodging and fooding services are available there. Sometimes slight raining and at the same time clear the sky makes the tourist more enjoyable and happy there. One can feel on the lap of heaven there. Same as the case of Ghodapatan this place is also very beautiful with the pine forest and grass land. Small streams are following by this place. If this place is managed properly tourism can provide the economic as well as social benefit to the local people.

5.2.5 Triveni

This is one of the fragments of heaven in Nepal. Triveni is pastureland having undulating topography. Enormously widespread grassland having different groups of medicinal plants and flowers, union of the three rivers called Triveni,

famous wetland called KhetiBeti, it is famous for the washing all the sins and misdeeds among the Hindu people. Many more small peaks, Georges, piles of very ancient constant stones have added the extra beauty in that area. Not only for pious pilgrims but also for the nature lovers (eco-tourists) and explorers and researchers this place is the great matter of concern. One can be enchanted mad when she/he gets in that paradise. Thousands of Rams, Horses, Mules, and Goats are found grazing in that area.

5.2.6 Badimalika Temple

Having great religious significance among the Hindus especially for mid and far-western people, Badimalika temple is at the top of 4040m height from the sea level. It takes 5 hours time from the Triveni shrine to reach to that temple. Very adventurously tourists use to walk in queue enjoying by sight-seeing, taking photograph, and playing with the rams, donkeys, horses and wild animals that are grazing in their own ways. One has to overcome the straight upward path following the other tourists' way. One feels the same moment when the Mt. Everest climber feels at the top of it. That is the very place where Hindu goddess Badimalika reside/ live. It is situated at the middle of the Kailash Mansarobar, Budinanda, Badyalekh, Ramaroson. Even in the top of the Badimalika temple there is sloppy grass land. There is very fearful nice cliff behind the temple. From this peak many mountains, beautiful waterfalls, streams that are nicely following, beautiful scenes of Bajura, Kalikot, Bajhang, Achham districts are viewed. Thousands of pilgrims come to this destination which has created detrimental impacts there. If it is properly managed nature of could be remained virgin.

5.2.7 Bisna Pani

This is also one of the parts of Badimalika area which is in the two hours walk down east from the Badimalika temple. It is very naturally beautiful place famous for pasture, animal husbandry and medicinal plants. Traditional Ayurvedic doctors collect the different types of identified herbal plants from that area. Not only that it is the rest taking place of pilgrims.

5.2.8 Budimai Than (Temple)

On the way towards the Nateswori temple it is traditionally built beneath the huge stone cave. Pilgrims after returning back from the Badimalika Darsan they vow to the Budimai on the way. It is the huge cave where food items and breakfast

items are served to the peddlers. It is the very attractive temple constructed by indigenous skill and technology. Culturally and socially it is very famous having great importance. People offer many gift items to the deity resting there for a moment.

5.2.9 Dhalpuri Daha (Lake)

Very big stretched around in the middle of the forest this lake is very clean stable one. It is naturally made lake. Its depth has not been assessed yet. It may very much useful for boating, swimming and picnic etc. one can feel heavenly pleasure after reaching in that lake. It is very far from the encroachment and contamination.

5.2.10 Nateswori Temple

Surrounded by the dense forest, Nateswori temple is the second greatest famous temple after the Badimalika temple. There are two big open fields inside the forest and temple on the field. Hindu people from the different parts of the Bajura district as well as outside the district come for sacrifice the he-goats, rams, hens for their sin wash. There are many sub-religious spots surrounding the Nateswori temple where local people pray in the different seasons of the year. This area is very much famous for the wild fruits such as black berry, aiselu, Trikhula, and so on. Many herbal plants, bushes, and big trees for the wood are also found there. It is naturally very quiet, sound and beautiful for the health tourists, recreation tourists, religious tourists, researchers, meditation doers and many more.

5.2.11 Kailashmandu Than

This is situated in the middle part of the Kailashmandu VDC which is also the gateway to the Badimalika. It is in the high altitude compared to the other villages of the Kailashmandu VDC. It has carried great historical as well as religious significance from the time immemorial. It is considered the preserver and protector of local people who are directly under this goddess rule. Cultural and conventional practices like Dhama Jhakri are practiced in that place. The fairs named Anante and Chaitola are very famous and major way to be familiar and close with the relatives as well as with the neighboring village people. Local dance like Deuda is practiced whole night until the sunrise in the next morning. Females and males share their loves and feelings by the Deuda songs. Now days, many

indigenous cultural and social practices are in the way of disappear due to its improper preservation, promotion and management. For eco-tourists these types of things are tourist products and subjects for further research and should forward the steps from all sides for the preservation.

5.2.12 Maure Dovan

Maure is naturally enriched place where the river Malagadh and Budiganga join at one end. There is beautiful green place in the middle of the two rivers and in the mid of this green heaven the lord Shiva temple is situated. Like a Pashupati temple it is also equally great important but it is lagging behind due to its proper management and advertisement. Local people say that it is the hiding place of lord Shiva and Parvati. Every year in the day of Shivaratri great fair is organized there. This place is really a very tourist attraction destination. One can fishing, swimming and enjoying hide and seek around the temple and within the greenery. So, it is very important from eco-tourism point of view. Distant visitors come to Badimalika live the local market named Maure. Small hotels shops and stationeries are there. Tourists can stay there for lodging and food and recreational activities.

CHAPTER- VI

PROSPECTS AND PROBLEMS OF ECO-TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

6.1 Prospects of Eco-tourism Development in Badimalika area

Badimalia and its adjoining areas are ecstatic heavenly places one may never imagine. There are many tourist attractions on the lap of it. But the prospect of eco-tourism development in Badimalia is determined by various physical and cultural factors. The physical factors are location, land form, climate, flora and fauna, rivers and lakes, nature, sceneries, etc. The cultural factors are cultural landscape, customs and traditions, norms and values of different community groups, festivals, hospitality etc. And then, good infrastructure, superstructure and advertisement also play great role to promote eco-tourism. The following table shows the attraction of Badimalika.

Table No. 8

Main Eco-tourism Attractions in Badimalika area

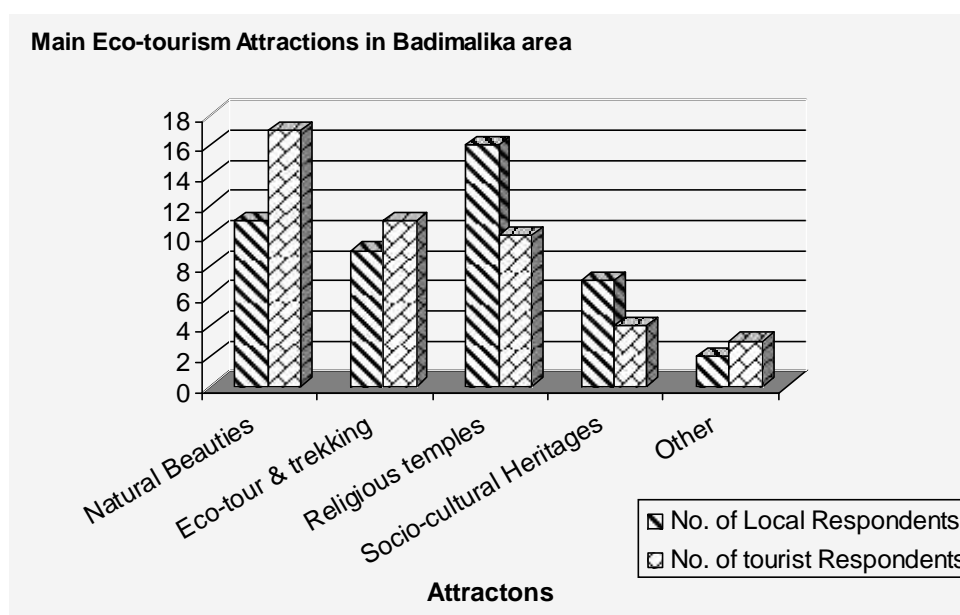
Attractions	No. of Local Respondents	Percentage	No. of tourist Respondents	Percentage
Natural Beauties	11	24.4	17	37.8
Eco-tour & trekking	9	20.0	11	24.4
Religious temples	16	35.6	10	22.2
Socio-cultural Heritages	7	15.6	4	8.9
Other	2	4.4	3	6.7
Total	45	100	45	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Out of the total 45 local respondents and 45 tourist respondents 24.4% local respondents and 37.8% tourist respondents said that natural beauty is the main eco-tourism attractions of Badimalika area. 20.0% local respondents and 24% tourist respondents said eco-tour and trekking. Similarly, 35.6% local respondents and 22.2% tourist respondents said that Religious temples, 15.6% local respondents and 8.9% tourist respondents said cultural heritage aspect is the main eco-tourism attraction of Badimalika area and remaining 4.4% local respondents and 6.7% tourist respondents said other eco-tourism attractions. From this we can know that

majority of the tourists (37.8%) said that eco-tour and trekking is the main eco-tourism attraction of Badimalika area but majority of the local people (35.6%) said Religious temples as the major tourism attractions. The following picture indicates the main eco-tourism attractions in Badimalika area. It is also is illustrated in the figure below:

Figure No. 6



6.1.1 Cultural Heritage

The unique 'Khasa' and Deuda culture attract the tourists who visit in Badimalika periphery. There is the composition of different ethnic groups, who have their own kind of identity, dignity, tradition, custom, language, festivals etc. In fact they are culturally very rich. They are very respectful and hospitable, they respect every persons either tourists or local peoples. Tourists can learn and study their culture and then the feeling of global brotherhood is developed. Cultural and religious tourists also can visit in many Hindu religious sites in this area. In this way, dress, ornaments, traditional art, music, folk dance, festivals, ritual ceremonies, holy and historical places, hospitality are the main cultural heritage attractions in Badimalika area.

6.1.2 Natural Beauty

Badimalika is located in the midpoint of four districts that give a natural enjoyment to the tourists. One can find mountain ecosystem, flora and fauna, white snow, lake, rivers, glacier etc. The hills are covered with varied flowers,

dense rhododendron forest, green valleys, pasture, glittering snow covered peaks, and ice and glaciers enchant the visitors to be speechless, where visitors can view various sites of the area. Tourists can take pleasure of bird watching, wild-animal viewing and horse riding. It is also famous for caravan of sheep, goats, yaks and mules. The view of Saipal peak, Baddelekh peak, panoramic view of water springs and streams, river are major attractions for the trekkers to this region. Pleasant and healthier climate is also plus point of natural beauty in this area.

6.1.3 Eco-tour and Trekking

Trekking in Badimalika area is the most adventurous and enchanting task to everyone. The government has recently announced for royalty free to climb and trek that destination too. The Badimalika can be ultimate eco-tour and trekking destination. In comparison to Annapurna and Mt. Everest region, this area has very few trekkers due to remoteness, poor accessibility, poor trek trails, campsite, electricity, information centers, security and lack of advertisement. However this area has immense potential for trekking because of its ethnic, cultural and natural richness. Sights, sceneries, flora and fauna, cocky steeps and cliffs, waterfalls, river gorges with melody, caravan of sheep, goats, yaks and mules and beauties of nature are the hidden treasures and pleasure of trekkers. Most parts of the road/trail are found full of greenery of trees and shrubs with sweet smell of flowers and herbs. It is also very appropriate place for educational tour. So one shouldn't miss to trek in Badimalika.

6.2 Major Problems of Eco-tourism Development in Badimalika

It is crystal clear fact that Badimalika is rich in biodiversity, environment, nature and culture with its unique features and identity. But, there are a lot of problems associated with eco-tourism development. Especially, there is lack of proper infrastructures and super-structure facilities, good management of litter, wastes, avoiding the over grazing, excessive encroachment upon natural gifts. Bypassing the negative consequences over there, environment friendly tourism activities can be conducted there such as swimming, bird watching, jungle safari, cultural program show and so on. If these facilities are created, many more tourists will visit this area and eco-tourism will be flourished. Local as well as Tourist respondents were asked about the ecotourism development problems in that study area selecting the problem sectors and result was as follow:

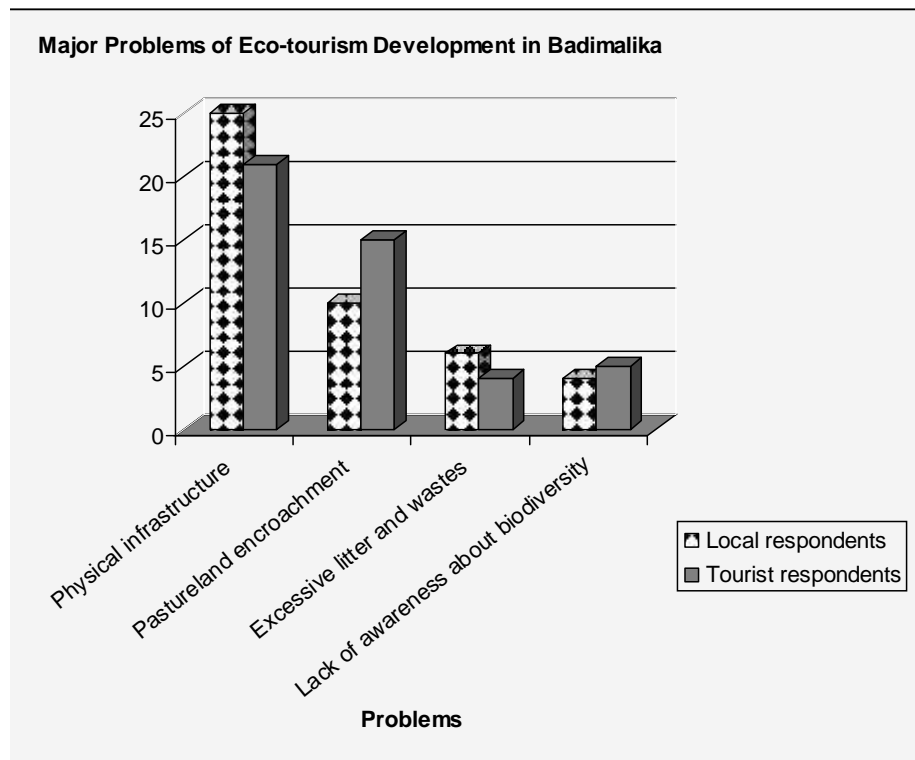
Table No. 9**Major Problems of Eco-tourism Development in Badimalika**

Problems	Local respondent		Tourist respondent	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Physical infrastructure	25	55.6	21	46.7
Pastureland encroachment	10	22.2	15	33.3
Excessive litter and wastes	6	13.3	4	8.9
Lack of awareness about biodiversity	4	8.9	5	11.1
Total	45	100	45	100

Source: Field survey, 2008

Among the total 45 local respondents and 45 tourist respondents, majority of the both respondents said that lack of physical infrastructures (transportation, communication, electricity, hotel and lodge, drinking water, security etc.) are the main problems of eco-tourism development in Badimalika. Meanwhile, 22.2% local respondents and 33.3% tourist respondents said ongoing pastureland encroachment by overgrazing as the pivotal problem. Similarly, 13.3% local and 8.9% tourist respondents, 8.9% local and 11.1 tourist respondents said that excessive litter and wastes produced by tourists, lack of awareness about biodiversity among the locals as the major negative factors for the ecotourism development. Similarly, trekking route and tourist map, health facility, recreational facility, trained manpower, Campsites and electricity and drinking water facilities are the major problems of eco-tourism development in Badimalika respectively. In the same way, some of the tourist respondents said that recreational facility is the main problem of eco-tourism development in this area. It can be shown by the figure as below:

Figure No.7



6.2.1 Impacts of eco-tourism

Tourism is one of the world's fastest growing industries as well as the major source of foreign exchange and employment for many developing countries. Tourism is a double-edged activity. It contributes a positive impact if properly managed but at the same time uncontrolled and improper management can be the major cause of degradation of the environment and loss of local identity and traditional culture.

Negative impacts from tourism occur when the number of visitors is greater than the environment's carrying capacity to cope with this use within the acceptable limits. Overcrowding, misuse of natural resources, the construction of buildings and infrastructures activities associated with tourism produce impacts on the environment. The impacts of tourism depend on the number and nature of tourists and the characteristics of the sites. Problems arise if the number of tourist is larger or the resource over used.

Excessive use of natural resources, no proper attention towards the social and cultural aspects of the destination is one of the most significant negative impacts of tourism. Encroachment of the forest, soil, pastureland, wetland,

wildlife is caused due to construction activities and unmanaged and unregulated activities of tourists.

In spite of negative environmental impacts, it also has some positive impacts on natural resources. Direct revenues generated from the tourism can be used for the protection, conservation and restoration of biological diversity of the area. Tourism also generates different employment opportunities for the local people, which help to increase the economic as well as social status of them.

Tourism has highly detrimental impacts on cultural values. Tourism activities may lead to intergenerational conflicts and may affect gender relationship. Cultural norms, values and practices are also influenced by the tourist performances. Tourism development can lead the loss of access to indigenous and local communities to their land and resources as well as sacred sites.

The negative consequences of tourism can be broadly categorized into two ways:

- a. **Direct Impact:** Direct impact is caused by the physical presence of tourists and their varied activities which is beyond the carrying capacity of the destination.
- b. **Indirect Impact:** Indirect impact is caused by the infrastructures built concerning with tourism activities.

Table No. 10.

Impacts of Tourism: An Extensive list

Major Components	Negative Impacts	Positive Impacts
1. Environmental	<p>A) Increased deforestation and degradation of soil by increased trampling of vegetation.</p> <p>B) Wildlife disturbance and habitat loss due to increased tourist activities.</p> <p>C) Increased land and water pollution by litter and other solid wastes.</p>	<p>A) Wildlife management new ideas and inputs, resources availability.</p> <p>B) Forest management new ideas and input, resources availability.</p> <p>C) Improved park management capacity (increased funding for PAS and local communities).</p> <p>D) Pollution- new ideas and inputs.</p> <p>E) Increased conservation awareness education.</p>
2. Economic	<p>A) Employment opportunity is low but the inflation rate is high in local level.</p> <p>B) Direct and indirect impacts increases dependency.</p> <p>C) Increased underemployment create dissatisfaction</p>	<p>A) Employment opportunities and better economy by increased revenues.</p> <p>B) Local products get market in national and international level</p>
3. Socio-Cultural	<p>A) Rapid cultural change and degradation in moral norms and values.</p> <p>B) Shift in family roles and structure.</p>	<p>A) Opportunity to learn cross culture, appreciate our traditional culture and moral values, built confidence.</p>
4. Other	<p>-Misuse of Community properly</p> <p>-Hazards to trekking staff</p> <p>-Uncontrolled Construction.</p>	<p>Cooperation, relation to national level, attach sentiment to international level, sharing of cultural, social traditions, norms and values</p>

Source: Field Survey, 2008

6.3 Impacts of Eco-tourism in Badimalika

Eco-tourism is the main vehicle to bring the socio-economic change in people's lifestyle in tourist destination as well as in the whole nation. It is responsible for acculturation and cultural diffusion. Eco-tourism upon the locals may leave positive or negative impacts. In some cases, the development of eco-tourism may be the only means of promoting the economic advancement of less-developed areas. The underdeveloped areas of the country can greatly benefit from eco-tourism development. It helps to create employment and many other good opportunities.

Therefore, if eco-tourism would have been developed in Badimalika, it can be source of community and rural development. The people of the area will change their life style. The eco-tourism will have not brought only social and economic changes in the area but also brought remarkable environmental changes, but these changes/ impacts in the area may be both negative and positive. Table below shows the impacts of eco-tourism in Badimalika.

Table No. 11

Impacts of Eco-tourism in Badimalika area

Positive impacts	No of resp.	Per.	Negative impacts	No. of resp.	Per.
Employment opportunities	15	33.3	Environmental problem	13	28.9
Environmental preservation	9	20.0	Socio-cultural loss	8	17.8
Sharing of cultural practices	6	13.3	Loss of moral norms and values	7	15.6
Social and cultural modernization	7	15.6	Underemployment	8	17.8
Increase responsibility	3	6.7	Taboos in trekking & tours	4	8.9
Structural development	5	11.1	Increase unsystematic settlement	5	11.1
Total	45	100	Total	45	100

Source: Field survey, 2008.

On the basis of positive impacts of eco-tourism, majority of the respondents, 33.3% expressed that eco-tourism can generate employment opportunity, while 20.0% expressed eco-tourism can be source of environmental

protection. Similarly, 15.6% expressed eco-tourism can enhance social and cultural modernization, 13.3% expressed eco-tourism can increase sharing of cultural practices, 11.1% expressed that it can be the main actor for structural development through eco-tourism, 6.7% expressed eco-tourism development can increase the sense of responsibility towards the preservation and protection of environment.

As per negative impacts of eco-tourism is concerned, among the total 45 respondents, most of the respondents, 28.9% said that eco-tourism can negative environmental problems, while 17.8% said eco-tourism can bring socio-cultural detrimental problems. Similarly, 15.6% said eco-tourism can cause loss of moral norms and values of the people of the destination, 17.8% said underemployment could be increased in the local level, 11.1% said eco-tourism can help to increase unsystematic and unmanaged settlement buildings and 8.9% said eco-tourism can help to increase taboos in trekking and tours.

6.4 Suggestions for Eco-tourism Development in Badimalika area

Badimalika is highly potential area for eco-tourism development due to its natural, cultural and biodiversity richness, but there hasn't been step towards the development of ecotourism so far. Local people of this area are heartily curious to develop eco-tourism in Badimalika. If their suggestions/desires are followed in the future, the development of eco-tourism in this area will be sure and certain. And then major problems of eco-tourism development in this area should be reduced. The table below shows the detail about suggestions.

Table No. 12
Suggestions for Eco-tourism Development in Badimalika area

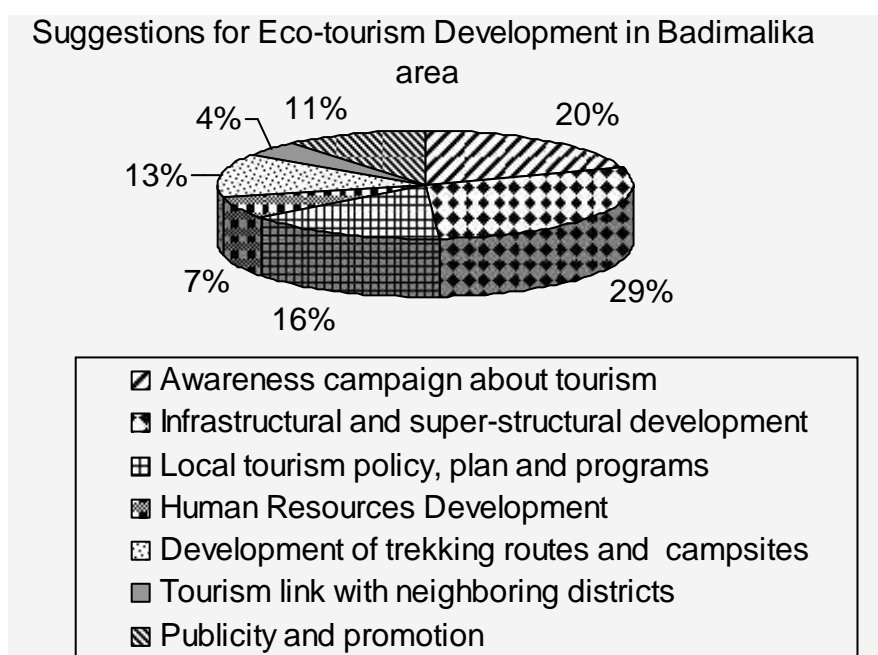
Suggestions	No of Respondents	Percentage
Awareness campaign about tourism	9	20.0
Infrastructural and super-structural development	13	28.9
Local tourism policies, plans and programs	7	15.6
Human Resources Development	3	6.7
Development of trekking routes and campsites	6	13.3
Tourism links with neighboring districts	2	4.4
Publicity and promotion	5	11.1
Total	45	100

Source: Field survey, 2008.

According to the above table, out of the 45 respondents, majority of the respondents 28.9% suggested that infrastructural and super-structural facilities should be developed for eco-tourism development in Badimalika, while 20% suggested that local people should be awareness about tourism. Similarly, 15.6% respondents suggested that local tourism policies, plans and programs should be formulated for eco-tourism development.

In the same way, 13.3% respondents had suggested that development of trekking routes and campsites should be developed, 11.1% respondents suggested for publicity and promotion by different advertising ways in national and international market, 6.7% respondent suggested for human resource development, and 4.4% of respondents suggested that Badimalika should be linked with neighboring districts. The following figure also reflects the suggestions:

Figure No. 8



CHAPTER -VII

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Summary

Having unique biodiversity, environment and natural beauty, Nepal can be the ultimate tourism destination in the world. It is famous for its peaks and mountains including the Mt. Everest, Mt. Annapurna, Mt. Makalu etc. Tourism, smokeless industry, is the means of easy earning. Badimalika is situated at the Bajura district of far-western Nepal. It is rich in nature, culture and biodiversity. Cultural heritage, natural attractions, eco-tour and trekking and Maure- Malika route, Martadi- Triveni- Malika route and Khaptad- Badimalika route have made Bajura famous for tourism. Most of the tourists visit Badimalika area for pilgrimage, trekking expedition, sight-seeing, exploration and research about culture and biodiversity etc.

The Badimalika is located at the south eastern part of Bajura district. It is the famous shrine and nature endowed gift. The study attempted to analyze the problems and prospects of eco-tourism in Badimalika area. For this study, primary data were collected from the field survey and 45 local people and 45 tourists were interviewed by respondent and surveyor. In this context, data and information were collected by researcher himself with the help of structured questionnaire. And different research techniques and tools such as field visit, interview, observation and focus group discussion were used to collect primary data. Descriptive as well as quantitative research method was used for data analysis. The summary of the findings of the study are as follows:

7.1.1 Pattern of Tourism Development

- Badimalika area comprises the at least 2 VDCs of Bajura district. Area from Kailashmandu- Budhiganga- Martadi has been covered by Badimalika area. The climate of this area is cold and tropical and the best season for tourist is April to September
- The total population of Bajura is 108730 but the total population of Badimalika periphery is 16000, among them 7890 are males and 8110 are females. Total number of households of this area is about 3000 Most of the

people of the area speak Nepali (Bajureli Khasa) language. Main religion in the area is Hindu.

- The history of religious tourism in Badimalika starts from ancient time immemorial. After the opening of the Kolti airport and the route to Triveni-Malika- Nateswori, tourists flow started to grow visiting Badimalika area. In the past, tourists used to visit Badimalika only for religious purposes but presently they are started to visit for different purposes such as research, recreation, trekking and so on.
- Badimalika is rich in tourism products; however, it is weak in infrastructure and super structure. Out of the total 45 respondents, many of them said that Badimalika temple, Triveni is the main tourist attraction in Badimalika, while others said that environmental and natural things and cultural aspects as the major tourism products of Badimalika respectively.
- The study showed that since time immemorial thousands of tourists visited in the Badimalika area but no written document is found. During the insurgency period in Nepal the flow of tourist was slow.
- Out of the total 45 tourist respondents, majority of tourists 60% visited Badimalika for Pilgrimage to Triveni- Malika, while 17.8% visited Badimalika for eco tour and trekking. Similarly, 8.9% of the tourists visited with the purpose of research and remaining 13.3% visited for other purposes.
- Among the total 45 local respondents, 20.0% said that tourists are helpful and 56.0% said tourists are frank. Similarly 10.0% said the behavior of tourists towards local people (host) is normal type and remaining 14.0% said 'No care' type.
- Tourism development of Badimalika and the flow of international tourists in Badimalika were very low and gradual which reflected less potential of increasing the number of tourists in future.

7.1.2 Eco-tourism Resources

- Badimalika area is rich in eco-tourism resources. Many lovely mountains, river, lakes, waterfalls, springs, forests, temples and monasteries are in this area. Budhiganga could be the ultimate rafting/ kayaking, boating and fishing destination.

- Out of the total 45 local respondents, majority of the respondents, 35.6 said that Religious temples of Badimalika can attract the more tourists. While 24.4% said natural beauties. Similarly, 20.0% respondents said eco tour and trekking, 15.6% Socio-cultural heritages and 4.4% said other attractions for eco tourism development.
- Badimalika is well known in medicinal and floristic plants such as Yartsagumba, panchaule, Bhojpatra, Kutki, Jatamasi, Guchi chyau, Rhododendron etc and fauna (forest animals and birds) Ghoral, Jhallar, Deer, Tharal, Ratuwa, danfe, partridge, kalij, pigeon, parrot etc. These flora and fauna showed that it can be health and research destination.
- The study showed that major tourism spots in Badimalika are Budha Kordha, Lade patan, Ghoda patan, Bhitari chhirna, Triveni, Malika temple, Bisnapani, Budimai temple, Dharmachhirna, Dhalpuri lake, Nateswori temple, Kailashmandu than, Maure Shiva temple.

7.1.3 Prospects of Eco-tourism Development

- Out of the total 45 local respondents, 11.1% said that natural beauty is the main eco-tourism attraction of Badimalika, while 13.3% said pasture land, 13.3% wetland and herbs, 40.0% religious temples, 6.67% sound climate and 15.6% flora and fauna.
- Majority of the local (55.6%) and tourist (46.7%) respondents said that lack of physical infrastructure is the main problems of eco-tourism development in Badimalika.
- On the basis of positive impacts of eco-tourism, majority of the respondents, expressed that eco-tourism can generate employment opportunity. But, out of total 45 respondents, most of the respondent 28.9% said that eco-tourism can have negative effects on socio-culture of local people.
- Most of the respondents, 26.6% suggested that infrastructural and super structural facilities should be developed for eco-tourism development in Badimalika.

7.2 Conclusion

Tourism as a smokeless industry has attracted all throughout the world. Tourism is often considered as "*the goose that lays the golden egg*" a source of income and stimuli for more employment. So, this interpretation is to be seriously questioned in the specific context of Nepal. In Nepal it has been above 58 years since the history of tourism had begun. Many people are benefited from this industry but it has never been introduced as a process of regional development.

Badimalika is hidden and treasure Himalayan which is open and living natural museum. It is also home of many more flora and fauna such as Danfe, Munal, Kalij, Kasturi, Mirga, Jhallar, Guras, Jatamasi, Yarshagumba, Panchaule and so on. Although the area is full of nature and cultural beauties, tourism has not developed as expected. Some tourism activities had been done for tourism development of Bajura district.

Since the opening of the Kolti airport and the route to Badimalika tourists start visited in Bajura although tourists had visited in Nepal after the establishment of democracy in 1951. Trend of tourist arrival in Bajura is a little fluctuation due to political instability, many physical problems as well as others such as lack of advertisement, policy, plans, programs, information center, and lack of good infrastructure, and super structure. Majority of the tourists had visited Badimalika for trekking to Triveni- Badimalika temple- Nateswori temple. Some of them visited there with the purpose of research, eco-tour and trekking. The behavior of tourists towards local people was normal type. The study manifested that Badimalika area is rich in eco-tourism resources. Many lovely mountains, rivers, lakes, waterfalls, water springs, temple and gompas are in this area. It was found that major eco-tourism spots in Badimalika area Bhirki Padne, Basudhara, Khetibeti, Bisnapani, Triveni, Ghodapatan, Dhalpuri Lake and so on. Most of the respondents said that natural beauty, cultural heritage and eco-tour and trekking are the main eco-tourism attractions of Badimalika area. Lack of transportation and communication facility was the main problem of ecotourism development in this area.

7.3 Recommendations/ Suggestions

The study has manifested that Badimalika has high potential for ecotourism development but tourism development of Bajura is slow due to many problems. So, based on the above study following recommendations are given for ecotourism development in Badimalika area.

7.3.1 Recommendations for Policy Implication

- ❖ Government with the help of local people should create environment friendly basic facilities like drinking water, toilet, electricity, road, etc.
- ❖ Proper management of the litter, wastes produced by the tourists should be done as soon as possible without any detrimental effects to the environment.
- ❖ Broad advertisement in local as well as national level should be carried out as a campaign.
- ❖ Many awareness programs related to the environment detrimental effects causing by the tourism development in that area should be run in local level.
- ❖ Excessive number of animals causing the problem in the pastureland by overgrazing. For the preservation of the pastureland and possible fatal encroachment on the land, wetland, medicinal plants systematic plan should be made.
- ❖ To control the maximum pressure upon that area, proper remedial measures should be made.
- ❖ Both the Government and NGOs, should actively take part to mobilize the local people to develop and promote ecotourism there.
- ❖ Proper attention towards the environment friendly infrastructure development should be paid from the government planning authority.
- ❖ Promotion and Publicity programs and activities of Badimalika should be done in the national and international market from the tourism point of view.
- ❖ Emphasis should be given to develop infrastructure (transport, power supply, water supply, fuel, communication links, etc) and super structure (hotel, resorts, motels, clubs, entertainment centers, etc) to attract more than more tourists in Badimalika.
- ❖ Tourist information center should be established in Kolti, Martadi and Kailashmandu. Booklets, trekking route map, tourist map, brochures, visual

journey books, etc. should be published to give necessary information from local and national level.

- ❖ Tourism of Badimalika should be linked with national tourism.
- ❖ Budhiganga River should be made kayaking, rafting and fishing designation, and tourists should be encouraged for trekking and mountaineering in this area.
- ❖ Cultural heritage should be preserved and cultural programs should show to entertain tourists which also help to generate funds for local socio-cultural development.
- ❖ Bajura Tourism Development Board (BTDB) should be established and local tourism plans, policies, strategies and programs should be formulated for tourism development of Badimalika.
- ❖ Efforts should be made to develop trained and skilled manpower at local level in order to provide efficient services up to the satisfaction of tourists.
- ❖ Nepal's tourism has confined only on the tourism of Pokhara, Chitwan, Lumbini and Kathmandu. So, other areas and places like Badimalika should also be developed for the sustainable tourism development of Nepal.
- ❖ Motor able road should be linked from Kathmandu to Bajura and Martadi-Triveni- Malika. Motor able road should be constructed for easy accessibility.

7.3.2 Recommendations for Further Research

- ❖ This study has been carried out in Badimalika to explore the problems and prospects of ecotourism in that area. Time and financial constraints did not allow me to go in depth dissection. A detail further study about tourism in Badimalika area is highly recommended.sss
- ❖ Detail study and research about the other aspects of tourism in Badimalika area should be carried out for sustainable tourism development.
- ❖ Tourism in Badimalika could be genuine topics for further research.

- ❖ This research is depending upon only quantitative tools so that it can't cover qualitative aspects in depth. Thus, further research should be conducted with indirect approach through using qualitative tools accordingly.
- ❖ Further study may be conducted also in the other remote area (district) about various forms of tourism.

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APPENDICES

Annex I

Questionnaire for tourists

Dear visitors,

Situated at a height of 4040 m above sea level, Badimalika is one of the most famous and naturally gifted places of far-western Nepal with rich cultural and religious heritage for the tourist to explore and enjoy. Badimalika is ideal destination for nature lovers and adventure trekkers.

This short questionnaire prepared by myself is an effort or a step towards developing ecotourism in the area. I would be obliged if you could please go through these questions and provide me with your sincere opinion on the same. Your time and idea will be very much appreciated and would be very valuable for Badimalika its tourism and environment.

1. Place.....Date.....country.....age.....occupation.....p
urpose of visit.....
2. What is the most attraction for tourism here?
3. Lodging and fooding
 - a) Cheaper b) medium c) expensive
4. How is the condition of accommodation?
 - a) Standard b)moderate c)good d)bed
5. Are there any toilet facilities along the trek route?
6. What are your personal views on Badimalika region's environment?
7. Please suggest on the safety of environment?
8. Are there any problems during trekking, mountaineering? Please mention.
9. Are you satisfied with the behavior of local people of Badimalika surrounding?
10. What is your opinion about the local people?

11. Which media did attract you to visit this destination?
- a) Electronic b) press media
12. Is this your first visit to Badimalika periphery? A) Yes b) No
13. Please tick marks the most appealing aspects of Badimalika?
- a) Natural Beauty b) cultural/religious heritage c) hospitality d) all of the above
14. How do you compare your visit with your previous visit?
- a) More enjoyable ()
- b) Indifferent ()
- c) Less enjoyable ()
- d) Unpleasant ()
- e) Other specify ()
15. Please tick marks the satisfied services from the following:
- a) Accommodation ()
- b) Transportation ()
- c) Food and beverages ()
- d) Information services ()
16. Are you worried when you are here? a) yes b) no if yes why?
17. Would you like to extend some suggestions to improve ecotourism development in this surrounding?
- a) Physical security ()
- b) Tour travels and trekking facilities ()
- c) Guides and other expertise ()
18. Which means of transportation and which route did you take to visit Badimalika?

19. What are the problems you have faced?
- a) Accommodation b) health c) security d) information e) means of transportation
20. Are you satisfied with the accommodation services?
- a) Yes b) no if no specify the problems
21. What are your personal views on environment of Badimalika?
22. What are the main sources of information that influenced your decision to come to this Badimalika region?
- a) Friends/relatives b) travel agents c) newspaper d) television/radio e) tourist office f) guide book

Annex II

Questionnaire to the Local people

Dear Local all,

Situated at a height of 4040 m above sea level, Badimalika is one of the most famous and naturally gifted places of far-western Nepal with rich cultural and religious heritage for the tourist to explore and enjoy. Badimalika is ideal destination for nature lovers and adventure trekkers.

This short questionnaire prepared by myself is an effort or a step towards developing ecotourism in the area. I would be obliged if you could please go through these questions and provide me with your sincere opinion on the same. Your time and idea will be very much appreciated and would be very valuable for Badimalika its tourism and environment.

1. Age..... Sex.....
 occupation.....organization.....designation.....nationality.....
2. What is your main source of income
 A) Agriculture b) business c) service d) tourism sector business e) other, specify...
3. Are you willing to co-operate to develop tourism in Badimalika?

- a) Yes b) no, if not specify the reasons....
4. Are you in favor of eco-friendly tourism in Badimalika region?
- a) Yes b) no, if not specify reasons.....
5. What type of co-operation and assistant are being provided by the local government bodies to the local tourist service providers for the enhancement of promotion of ecotourism in Badimalika?
6. What types of activities are being carried out by the local government bodies at the local levels for the promotion of ecotourism in Badimalika?
7. How do you manage the garbage to control?
8. What are the measures to manage water contamination?
9. Please suggest the ways for developing the Badimalika area as a tourist destination?
10. How do you feel about the future of tourism in Badimalika region?
11. What are the major sources of energy?
- a) Firewood b) kerosene c) gas
12. What are the alternative sources of energy people use?

Annex III

Questionnaire to the Local government authorities

Dear Local government authorities,

Situated at a height of 4040 m above sea level, Badimalika is one of the most famous and naturally gifted places of far-western Nepal with rich cultural and religious heritage for the tourist to explore and enjoy. Badimalika is ideal destination for nature lovers and adventure trekkers.

This short questionnaire prepared by myself is an effort or a step towards developing ecotourism in the area. I would be obliged if you could please go through these questions and provide me with your sincere opinion on the same. Your time and idea will be very much appreciated and would be very valuable for Badimalika its tourism and environment.

1. How do you think about the future of tourism in Badimalika?
2. In your opinion, which aspect should be emphasized to attract tourist in Badimalika?
3. List the main attractions of Badimalika areas?
4. What type of expectation/co-operation you expect from the central government bodies for the promotion?
5. In your opinion what sort of policy should be adopted to mitigate the current problem?
6. What sort of efforts should be taken regarding publicity for the growth and development of Badimalika area?
7. What are the ongoing plans and programs for the overall tourism promotion and development in this district?
8. How many organizations, institutions are working directly or indirectly for the tourism development?
9. How the preliminary bases are developed for the sustainable development of ecotourism in this region?

PHOTOS OF STUDY AREA















Kolti Airport of Bajura

















District Headquarter of Bajura (Martadi)









Kordha, gateway to Triveni- Badimalika- Nateswori

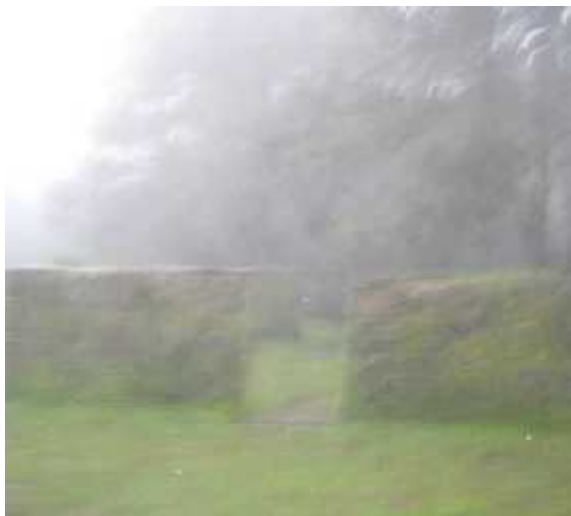




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Karnali River Famous for Rafting.