

**THE PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF
TOURISM IN NEPAL**

(A Case Study of Ilam District)

A Thesis

**Submitted to the Central Department of Economics
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal**

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

The Degree of Master of Arts

in

Economics

Submitted By

Indira Ghimire

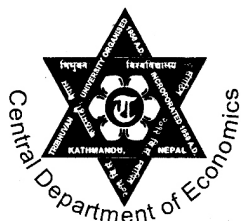
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CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

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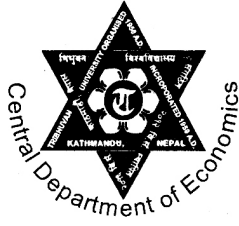
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RECOMMENDATION LETTER

This thesis entitled **Problem and Prospects of Tourism in Nepal (A Case Study of Ilam District)** has been prepared by Indira Ghimire under my supervision and guidance. I hereby recommend this thesis for examination by the thesis committee as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Economics.

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APPROVAL LETTER

This thesis entitled **Problem and Prospects of Tourism in Nepal (A Case Study of Ilam District)** submitted by Indira Ghimire to the Central Department of Economics, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur has been accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Economics.

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CHAPTER – ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Background

Located between India and China and with more than 28.5 million of population and 1,47,181 square kilometers of area. Nepal occupies 0.3 and 0.03 percentage of land area of Asia and the world respectively. In the Northern hemisphere. Nepal is situated within latitude 26⁰ 22'N to 30⁰ 27'N and longitude 80⁰ 4' E to 88⁰ 12'E. The altitude range from a minimum of 70 meters to a maximum of 8848 meters whereas the climate varies from tundra to polar. Mt. Everest the top of the world - is both the identity and glory of Himalayan country. The average width (North to South) is 193 kilometers. whereas the average length is reflected in diversity of weather and climate simultaneously specifically, the country experiences tropical, mesothermal, microthermal taiga and tundra types of climate.(wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

Nepal is rich in natural resources such as forest, water and biodiversity. Forest covers approximately 36% land of the total area. The number of all season rivers touches hundreds in number though have not yet been fully exploited in generating electricity and irrigation. Administratively, the country has been divided into five development regions, 14 Zones and 75 districts, likewise there are 58 municipalities that are considered as urban and 3915 village development committees(VDCs) which are predominantly rural areas. Densely populated the capital city Katmandu is a small valley that lies in the

central hill of Nepal.

Tourism is the largest industry and one of the key sources of foreign exchange in Nepal. Nepal is a unique destination for mountaineering, trekking, rafting and jungle safari. It possesses eight out of 10 highest mountains in the world. There are 10 world heritages and unbeatable combination of natural beauty and cultural riches. (Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia)

Tourism is instrumental the economy of Nepal in the process of regional development of an economically backward region which has insufficient resource for development of agriculture and industrial sector. Nepal has immense potential for tourism development as it is full of place that attracts tourist through out the globe with its natural beauty and cultural heritage like Mount Everest ;snow Peak Mountains, and a number of lakes and rivers. For the nature lovers and pleasures seekers, Nepal has become the attractive destination for tourist from all over the world. Tourism is quite suitable for Nepal's geographical cultural ecological situation and for Nepalese context.

In Nepal, tourism is not only important economic sources of foreign currency but also a major employment generator. By the medium of tourism people, can exchange knowledge and create understanding among the people of the world. Tourism provide us an opportunity to understand society, habits, food and the way of lifestyle of different nations. Directly and indirectly Nepalese people are getting benefits from the tourism, many people are getting employment from this sector. Because of the demands of local products, incentives to the local crafts and industries and artistic skills of the people is increased. Flock-lore, traditional ceremonies, art and industry are reviewed because tourists are

interested in them. Socially, culturally, Tourism is product, which encourages intellectual curiosity among people and nation and develops a healthy respect for another's beliefs and custom.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Review of literature reveals that very little progress has been achieved in the areas of tourism diversification, be it in terms of product or place. Tourism promotion and development is largely concentrated on urban area and a few of the traditional sites outside the Kathmandu valley.

Benefits of the tourism are disproportionately distributed to the center (Kathmandu) from incoming tourists. Much of the tourist's dollar remains in Kathmandu and little finds its way into other parts of the country. There exists a situation of core-periphery dependency in which the center controls a very considerable extent of the distributions of tourism around Nepal.

Ilam district has been facing problems to developed tourism infrastructure, no academic research has been done in the field of tourism so rresearch problem can be presented as follow:

1. What are the current trend of tourist inflow in Ilam district?
2. How can these problems be solved?
3. What are the potentialities of tourism in Ilam district?
4. Role of tourism for economic development.

1.3 Objectives of the Studies

The general objective of this study is to know the main tourist destination of the study area, Specifically the study seeks to:

1. To know the main tourist destination of the study area.
2. To find out problems and prospect of tourism in study area

1.4 Limitations of the Study

1. The study on development of tourism uses the trend of 10 years, 5 years and 4 years only.
2. The study in some causes suffered from the lack of relevant data as sought on classified as region wide basis.
3. Most of the data are of secondary type. Which is available from Nepal tourism board, immigration and other sources of books.
4. It focuses only on some major factor of tourism related sector therefore overall. Position of development of tourism in Nepal can't be judged by this report

1.5 Important of the Study

Nepal is recognized as an ideal tourist destination for culture and nature lovers. Diversity in terms of geography ethnic communities and cultural heritages are the defining characteristic of Nepal society. It's hospitable people and their rich and colorful socio-cultural heritage and natural recourses are the major attraction for the people from the western part of the world.

The present study aims to analyze the problems and prospects of tourism in Ilam district. The salient significance of the study is that Ilam

is being relatively small and rich in tourism resources but the people of the world do not know about natural beauties and cultural diversities of the Ilam. tourism is also seen as an effective means to directly and indirectly benefit and local people through local employment and income generation. another significance of the study is to recommend the effective way of management of the limited sources of the Ilam district.

This study will provide basic information and general guideline to the local people, tourist and other concerned agencies about the way to attain sustainable tourism development in Ilam. this research will be important for the development of tourism in Ilam district.

1.6 Organization of the Study

The overall study conducted has been organized in following manner.

Chapter One presents the general overview of tourism and its contribution in the economic development of nation, potential tourism destinations, statement of problem, and limitation of study.

Chapter Two devoted for the brief review of literature, report and journal available with the support of accepted theories and practices. Conceptual framework about contribution of rural tourism in the economic development of nation is briefly reviewed. Review from books, journals (articles), thesis etc are included in this chapter.

Chapter Three presents the research methodology has been presented.

Chapter Four the data related to the study has been presented analyzed by using several data analysis techniques.

Chapter Five is problems and prospects of tourism development of Ilam District.

Chapter Six is for summary, conclusions of the study and to express recommendations to improve any time of lacking, if found in the subject during the study.

Finally, Bibliography of books, all published and unpublished report journals and literatures along with Appendixes containi9ng elaboraterd for calculation and presentation of detail of data will be jotted dawn at the end the report.

CHAPTER – TWO

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

In the field of tourism there are so many articles published in different magazines as well as there are different kinds of literature available on theoretical foundation of tourism.

2.1 Theoretical and Empirical Review

2.1.1 Conceptual Framework

Etymologically the word tour is derived from the Latin 'tornare and the Greek 'tomos' meaning' a lathe or circle; the movement around a central point of axis' this meaning changed in modern, English to represent one's turn. The suffix 'ism' is defined as 'an action or process, typical behavior or quality; while the suffix 'its' denotes 'one that performs a given action' when the word tour and the suffixes ism and it's are combined' they suggest the action of movement around a circle one can argue that circle represents a starting point, which ultimately returns to its beginning. Therefore, like a circle, a tour represents a Journey that is a round-trip, either act of leaving and then returning to the original starting point, and therefore, one who takes such a journey and be called a tourist (Theobald, 1997:6). "Travel, after all, has etymological connections with travel with work and activity while tourism represents a packaged form of experience in which passivity prevails and contact with the alien and the real is avoided or prevented. The world tourism was for the first time described in the oxford English dictionary in 1811 (Cellabous Lascurain, 1996:1-2). This reveals that the word tourism did not appear in the English language until the early nineteenth century, and the word 'tour' was more closely associated with the idea of a voyage or

peregrination or a circuit. Then, with the idea of an individual being temporary away from home for pleasure a purposes a significant feature of the use of the word "tourist" came into being.

In the middle age, merchants, explorers, pilgrims and students travelled in various places and despite the upheavals caused by the invasions of the Arabs, the Normans and the Hungarians, the movements of persons was far from ceasing completely: "student attracted by the master minds of such renowned Universities of Bulgaria, Paris, Rome Salmance, Cairo and Naland and Bikramshila in India Travelled after to near them"(Upadhyay,2003)

ILO took the initiative of drawing up a convention of paid holidays which required the member states to grant a paid holiday of a minimum paid holiday at six weeks per year (Kunwar, 2006)

Thus industrial revolution in the 19th century gave birth to a large and prosperous group in western Society. Industrialization grew and trade and commerce developed as result prosperous group became richer. Increasing industrial activities in turn gave rise to new settlement; town and cities were established to accommodate increasing number of labor force engaged in industries. Thus three major development; increase in wealth of industrial society, development of means of transport and travel organization earned extra ordinary growth of tourism during the last 50 years throughout the globe (Kunwar,2006)

2.1.2 Review of Book

Chand D.,(2000), has studied on his book "Nepal's" tourism uncensored facts has present the clear vision of tourism in Nepal. He explains that tourism has contributed to the overall growth of the

economy therefore any measure that tend to negatively affect the tourism sector will affect the performance of the entire economy of the country. The sector of influence of tourism has expanded tremendously and if better plans; more enduring support from the government and if more investment is ploughed in to this sector it can its area of influences.

Tewari, (1994), in his book 'Tourism dimensions' visualized that tourism as industry and identified its importance as the means of correcting adverse trade balance in an economy. Even a highly developed economy like USA relies partly on an increasing number of Japanese tourists to correct its trade deficits with japan. In the developing countries it could be the source of additional external revenue. In addition to generating foreign exchange, tourism is accepted to create additional employment and income and generate multiplier effort in an economy. Some countries have a comparative advantage in the development of tourism because of their natural topography such as mountains, sandy beaches searches and lovely landscape, their rich cultural heritage and so on. However tourism is not unmixed blessing as it is blamed for causing environmental pollution and many social evils such as prostitution.

Upadhyay R.,(2008), studied and published “Readings in rural tourism”. This book is landmark publication in the history of tourism in Nepal. In this book, he has described rural tourism, its problems and prospects in detail. The book has been prepared with the contribution of well-known and experiences of scholars and entrepreneurs. In this book, perhaps it is the only article supported with field survey based information.

2.1.3 Review of Article

Ojha, (2009), in his article "challenges of Tourism in Nepal" has discussed Nepal as an unanimous shangrila for the rapid growth of global tourism. Rising from an elevation of 56 meters to 8848 meters above the sea level, possesses all the climate zones of the world from the bitter tundra vegetation to the hot tropical forestation, Nepal's biodiversity is a reflection of physiographic climatologically and attitudinal variation. Nepal's combination of world class cultural and natural and natural tourism attractions' including the rich heritage of the Kathmandu valley, culture diverse of Nepal, the beauty of Nepal Himalaya, super wildlife resource and hospitable mountain people ensure a destination well suited for international tourism. He has also stated that Nepal having famous tourist destination, world heritage site, historical monuments and natural beauty is not utilizing properly same of the identified problems of the development of tourism in Nepal are lack of tourist information centers, infrastructure, health services, water and sanitation proper accommodation in some places. Ineffective national plan and policy, fail to control over street vendors, lack of public awareness, lack of trained tourist guides, poor publicity campaign, lack of tourism packages variable price structure and presence of non-nepali in tourism business. There are pertinent problems that need to be addressed properly. Government and its authorities only are seeking to show the inclined graph(increasing number), manipulating data's and interpreting as increment but really falls or other hand. Government and other business persons, now a days are only seeking quantity tourism but the national requirement is quality tourism. If quality tourism. If quality tourism sustained it does not concerned with decreased number. Nepal will be grateful only if quality tourists made their destination as Nepal. Therefore government, its

authority, concerned departments and concerned stakeholders must think for quality tourism as sustainable tourism.

Upadhayay R.,(2008), in his article ‘Rural tourism to create equitable and growing economy in Nepal’ defines, ‘Rural tourism is a complex multifaceted activity. It is not just farm-based tourism. It includes farm based holidays, eco-tourism, walking, climbing and tiding, adventure, sports, health tourism, hunting, fishing, educational art and heritage tourism and ethic tourism, in this article, he states the main objectives of the rural tourism like; to achieve maximum human welfare and happiness, through sustainable socio-economic development of rural area, to reduce regional inequality and economic disparities and to contribute in poverty alleviation and attainment millennium development goals. He concludes that rural tourism is Nepal’s oil and key for poverty alleviation, likewise, he has recommended government, Tara Gaon Development Board, public, private and cooperative sector to pay their attention in time to develop rural tourism in Nepal.

Upadhayaya R.,(2003), in his dissertation entitled ‘Tourism as a leading Sector in Economic Development of Nepal’s has opined that many countries have made various attempts to promote tourism industry as a means of economic progress. The economy of Nepal lacks in terms of industrialization some further alternative is to be found which can induce the process of industrialization to put the path of rapid economic development, to study the scope for global linkage of the Nepalese economy with special reference to tourism. He has suggested that tourism sector has the potential to link the backward Nepalese economy with the forward economic and to induce the other sector of the economy.

Dhital,(2009), has studied the impact of tourism in female

employment generation from different perspective to assess the contribution of tourism in Nepalese economy, and female employment generation to recommended measured and strategies to development tourism industry as an important sector for employment generation. He adopted field survey and simple random sampling methodology selected 5 employers from various sectors of tourism field where 275 employers were working. Among them 14.1 percent were working in basic level. 38 percent people in middle level and 13.28 percent in high level. Out of the total 110 sample were in between 20-30 years old and rest were above 30 years.

He opined that male domination, sex harassment and abuse insecurity, social and family non co-operation traditional level of thinking etc. are the major problems faced by women employers. Lack of quality education, job oriented training low salary and facilities, traditional social values, caste/religious system, lack of knowledge of foreign language are the problems to generate job opportunity for the women in tourism sector. Findings and recommendations are: proper training, job security, high scale salary, social freedom, gender equality, better education, family support are the basic requirements to generate more female employment opportunities in tourism. He also suggested that some of the legal provision should be changed in favor of female employment generation. Similarly, cottage and small scale industries related to tourism should also be increased and promoted to generate additional job opportunities for female. Most of the tourist prefer female services than male in shopping sector by 74.0% followed travel and tours by 71.8% and more than 60% in hotel and lodges. Hence, female employment in this sector is inevitable. Out of total, 10.8% female visitors and 9.0% male visitors especially like the female services in every sector of tourism. Education

and trainings are the major factors to generate female employment in various sectors of tourism.

Upadyay and Manoj K.,(2006), has been found that through the promotion of tourism sectors the Nepalese economy can be move faster on the past of globalization. It links the backward Nepalese economy with the forward economics of the world. on the whole it can be argued that tourism sector could be considered to pay the role of leading sector in the economy.

Upadhayay R,(2008), has submitted the report to MOCTA entitled "Rural tourism in Nepal: measures to minimize its negative impact". In this research presented the concept and present situation of rural tourism in Nepal and other countries. Similarly, he has suggested measures to minimize possible negative impact, which are useful to develop the rural tourism in Nepal.

Tourism links unique natural resources with an exciting living cultural heritage and friendly and hospitable people. It provides significant potential to use nature -based tourism as a low-cast, eco-friendly alternative to support socio-economic growth and fight poverty (SNV, 2003).

It is safe to assume that the center (Kathmandu) benefits disproportionately from incoming tourism. Much of the tourists' dollar remains in Kathmandu and little finds its way into other parts of the country. There exists a situation of core-periphery dependency in which the Centre controls to a very considerable extent the distribution of tourism around Nepal, accumulating most of the income generated, organizing much of the travel activity in prepared packages and supplying

many of the needs from the center so that benefits flowing out to rural areas and towns are limited (SNV, 2003)

Satyal Y.R,(1999), In general tourism denotes the movement or journey of human beings from one place to another whether it may be within own country or second countries for various purposes. The world tourism so popular today is derived from its French word 'tourism' which originated in the 19th century. Later this word was popularized in the decade 1990's but its significance was not fully realized until today. When tourism has a wider meaning and significance

Dhar,P(2000), today tourism has emerged as the faster growing industry in the world. In the present context, it can no longer be viewed as peripheral or a luxury oriented activities. The ramifications of tourism reach out to many sectors of the economy in the great age of automation industry has made this rapid progress possible by providing people with more leisure time and money. The rapid growth of tourism industry makes it's study importance of its impact changing trends and directions.

Joshi, (2009), has presented that tourism can increase the opportunities for the rural poor in their own communities. It also has the potential to reduce rural out migration, to the urban areas, increase employment opportunities for the urban poor, and give them additional income to provide for their families in the rural areas. Also tourism related skills gained by the urban poor could be applied in rural areas, helping to reverse the migration process. Tourism provides employment opportunities by diversifying and increasing incomes that help reduce the vulnerability of the poor. Through increased national income, additional funds can be diverted to poverty reduction programs and can be linked with local development. The receptive capacity and socio-economics

strength of the locals like that seen in Bandipur, Ghandruk, Ghalegaon, Dhampus, Sirubari is also equally important to establish any place as an attractive rural tourism destination. It demands several features and a committed, commanding and qualified leadership at the local level like Captain Rudra Man Gurung in Sirubari. So, tourism plays a number of important social and economic roles. It is commonly seen as an important form of community economic development with the place and scale of tourism placing significant pressure on heritage resources.

There may be various factors which influence tourism socio-economic factors. Factors that play a vital role to influence tourism consist of 1. Leisure 2. Income 3. Mobility 4. Age 5. Education 6. Sex 7. Travel cost.

Tourism has been, is influenced mostly by economic considerations, such as holidays with pay and increase in real incomes. Income is therefore the second important factor in the evolution of demand after leisure, level of income forms an important factor in influencing tourism as well as participation in recreational pursuits, many surveys have indicated that in almost every pursuit, participation increases with income. This is true with tourism also. The more affluent members of the society are the ones who travel most. Mobility is the third important factor in the evolution of demand. With the advancement of modes of transport, mobility has greatly increased. There is also the actual mobility, such as the motor car has provided

2.1.4 Review of Thesis

Arayal, (2005), made a study on the topic of "Economic Impact to Tourism in Nepal" His focus of study is as to study the trend of tourist arrivals in the country, contribution of tourism sector to GDP, foreign currency earning through tourism and to review the tourism policy in Nepal. Arayal's study is completely based on the secondary information

and uses regression analysis. This provided guidelines for development methodology for the present study.

Shrestha, (1999), has made the study in her thesis on the topic "Tourism in Nepal" problems and prospects has identified the basic problem of tourism in Nepal. The study also highlighted tourism industry having great prospects in Nepal. The study has observed that average growth rate of tourist arrival in Nepal from 1975 to 1997 is 7.27 percent per annum. She concluded that the correlation between tourists arrival and foreign exchange earning in terms of US \$ shows the importance of tourist arrivals for the economy. Being labor-intensive service industry, tourism sector has high potentials for generating employment and is a multi-sectoral industry. It has also been helping other sectors of the economy such as agriculture, handicrafts industry and other allied industries. The performance of tourism earning did not rise in terms of US dollars because of low per capita per day spending outlet came to be known as a cheap tourist destination.

Ghimire (2008), has studied on her study that in the scenario of productivity in agriculture sector, tourism can be a high productive sector to compensate the unemployment and disguised unemployment prevailing in the country as well as Gulmi district. It has comparative advantages than other industries such as it has low opportunity cost, it takes low gestation period. Similarly, to give return it can involve the lower strata of the people of all ecological zones, involves women and ethnic groups and bears direct relation to all dimensions of like culture, environment, nature and behavior of people. It fulfills basic requisites of development such as: it adjusts with decentralization and good governance, open base for greater role of women as partners for development and space for gender equality. In this basis, tourism can be a

leading sector and socio-economic force in the economy of Nepal.

Lumibini Development Trust (2011), has introduced the brief history of Buddha in Nepal with the help of photographs. Integrated management process of Lumibini and Tilaurakot and role of TRPAP in Lumibini, the natural biodiversity, tourism promotional activities, mission conceived, vision perceived and goal achieved are details analyzed in this journal. Excavation report of central archaeology department and conserve activity of Tilaurakot (Kapilvastu) has described. similarly this journal focuses on the reconstruction of historical and religious sites, which are the main pillar of tourist attraction in Lumibini and Tilaurakot. This journal gives information and make more active to the local people in tourism.

2.1.5 Review of the Legal Framework

District development plan (2011), envisaged to identify the potential tourism area and decided to conserve religious place and to appeal with recommendation in ministry of tourism and civil aviation for tourism development.

As stated by Nepal tourism board (2006), in "Rural Nepal Guide Book " Nepal is one of the richest countries in the world in terms of natural beauty due to its geographical position and latitudinal variation with in this spectacular geography are some of the richest culture of Himalayan heritage and its has also invited tourists to meet the lovely people of rural Nepal share a meal with them, stay at their houses and family guests, taste their local drink and see them carry on with life graciously. As well some of the most spectacular views of the mountain landscapes or heritage sites along the way.

CHAPTER – THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employs various methodologies since there is no single methodology sufficient to this type of research work .

3.1 Research Design

Research design is helpful to manage the evidences and enquires of the study in appropriate order within the given time frame and to interpret the dat. This study is based on exploratory and descriptive research design. in exploratory research design the study include the facts and phenomenon of the study area.

3.2 Nature and Source of Data

This study is based on qualitative and quantitative data. The information source is basically focused on primary data through observation. Interview and questionnaire survey. secondary data has been collected form published and unpublished documents. Newspapers, journals and records of related organization etc.

3.3 Sampling Procedure

This study includes local people, experts, teachers and the sample units are selected as:

Table No. 1

Sampling Area of the Study

S.N	Ward No.	Respondents	Percentage
1	1	30	30
2	2	10	10
3	3	35	35
4	4	10	10
5	9	15	15
Total		100	100

In this study the sample units of 30 were taken from ward no. 1, 15 from ward no. 2, 35 from ward no. 3, 10 from ward no 4 and from ward no. 9 15, were selected for this research.

Table No. 2

Sampling Units

S.N.	Respondents		Percentage
1	Local people	45	45
2	Hotel businessman	30	30
3	Government officials	25	25
	Total	100	100

In this study 45 of local people, 30 Hotel Businessman and 25 government official were used for data collection.

3.4 Presentation and Data Analysis

3.4.1 Primary Data Collection Technique

The researcher used different type of the tools like questionnaires, observation and interview in order to collect the primary data form the field. For the data collection questionnaires were served to tourists who visit Ilam, local people and hotel owner. Both structured and unstructured questionnaire were used to collected quantitative information in the Ilam district.

3.4.2 Questionnaire

The study had undertaken the structured, semi-structured and unstructured questionnaire to explore the information on problems and prospects of tourism. For these, the study was based on questionnaire form local people, hotel businessman and government officials.

3.4.3 Observation

Research involved in the observation to record the different information related problems and prospects of tourism in Ilam distirct. To accomplish the task both participant and quasi-participant and observation of tourist places, local people, customs, feasts and festivals, other activities.

3.4.4 Interview

In this study telephonic interview, direct personal interview was undertaken with local people, some experts, and teachers to collect their opinion on problems and prospects of tourism in Ilam.

3.5 Secondary Data Collection Technique

Secondary data was obtained through sources like Nepal tourism board, Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), central Library of Tribhuvan University and from various websites.

3.6 Methods of Data Collection and Technique

The data analysis is the main part of the study. There are two types of data analysis methods; in quantitative analysis data is tabulated form in database system, worksheet and interpreted by using simple statistical tools. In qualitative analysis, it represents the personal feelings and experiences which are presented in sentences in the process of data analysis then researcher classified and tabulated data, which he had collected, through the various sources. In this study data were collected and tabulated manually for different types of data different tables are prepared. Simple statistical tools were used such as percentage, tables, diagrams and pie chart. To fulfill the study objectives of the study data were analyzed descriptively.

3.7 Analysis of Data

Based upon the sample units selected the analysis is made by questioning local people, hotel businessman and government officials. The primary and secondary data collection techniques was adopted. Similarly, observation is made including both participant and quasi-participant, tourist places, local people, customs, feasts, cultures and other activities. The telephonic and direct interview was undertaken with local people, experts and teachers to collect opinion on problems and prospects of tourism in Ilam.

Arrangement of data was done from district development plan, field survey and e-popinfo.Nepal. The data obtain is presented is the table format on the basis of percentage analysis.

CHAPTER – FOUR

PHYSICAL AND CULTURAL FEATURES OF ILAM DISTRICT

4.1 Introduction of the Study Area

The headquarter of Ilam district and Mechi Zone has the picturesque location in the eastern region of Nepal. It is situated between 26°40' to 27°08' North latitude and 87°40' to 88°10' East longitude which extends from east to west lying more or less within the Mahaabhaarat Range. Panchthar in the North, Jhapa in the South, West Bangal (India) in East and Morang with slide touch (Dhankuta) district in the west. It lies to the south of the Mahaabhaarat range in the lap of the Shinghalila range.

Geographically it is a hilly district, with the elevation ranging from 140 meter Sanishare Peltimari(Chulachuli VCD) to 3636 meters Sandakpur (Mabu and Maimajhuwa VCDs) above from sea level. There are four main rivers Jogmai, Puwamai, Mai and Deumai in the District; so it is called Charkhol(Four rivers). Most of them flow from north towards the south. The climate of this district as a whole is dry & cold in winter and hot & rainy in summer. It is rich in its own kind of social and cultural heritages. People here live in peace & harmony irrespective of diverse caste, creed, race, religion and culture. A wide range of ethnic groups with their typical customs, tradition and cultures reside here. These include Lepche (tribes entitled as native inhabitants of Ilam), Magar, Gurung, Rai, Limbu, Sherpa, and so on.

Some religious and historical tourists area includes Ilam bazaar

(Nayranthan, Shigabahini, Maithan, Setidevi), Panchakanya, New Pathibhara (also referred as Daughter Pathibhara), Gajurmukhi, Chitre-Gumba, Mahaboudha dham, Haghethame, Therboling-Gumba(m onastry) etc. Sandakpur, Jaubari, Chhintapu, Mangmalung, Larumba, Saddithumka, Shri-Antu Maipokhari etc are some other example of tourism areas with beauty, splendor and also as adventurous trekking spots . These places attractions are its beautiful panoramic and scenario glittering mountains, high landscapes, sunrise & sunset, research destinations for geographical, biological, botanical, anthropological subjects due to its diverse flora and fauna and many more. According to the recent studies, it is seen that it is a place of rich Biodiversity, Geographic-diversity, climatic-diversity and natural vegetation-diversity all varying widely from astonishingly minimum value to extra-ordinarily high value of all within very close premises. So it has become an ideal area for research personnel.

Ilam district is divided into 48 Village Development Committee and one municipality. Most part comprises of hilly regions with farmers as the main inhabitants along with businessmen, officials and government employees. People here treat their guest as God & show their extreme hospitality. They owe higher degree of physical development, human development and literacy rate in comparison to other hilly district of Nepal.

As a whole, Ilam is also referred to as the “Queen of the hills”. It is a beautiful place enriched with green healthy environment equipped with fundamental requirements promoting tourism. Ilam is one of the richest district of Nepal in terms of its bio-cultural diversity, natural landscape and flourishing professionalism in agricultural especially in rich cash crop sector. Ilam is the most famous District of Nepal for tea production.

It is widely famous for major six cash crops all initiating from the same vowel sound /a/ in Nepali, so it is also known as the district of '6 As'. Potato, Cardamom, ginger, Red round chilly, Milk - and Broom grass - are the major cash crops which are known as Aalu, Alaichi, Aduwa, Akbare Khursani, Aolan & Amliso respectively in tribal Nepali language.

4.1.1 Demography Situation

Demographic situation is key determinants of the demand for the social services including health, education and communication. This chapter describe population structure settlements, social aspect and institutional status of the study area.

4.1.1.1 Population

Demographically Ilam district is moderate densely populated in Mechi Zone. Most part of the study area surrounded by four river also known as Charkhol. The population census 2011 shows that the total population of the that the total population of 290254 whereas the population of Male is 141126 and Female population is 149128 the same data also shows the 64502 households on the study area. The total population growth rate of the Ilam district is 0.26.

4.1.2 Tourist Inflow in Ilam District

In Ilam district there is not formal record of tourist inflow. But according to hotel and trekking entrepreneur the Ilam attract tourist from different countries according to them the highest number of tourists from India which is 60% and 5% are comes from other and remaining 35% comes from other country of world.

During the field survey in Maipokhari, Antudada, Setideviare the famous and beautiful tourist place of Ilam . Researcher meets 20 tourist in which there are 13 person are Indian, 1 is Chinese and remaining person are comes from other country of the world. Which seneiro also prove the above information of tourist inflow in Ilam.

4.1.3 Distribution of Tourist by Nationality

Table No. 3

Distribution of Tourist by Nationality

S.N	Countries	Number	Percentage
1	India	13	65
2	China	1	5
3	Others countries	6	30
total		20	100

Source: Field Survey 2013

4.1.4 Population of Study Area by Religion

Table No. 4

Population of Study Area by Religion

S.N.	Religion	Percentage
1	Hindu	44.69
2	Kirat	35.61
3	Buddha	15.28
4	Kristhna	2.49
5	Others	2.01

Source: District Profile Ilam

4.1.5 Household Head by Age Group in Study Area

Table No. 5

Household Head by Age Group

Age	Population		
	Male	Female	Total
10-14	32	32	64
15-59	41485	10586	52071
Above 60	6821	1346	8167

Source: e-popinfo. Nepal

Table No. 5 shows the house hold head by age group. in above table in Ilam there are 64 house hold are 10-14, 52071 house hold head are 15-59 age group and rest house head are above 60 age

4.1.6 Educational Status of Study Area

Educational status of study area are present below:

Table No. 6

Literacy Rates of Study Area

S.N.	Literacy rates	Percentage
1	Male	84.2
2	Female	72
3	Total	76.1

Source: e-popinfo.Nepal

In above table educational status of study area is shown according to table in Ilam district male literacy is 84.2 percentages where female literacy is only 72 percentages. Total literacy rate is 76.1 it shows 23.9 percent of total population still illiterate Ilam district.

4.1.7 Main Tourist Destinations in Ilam District

Ilam has its own scope for tourism development. The fundamental attraction of tourism in Ilam are natural sceneries, pleasing weather, short trekking routes, tea estates, small hills with greeny forest, snowcapped mountains and hospitable people. Being these attractions Ilam has strong potentiality for development of ecotourism. Apart from the natural beauty, this is a region of ethnic diversity and cultural heritage. Maipokhari, Pathibhara, Gajurmukhi, Singhabahini etc are famous for religious destination for pilgrimage tourists. Different ethnic communities like limbu, Rai, Gurung, Tamang, Magar, Sherpa, Newar, give their different cultural tastes. The rare lapcha, one of the tribal group of Nepal, their cultural museam also attracts the tourist, Ilam is the homeland of Lepchas'. Ilam offers some of the most usual and delightful trekking. Tourist who come to Ilam can make their tour more exciting and pleasant through such trekking. The following routes are most potential for trekkers, which also help to develop ecotourism in those areas. (DDC, Ilam)

Sandakpur

Sandakpur is situated at an altitude of 3636 meter above from the sea level. So, the area is often snow covered. Its height and slope provide opportunities for skiing. Due to its height, the site offers some spectacular sunrise and sunset views. It also offers view of mt. Everest, Mt.

Kanchanjunga, Mt. Makalu and some of the world's highest mountains. Rather than cultural and historical aspects its natural aspect seems highly promising for ecotourism development in this area. The area is also important for flora and fauna. Red panda, a rare animal species are also found there. From Ilam bazaar bus services are not regular. So, tourists can use private vehicles that take them to Khorsanitar of Maimajhuwa, about 21km north from Ilam bazaar, from there Sandakpur is about six hour trek. (DDC, Ilam)

Antudanda

Antudanda (Dipendra Shikar) is located about 35 km east from Ilam bazaar. Antudanda is famous for the views of the Himalayas, the best view point of sunrise and sunset. Antudanda lies at an elevation of 1627meter is Samallung VDC. Antudanda is an hour drive from Pashupatinagar and about 3 hours drive from Ilam bazaar. Home stay facilities available at Antu region, village tourism is in growing phase in this area. Rare hepcha a ethnic group and their culture can also view in Antu. Antu pokhari, tea estates are next attraction of Antu. Mountain biking, pony riding, camping sites angling, boating, rock climbing village tour bird watching, skiing and paragliding area possible tourism products that can be developed in the area, which help to promote ecotourism in Ilam. (DDC, Ilam)

Siddithumka

It lies at an elevation of 1800 meter west of Ilam bazaar. Siddithumka is ideal for a short trek and for panoramic views of the mountains and plains wrought in the colors of sunset and sunrise. It is a 4

hour trek to reach Siddithunka from Ilam bazaar. 'Ratna Gufa' is another attraction of Siddithumka. (DDC, Ilam)

Chhintapu

At an altitude of 3400 meter above the sea level, Chhintapu ranks the second highest peak in Ilam district. The area is famous for various types of rhododendron. About 11 varieties of rhododendron are found in this area. It is also famous for herbal plants and various species of birds. It is close to Maipokhari, a trek from Maipokhari to Chhintapu via deurali and Maipatal will take only Six hours walk. This area has great potential for the development of ecotourism. (DDC, Ilam)

Kanyam and Fikkal Bazaar

Ilam has 144 year history of tea farming Kanyan tea estate is the largest one. The existing products at the Kanyan and Fikkal bazaar are natural attraction. Kanyan is popular among tourists for picnicking sight seeing and taking photographs. The area is accessible by a black topped read linking to Ilam, Fikkal and Kanyan. Panitar of Mangalbare, Chilinkot, Soktim, Ilam are major tea estates of Ilam, they decorated Ilam as a bride 'Todke Jharna' is another attraction of Ilam which is in Maimajhuwa VDC which lies about 20 km north from Ilam bazaar. (DDC, Ilam)

Religious Centers in Ilam district

Maipokhari

Maipokhari processes religious, archeological and touristic value for the promotion Ilam as a model ecotourism center. Maiokhari, the famous lake with nine angular points which covers an area of 1.6 hectares.

Maipokhari lies at an elevation of 2150 meter above the sea level. It is an important watershed area. The forest around Maipokhari harbors various valuable species of plants, like ground orchid, white rhododendron and various diversity in wild animals. Maipokhari has great religious and cultural importance. So, its religious value and popularity make it a potential site for ecotourism development. Maipokhari is located about 11km north from Ilam bazaar. Foot trekkers can get enjoy by viewing enchanting views of ‘Jasbire Bhanjyang’ which lies in the way to Maipokhari. Maipokhari is about 4 hours by foot from Ilam. (DDC, Ilam)

Pathibhara

Pathibhara of Ilam is believed to be the younger sister of Pathibhara Devi of Taplejung Pathibhara is an important site from a religions and cultural viewpoint. The Pathibhara temple is closed to the mechi Highway in the south east of Kolbung VDC. It has an easy road access to it. (DDC, Ilam)

Gajurmukhi

The major attraction of Gajurmukhi is a cave with carved images of gods and goddesses. The cave is about 20 feet long and 10 feet height. Its important is most from a religious perspective. It is on the bank of Deumai river. Gajurmukhi is 4 hour drive from Ilam bazaar and enhancing the trekking route from Ilam through Mangalbare and Dhuseni, it takes about 6-7 hours by foot. Gajurmukhi is one of the famous place of pilgrimage. (DDC, Ilam)

4.1.8 Main Tourism Sites in Ilam District

Researcher had taken 100 local informants during the field survey. Due to the lack of time, climate problems and limited sources the researcher could not take more than 100 informants. The table shows that majority of the local respondents said that Maipokhari, Antudada , Setidevi are main destination of tourism in Ilam district.

Table No. 7

Main Tourism Sites in Ilam District

S.N.	Tourism	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Maipokhari	58	58
2	Antudada	23	23
3	Setidevi	19	19
Total		100	100

Source: Field Survey 2013

4.2 Social and Cultural Diversities of the Ilam District

Eastern Part of Nepal including Ilam has more festivals in a year. Ilam district is rich in terms of religious and cultural importance. The festivals celebrated by people in Ilam fully reject the blind of all groups. The ethnic Kirat people celebrate Uvauli and Udhuli festival, Tamang and Gurung celebrate Lhochhar, Newar celebrate Gaijatra, Lakhejatra festival while Brahmin and Chhetri celebrate Diwali and Dashain.

Ubhauri Udhauli and Sakela

Sakela is one of the main festivals of Kirat which is celebrated twice a year distinguished by two names 'Ubhauri' and 'Udhauli' sakela Ubhauri is celebrated during Baiaskh Purnima (full moon day in the month of Baishak) and Sakela Udhauli is celebrated during the full moon day in the month of Mangshir.

Sakela dance is performed by large groups of kirats wearing their traditional attire. All age of people dances together in a large circle. There are male and female leaders in each circle known as silimangpa and silimangma respectively. These two people control the sili of the dancer while the other dancers imitate them. The sili, style of the dance moves, reflects the different aspects of human life and our relationship with nature. The ritual starts with the 'chula puja'(worship of fireplace), at home by the nakchhong' (kirats priest). After completion of the chula puja, nakchhong performs a sacrificial rite (usually with chicken) over a sacred place known as sakela Than which is usually under a sacred tree.

The 'nakchhong ' signals the completion of rituals by starting the Sakela dance by him/ her and the actual group Sakela dance commences then. All dancers form a large circle and dance joyously around it. The beating of the Dhol (Drum) and the 'Jhyamta' (cymbals) accompany the different silies guided by the Silimangpa and the Silimangma.

According to Mundhum (Scripture of Kirats), a year is divided into two phases: Ubhauri (Going up and Udhauli (Going down). It is generally accepted that the naming according to season and the migration pattern of birds. During the start of the winter season in Mangshir, it is the harvest season and the birds migrate downward toward the warmer. Terai belt,

and thus this phase of the year is known as udhauri, meaning Downward. Likewise, during the rise of the summer season, it is the cultivate season and the birds migrate upward to the cooler Hilly region, and therefore this latter phase is known as Ubhauri.

Kirats believe in shamanism and are worshiper of Mother Nature. The Sakela celebration is a prayer to Mother Nature for healthy crops and protection from natural calamities. Therefore, the festival is also known as “Bhumi Puja”. Starting on ‘Baisakh Purnima’, Sakela Ubhauri is celebrated for 15 days in Baisakh (April/May) marking the beginning of the farming year.

Similarly, the celebration of Sakela Udhauri during Mangshir (November/ December) which is harvest season is their way of giving thanks to nature for providing them with a good harvest.

According to the ‘Mundhum’ Kirats came out the Khuwalung (sea or big river) then followed the small river of the Saptakoshi. On their journey they first met with a duck(Hans) then the river bird (Dhobi chara), Black bird (Kalchuda), deer (Mirga), and musk deer (kasturi) etc. They journeyed through the Arun valley, Dudh Koshi valley, Sun Koshi valley and finally settled down in the Bhote Koshi valley. The Nakchhong, ot he leader of the Sakela, narrates this ‘Mundhum’ when he carries out the ritual in Sakela he tells the Mundhum of how our ancestor came out of the Khuwalung and met a duck and at the same time he dances in the pattern (sili) of the duck, likewise when he talks about the Dhobi Chara he dances in the pattern of the Dhobi Chara. This is the Kirat way of relating the Mundhum verbally and through acting.

The Sakela dance has become very popular in the cities of Nepal particularly among the younger generation. Kirat Rai celebrating this festival widely outside of Nepal as well specially in Sikkim, Darjeeling, Hong Kong, United Kingdom, Australia and United States and the real flavor of the dance can be seen in the Ilam.

Lhochhar

An indigeneous inhabitant Tamang, Gurung, and Sherpa celebrates Lhochhar as a cultural program in Ilam . Tamang community celebrates Sonam Lhochhar, Gurung community celebrates Tamu Lhochhar, and Sherpa community celebrates Gyalbo Lhochhar. In Lhochhar people receive blessing from their elders and exchange greetings and performs their cultural dress, dance and musical instruments. It is an important cultural attraction of Ilam.

Newari Cultural Program

‘Lakhe fair’ is the most attractive festival of Newar community in Ilam district. It starts form Gathamangal day and celebrate till the following day of Loard Krishna birthday. During this period people performance caricature of lord Krishna, Gaijatra, Ropai Jatra, and other Newari rituals and culture.

4.2.1 Caste and Ethnic Groups of the Ilam District

In Ilam district there are 77 caste among them the Major caste and their number are present below.

Table No. 8

Caste and Ethnic Groups of the Ilam District

S.N.	Cast / Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
1	Rai	68965	23.76
2	Limbu	45626	15.71
3	Baraman	40340	13.89
4	Chetree	30735	10.58
5	Tamang	20175	6.95
6	Magar	15076	5.19
7	Newar	10639	3.66
8	Kami	9894	3.40
9	Gurung	8350	2.87
10	Others	86086	29.65
	total		

Source: e-popinfo.Nepal

In above table Caste and Ethnic groups are present where the highest number of population of Rai, Limbu, are 23.76,15.75 respectively, Baraman 13.89, Chetree 10.58 and rest Tamang, Magar, Newar, Kami, Gurung are 6.95,5.19,3.66,3.40,2.87 are respectively. In Ilam there are 77 caste restree occurs 29.65 Population of total population.

4.3 Socio- Economic Status of the Study Area

The expenditure made by tourists makes direct and indirect effect. The initial income produced by spending of tourist is known as direct effect. For example, direct effect occurs when a tourist pays his hotel bill.

Rounds of spending of the initial income bring about indirect effect. For example, the initial money received by hotel management in the first instance will be used to pay various debts incurred or make outlays on behalf of the tourist such as in visitor's telephone and other goods and services. The recipients in turn use the money received to pay their bills. The initial tourists money in this way may be spent second time, spreading into different sectors of the economy each time giving rise to fresh income with greater beneficial effect. In order to the money (Particular foreign exchange) earned is retained in the country or in the area of visit of the tourists, leakage such as in the form of payment for imports, foreign investments should be minimized as far as possible.

Economic condition of Ilam is agro-based . about 83% of the people depend on the agriculture. The major agriculture products are paddy, maize, wheat, barley and the cash crops are lentils and vegetables. Access of the paved roads the prospect of tourism development become possible. In order to develop the tourism industry sustainable, development projects should be local community owned and operated as far as possible. Developing smaller units of tourist facilities combined with the adoption of design drawn from the local culture and with the use of indigenously available construction materials will become cost effective and serve better to the taste of the visitors and lend themselves more readily to ownership and operation residents. Considering the competitive power and cost efficiency, tourism development at Ilam can be dependable source of economic activity.

Furthermore, it could play a crucial role in generating income(including foreign exchange) through providing employment opportunity, ultimately, it could fulfill the social needs such as roads,

sewage facilities and conservation and protection of nature and cultural wealth.

It is interesting to note that the main features noted in the urban tourism where once thought to be vitally necessary successful development of tourism industry. They are not only important products any more density populated resorts in an international style under multi-national ownership and management may actually deter some types of client who want to be more free and casual. The countryside's open space locally owned and sometimes less professionally managed businesses and rural styled comfortable buildings may be a main selling point for peace seekers as long as the hygienic conditions are maintained.

4.3.1 Educational Status of the Respondent

In this study there are 100 respondent their educational status is present below:

Table No. 9

Educational Status of the Respondent

S.N.	Educational status	No.	Percent
1	Illiterate	2	2%
2	Literate	5	5%
3	SLC	20	20%
4	+2 or PCL	48	48%
5	Above PCL or +2	25	25%
Total		100	100%

Source: Field Survey 2013

As shown above table out of 100 respondent 2percentage are illiterate 5 percentage are literate 20 percentage respondent had passed SLC and 48percentage respondent have a PCL degree and rest 25 percentage are above PCL degree.

4.3.2 Occupational Status of the Respondent

Table No. 10

Occupational Status of the Respondent

S.N.	Occupation	No.	Percentage
1	Agriculture	38	38
2	Business	25	25
3	Job (Govt.)	22	22
4	Labor	5	5
5	others	10	10
Total		100	100

Source: Field Survey 2013

Table 10 shows the occupational status of respondent. Among 100 respondent 38 percent are involved in agriculture where only 5 percent are involved in labor rest respondent are involved in business, and government job and other which percent is 25, 22 and 10 respectively.

4.3.3 Annual Income Level of the Respondent

Following table shows the annual income level of the area.

Table No. 11
Annual Income Level

S.N.	Income Level	Number	Percentage
1	Less than 20,000	4	4
2	20,000-40,000	20	20
3	40,000-60,000	41	41
4	Above 60,000	35	35
		100	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Table no 11 Shows that majority of the people have been earning 40000-60000, which occupy the 41 percent out of the total population. This figure indicates that the occupied population falls on the middle class family. The people those who falls on the middle class family have been adopting the agriculture, animal husbandry and small scale business. This table also shows that without starting alternative income generating programs there is no reduce the poverty from the study area and unable to break the vicious circle of poverty.

4.3.4 Role of Organization in the Development of Tourism

Table No. 12
Role of Organization

S.N.	View	Respondent	Percentage
1	Government	46	46
2	Local Institution	-	-
3	I/NGOs	14	14
4	All of Above	40	40
	Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey 2013

Table no 12 shows the role of organizations in order to promote the tourism in Ilam district. 46 percent people said that there should be vital role to be played by government agencies and organization, 14 percentage respondents emphasized on the role of non-government agencies and rest of the 40 percentage informants focused on the important role of both government and non-government agencies to promote the tourism in the study area.

4.3.5 Role of Rural Tourism Employment Creation

Table No.13

Role of Tourism Employment Creation

S.N.	View	Respondents	Percentage
1	Positive role	55	55
2	No Role	10	10
3	Unknown	35	35
	Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey 2013

Table no 13 shows the role of rural tourism that helps to the employment. 55 percent respondents reported that tourism played the positive role, 10 percent reported that there is no role of tourism to reduce the poverty whereas 35 percent respondents do not have any idea whether it has played any role of not in order to poverty alleviation

In ilam district there are no high standard hotels so researchers have taken only 10 hotels information during field study. Out of 10 hotels 30% suggested in favor of government supportive policies to endorse tourism in the study area similarly 20% emphasized over the increase of

hotel facilities. 20% hoteliers emphasized over the advertisement and remaining 10%,10%,10% suggested in local people should be active , road facility, and training to local people respectively

4.3.6 Hoteliers Opinion for the Development of Tourism in Ilam

Table No. 14

Hoteliers Opinion for the Development of Tourism in Ilam

S.N.	Opinion	Respondent	Percentage
1	Government supportive policy	3	30
2	Hotel facility	2	20
3	Advertisement	2	20
4	Local people should be active	1	10
5	Road facility	1	10
6	Training to local people	1	10

Source: Field Survey 2013

4.3.7 Role of Tourism in Employment Creation

According to 100 respondent of study are 70% percent respondent reported tourist plays positive role in employment creation in Ilam district 10% respondent reported no role and remaining 20%reproted they haven't any idea about it.

Table No. 15

Role of Tourism in Employment Creation

S.N.	Opinion	Respondent	Percentage
1	Positive role	70	70
2	No role	10	10
3	Unknown	20	20
Total		100	100

Source: Field Survey 2013

Above table shows the respondent views about role of tourism in creation of employment out of 100 respondent 70 percent opined positive role where 10 percent respondent opined there is no role of tourism in employment and 20 percent respondent are unknown.

4.3.8 Number of Business House Related with Tourism Industries

Table No. 16

Number of Business House Related with Tourism Industries

S.N.	Business	No	No. of Employers
1	Hotel	10	60
2	Travels and Tours	5	50
3	Handcraft industries	15	75
Total			185

Source: Field Survey 2013

In Ilam district there are many business house establish to serve the tourist among them the major business house and their role In district employment creation is shown above table. Which shows in Ilam there are 10 hotel 5 travel agencies 15 handcraft industries and their role on creation the employment is 60, 50, 75 respectively besides these industries create the large no of informal employment.

CHAPTER – FIVE

PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF TOURISM IN IALM DISTRICT

5.1 Problems of Tourism in Ilam District

This chapter deals with the problems and problems of tourism in Ilam districts which is another main objectives of this research. A number of constraints have affected the tourism development process in the lack of physical and institutional infrastructure, while others result from shortage of skilled technical and professional human resources. Despite great potentials and promising prospects, tourism in Ilam has been facing various problems. Unless solved these problems rural tourism cannot be promoted as we expect, the major problem associated with tourism in the Ilam district are as follows:

5.1.1 Infrastructure Problems

Inadequate physical infrastructure hampers the growth of tourism. The accommodation, accessibility, hospitality and amenities are generally affected due to lack of fundamental facilities in the tourism sites such as Gajurmukhi, Maipokhari, Shree Antu (Dipendra Shikhar), Siddithumka, Chhanthapu, Pathibhara etc. the growth of tourism is hampered.

5.1.2 Transportation

Transportation is the backbone of the tourism industries. It enables people to visit destinations. Modern means of transportation is not available to all tourism destinations of Ilam. Birtamod- Fikkal-Ilam road is providing transportation facilities in the eastern part of the district.

Ilam- Panthar road is also abatable and other part of this district are lacking from this facility. sukulumba airport is situated in bhanghang which is under construction.

5.1.3 Communication

Communication is also one of the major facilities in rural tourism industry. Rural tourism is developed in the rural areas generally in remote village. The telephone services is not properly in all part of the VDCs of the district. There is proper telephone service in district headquarter and its periphery but no good network accessibility till now in whole district.

5.1.4 Accommodation

Accommodation is another most effective factor in tourism industry. Accommodation facilities are insufficient and not available in all tourism destinations of Ilam district. Few available lodge and hotel is located in Ilam bazar. Other parts of this district lack these facilities.

5.1.5 Health Services Sector

Although in the district headquarter of Ilam there is one hospital but in other VDCs there are only primary health services. They are not well equipped in terms of Emergency and even for the general health services. It is causing a great deal of insolvencies to the locals as well as tourist visiting the district. Therefore insufficient facilities of health services should be considered as a problem for promotion of rural tourism.

5.1.6 Electricity

Electricity is also major component of tourism development. There is no sufficient facility of whole of Ilam district. Electricity facility is no available in all VDCs of district now. This problem has been constrained in the way of other facilities like telephone, internet and publication of tourism products.

5.1.7 Banking Facilities

Tourists need banking facilities in tourism areas. Therefore, bank must be established near tourist destination and money exchange facilities should be available for tourists. But these facilities could not be managed in Ilam district properly in tourism area.

5.1.8 Skilled Human Resources

Trained guides are most important to make the tourist's visit various culture and historical laces. With the co-operation of guide any tourist can study and know the correct image of Nepal as well as Ilam. If the guides are untrained and imperfect they mislead foreigners. Most of the peoples have language and communication problems.

5.1.9 Lack of Promotion and Marketing

For the development of tourism advertisement and publicity play important role. Advertisement and publicity are only means to attract tourist from its organizing country. To attract tourist; culture, architecture, natural beauties, religious environment etc. through pamphlet, booklets, short documentaries, films, postcards, internal magazines and other possible means. It is also the major tourism problem in Ilam district. Due to this problem many foreign tourist even domestic

tourists did know about the paradise of this art of the country. That is why: Ilam is unable in attracting domestic as well as foreign tourists. Lack of publicity and promotion most of the tourism destination has not yet explored. This problem should be addressed properly and timely the local community with the help of private and public institutions.

5.1.10 Lack of Travel and Trekking Agencies

Tourism can be developed through travel agencies if they perform their task smoothly. Travel agency play significant role in generating tourists form tourist originating countries, marketing reservation for hotel accommodation, organizing travel tour for a tourist etc. but due to lack of well- organized travel agencies, it could not provide substantial contribution in the development of tourism sector. In Ilam there are no travel agencies and due to this tourist cannot have direct contact. This is affecting development of tourism.

5.1.11 Lack of Proper Co-ordination

If Ilam district coordinates with agencies, trekking agencies, rafting agencies resort of Ilam Tea garden, Antu dada, Kanyam, Maipokhari, can be attracted in Ilam. But Ilam could not be activated in this manner. Likewise the inefficient administrative procedure of government in implementing tourism policy is also the serious problem.

5.1.12 Inadequate of Recreational Facilities

Lack of sufficient bus parks, swimming pool, performance of cultural programs and other facilities are not available in Ilam district. Recreational facilities and tourism are directly related to each other so

these centers should be made all over the tourism area in Ilam where possible.

5.1.13 Information Center and Advertisement

Information center should be established in tourism areas. But there is no any information center in Ilam. Tourism map and other information of tourism are not available for our introduction so we have to lunch such program so we can make know about Ilam. Websites are to be made and information about Ilam is most important to provide in every corner of the world.

5.1.14 Ample Air Accessibility

Since there is no good condition of road, international tourism in Nepal is heavily dependent on air services but there is no air travel facility in Ilam district.

5.1.15 Inadequate Inter-Sectorial Linkages

A distributing aspect in study area is the lack of inadequate linkage of tourism with the local economy of the multiplier effect of generating additional income and employment and makes it excessively dependent on external inputs.

5.1.16 Market Limitation

To attract sizable number of foreigner and Indian tourists, it requires substantial improvement, investment in infrastructure facilities and services. Considering the limited tourist arrivals in the Ilam, it may not be feasible for private entrepreneurs to invest in infrastructure development.

5.1.17 Lack of People Awareness

One of the major and dangerous problems of tourism in Ilam is lack of people awareness. Only few people have knowledge about tourism. Majority of the people engaged only their own occupation with agriculture which is also limited to the subsistence level. Ilam has high tourism potentialities, but that is not explored yet. Explored tourist destination is not developed still. Since people are illiterate, they are unaware about the benefits which the tourism could provide them. Therefore, for the development of tourism government and nongovernment organization should provide formal education as well as tourism education also.

5.1.18 Negligence of the Government

The lack of government priority and commitment for the development of Ilam district is also a problem of tourism development and the proper plan has not yet been framed out for the long term tourism development. If tourism is widely accepted, is to be flourished but it is not so.

5.1.19 Political Disturbance

Political disturbances created by political turmoil, due to Nepal Banda, Chakkajam etc .Have also adversely affected the tourism sector. These conditions create state of uncertainty in the country leading to reluctance on the part of foreign tourists to visit Nepal. In this situation Ilam has also faced challenge in attracting tourists as it

5.1.20 Problems of Tourism Development in Ilam

Table No. 17

Problems of Tourism Development in Ilam

No of Respondent	Opinion	Percentage
10	Transportation facilities	10
35	lack of information	35
23	Problems of trained manpower	23
12	Hotel facility	12
20	Others	20
100		100

Source: Field Survey 2013

Public view about the problems of tourism development in Ilam has been shown in above table. Researchers had taken 100 people for study. Among 100 people 35% respondent show that the main problem of tourism development is lack of information about tourism areas in Ilam. There are so many beautiful tourist spots but because of lack of advertisement of those places those places are not explored yet. 23% show that main problem is lack of trained manpower 10% opined transportation facility is the problem. 12% show that hotel facility is not good whereas 20% respondent opined other problems like good travel company. Lack of trekking guide an congested Nepalese society is creating problem in tourism development.

5.2 Prospects for Tourism Development in Ilam

The main challenges are to change the behavior of the people of Ilam to implement development projects. Through this, knowledge, talent and resources can be optimally utilized for common benefits. The tourism project should be internalized and implement modern development goals in the community. Local people should be recognized as the main decision makers to tackle problems collectively for their natural benefit. The tourism development program in Ilam should pay more attention to income generating of both short and long term nature at the same time ensuring people's right and privileges over the resources. Equally important is the task of installing right kind of value system and change attitude to develop entrepreneurship and management skill. The prospect of tourism development in Ilam is summarized below.

5.2.1 Natural Beauty

Natural Beauty is one of the important aspects for the attraction of tourists in the study area. Ilam itself is ornate by the natural resources therefore, there is high possibility to be a potential destination for the tourists. For example, Maipokhari, Sandakur, Antudada, Kanyam, Setidevi, Pathivara, Gagurmukhi etc. Tea garden makes Ilam itself a beautiful place forever.

5.2.2 Religious and Cultural Heritage

It is another major prospect of tourism in Ilam. There is dominance of the Hindu religion where only a few of the people adopted Christianity and Buddhism. People adopted diverse tangible and intangible culture, which seems to be different in accordance with caste and ethnicity. People of this region followed different kinds of festivals that preserve

their identity through the generation. Mainly the people of this region have followed different festivals like Lhochhar, Gaijatra, Udhauli Ubhauli, Dhan Nach, etc. Along with the celebration of the different festivals they have been playing different musical instruments like Chabrung, narsinha,(flute) and sahanai in order to entertain the observer in the particular day. Usually they have been using these musical instruments to perform the different dances like Sakela, Lakhe Nach , Ropai jatra etc. Local shaman also healing on the basis of the tune of the musical instruments and bless the people who have been suffering by the supernatural forces. People follow these kinds of practice on the basis of the Hindu principle, which is uniquely, surviving, even in the 21st century. The cultural heritage of this region itself a potential region for the researcher where the society have been constructing through the kinship network and Hindu varna system. The cultural pluralism itself creates the diverse roles and responsibilities to the people, which are the unique features of cultural diversity in the study region.

5.2.3 Public View About Prospect of Tourism in Ilam District

The researcher had taken local people in study and as per the study of problems and prospective of tourism in Ilam following table shows the public view about the prospect of tourism in Ilam district. Among the 100 respondent

Table No. 18

Public View about Prospect of Tourism in Ilam District

S.N.	Views	Respondents	Percentage
1	Highly sound	35	35
2	Moderately sound	46	46
3	Not so good	9	9
4	Unknown	10	10
Total		100	100

Source: Field Survey 2013

Out of 100 people 46% people opined the prospect of tourism in Ilam district is moderately sound and 35% believe highly sound among 100 of 10 respondent do not have any idea about prospects of tourism in Ilam 9% also opined tourist prospective in Ilam district is not so good.

CHAPTER – SIX

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Summary

The contribution of foreign tourism sector in the national development of Nepal has been quit significant. However Nepalese tourism sector has not been developed as expected. In the scenario of low productive in agriculture sector, the condition of having no abundant resources for industrial development, tourism can be a high productive sector to compensate the unemployment and disguised unemployment prevailing in the country and Ilam district. Nepal as a whole can be a means for development in rural areas already reach in natural and cultural resources and tourism has comparative advantages than other industries such as, it has low opportunity cost, it takes low gestation period to give return it can involve the lower strata of all ecological zone, involves women and ethnic groups and bears direct relation to all ecological zone, like culture, environment, nature, behavior of the people. Tourism also has a very significant contribution to GDP, foreign exchange earnings, government revenue, employment and its indirect and induced effect. In this basis tourism can be a leading sector and socio- economic force in the economy of Nepal.

The researcher aims is to assess the present situation, to identify and explore problems and prospects of tourism in Ilam. The study attempts to access the physical and religious- cultural tourism resources of Ilam district. The data of the research are based on both primary and secondary sources. Ilam is the district headquarters of Ilam. Similarly,

Ilam bazar , Maipokhari, Auntu dada, gagurmukhi, Sandakpur, Siddithumka, Chhintapu, Kanyam and Fikkal bazar are the main trade center. Ilam is situated between 26°40' to 27°08' North latitude and 87°40' to 88°10' East longitude which extends from east to west lying more or less within the Mahaabhaarat Range. Panchthar in the North, Jhapa in the South, West Bangal (India) in East and Morang with slide touch (Dhankuta) district in the west. It lies to the south of the Mahaabhaarat range in the lap of the Shinghalila range. Its total area is about 1703sq. km and population is 290254.

Most part of the district lies in hilly belt. Unique diversified cultural system is existed in this district. Agronomy is the base of economy. Ilam is potential destination of tourism. Natural scenery, peaceful environment, the ethnic simplicity the rich and diverse culture, religious site and Pilgrimage, historical places, Tea garden are the main tourism industry of Ilam. Hence, Ilam provides a wide spectrum of tourist interest ranging from sightseeing , adventure, researches, cultural trips and pilgrimage and reveal other others.

Present situation of tourism in the Ilam district not satisfactory. There is no paid attention by administration for tourism and no priority for tourism in district development plan. tourists are no formally recorded, local people are not aware about tourism, professional person are not available, negligence by NTB and government, tourism plan is not formulated in Ilam district.

The main attractions of tourism in Ilam are scenic attraction pleasant climate, and socio- cultural heritage. Antudada, Siddithumka, Maipokhari gagurmukhi, Pathibhara, Kanyam tea garden, Ilam tea garden, Sandakpur are main tourism sites in Ilam district. Sakala Nach in Udhauli

and Uvauli of kirat, Lhochhar of Gurung, Sherpa and Tamang communities likewise Gaijatra, Ropai jatra and Lakhe fair of Newari community are the main cultural attraction for tourist. As a whole, Ilam is also referred to as the “Queen of the hills”. It is a beautiful place enriched with green healthy environment equipped with fundamental requirements promoting tourism. Ilam is one of the richest district of Nepal in terms of its bio-cultural diversity, natural landscape and flourishing professionalism in agricultural especially in rich cash crop sector. Ilam is the most famous District of Nepal for tea production. It is widely famous for major six cash croup all initiating from the same vowel sound /a/ in Nepali, so it is also known as the district of ‘6 As’. Potato, Cardamom, ginger, Red round chilly, Milk - and Broom grass - are the major cash crops which are known as Aalu, Alaichi, Aduwa, Akbare Khursani, Aolan & Amliso respectively in tribal Nepali language.

Development of tourism infrastructure in Ilam is a recent phenomenon. Now there are not better and enough infrastructure facilities available, where only one non star hotel and lodge and most of the respondent opined that basic infrastructure are not developed so tourism couldn't be healthy promoted in the area: these are the main problems of tourism in Ilam district.

About prospect of tourism in Ilam district 35 percent respondents reported that prospect of tourism in Ilam is highly sound and 46 percent respondents mention that there is moderately sound where as 9 percent respondent reported that prospect of tourism in not so good and 10 percent respondents are unknown in the Ilam district.

6.2 Conclusion

Definitely tourism is one of the most significant contributors of Nepalese economy. In spite of high potentiality of tourism development in all regions and their ecological region, tourism in Nepal is centralized in the Khumbu, Kathmandu, Chitawan, Pokhara, and annapurna regions and highly seasonal nature of tourism serious environmental damage in some of the valuable and sensitive resources and cultural and natural landscapes of Nepal has been caused. Therefore both the natural and cultural diversity of these areas are risk and their potentialities are at risk.

The study of tourism in Ilam district revealed the absence of government policy and long term planning, There was no long term planning exercise for tourism development in Ilam district. Therefore, policy and long-term tourism planning at the micro level should be given due emphasis. This research is depends on exploratory and descriptive research design. Information of the research is drawn from questionnaire survey and literature review to make more reliable and authentic.

Majority of the people have lower education therefore there need to be initiated educational based programs by government and non-government agencies. There is no connection between education and tourism because the more number of educated people helps the development activities like in tourism because it plays significant role in its promotion and publicity within the short span of time. Majority of the people are involved in agricultural service and remaining other population adopts nonagricultural activities like business, services and students that why there is high potentiality to run agro-based industries and eco-agro tourism. If the government and local people draw their

attention for the establishment such types of industries and tourism hand in hand the income level of people will be increased.

By the conventional tourism the majority of benefits are generally retained in the central and city areas and no share reaching the villages and area like Ilam. Emerging local people in new tourism activities starts with tourism awareness and then requires capacity building and skill training. Therefore capacity building and skills training is a core activity to promote tourism. The local culture and religious site agro based product emerges as being s key product in tourism. The beneficiaries can be women and deprived people with awareness and skill training.

In order to access tourism products it is necessary to upgrade and maintain roads, trails, bridges and other essential infrastructure. These improvements not only help tourists; but also ease the live holds of local people. For tourism infrastructure development, the successfully concluded partnerships between the government, communities; local bodies and NGOs is generating in some districts are already showing a good will and are generating a feeling of ownership among the local users and other local population. These types of partnerships can upgrade or renovate access roads and trails, create tourism facilities, repair religious sites, build public utilities, social infrastructure and environmental conversation facilities as well as alternative energy systems.

It can be concluded that there are number of problems, challenges and constraints in front of village tourism development in Ilam district. Low level of infrastructural development, lack of awareness, entrepreneurship and investment and lack of marketing to the existing tourism products are serious challenges for tourism development in Ilam district. Nevertheless, all these problems and challenges can be overcome

with concrete efforts of public private partnership. If tourism destinations of Ilam district linked with famous tourism destination mount. Everest, development of tourism in Ilam will take pace. There are various types of tourism models which could build up in Ilam like community based tourism, home stay tourism, farm tourism, religious tourism cultural tourism, etc. There are great potentials of trekking or hiking and adventure tourism as well.

6.3 Recommendations

On the basis of conclusion suitable recommendations have made in order to provide solution to the various problems of tourism. Ilam is the potential for the rural tourism. Ilam is the best option to develop as a model of rural tourisms. Ilam is itself a beautiful place for the cultural experts and trekkers. Its natural setting has added much beauty on it. There is possibility of diverse product to sell to the tourists. However, that has not yet explored. Looking at the existing festivals like Dashain, Tihar, Udhauri Ubhauri, Lhochhar, Gaijatra, Lakhe Jatra. This place can provide better products to the domestic as well as foreign tourists.

First and foremost Ilam district should be developed externally and there should be advertisement and other attraction area should be preserved to attract the tourists. Depending upon my study the following recommendations should be followed:

- Prepare immediate action plan to preserve and conserve sites with historical, religious and cultural importance like Maipokhari, Antudada, Sandakpur, Siddithumka, Chhintapu, Kanyam and Gajurmukhi .

- Study area itself one of the potential area for the study of the tourism therefore, further research is needed.
- Government assistance is required for promotion and infrastructure development.
- Conduct mass awareness programs to create conducive environment for tourism development.
- Priority should be given to the development rural tourism destination In order to reduce poverty and promote equality.
- Home stay model and Nepalese type accommodation facilities should be built and established in the area of tourism destination.
- Organic farming should be encouraged at the satellite area of major tourism spots.
- Development of minor forest products such as aromatic and medical herbs ferns, orchids are in high demand.
- Provide education and training that encourages local skill enhancement and natural resources management capacity of local people.
- An integrated approach among government agencies. NGOs,INGOs working in the Mechi Zone is needed in order to make resources enhancement program effective.
- Improving the user ability in identifying needs and in planning and managing resources, in particular of the women and the under privileged.

- A well planned well-coordinated and systematically integrated publicity campaign is required for effective promotion of tourism. Publicity of Ilam in the outside world with various cultural, tradition, religious, heritage, photos of panoramic scene new tourism activities and required facilities must be organized time to time in the different parts of the world.
- In Ilam district there is no system of keeping a record of tourists, tourist information center, travel agency and as such no data are available on tourists and their characters. Therefore tourist record keeping system should be initiated, tourist information center should be established and tourism promotion committee should be formed.
- To solve the problem and develop of tourism in Ilam district above suggestions are recommended. To fulfill these recommendations district development committee Ilam, Ilam chamber of commerce and industry, Ilam tourism promotion committee, Ministry of tourism, Nepal tourism board, government, NGOs,INGOs and private sector working in local are should play their attention in time. Ultimately, it would contribute in rising the standard of living and poverty alleviation of rural poor in Ilam district.

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अर्थशास्त्र केन्द्रिय विभाग
त्रिभुवन विश्वविद्यालय
कीर्तिपुर, काठमाडौं
इलाम जिल्लाको पर्यटनको समस्या र सम्भावनाहरु

आदरणीय उत्तरदाता,

म अर्थशास्त्र केन्द्रिय विभाग अन्तर्गत शोधपत्र वर्षको विद्यार्थी हुँ । मेरो शीर्षक “इलाम जिल्लाको पर्यटनको समस्या र सम्भावनाहरु” रहेको छ । माथि उल्लेखित शीर्षकमा शोध गर्नको लागि आवश्यक स्रोत जुटाउनका लागि मैले प्राथमिक स्रोत अन्तर्गत तपाईंको अमूल्य सल्लाह सुभावा र उत्तरको अपेक्षा गरी निम्न प्रश्न तयार पारेको छु । तपाईंको सल्लाह सुभावा र प्रतिक्रियाले इलाम जिल्लालाई आधुनिक पर्यटनको गन्तव्यको रुपमा विकास गर्न सहयोग पुग्न सक्छ । त्यसैले मलाई सहयोग गरी इलामको पर्यटन उद्योगको विकासमा टेवा पुऱ्याउन हार्दिक अनुरोध गर्दछु।

तपाईंको विश्वास पात्र
इन्दिरा घिमिरे(शोधार्थी)
अर्थशास्त्र केन्द्रिय विभाग
त्रिभुवन विश्वविद्यालय
कीर्तिपुर, काठमाडौं

प्रश्नावली

क. व्याक्तिगत विवरण.....

नाम : पेशा :

लिङ्ग : शिक्षा :

उमेर : स्थान :

१. तपाईंको मूख्य पेशा व्यवसाय के हो ?

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| क. कृषि | ख. व्यापार |
| ग. नोकारी | घ. श्रमिक |
| ड. अन्य | |

११. इलाम जिल्लामा पर्यटनका विकासका लागि आवश्यक पूर्वाधार छन ?

क. छन्

ख. छैनन्

१३. इलाममा पर्यटनको सम्भावना कस्तो रोज्नु हुन्छ?

क. अति राम्रो

ख. ठिकै

ग. राम्रो छैन

घ. थाहा छैन

१२. तपाईंको विचारमा यस क्षेत्रमा पर्यटन विकासको लागि के कस्ता समस्याहरु रहेका छन?

क. होटल सुविधाको अभाव

ख. यातायातको असुविधा

ग. सुचनाको अभाव

घ. दक्ष जनशक्तिको अभाव

ड. अन्य

१३ ईलाममा पर्यटकिय विकाशका लागि यहाँका केही सुझाव छन कि ?

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