

Problems and Prospects of Rural Tourism in Ilam District:

A Case Study of Maipokhari Tourism Area, Ilam

A Thesis

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By

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Declaration

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled Problems and Prospects of Rural Tourism in Ilam District : A Case Study of Maipokhari Tourism Area, submitted to the Department of Rural Development, Mahendra Ratna Multiple Campus, is entirely my original work prepared under the guidance and supervision of my supervisor. I have made due acknowledgements to all ideas and information borrowed from different sources in the course of preparing this thesis. The results of this thesis have not been presented or submitted anywhere else for the award of any degree or for any other purposes. I assure that no part of the content of this thesis has been published in any form before.

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Recommendation Letter

This thesis entitled **Problems and Prospects of Rural Tourism in Ilam District : A Case Study of Maipokhari Tourism Area**, has been prepared by **Tulasha Kathet** under my guidance and supervision. I hereby forward this thesis to evaluation committee for final evaluation and approval.

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Approval Letter

This thesis entitled **Problems and Prospects of Rural Tourism in Ilam District : A Case Study of Maipokhari Tourism Area**, submitted by **Tulasha Kathet** in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master's Degree (M.A.) in Rural Development has been approved by the evaluation committee.

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Abstract

This present thesis entitled problems and prospects of tourism in Ilam district: A case study of Maipokhari tourism area of Ilam has been conducted to find out the problems and prospects of tourism and impact of tourism for the local people. To conduct this study, among the universe 150 visitors 12, from 150 local households 40 and among the 10 hotels 5 hotels were selected by using purposive sampling. To analyze the data, information/data were acquired from the field visit and observation, key informants interview, questionnaire survey and focus group discussion with the tourists. The available collected data have been sincerely tabulated, processed and analyzed in accordance with a suitable format and techniques. The thesis is mainly based in explorative and descriptive design in nature.

Analysis of the study found that there is a gap of services on the way to in Maipokhari is one of the major problems for tourism for tourist based hotels on the mid path. Majority inhabitants of the local area are settled ethnic groups Mongolian ie 65.4 percent . It is found that, there is not sufficient tourism infrastructure such as transportation, drinking water, electricity, health centers, schools, parks, view point. It is also found that there is no mass publicity to this area from local, district and national level due to negligence of the local governments and climate. There are few hotels based on tourist's aspects because of lack of year round road network. It is also found that Maipokhari is also renowned having nine corner pond located in high altitude and place for herbal products, rich in biodiversity and having local indigenous knowledge. Maipokhari is also a religions place for Buddhists and Hindus. As a result, it can be taken as religious tourism also. Trekking is one of the major aspects of ecotourism. Maipokhari also provides this flavor by the trekking route through Ilam chowk bazar to maipokhari tourism spot. The study found that among the total tourists more than fifty percent travels there belong to teen ager and few used to travel for recreation and to fulfill the religious purposes. The study concludes that the benefits of the tourism to the local people have been greatly acquired but poor transportation networks; there are seasonal benefits to the local. The level of awareness in local people is very low they are not massively informed about the tourism activities of this area. Maipokhari is one of the beautiful natural tourism destinations for all type of tourists. To develop this area the concerned stakeholders should think in time to prepare essential infrastructure by preparing appropriate master plan and policies for the future development.

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Acronyms/Abbreviations

A D	:	Anno Domini
BS	:	Bikram Sambat
BBC	:	British Board Casting Corporation
CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistics
CNN	:	Cable News Network
DDC	:	District Development Committee
GO	:	Government Organization
GoN	:	Government of Nepal
GDP	:	Gross National Income
HHs	:	Households Survey
INGO	:	International Non-Governmental Organization
IA	:	Intermediates of Arts
MoF	:	Ministry of Finance
Mt	:	Mountain
MA	:	Masters of Arts
NGO	:	Non-Governmental Organization
NTB	:	Nepal Tourism Board
Nov	:	November
NTU	:	Nepal Trade Union
NTO	:	Nepal Tourism Organization
Oct	:	October
PhD	:	Doctor of Philosophy
RL	:	Readiness of Local
SLC	:	School Leaving Certificate
TRPAP	:	Tourism for Rural Poverty Alleviation Program
US	:	United States
UNDP	:	United Nation Development Program
VDC	:	Village Development Committee
VT	:	Village Tourism