

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Tourism is a smokeless industry that increases foreign exchange earnings, gross national product and tax revenue and creates employment. In today's world, tourism has become a fundamental activity of human beings. Governments of all countries are involved in the development of tourism sector. Tourism is considered to be superior and praiseworthy activities for modern man. Tourism has become an economic indicator and an important source of economic balance for any country.

According to Satyal (2000) tourism creates economic resources as well as promotes international understanding. Tourism is a medium through which we exchange knowledge with each other and we can create mutual understanding in the people of the whole world. Chandra (2006) argues that tourism teaches respect for different beliefs, religions, traditions and customs at the same time. It inspires religious and cultural harmony and tries to create peaceful relationship among the nations of the world.

Tourism is not a new phenomenon for Hindus. In Sanskrit literature, there are different terms for tourism derived from the *root tirthatan*– Going out to places of religious merits. *Desatan*– Going out of the country prominently for economic gain. *Paryatan*- Going out for pleasure and knowledge. Evolution of the word “tourism”. means going /leaving home for some other places. There were regular visits by Buddhism follower such as Santarakshit 742 AD, Padma Sambhav 474 AD, Kamalsheel 760AD, Atisha Dipankar 1000 AD, Milarepa 1010 AD'. Famous Chinese traveler, Huien Tsang, visited Lumbini in 643 AD. Asoka visited Lumbini, and erected Asoka pillar. Ancient history is mainly based on cultural purpose (Kunwar, 2010).

Tourism denotes traveling for pleasure and escaping from familiar surroundings and monotonous daily routines. The traveler runs through all the great literatures of the

world predictably, since the metaphor of life as a journey is a powerful one that resonates across time and across cultures. In fifth century of before Christ period Herodotus, king of Greek visited many countries in Europe and learnt much about the people and places. Roman wealthy travelers developed the tradition of visiting sanctuaries in Egypt and Greece for thermal baths and to relax for some days. On the basis of travelers purpose of visiting a place, tourists are categorized into different types, people traveling within the border of their own country are domestic tourists and those who go beyond the border of their country are called international tourists (Bhatiya, 2000).

Tourists are the key actors of the tourism activity. They travel or visit destinations in order to satisfy their aims. That's why the proper management of the tourist in the destination place is very essential and important. People intend physical proximity with nature so the adventure tourism trekking, mountaineering, bird watching etc have become popular.

Trekking is the name given to travelling on foot. Some describe trekking as 'an itinerary on foot', health benefits; fun and enjoyment are the main motives behind trekking. Trekking attracts youths and makes them realize their energy; meanwhile trekking is rapidly being popular in western countries (Ghimire, 2002).

The development of tourism in Nepal began directly after 1950 when Nepal was opened to all the people in the world. It was a new destination for the international community which extended the fame of mountaineering as well as trekking. People who love nature and enjoy themselves in the Himalaya will visit Nepal every year; the beauty of this country enchants most of the tourists from different parts of the world. Whereas Nepal is the ultimate destination for the trekking enthusiast, offering a myriad of possibilities from the short and easy to the demanding challenges of the show peak. It is a trekkers paradise. The first person who introduce trekking in Nepal was Colonel Jimmy Roberts from Britain who founded Mountain Travel Nepal in 1964 (Kunwar, 2010).

Tourism is classically regarded as travelling for recreation or pleasure. A tourist is a person who spends more than twenty-four hours in a country other than his own for pleasure. Tourism refers to 'travel' or 'Journey' in simple word. "Tourism" is derived from the France word, the word 'tourism' is related to the word 'tour', which is also

derived from the Latin word called 'Tornus'. The word also means round circle or wheel to move all over etc. In the 17th century it denoted an excursion from one place to another or a circular journey touching the important places of a region or a country and the conception of words like "package Tour" and "round tour" has also been developed by this word. The meaning of the word 'tour' is to get the information i.e. to travel/tour around, those place where we travel. The word tourism has been defined in various ways. The work first done for defining tourism has done by the Austrian economists Herman Schulerd in 1910 AD (Chandra, 2006).

WCED (1987) defines tourism more generally, in terms which go beyond the common perception of tourism as being limited to holiday activity only "traveling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes.

According to Amartya (1990) tourism directly dealing with the economic exchange nature regarding the arrival or entry of tourist in particular country or city than it refers to tourism. A tour can be a short or a long duration and many includes a journey both within outside one's own country whatever the nature of the journey provides knowledge about socio-cultural, political and economic conditions of the country or the place visited.

Bora (1976) has claimed that the origin of the world 'Tourist' dates back to the years 1292. A.D. Tourism is the totality of the relationship and phenomena arising from the travel and stay of strangers provided the stay not imply the establishment of a permanent residence and is not connected with a remunerated activity . Tourism is not only done for the need of income it is also refers to travelling and exploring and all the things related to it. Tourism has also been regarded as a very important economic, religious, sociological and political work in 21st century. According to Kunwar (2010) tourism is known as the unpolluted industry which has a great pillar to economic, social and religious progress.

At first tours and travelling came out as a daily need or a means of supply for social beings but with the development of human civilization, human needs rapidly started increasing and with that people eagerly searched for markets in order to fulfill the requirements of their business. As well as the tour or travelling people for religious reasons and to earn virtue is also always popular. Human travelling has become

comprehensive with the improvement and development of transportation means like boats, ships, trains, aeroplanes and other vehicles. In the middle of the 19th century people mostly went on holidays in order to get entertainment, to acquire education to learn the geographical knowledge of different places to get the idea of different religious and economic conditions. So, due to curiosity of people to know everything, travelling became more irresistible and compulsory for humans.

Throughout history, people have traveled for many different purposes, for business reasons, to visit friends and family, for holidays like trekking adventure mountaineering, discovery, pleasure and religious, pilgrimage eco-Tourism as an industry. However, international tourism really began to flourish after the Second World War. With per capita incomes in the developed countries increasing significantly and the development of efficient mass air transport. The tourism industry is the largest in the world and is a complex one.

Religious travel was popular in ancient Nepal. There are records of travels and pilgrimage made by Indian, Tibetan and Chinese philosophers and pilgrims as far back as the medieval periods (Amatya 1990). But, the evolution of Nepal tourism began in the Neolithic era. At that time, different territorial states were equally hunted in search of tourism in Nepal. Some of them obtained weapons the texture of which was similar to the weapons texture of Gobi Desert from China. And they were also nearly similar to the stone weapons obtained from India.

Apart from these religious travelers and a handful of enterprising traders very few foreigners had ever set foot inside the country before the 1950s (Kayastha, 1985). The earliest published record on foreign visitors to Nepal shows that only 153 foreigners mostly British visited Kathmandu between 1881 and 1925.

In Rana regime period the policy had been to exclude foreigners from the greater part of Nepal. Only a few carefully screened foreign dignitaries and special guests of Nepal among these the royal visit of King George V in 1921 and the Prince of Wales in 1921 joined for the famous big game shoots (Bajracharya and Shakya, 1998). Other than these dignitaries, even the members of the British Residency in Kathmandu were not allowed to travel in the remoter hill regions (Haimendorf, 1975).

Hagen (1961) has alleged that Swiss Geography entered Nepal with team in October 1950. During its survey they got all the accommodation caring for by helpers, than they gave the name of each person according to their role on the trekking, Guide for leader, cook, Sherpa, kitchen, porter etc. As Nepal is the most beautiful and the most varied country in the world no wonder that tourism started to play a very important role in the economy of the country. Nepal has many unusual things to offer the Himalayas, rich and ancient culture, beautiful temples ethnologic and cultural diversities the jungle. After the 1950 s Nepal was a new destination for the international community for mountaineering, trekking culture and wildlife visits.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Tourism is an important alternative income source for the national economy and it is a very sensitive industry. It is related to many theoretical and real-world issues in sociology and anthropology. The major themes sociologists and anthropologists have covered in the study of tourism may be divided conceptually into two categories: One hat understands the origins of the history of tourism in Nepal; the other reveals tourism's impacts on social and economic sector in the nation. When taken together, these two approaches seem to produce only a partial analysis of tourism. The problem is that most studies aimed at understanding the origins of tourism and to focus impact of tourism in social and economic aspects tend to focus in community.

Nepal is in the line of developing countries with ample natural beauties, lucky enough to have a lot of variety and beauty to offer tourist. So Nepal has more opportunities to earn foreign currency from tourism. Growth of tourism in Nepal has a great impact not only in the economic sector but also in social and cultural aspects of Nepalese people. Thus the growth and expansion of tourism should be viewed from economically, cultural and socio-economic dimensions. At the same time, we should be conscious about the dangers brought by tourism in regard to the carrying capacity, changes in cultural outlook of the people caused by over exposure and environmental degradation. The focus given to the socio economic impact, sustainable tourism and the future of coming generation must ensure that the benefits to the community from tourism, are positive.

The goal of this research is to explore the social and economic impact of tourism and the future of coming generations in tourism and sustainable tourism. The Sherpas are

an ethnic group that lives in mountain areas. Agriculture and trade has been their main occupation up until the arrival of tourism. After 1950's when start tourism in Nepal, Sherpas started to join in this profession as guides for tourists wishing to go trekking and mountaineering. Sherpas are good as climbing support and to do guide and porter work in the high hills and mountains. Tenzing Norgay Sherpa summited Mt Everest with AD Hillary in 1953 and became famous. Nowadays Sherpas are sometimes known as 'Tigers of the Snow'.

Sherpa from the Gauri Shankar Himal are, in VDC 2/3 Simigaun, mostly work in trekking as a guide and mountain climber. It is now their main income source at that time but in the early days few were educated or could speak English. Now times have changed, many Sherpa are educated and some go abroad, few are government job holders and some are involved in other businesses.. The main focus of this study is about the --socio economic impact of tourism on the Sherpa community about which little work has been done. In this context, this research was conducted to fulfill that lack. In sum, this research was mainly centered on looking for the answers to the following issues or questions:

- In what way are the Sherpas of Gauri Shankar VDC 2/3 involved in trekking?
- What type of social and economic changes has taken place in this Sherpa community owing to trekking?
- How to make possible sustainable tourism in future?
- What they wish for the coming generation in the trekking profession?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study is to analyze the changes caused by trekking on the Sherpa community of Gauri Shankar VDC 2-3 and to look at the interplay between trekking and traditional farming.

Its specific objectives are listed below:

- a. Impact of trekking on the Sherpa community in general education, marriage, customs and cultural etc.
- b. To study social and economic impact of tourism on the lifestyle of the Sherpa community and the future for coming generations in tourism.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Mainly, this study is conducted from an academic point of view. So its immediate academic significance for me is to gain a Master's Degree in Sociology. It may have some applied significance. Every research has its own values on the basis of its objective, study areas and availability of the resources. In a sector of tourism many dissertations and books have been written and published for their academic value as well as personal purposes. No study of the social and economic impact of tourism in Sherpa community has yet been written yet. Academic qualifications are not as important as physically fitness and climbing knowledge in the trekking field. But it is risky job climbing and trekking in the mountains. However Sherpa are really hard workers and brave so they are familiar and famous in this field.

The study mainly concentrates on the social and economic impact of trekking in Sherpa community of Gauri Shankar VDC 2/3 Dolakha. The most significant fact of this study is that focusing Gauri Shankar VDC 2/3 Dolakha, it tries to show changes by tourism. It is expected this study will provide the reader with information and perspective of Sherpa's in tourism, when and how it is linked with the trekking profession, what different are there from before their time in tourism. It is expected this study will be important and valuable for those who are interested to know about social and economic impact of tourism in the Sherpa community of Gauri Shankar VDC 2/3 Dolakha.

1.5 Limitations of the Study

This study is an academic research conducted as a partial fulfillment of the Master Degree in sociology. This study is based on field work of targeted sample socio economic impact of tourism in Sherpa community. The study area lays North east 175 K.M. from Capital city of Kathmandu. Present study is limited to Sherpa of Gauri Shankar VDC 2/3 Simigaun. It doesn't cover other areas of Nepal. Some of the limitations can be summed up as follows:

- a. Due to time factor and budget constraints, the study has analyzed only 50 samples out of 93 households.
- b. The study has covered only Sherpas of Gauri Shankar VDC 2-3 who are involved in tourism.

- c. This study has not included all aspects of tourism, other ethnicities/castes, or other areas within the VDC.

1.6 Organization of the Study

There are a total seven chapters in this thesis. The first one 'Introduction' deals with the background of the study. In this chapter the background of tourism, statement of the problem, object of the study, significance and limitations of the study are included in this unit. In the second chapter about 'Literature Review', include: concept overview, theoretical modality, globalization and ecological methods used for the study, review of previous studies about Sherpas and tourism in Nepalese context, types of tourism, travel agencies, trekking and mountaineering are included. The third chapter deals with research methods and describes the study site/area and the rationale for the selection of the selected study area. It looks at sampling procedures, nature and sources of data, techniques and tools of data analysis, presentation and techniques and the tools of data collection are included.

The fourth chapter gives an introduction to the study area with the history and demographic profile, background of the study, introduction of the study area with map of Nepal and Gauri Shankar Dolakha, division of Dolakha by health, education and Religion. It also describes when and how tourism started in Gauri Shankar 2/3. It discusses the contribution of Sherpas of the study area and the aim of ensuring sustainable tourism is developed. This chapter also includes details of tourist arrival numbers by originating country, routes taken and purpose of visit during 2015. Chapter five elaborates on the existing scenario of Sherpa of Simigaun who work in tourism, data analysis, general characteristics of the respondents, their religious, education, age, income, training, motivation, position, and their perception toward trekking and mountaineering, also notes on their experience, quality and some case studies are included in this chapter.

Chapter six describes the social and economic impact of tourism on the Sherpa community of Simigaun. This includes its social and economic impact and also its impact on educational, religion, culture, agriculture environment and pasturing.

Chapter seven includes the summary, findings of the study, and conclusion and makes suggestions for the further research.

CHAPTER-II

LITERATURE REVIEW

For any research to start and complete, one needs to study the previously done researches so that the new researcher gets idea, help and finds easier for further research work. Without knowing what the other people or researchers have done, when and how, it will be difficult for the newer one to proceed further. Just to clarify and be more concerned about what one is going to work, reviewing of literature is a must. For this purpose and also to make the readers and the researchers more comfortable with the terms used in the study, this chapter is specially focused on the concept review, theoretical modality and the review of previous studies about Sherpa.

2.1 Concept Overview

Tourism is classically regarded as travelling for recreation. A Tourist is a person who spends more than twenty-four hours in a country other than his own place, this for pleasurable reasons. Tourism itself refers to 'travel' or 'a journey' taken for pleasure. The word Tourism" is derived from the France word '*tourisme*'. The word 'tourism' is also related to the word 'tour', which is itself derived from the Latin word called 'Tornus'. The word also means round, circle or wheel, to move all over etc. In the 17th century it denoted an excursion from one place to another, or a circular journey touching the important places of a region or a country (Chandra, 2006).

Travel in the prehistoric times in the age of Paleolithic suggests all human activity was like a movement to resolve day to day survival. The people were able to settle down in shelters that resulted in created activity in travel. During the Neolithic age several innovations in the field on transport changed in very nature of travel. The money invent by the Sumerians was used by them in their various businesses and travel dealing accommodation either with money or by exchange of goods. The earliest time travel has fascinated men the travel in the beginning was largely unconscious and rather unplanned a simple affair (Sharma, 2004).

Concept of tour or travel was actually started from the elite and rich people where the intentions of travel were trade, religious and missionary in the history of tourism the

development of grand tour origin of annual holiday advent of railway, sea transport, motor cars, advent of jet travel are contributed to develop of tourism. The concept of travel as it existed in the west can be associated with the Romans empire which probably the first pleaser travelers (Bhatiya, 1996).

Tourism can be domestic or international, and international tourism has both incoming and outgoing implications on a country's balance of payments. Today, tourism is a major source of income for many countries, and affects the economy of both the source and host countries, in some cases being of vital importance.

Travel outside a person's local area for leisure was largely confined to wealthy classes, who at times travelled to distant parts of the world, to see great buildings, works of art, learn new languages, experience new cultures, and to taste.

Modern tourism can be traced to what was known as the grand tour, which was a traditional trip around Europe, undertaken by mainly upper- class European young men of means, mainly from Western and Northern European countries. The custom flourished from about 1660 until the advent of large-scale rail transit in the 1840s, and was associated with a standard itinerary (Chandra, 2006).

2.2 Theoretical Modality

One definition of tourism was given by an Austrian economist Hermann V. Schullard in the year 1910 who defined it as “the sum total of operators, an economic nature, which directly related to the entry stay and movement of foreigners inside and outside a certain country, city or region”. The concept of tourism found expression however in a more technical definition of the Swiss Professors Hunziker and Kraft in 1942. They started “Tourism is the totality of the relationship and phenomenon arising from the travel and stay of a stranger, provided the stay does not imply the establishment of a permanent residence and is not connected with a remunerated activity (Bhatiya 1982).

By the middle ages Christianity, Buddhism and Islam, all had traditions of pilgrimage that motivated even the lower classes to undertake distant journeys for health or spiritual improvement, seeing the sights along the way. At the present, tourism is one of the main means factors of social change in society. It is very important to economic

development as well as cultural change of the country. Various concepts of tourism have developed in Nepal such as cultural, mountain, eco, agro, village, and sports tourism. 'Tourism for all seasons' is a concept of tourism that will aid the development of the country. Nepal is full of mountains which is good for trekking and mountaineering (Satyal, 2000).

Nepal is an 'open museum' for tourists for various reasons. Mountaineering and trekking are main activities as are jungle safaris, observation of diverse cultural life, river running and many other aspects all of which help the economic growth of the nation. Nepal possesses tremendous diversity which has allowed it to develop as a major tourist destination. It has created a special niche in the arena of adventure tourism in the world. Nepal has already started to prioritize tourism industry as one of the prime contributions for the national economy, especially to earn foreign currency (NTB, 2015)

2.3 Theoretical Overview

There are many theories related to the social and economic impact of tourism, of them only two theoretical approaches have been discussed here. These are as follows.

2.3.1 Globalization approach

The effect of globalization is tremendous in tourism sector. Host community has been more affected by the external tourists as they have much more exposure to western influences. In the context of Sherpa, although generally not well educated many speak English and a small amount of other European languages. Some have even married foreigners (Haimendrof, 1975).

2.3.2 Ecological Approach

Ecological approach focuses on the adaptation and adjustment in the associated area due to the altitude. Sherpas are living in high region for hundreds years so they adapt to high altitude easily and work well at altitude. This is reflected in their ability to ascend to high altitude carrying heavy loads when working as a porter or mountain guide. This they can do much more easily than porters from lower altitudes (Haimendrof, 1975).

Many studies have been done over tourism and Sherpa in different sectors for academic or professional purpose in Nepal but in the sector of social and economic impact of tourism in Sherpa community of Simigaun no one has use yet discoursed about ecological approach. It is very impotent to know why Sherpa are fayoured to work in mountaineering rather than other people. It is because of the impact of ecology and adaptation. They have been living in high land so its not hard for them to walk on snow that's why they are called 'tiger of the snow'. Also they are very popular and friendly people and Western tourists like to be with Sherpas very much.

2.4 Review of Previous Studies about Sherpa

Sherpas are an Ethnic people of Nepal, who live in northeast hilly areas, before tourism started in Nepal. Sherpa's main occupation was mainly pastoral, agriculture and trade to and from Tibet over the high passes. After the 1950s when Nepal opened the door to the world and linked to other countries it was a new destination to visit for visitors from all over the world. After tourism started, the Sherpas got involve in tourism living near in the mountain area. The Sherpas are highly regarded as elite mountaineers and experts in their local area. They were immeasurably valuable to early explorers of the Himalayan region, serving as guides at the extreme altitudes of the peaks and passes in the region, particularly for expeditions because they were familiar with the hills and mountains and adapted well to working at high altitude. In this way they were great helpers for tourists for their trekking and mountain climbing expedition Sherpa supported tented treks, exploring areas away from trails. Sherpa are renowned in the international climbing and mountaineering community for their hardiness, expertise, and experience at very high altitudes. It has been speculated that a part of the Sherpas' climbing ability is the result of a genetic adaptation to living in high altitudes. Some of these adaptations include unique hemoglobin-binding capacity and doubled nitric oxide production (Haimendrof, 1975).

Talking about what Sherpas, it is important to know their roots, where are they from and how Sherpas came to Nepal. The first research about Sherpa's life and history was done by Haimendrof in the 1950sand 60s. After that many other foreigners studied the Sherpas. Sherpa means 'easterner'- they came from Kham in eastern Tibet. The first Sherpas coming to Nepal entered northeast Nepal, the Khumbu area.

They came from 'Kham-salmo-gang' that time people asked where they came from "The east part of kham" that is called 'Sherpa' (Haimendrof, 1975).

For 600 years ago people have migrated from Tibet to these mountain valleys in Nepal. In times of great unrest in Tibet many Lamas and followers left their homes in Tibet looking for new places to live and settled in the mountain valleys of Northern Nepal. The Sherpa language is a dialect of Tibetan and their literature, history, and philosophy came from old Tibetan religious books from long ago. People living in Nepal's mountain valleys have practiced the Buddhist religion. In Sherpa culture "ru" is very important "ru" means bones the male line transmits the ru so the father's lineage determines one's clan membership. There are 21clans in Sherpa cast. Sherpa language originated from the old Tibetan religious books. There are many different dialects used in Tibetan (Hagen, 1961).

Haimendrof (1954) said that Sherpas share the tradition of having emigrated from Tibet. The circumstances of this migration and subsequent arrival added to the miraculous feats of various lamas are the subject of numerous legends, traditions and myths relation to the Sherpa's migration. Most sherpas of the study area believe that their ancestors migrated south along the Rongshar west of the Rolwaling himal and then turning east settled in the Rolwaling/Dolakha area. However contradictory belief is expressed in the view that the ancestors of some clans came from Tibet across the Nangpala. There is nevertheless a widespread notion that the number of clans constituting the Sherpa society are represented by eighteen clans. But in the local villages the count runs twenty one clans names- *chiawa, chusherwa, gardza, gole, goparma, jongomba, khambdze, lakshindu, lama, mende, munming, nawa, paldorje, pankarma, pinasa, salakha, shangup, sherwa, shire, thaktok, kpa.*

According to Haimendrof (1964) "Sherpa" is derived from two Tibetan words, "shar" means east "pa" means man. Thus, *Sherpa-pa* means eastern the origin of the label "easterner" for Sherpa who live south of Tibet uncertain though their ancestors may have come from eastern Tibet. A Sherpa has come to be used popularly used also as meaning any Nepalese mountain climber or trekking staff.

Gorals (1966) has said that historically Sherpas have difficulty in pinpointing exact historical dates and it is uncertain when they migrated from Tibet. It was probably about the same time as Columbus' discovery of America. Also the reason Sherpas

chose to live south of the Himalayas is not clear. Most Sherpa's believe that their ancestors entered Nepal from the west of the Rolwaling Himalayas in center Nepal, than moved eastward gradually.

The title 'Tiger' was created in 1938 by the British Mountaineering H.W Tillman. This was to distinguish those able to climb to an altitude of twenty-five thousand feet or more. During a British expedition these Sherpas were awarded the bronze tigers badge in the ceremony honoring their assistance to the British climbers (Adams, 1986).

The exact origins of Sherpas in Nepal remains some doubt also the date of the estimated arrival of the first wave of Sherpa immigrants. It however was around 1530 into the Rolwaling area. Nepal is one of the most beautiful places on earth and Sherpas are the most romantic people of the world. Sherpas lives in the north east of Nepal in glorious mountain environment normally Cheerful, good-natured and good-humored they cooperate with a smile and are more devoted to their work than themselves. They have their own social, cultural, race and religious and a different style and physique from the south Asian and Chinese. The two major groups that bracket the greater Tibetan culture area. It is well established that the Sherpas migrated in to their present location in Nepal from Kham region of eastern Tibet about 450 years ago but it is not clear why they left Tibet. They made a long journey of some 1250 mile to north eastern Nepal. They have an ethnic identity separate from Tibetans (Ortner, 2000).

According to Haimendrof (1975) the Sherpas are an ethnic group who lives in northeast Nepal in the mountains and valleys surrounding the Everest massif. Originally referring to members of an ethnic group who happen to be good at high altitude portering and generalized expedition support, 'Sherpa' eventually became both a role and a status term meaning essentially a specialized high-altitude porter with at least some climbing expertise.

The Sherpa people who first originated from Kham east of Tibet, than migrated to Solukhumbu about 600 years ago. Though Sherpa are normally found dwelling in the northeastern parts of Nepal. The word "Sherpa" is known a "sherwa" which means people from the east. Their original homeland is in the khumbu who inhabited the east of Tibet kham. Sherpa came to be widely known to the world after Tenzing Norgay

Sherpa along with sir Edmand Hillary first set foot on the summit of the MT Everest in 1953. Today the Sherpa economy consists mainly of field agriculture, animal husbandry, trade, trekking and mountaineering. Most of Sherpa settlements are at altitudes of 3000-5000 meters (Ortner, 2000).

Present inhabitants of north eastern part of Nepal was not the original inhabitants of Sherpas on the ground of historical documents that the Sherpa's original homeland was in Kham region of eastern Tibet which is almost 1300 miles from their present homeland .Due to the politico-religious and internal religious conflict they were bound to leave their ancestral homeland their first migration stated in 1530 AD and that continued till 1850 .Their ancestors migrated south along the Rongshyar chu west of the Rolwaling Himal and turning east to solu than khumbu (Kunwar, 2010)

The Sherpas are indeed, first of all, an ethnic group who live in north east Nepal, in the mountains and valleys surrounding the Everest massif. Their ancestors migrated from eastern Tibet in the sixteenth century and they remain closely related ethnically to Tibetans. In the second half of the nineteenth century some Sherpa men began migrating to the Darjeeling region of India in search of economic opportunity with the British, in the form of both petty and grand enterprise, and of wage labor along with members of other ethnic group, the Sherpas presented themselves for “coolie” work on road –building projects in the Darjeeling area for exploration and surveying projects in the surrounding mountains and for climbing expeditions (Janice, 1983)

2.5 Tourism in Nepalese Context

Nepal lies on the southern flanks of the Himalayan range, with arid mountains and high plains of the Tibetan plateau to its north and the scorching hot cities of India to its south. Squeezed between the population giants of India and china, the country is a mere 800 km long and in places just 80 km from north to south (Marston, 2008).

In this modern world, the tourism industry has been growing at an outstanding rate and it has appeared as the world's largest and greatest t industry. Following the advanced development of science, information and technology, the world from some years new has been global village. The basic information of the particular places is easily accessible through internet and electric media such as television and radio. Easy access with fast transportation and the human desire to travel has increased more

than ever. It has been the fastest growing industry of the world. Tourism has been regarded as the world's biggest industry with the turnover as large as that of the oil industry. Many nations with tourism potential have made heavy investments in this sector (Bhatiya, 1975).

Since ancient times Nepal is known as country of 'many gods'. Many visitors are from India and China and comes as pilgrims to the great temples of Pasupathinath, Baudhanath, Lumbini etc which are very famous. Also due to its great natural beauty and unique multi-cultural features, Nepal has become an attractive destination for tourists from all over the world. The natural and man-made beauty of Nepal offers a wealth of sightseeing, recreation, and cultural activities to visitors ranging from viewing the grandiose Himalayan range, tropical wildlife in Terai, art and architecture to the charming lifestyle of Nepali people and its fascinating cultural heritage (Bhatiya, 1975).

In 1850-51 AD, Rana Prime Minister Jung Bahadur Rana visited Britain which brought Kingdom of Nepal into limelight in Europe. This was the beginning of regular visits of British nationals in Kathmandu. ' 1792 AD Captain Kirkpatrick, a military official came to collect facts about Nepal. He wrote a book "An Account of the Kingdom of Nepal" which helped introduce Nepal to outsiders. After the 1950s Nepal opened for the world and linked to other country. The best seller book 'Lost Horizon' introduced a word Shangri -la and gave a new vision to the world of imagining the Himalayan in Nepal to be like heaven. Gorkha also helped to highlight the country.

In 1950, Nepal finally opened its doors. Climbing expeditions started to arrive and Maurice Herzog led the first successful ascent of an 8000m/16400 firt peak out of 14 in the world in 1950 a French team climbed Annapurna. In 1952 a Swiss geologist Tony Hagen was allowed by the Nepal Government to carry out a mapping geography of Nepal (Kunwar, 1989). Hence tourism in Nepal began with mountain tourism. In 1953 Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa climbed Mt. Everest the highest mountain in the world. The First tourist visa was issued to Russian citizen Boris Lisanevich and the first tourists to come through were 10 Americans and 2 Brazilians. They stayed at the famous Royal Hotel, the first tourist standard hotel, started by Boris himself.

Nepal is not just mountains this fascinating country offers everything from elephant safaris in the national parks to some of the finest white water rafting in the world. Private helicopter trips to uninhabited mountain valleys and cultural tours to the historic cities of the Kathmandu valley.

Many exciting adventures tourism activities in Nepal are based in the beautiful southern foothills of the Himalayas. These include mountain climbing, Trekking, rock climbing, paragliding, mountain flights, ultralight aircraft, Hot air ballooning, mountain biking, rafting kayaking canyoning, and bungee jumping. Add the wonderful jungle safari and bird watching in the wildlife parks in the lowland Terai belt of Nepal,

2.6 Types of tourism

Tourism is an important part of the economy of almost every country. Every region and country has many different attractions to offer dependant on their geography, culture, climate and people. It is interesting to look at the types of tourism prevailing.

2.6.1 Pleasure Tourism - pleasure tourism is enjoyed by those who go out on holiday, to take a rest, observe something new, delight in good scenery in unknown folklore and to indulge in the recreational facilities offered by big cities and clamorous modern tourist centers. Some find pleasure in travelling simply to enjoy the various places and their environs. This type of tourism usually depends upon the taste and temperament of individuals (Bhatiya, 1975).

2.6.2 Recreational Tourism – This type of tourism is concerned with leisure and rest and to recover physical relaxation. Mostly long term visitor are involve in this tourism with sojourns by the sea, in mountain resorts are other rest centers. Climatic resorts spa or health reasons are excluded in this category (Kunwar, 1989).

2.6.3 Cultural Tourism- This type of tourism is motivated by the eagerness to learn or to acquire more knowledge in a center famous for its cultural offerings. Cultural tourism is also concerned with learning the habits, language and customs of people in alien lands, visiting places of historical ancient civilizations or paying visits to art galleries, religious centers or to participate in art music, theater, dance and folklore festivals (Satyal, 2000).

2.6.4 Sporting Tourism – sporting tourism are two types (a) visiting sports events worldwide such as the Olympic games or, World cup soccer events which attract not only the sportsmen to the host country but also a large number of sport fans,(b) visiting well-organized sporting events in countries which have specialized facilities such as winter sports, nautical sports, mountain climbing, hunting fishing etc (Bhatiya, 1975).

2.6.5 Business or Technical Tourism- all tours undertaken by business or industrialist or professionals to places of their interests or visits to fairs and exhibitions, or technical achievements are included under this category.

2.6.6 Conference Tourism- international conferences are organized in big cities or in places where such convention facilities are available. A large number of delegates of different nations join them. These conferences are arranged in the cities best prepared to receive the delegates and to cover the low occupancy rate of the hotels in the low season. There is a rapid growth of conference tourism in the modern world (Chandra, (2006).

2.6.7 Educational Tourism

Educational tourism is developed because of the growing popularity of teaching and learning of knowledge and the enhancing of technical competency outside of classroom environment. Educational tourism describes the event in which people travel across international borders to acquire intellectual services in educational tourism, the main focus of the tour or leisure activity includes visiting another country to learn about the culture, study tours, or to work and apply skills learned inside the classroom in a different environment, such as in the International Practicum Training Program. The motivations for this type of tourism activity includes cultural altruism, language learning desire, image of host country, Job prospects, political instability, quality, reputation, language of instruction, safety and level of discrimination (Kunwar, 2010).

2.6.8 Mass Tourism

Mass tourism developed with improvements in technology, which allowed the transport of large numbers of people in a short period of time to places of leisure interest, so greater number of people could begin to enjoy the benefits of leisure time.

2.6.9 Ecotourism

Ecotourism, also known as ecological tourism, responsible travel to fragile, pristine, and usually protected areas that strives to be low-impact and small-scale. It helps educate the traveler, provide fund for conservation, directly benefits the economic development and political empowerment of local communities, and fosters respect for different cultures and for human rights. 'Take only memories and leave only footprints' is a very common slogan in protected areas. Tourist destinations are shifting to low carbon emissions following the trend of visitors more focused on being environmentally responsible and adopting to sustainable behavior (Kunwar, 2010).

2.6.10 Space Tourism

There has been a limited amount of orbital space tourism, with only the Russian space agency providing transport to date. A 2010 report into space tourism anticipated that it could become a Billion Dollar market by 2030. Most travel companies were forced to set aside the plan to execute the marketing of any new package features.

2.6.11 Meditation Tourism

Buddhist meditation trek is a new way of exploring to the holy land of the Nepal Himalayas combined with trekking and sight seeing tours. Meditation treks are relatively new and largely unexplored. Some are easily accessible by short drive and trek, ideal for those who have only a short time for a holiday. Meditation is done to get in tune with the nature and our surroundings and the best way to do that is by being one with nature itself. You could be meditating on the banks of some of the most beautiful lakes in the Himalayas or walking along the banks of a river or practicing in the holy Buddhist monasteries, but the idea is to absorb the beauty and grandeur of nature. By , at the same time, trekking inNepal (Bhatiya, 1975).

2.7 Travel Agencies

Running a Travel agency requires initiative and responsibility, without which there can be no genuine place for it in the development of tourism. To do its public authorities, the travel agency must see itself recognized by the end and conclusively by the public, as competent as a creator, a producer with indispensable profit margins, a graduation intermediary, and commissioner. Thus the travel agency is a profit making business form set up for the purpose of organizing trips.

The travel agent has to fulfill various demands of the client in modern world. The travel agent is advisor to the inexperienced and the retailer of package tours, as this is the growing section the travel agency's market. So the travel agent is an informer possessed of knowledge and organization in order to arrange the booking of transport and accommodation. To take into account these promotional efforts and the important services, the allied carriers and hoteliers grant, a small commission to the intermediary (Kunwar, 2010).

According to Chandra (2006), the work of the travel agency has opened out the development of tourism. There is no other trade which has advanced by two million to twenty-five million times in less than a hundred years. The evolution of transport from the short winded puffing billions of road and rail at the beginning of the 20th century succeeded less than sixty years later by the boundless, and technological innovation in transports and the airlines program for 1987-88 equip for a daily load of five thousand seats or more. So the duty of travel agent is very immense in the present world of tourism. Travel agency help by saving time as it is always in constant touch with fast internet. It provides high quality services simply because of its constant association with tourist enterprises and the firm believe in a high standard of services. The travel agency forecasts and, accordingly is in a position to define the market and value. Its development to a special extent, by taking part in the study of the program of the highest parts-aviation in particular which always proceed and give rise to tourism. It exerts an active influence on the suppliers of various services, transport, accommodation, food etc, and look after the best quality of services.

Travel agencies are profit-making business firms set up for the purpose of organizing trips. At present they act either a middleman between their customers and the firm supplying the services required (transport, companies, hotels, firms offering excursions or entertainment) or as actual tourist entrepreneurs. As a rule, a travel agency carries out two types of activities.

So a middleman, it charges a commission on individual services supplied by a hotel, a transport company, an impresario etc, and sold to the client by the travel agency. In this case, the agency acts as a third party between the consumer and the producer, between the tourist and the tourist enterprise hotel and the transport company. As an organizer, the travel agency organizes on its own initiative and at its own risk tours

for its customers. It chooses the means for transport, the hotel, the excursions etc (Kunwar, 2010). Entertainment and plans the entire program according to the fixed schedule and for a specific duration. It proposes the complete trip in a catalogue, at a net all in price.

2.8 Trekking and Mountaineering in Nepal

Trekking and mountaineering are both popular for adventure minded tourists. Many mountainous countries now offer a wide variety of facilities for the tourist (Ghimire, 2002). Summer mountain resorts are among the oldest resorts in Europe .in the 18th century the discovery of the mountains was one of the first incentives to tourism. What travelers were interested in at that time was striking natural phenomena gorges, charms, torrents, caves, strange rocks and they did not venture far into the mountains themselves. Their interest was also in keeping with a scientific trend in the ideas of the day. Later with the development of roads and railways, travelers began to penetrate more deeply into the mountains, and tourist became more widely dispersed.

Trekking is a sport which is defined as following mule tracks or footpaths on foot. Trekking is done at the point beyond which the traveler can go no further by collective means of transport road or rail into the heart of the mountain. Through villages, hills, valleys, forest and high altitude grazing pasture with the team of people sardar (guide), cook, Sherpas, kitchen staff and porters, a leader will also be there to look after the clients (Kunwar, 1989).

The name 'trekking' is derived from the Afrikaans word 'Vor-Trekkers', used by the Dutch migrants who travelled by wagon from the Cape Colony into the interior of South Africa after 1836. As father of the trekking company in Nepal, who introduced Nepal in the world by trekking, Colonel Jimmy Roberts from Britain was born in India on 21 September 1916. Colonel Jimmy had just retired from his post as Defense Attaché at the British Embassy, Kathmandu. He had been a mountaineer since a young age; he was a soldier and mountaineer. He registered Mountain Travel Nepal, in 1964 with the Department of Industry in Kathmandu. It was the first trekking and mountaineering company in the country and also first one in the world. He effectively developed the concept and standards for the now world – wide adventure tourism industry that has since evolved. The employment and income it has generated for the country has very beneficial. From that humble beginning the trekking industry

developed. It also signaled the start of 'adventure tourism,' which was to grow into a world-wide phenomenon (Marston, 2008).

According to Chandra (2006) normally in Nepal various types of trekking are in used in the base of variables such as time or distance, number of trekker, route of trekking etc. Tourism types are:

2.9 Types of trekking

2.9.1.1-Long and Short Treks - Along trek will normally be more than 15 days and up to 30 days of more. A short trek 2-6 days and medium length 7-14 days.

2.9.1.2-Big and Small Group – There are individual trekkers then two and threes, groups of 4-6-7-10 and over that larger groups of up to 15 plus.

2.9.1.3 Tented Treks– fix a date to go trek with group or single taking all tents, cleeping bags, mattresses, food under the control of a team of people sardar (guide), cook, Sherpa, kitchen and porter. A leader will also sometimes accompany the group of client.

2.9.1.4 Lodge (Teahouse Trekking)- which available accommodation on the route in this types trek needs only a guide and porter. Accommodation is in lodges/tea houses along the way and all food is cooked by the lodge owner/staff.

2.9.2 Types of Trekking Guide

The senior guide or Sardar is the back bone of the support team for trekking and mountaineering. They need knowledge of trekking, languages and be physically fit. They manage all around and plays role of bridge between tourist and other Sherpa team members.

Ghimire (2002) has proposed the division by responsibilities for guides as follows:

2.9.2.1 Division by Responsibilities for Guides

- a. Tour guide
- b. City tour guide
- c. Trekking guide
- d. Mountain guide
- e. International Mountain guide

2.10 An isolated High-Altitude Site

Trekking is done around existing high level habitations built for shepherds or climber huts, shelters or an industrial installation (a power station on a mountain stream, or a dam creating an artificial lake) Finally, they may be near some celebrated site that attracts large number of tourists (volcanoes in the pacific, peaks with a panoramic view). With the growth of trekking, there is always a need for good camping sites. Camping has developed to such an extent in Europe over the past fifty years that now millions of persons are looking for suitable sites where they can spend a night or a number of days. Campers who, at first, were free to set up their tents on individual sites wherever they liked, now have to comply with rules and regulations as in other spheres of life, in society, camping sites are organized on a collective basis, with hundreds of campers grouped in one place and subject to organizational and administrative rules. By analogy with other sectors of the hotel industry, camping grounds have been called “open air-hotel.” This phenomenon is now developing along fairly definite lines (Kunwar, 2010).

Regarding the types of location of camping sites, some conclusions have been drawn up by Ghimire (2002) which are as follows:

a- Near the sea coasts- from the Baltic to the Mediterranean, show the highest density of tourists. The type of coastline that does not attract campers are those characterized by mud, swamps, and low and humid alluvia deposits. The most popular, on the other hand, are capes and promontories, eg the rivers and the shores of bays not already occupied by a resort. Suitable locations can also be found in valleys, estuaries, and polders behind the dunes if they have been properly drained the coast of Normandy.

b- Near a lake- camping grounds are particularly likely to grow up at the ends of a lake, where flat alluvial ground is to be found (polish, Bavarian and Austrian lakes)

c- Near a river-rivers and streams- however tiny, have a natural attraction for campers, since they permit, bathing, fishing, canoeing etc. the best sites are to be found in meadows with a light soil situated above flood-level, and in meanders with pebbly beaches and trees.

d-**Near sites** – campers often prefer to be near a monument view – point or other natural phenomenon point and will choose it if this is allowed. A certain number of rules must be observed in such camping grounds so as to prevent damage to the site itself noise, rubbish, bill-boards etc.

e- **In Forests-** Here, campers will prefer a location either on the edge of the forest or in clearing. Camping grounds Can be found in all the large state owned forests, particularly if they are near a big town. these usually have even stricter regulations than elsewhere, including various prohibition. This is also true of camping grounds inside national or regional parks. (united states of America and Canada)

f- **In the mountains-** here there are fewer camping grounds since mountains afford more possibilities for individual camping. The limited extent of level spaces and terraces makes large camping grounds possible. The more suitable sites are to found in the lower parts of valleys, provided they are not likely to be flooded. Mountaineers set up their base camps as close as possible as possible to the summit.

2.11 Factors Affecting Locations

Chandra (2006) has proposed few factors affecting the location:

a- Physical Factors while selecting a location for a camping ground, certain physical factors have always to be taken into consideration. The ground must be firm, fairly level, without sharp rocks, too many trees. With regard to climatic conditions, there should be protection from prevailing winds, the difference between day and night temperature should not be too great nor the risk of thunderstorms, too serious. The surrounding vegetation besides being pleasant to the eye should provide adequate but not excessive shade.

b- Economic Factor

This deals solely with the cost of the land and the use that can be made of it. Careful study needed if the grounds to be used for overnight halts, weekends or longer holiday periods. Labor and management costs will vary from one regions another, and must also be taken into consideration, as must local administrative regulations, standard required, restrictions to be observed.

2.12 Research Gap

The reviewed literatures mentioned above have helped a great deal for this study. However, most of research about the Sherpas has been done by foreign scholars especially about studies about their culture, religion and climbing Mt Everest. Also comparing Sherpas with Tibetan society and studying in particular places where Sherpas live such as the Solukhumbu or Rowlwaling areas.

This study has been different from others because it has particularly focused on the social and economic impact of tourism in the Sherpa community of Simigaun Gaurishankar 2/3. Only two persons have written about this area. From the literature reviewed about the origin of Sherpas here, it seems they came into this area either from the lower Solu Khumbu, or directly from Tibet some 3-4 hundred years ago. To date there has not been sufficient literature written about this area or focusing on these same issues of the social and economic impact on the Sherpa population. Thus this research has tried to at least partly fill that need.

CHAPTER-III

RESEARCH METHOD

This section deals with the site selection and how the whole study is processed along with the type of data sources and also the way of collecting data for the study. We also come to know that based on both the primary and secondary data and qualitative and quantitative method, how the research work is designed efficiently in a very simpler and easier way as far as possible.

3.1 Study Site and Rationale for the Selection of the Study area

Nepal is rich in nature; cultural resource and only a fraction of these resources are so far utilized for tourism. If these are properly utilized by government, tourism could be the number one industry in Nepal. Tourism is helpful in aiding the advancement of developing countries. It can also contribute to the conservation and management of natural areas and help preserve the cultural heritage for long term and sustainable economic development. Tourism plays a vital role to promote the economy, agriculture and good environment. It can be a positive form of both culturally and environmental ethics among travelers.

Tourism also attracts those operators who run small scale local accommodation and utilize local materials for the benefit of the area and the tourists involved. This study was undertaken in Simigaun village, a popular tourist route to go to Mt Everest, which is situated in the North East part of Nepal some 200ks from the capital city of Kathamandu, Gauri Shankar vdc Dolakha District Janakpur Zone. Gauri Sharkar 2/3 Simigaun.Lies on a trekking route of tourists, which have been attracting a large number of foreign tourists. Every year trekking is an adventure travel for the tourism, most of Sherpas from this village are involved in trekking, so this is their main profession.

The society of the study area is largely influenced or even shaped by the tourism related activities taking place here. Trekking is one of the main income source of this society, which is good for society to improve their lifestyle and to help the nation to develop economically as well as socially. Due to trekking and mountaineering people

from this area are able to be involved in this profession which is suitable for those who cannot invest to other business they can work in tourism in this way Sherpas from this villagers contributes in the Nation's tourism industry. Thus, this site was purposively selected for this research.

3.2 Research Design

The major focus of this study was to analyze the social and economic changes in Sherpa community of Gauri Shankar VDC 2/3 Dolakha. Thus, considering this fact, the study employed both exploratory as well as descriptive research designs in order to analyze the ways Sherpa's perceptions about the trekking profession and to evaluate the challenges of their life, family, society and education as they have been affected by tourism.

3.3 Universe and Sampling Procedure

The cover of this study included all 50 Sherpa households of the village. During the time of the survey undertaken before the data collection, there were 56 people involved in trekking profession from this area. At first, they were numbered to prepare a sampling frame. Out of the total trekker, only 50 people were sampled as respondents from the sampling frame by following systematic random sampling. The unit of the analysis was social and economic impact of the trekking in Sherpa community of Gauri Shankar 2/3 Simigaun.

3.4 Techniques and Tools of Data Collection

Research is very serious work and the data collected form the basis of the study. The study collected both primary and secondary or contextual and textual data from the following data collection techniques and tools.

3.4.1 Observation

To meet the objectives of the study, researcher was involved in observing various social and economic impacts of trekking in Sherpa community of Simigaun. Using this technique, Sherpa's views towards trekking and tourism, changes of life and society selection of trekking area income, value of education, satisfaction and health were assessed.

3.4.2 Questionnaire

A set of questionnaire was prepared intending to capture the state of trekking in the study area. This questionnaire was pre-tested among 7 Sherpa trekking guides.. After the careful evaluation the pre-test results, some important modifications were made in the questionnaire. This questionnaire included both closed-ended as well as open-ended questions. A sample of the questionnaire used in this study has been included in the appendix too.

3.4.3 Semi-structured Interview/Key Informant Interview

For getting more insights on the study and for collecting more important qualitative data, key informant interview with various Sherpa who works as a trekking guide was carried out. Besides, a number of semi-structured interviews as well as some informal interviews were also undertaken. These informal and semi-structured interviews were conducted with 4 Sherpas with the view of generating their perspective social and economic impact of tourism and trekking in study area. This information was helpful to triangulate quantitative information. For the key informant interview, a semi-structured checklist was prepared and finalized by the help of Sherpa trekking guide.

3.4.4 Method of Data Analysis and Presentation

The primary and secondary collection data were edited, coded, tabulated, and analysed in an appropriate format. Quantitative data was analyzed using SPSS program in computer. The quantitative collected data of the study was analyzed and verified compared with the information obtained from other sources. For analysis, some basis statistical tools like frequency and percentage distribution have been used. Apart from this, maps, tables, figures, have also been used. Data analysis was done in close supervision of the advisor. Descriptive methods were used for the qualitative data.

3.5 Nature and Sources of Data

The study was mainly based on primary information taken from the personnel involved in trekking and tourism Sherpas from Gauri Shankar 2/3 Simigaun area. The primary data was collected during the field work. The primary data was both qualitative as well as quantitative in nature. Some secondary data was collected from different sources as per the need. Source of secondary data reference were published and unpublished works, document, reports, article, journals and key informant etc.

CHAPTER IV

INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDY AREA: HISTORY AND DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Nepal forms a rectangle on the southern slopes of the Himalaya and is without exception, the most stunning country imaginable. Dolakha district is popular for its attractions and beauty with peaceful environment luring everyone is one of the popular tourism hubs in South Asia. This chapter includes profile of Dolakha district and the glimpses of study region as well.

Nepal is located in the southern part of Asia on the southern slopes of the central Himalayas and occupies a total land area of 147,181 sq. km here, within the short span of 1983 km, the altitude rises from 60 m in the southern Terai belt to 8848 m in the northern Himalayans, the top of the world. Within this small area lie the eight of the 14 highest mountains (all over 8000 m) in the world including Everest the highest at 8848m. Between 83^o 58'33" east to 84^o02'30" longitude and 28^o10' to 28^o N longitude. Culturally different ethnic groups inhabit the country. Hence, these different human tribes are traditionally practicing different cultures which mean the country has a great assortment of cultures.

Biologically Nepal is rich biodiversity 25th position in the world (NTB, 2011). Due to its wonderful natural beauty and unique and multi-cultural features, Nepal has become an attractive destination for tourists from all over the world. The natural and man-made beauty of Nepal offers a wealth of sightseeing, recreation, and cultural activities to visitors ranging from viewing the challenging Himalayan range, tropical wildlife in Terai, art and architecture of the Kathmandu valley, and the charming and friendly Nepali people. From round the globe tourists choose this gifted country for thir holidays in order to mountain climb, trek, mountain bike, para glide, to visit wildlife parks and also to bird watch.

After the 1950 when Nepal opened for the world and linked to other countries, the best seller book 'Lost Horizon' introduced the word Shangri-la and gave a new vision

to the world with the imagination of Nepal to be like a heaven. Gorkha also helped to highlight the country (Bhatiya, 1975).

4.1 Introduction of Study area

Dolakha is located North East 133 KM from capital city of Kathmandu. Its total land area is 2191 sq km in the lowest part of the district is 732 meters up to 7134 above sea level. In the lap of Mt Gauri Shankar, Dolakha lies at between N longitude 27⁰28' 28⁰ to 85⁰50' to 86⁰32' East longitude elevation range. The map of illustrates in detail.

Map 1: Map of Nepal Indicating Dolakha district and Study region

Source: Google map, 2015

Dolakha district lies in Janakapur Zone of Nepal. Dolakha districts district headquarter is Charikot. There are 2 constituents, 2 municipalities, 47 VDC, 1 public hospital, 429 primary school, 91 secondary and 44 higher secondary schools and only 1 government collage up to masters' level in Dolakha district. The total households are 45688, with a total population 186,557 in Dolakha (CBS, 2011).

Dolakha contains many fine tourist areas e.g Gaurishankar, Sailung hill, the Jiri valley, Kalinchok temple and Bhimesor. Before starting air service the shortest route to go Mt Everest through Tasilapcha or Jiri was via Dolakha. Now many tourist routes are affected by motor road but the Rolwaling valley and Gaurishankar area have not been affected. The division to Dolakha district by health and education is as follows:

Table 4.1: Division of Dolakha District by health and education

constituent	2
municipality	2
VDC	46
public hospital	1
primary school	429
primary school	429
Lower secondary	176
secondary	91
higher secondary	44
government collage up to masters degree level	1
Total household	45688
population	186,557.

Source: DDV Dolakha annual report (2015)

4.2 Division of Dolakha District by Religion

Dolakha is one of the most popular Districts from the religious view, It has many famous Hindus temples and Buddhist Gompas and Stupas as well. But in the research it was found there are also Pakriti and Christians.

Table 4.2: Division of Dolakha District by Religion

Religion	Percentage
Hindus	67.8 %
Buddhist	22.3 %
Prakriti	8.7 %
Christian	1.63 %
Undefined	0.146 %
Kirant	0.02 %
islam	0.02 %

Source: DDC, Dolakha annual report (2015)

4.3 Ward-wise Profile of Gaurishankar VDC

Gauri Shankar VDCc 2/3 Simigaun has been taken as the study area. It is situated North East of Dolakha district of Janakpur zone. The village lies in the hilly region of the District. Gaurishankar is the most popular in mountain and the research area is in this vdc. There is a famous trekking route to go to Mt Everest through Tasilapcha and to climb many peaks around Tasilapcha pass. Thia VDC is located 1160 m-7134 meters above sea level in the lap of Gaurishankar. More than 80 percent land is covered by forest in the north side of village and 19 percent of land occupied for settlement and rest is river. The study area is in Gaurishankar VDC has total 287 households, total population is 2163 with the 1060 male and 1103 female (VDC report, 2015).

Table 4.3: Ward wise Profile of Gaurishankar VDC

Ward no	Household	Population	Male	Female
1	33	316	156	159
2	30	209	103	106
3	25	156	78	78
4	50	372	172	200
5	26	161	79	82
6	20	286	134	152
7	17	158	79	79
8	38	215	109	106
9	48	291	150	141
Total	287	2163	1060	1103

Source: VDC report (2015)

Research area Dolakha Gaurishankar 2/3, this area first explored by westerner for tourism when some member of the British Mt Everest reconnaissance of 1952 visited the Lapchi and this valley just to the north led by Wollasthan. They collected a number of botanical and zoological species. It was first discovered by westerners in 1951. When another British reconnaissance team for what was later to be the first successful Everest expedition approached the valley via manlungla pall to the north and Tashilapcha pass to the east.

4.4 When tourism started in Gauri Shankar

Sir Edmund Hillary has visited this area twice. Last trip to the village for the school building project which was funded himself. In 1952 a group of British mountaineers approached this valley through Barabise in the west guided by the knowledge of Hillary's exit from the valley via that route. The groups adventures were recorded along with many photographs in the book 'East of Kathmandu' It was the first written western record of the valley.

A group of Swiss mountaineers made an attempt on Gauri Shankar in 1954 although they illegally crossed the Manlung la too. The valley was also visited by another Swiss Tony Hagen as part of his geological survey of Nepal. In 1955 the British Royal Geographic society sponsored a short visit to this valley and others too. After 1964 this area was closed to the ordinary tourists. In this period an English botanist Station visited during the summer of 1964 and another foreign scholar granted permission to visit the valley by Michael Oppitz a German anthropologist and again opened this area was opened for the public in 1971.

4.5 Start of Tourism in Simigaun

According to oral tale collected from field study, Renurbu Sherpa from Simigaun went with AD Hillary to Rowaling trek as a porter (khurma) he was the first man from the valley who took tourists trekking.

4.6 Contribution to Tourism by Sherpa from Simigaun

When Sir Edmund Hilary came to visit this area the villagers from Simigaun joined in this trekking and climbing profession, Ever since it has been the main occupation of this villager apart from agriculture. More than 10 people climbed Mt Everest

including 3 ladies. In this village there are basic facilities, drinking water, trekking trails, mini hydropower, health post, primary school community lodge, and drinking water and a community lodge provided for tourists.

4.7 Profile of study area: General Characteristics of the Respondents

Sherpa of Simigaun have been residing in this place for 300 years. They were traditionally engaged in agriculture with the main crop being potatoes., In addition to this work carpentry, house builder, labor was also their traditional work. In this two Ward 2 mother group and each Ward has representative to paralegal committee of VDC level. The research area is economically better than before because tourism has improved peoples lifestyle. Later most of the Sherpas moved to Kathmandu after building house and sending children in private school, some of them got married with foreigner and settled abroad. Nowadays most of the people can speak English and are more advanced than other people because they worked with foreigners. Sherpas from this village know more about the world because of practical knowledge even though they are not all well educated. There is not much political influence in this society although there is multiparty system representation. Social harmony is good compared to other societies of Nepal. They celebrate their traditional programmes every month. Very small numbers of people are involved in work other than tourism and agriculture from this village.

4.7.1 Ward wise Household and Population of Study area

The study area is in Simigaun which is inside Gauri Shankar 2/3 hence, the study collected whole data from this area containing 55 households, with total population of 365 populations, 181 male and 184 female as shown in table 4.4.

Table 4.4: Ward wise Population of Study Area

Ward no	Household	Population	Male	Female
2	30	209	103	106
3	25	156	78	78
Total	55	365	181	184

Source: VDC Report (2015)

This chapter shows the clear presentation of the collected detailed data that can exhibit the actual social and economic impact of tourism in Sherpa community of Gaurishankar 2/3 Dolakha. The information collected from the study area are presented and analyzed under this section which deals with some important demographic characteristics such as income, education, religion, age position motivation, satisfaction etc. It provides analysis of socio-economic characteristics such as income, status, occupation, and information regarding inflow of tourists and impacts of tourism. From a sociological point of view, it reflects why most Sherpas from this are prefer to go trekking rather than do other work. According to the respondents there are many factors making them choose this profession. In case of trekking here is not only one specific factor, but multiple factors which are shown on this analysis with table.

4.7.2 Respondents by Age

For the research work, the researcher tried to meet all sorts of people from different age groups as well as occupation and sex. The impacts of the tourism have affected all the population. However they have different views and aspirations towards tourism sector in terms of different age. Certain age groups play a vital role in the industry. The age composition of respondents is depicted in the table.

Table 4.5: Respondents by Age

Age group	Frequency	Percent
Up to 25	2	4.0
25-35	14	28.0
35-45	12	24.0
45-55	9	18.0
Above 55	3	6.0
Not willing to tell	10	20.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2016

As shown by the table most of the respondent 28 .0 percent who were working in tourism were between 25-35 years old, 24.0 percent respondents were between 35-45 years. 18.0 percent from the age between 45-55 year. 20.0 percent were not willing to tell their age 6.0 percent above 55 years and 4.0 percent were up to 25 years. Thus, we

can say that people between 35-45 are the ones most engaged in the tourism profession from the Sherpa community of Simigaun. So the research shows that to work in tourism field physical fitnedd and youth is needed. That is why above 55 and below 25 yea age participant are low number.

4.7.3 Respondents by Gender

In every sector gender balance is very important. In the tourism field male and female are working. Most females are employed as helpers, or working in Reception, bars, as dancers, or working as cleaners. In trekking and mountaineering field it is mostly men who are employed.

Table 4.6: Respondents by Gender

Gender	Number	Percentage
Male	44	88%
Female	6	12%
Total	50	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table shows that 88 percent male and 12 percent female were involved in trekking and mountaineering Sherpa from the Simigaun, a very small number of females compared to males, but still it is to be expected because trekking and mountaineering is tough work .

4.7.4 Marital Status of Respondents

Marriage is a social phenomenon in human society. In the study area before tourism arrived nearly all marriages were arranged and from the same clan group. After the arrival of tourism there are many more inter-caste and also international marriages. in the society.

Table 4.7: Marital Status of Respondents

Marital Status	Frequency	Percent
Single	9	18.9
Married	41	82.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table above indicates that 82.0 percent respondents were married and 28.9 percent unmarried. Working in trekking and mountaineering now-a-days some people marry later. Being independent and working hard has a higher priority.

4.7.5 Religious Composition of Respondents

From religious point of view, Nepal is tolerant and harmonious from a religious point of view with a wide spread of Hinduism, Buddhism and other beliefs. But in this study, focusing on Sherpas almost all are Buddhists.

Table 4.8: Religious Composition of Respondents

Religion	Frequency	Percent
Buddhist	49	98.0
Not willing to tell	1	2.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2016

As divulged by table above, 98.0 percent of the respondents are Buddhist, whereas 2.0 percent are not willing to say. From the above table it is clear that most respondents are Buddhists because they are from Sherpa community. Sherpa society is predominantly a Buddhist society.

4.7.6 Educational Status of the Respondents

Educational qualification is an important variable in social and cultural research. They can illustrate the level of knowledge and awareness among people. Role of education also depends on the status of people in their working field or society. In tourism sector quality personality is as important as qualification. In the matter of Sherpa who are involved in trekking the ability to communicate in English is of the most importance. The following table presents the educational qualification of the respondents of this research study.

Table 4.9: Educational Status of the Respondents

Education	Frequency	Percent
Under SLC	29	58.0
SLC	8	16.0
+2	9	18.0
Bachelor	3	6.0
Masters	1	2.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table above indicates that 58.0 percent were under SLC or just literate, while 16.0 percent were SLC passed, 18.0 percent of them were +2 passed, and 6.0 percent were Bachelor Level passed. Only 2.0 percent were Master passed. Thus educational status of those in the trekking profession was relatively poor with more than half of them with qualification under SLC. But trekking is field work so to be physically fit is more important even if there is different level education. Being able to communicate with clients is most important.

CHAPTER V

SHERPAS INVOLVEMENT IN TREKKING TOURISM

Sustainable tourism can be seen as having regard to ecological and socio-cultural carrying capacities and includes involving the community of the destination in tourism development planning. It also involves integrating tourism to match current economic and growth policies so as to mitigate some of the negative economic and social impacts of 'mass tourism'. Murphy (1985) advocates the use of an 'ecological approach', to consider both 'plants' and 'people' when implementing the sustainable tourism development process. This is in contrast to the 'boosterism' and 'economic' approaches to tourism planning, which consider the detrimental ecological or sociological impacts of tourism development to a destination.

However, Butler questions the exposition of the term 'sustainable' in the context of tourism, citing its ambiguity and stating that "the emerging sustainable development philosophy of the 1990s can be viewed as an extension of the broader realization that a preoccupation with economic growth without regard to its social and environmental consequences is self-defeating in the long term." Thus 'sustainable tourism development' is seldom considered as an autonomous function of economic regeneration as separate from general economic growth.(WCED, 1987)

After talking with Sherpa respondents how to sustain tourism in the future, they reported their advice. Sustainable government and government policy needs to help maintain a healthy environment, to explore new trails for tourists instead of road extension in the hills and to open more peaks for tourists to climb., People from the research area thought every year tourist entry rate is increasing but employment opportunities are getting less because of too many people being involving in this profession. This region of Dolakha is not only for trekking and mountaineering, it is for every interest and in all seasons, so the tourism market is widened. For these all activities many sectors are involve in tourism.

5.1 Motivational Factors that Attract to Involve in Trekking

Tourism plays a vital role in increasing the national income and providing employment. Many people were involved in trekking do so not just to earn money but also because they enjoy the work and the chance to be with tourists. According to respondents there are many contributing factors to choosing this profession. These multiple factors are given in the table below.

Table 5.1: Motivational Factors that Attract to Involve in Trekking

Factor	Frequency	percent
Better income	35	70.0
Interesting	4	8.0
To visit new places	7	14.0
Others	2	4.0
all of above	2	4.0
total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table above indicates that 70.0 percent were involve in tourism in order to earn a etter income, while 14.0 percent enjoy visiting new places., 8.0 percent of respondents involve because they find the work interesting, 4.0 percent were others and 4.0 percent were all of above. Thus the main motivational factor that attracts them to trekking is for better income according to more than half respondents.

Case I

My name is Nima Chiri Sherpa. I was born in Gaurishankar 3 Simigaun Dolakha. I have 3 daughters. My wife's name is Lakpa Lhamu Sherpa, my mother's name is also lakpa lhamu Sherpa. I want to recognize myself as a trekking guide. I have spent around 30 years in trekking profession. Before join in trekking I was a house builder but it was hard to earn enough to run my family and myself. Hence I joined in trekking with support from my relatives. It was good for income and interesting work and visit new places with the guests. Most of our guests were from Singapore. It was very similar number of tourist by sex. But it was very hard to work because of my poor education and many time I get cheated by others and felt dominated. Later I learned to speak English. In trekking I got to learn about ethics and culture from them,

like to be honest and careful and not bother the guests and not smoke in front of them, and do not drink hard beverages during working hours. It was hard to control the team and as the leader I had to face many problems in order to make a successful trip.

In early days with tented trekking 7-9 staffs were needed, but nowadays mostly stay in lodges and only one porter and a guide is enough. So in the view of employment camping trek is better than tea house trek. Before it took 25 days for Annapurna circuit, but now only 14 days are required. Likewise, previously it needed 10-12 days for ABC trek but now only 6-7 days are required. So I can say trekking business is 50 % down comparing 20 years ago. That is tough competition for trekking agents. I have visited many places during my trekking like Mt Everest, Annapurna, and Manaslu. It was good for my family and country tourism sector is very good in many ways. Trekking is a great job for those people who are interested to work with nature, You need knowledge about trekking routes and need to be physically fit.

5.2 Training for Trekking Guides

The mind is made sharper by training so people need training in their lives to be more qualified. Training is a medium for empowering people to use their potential in their working life. Training for trekking staff is provided formally by the Tourism Department as well as by private companies in Nepal.

Table 5.2: Training for trekking guide

Trained or not	Frequency	Percent
Yes	47	94.0
No	2	4.0
Not willing to tell	1	2.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table above indicates that 94.0 percent were trained and only 4.0 percent respondent was not trained for trekking profession. Those who got training received it from government people.

5.3 Income from Trekking

Income plays a very significant role for the decision making level of people to choose any profession in their life. The is the main sources of income of respondents is from trekking and also farming. Few of the respondents did any other work.

Table 5.3: Income from Trekking

Response	Frequency	Percent
Main Income	10	20.0
Partial Contribution	26	52.0
Not willing to tell	14	28.0
total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table above indicates that 52.0 percent were involve in tourism part time, while 28.0 percent were not willing to tell, For 20.0 percent of respondents trekking is their main/sole income. Very small number of respondent said they got full support, at least enough to run their family for the whole year- a minimum of 2- 3 lakhs.

5.4 Inspirer for this Profession

To get involved in any sector you need link from somewhere or through somebody. So in this research according to respondents they got their connections through family and friends s so each and every body got the chance to join in trekking and tourism.

Table 5.4: Inspirer for this Profession

Inspirer for this profession	Frequency	Percent
Yourself	12	24.0
With parents	14	28.0
With friends	22	44.0
Other	1	2.0
Both parents and friends	1	2.0
total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table above indicates that shows 44.0 percent of respondents became involved in this profession through friends, 28.0 percent were through parents, 24.0 came direct connection and 2.0 percent were parents and friends both.

5.5 Position of Respondents

In every sector position plays the vital role in society. The position is either gain or by birth. In trekking and mountaineering position is according to the work they do. Names of such positions are given below.

Table 5.5: Position of Respondents

Post	Frequency	Percent
Trekking guide	28	55.0
Climbing guide	6	12.0
Tour leader	2	4.0
Cook	4	8.0
Helper	2	4.0.0
Teacher	2	4.0.0
Assistant guide	1	2.0
Not willing to tell	5	10.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table above shows that 55.0 percent respondents were trekking guides, 12.0 percent climbing guide, 10.0 percent not willing to tell, said its easy and similar number 8.0 percent of respondent were cook 4.0 percent trekking helper, similar number of respondents were teachers. 2.0 percent were assistant guide, according to the data respondents from research area mostly involved in trekking. Just 4.0 percent were teachers and 10.0 percent were not willing to tell their position.

5.6 Main routes of Trekking with Tourist

Nepal is an open museum as well as known as being known as the Himalaya country with the ‘crown of world’- Mount Everest. This is a great attraction factor for tourists. Annually thousands of tourists inter this country via air and land. Our government policy also aims to increase the visitor numbers every year. Main routes by trekkers are shown below:

Table 5.6: Main Routes of Trekking with Tourist

Main routes trekking with tourist	routes	Responses
		N
	Annapurna	39
	Everest	36
	Langtang	4
	others	2
	81	

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table above indicates that 78.0 percent trekker used to go trekking in the Annapurna area, 72.0 percent respondent went to the Everest side, 8% of respondent went to Langtang and only 4.0 percent went to other areas of Nepal. Thus Annapurna area is the first choice of tourist.

5.7 Trekking with Tourist in a Year

Trekking is seasonal job. It is good to go out to trek or climb in autumn and spring. So in these two seasons involve in trekking with trekker, according to research how often they got chance to go trek in a year is below.

Table 5.7: Trekking with tourist in a year

Number of times	Frequency	Percent
1-5	43	86.0
6-10	3	6.0
More than 10 times	3	6.0
Not willing to tell	1	2.0
total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table above shows that 86.0 percent respondents went trekking 1-5 times in a year, 6.0 percent went 6-10 times, 6.0 percent more than 10 times and only 2.0 percent not willing to tell.

Case II

My name is Pasang Sherpa born in 1948 in Gauri Shankar VDC ward no 3 Simigaun Dolakha, I have 4 daughters and 3 sons. Permanently I am from Simigaun Gauri Shankar but now I am living in Kathmandu. I have been involved in trekking since 2075 at the age of 17 years old. I started as a porter (*Khurma*). Before being involved in trekking I was a teacher for 2 years in a primary level school which established in Rowaling village by Sir Edmund Hillary. In my time I went for Secondary education to Tashinam –the next village. After I finished class five I went to teach in that village as well which two days is walking from my village. I was the first man who got secondary education and got chance to be teacher from Simigaun.

When I was teaching in that village I saw tourists and trekkers in that area, I can remember the first group came from Japan to climb Mt Melungche in Rolwaling. After that a lot of trekkers came in the area. so I thought to go trekking with tourist rather than being teacher, so I left teaching and started trekking. I was first to be teacher from my village and also first to be trekking guide too from my village. My elder brother Rinarbu Sherpa was the first man went to trek with Edmund Hillary. It was not easy in those days to get trekking work even as a porter because there were few trekkers and many people wanted to work. Later, when I was able to establish a trekking office in partnership name ‘Pabel trek’ then I started to employ my villager.

So I am the first man who established a trekking office from Gauri Shankar and since then I am working in this sector. It’s good for family and self. Main things you need to be honest and hard worker. This is just seasonal job so you can do trekking and farming together. During the trekking period I have been to China/Tibet, to Mount Kailash and to India. My biggest expedition was in 1988 which was international event to climb Mount Everest which I organized.

It is good for income now I am socially respected person as well as economically okay, I sent my children to privet school, so I am happy with trekking profession. Without trekking all this are not possible in my life. I am the oldest person from Simigaun village in the history of trekking. Now I feel I have done well for my family as well as for my villagers, trekking is far better compared to teaching or other job. During trekking I have been to many places. It was hard work but great experience for my life.

5.8 Perception towards the involvement in Trekking Sector

Every field has their own object in this research, I tried to find out the guides perception towards their involvement in trekking. They say nothing is easy, but it depends on each person and how they take it with their profession. In order to understand how the trekking personnel perceive the change in their social status after their involvement in this profession, they were asked.

Table 5.8: Perception towards the Involvement in Trekking Sector

Perception	Frequency	Percent
Hard work	41	82.0
Easy work	2	4.0
Not good income	2	4.0
Other	3	6.0
Not willing to tell	2	4.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table above shows that 82.0 percent respondents said to work in trekking is hard, 6.0 percent said otherwise, 4.0 percent said its easy and similar number 4.0 percent of respondent said that they did not get a good income. Same number of respondent 4.0 not willing to tell about their perception towards this profession. According to data more than half respondents said trekking work in the mountains as a profession is hard work but rewarding.

5.9 Experience of this Profession

Nepal is such a beautiful country with great mountains, but its tourism in Nepal is fairly recent and when it opened to other countries then it quickly became famous and popular. The Research area is also well known as a tourist route famous route.

Table 5.9: Experience of this Profession

Experience In Years	Frequency	Percent
1-5	21	42.0
6-10	9	18.0
11-15	9	18.0
16 above	10	20.0
Not willing to	1	2.0
total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table above shows that 42% percent respondents have 1-5 years, experience, 20% had 6-10 years experience, 18% respondents had 11-15 year experience, and a similar number of respondents 18 % got above 16 years and only 2% percent not willing to tell their experience. According to data most of respondents have 1-5 years experience in trekking profession.

5.10 Satisfaction in Trekking

If you are working in any field to be satisfied is the main thing and it is not easy, in this research to find out the level of satisfaction from those who work in the trekking field. In order to understand how the trekking profession changes social status after their involvement in this profession, they were asked questions. This was particularly important as it reflects the type/level of satisfaction that these professional personnel have been getting from the current involvement. The following table demonstrates the way the respondents perceive the change in their own social status.

Table 5.10: Satisfaction in Trekking

Level of Satisfaction	Frequency	Percent
Fully	14	28.0
Partially	35	70.0
Not willing to tell	1	2.0
total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table above shows that 70 percent respondents were partially satisfied. 28 percent were fully satisfied and only 2 percent respondents not willing to tell. According to

data more than half respondents were fully or partially satisfied with the trekking profession which gives them their main support in life.

5.11 Qualities to be a good Trekking Guide

To work in anywhere normally needs basic knowledge about the related field, In trekking sector working with international guests and walking in unknown area is not an easy job, so we tried to find out which is the most important out of given qualities.

Table 5.11: Qualities to be a Good Trekking Guide

Qualities to be a good Trekker	Responses	Percent of cases
Education	40	81.6
Skills of team work	5	10.2
Physical ability	10	20.4
Knowledge of trekking route	5	10.2
All of above	3	6.1
total	63	

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table above shows that 81.0 percent respondents said education ,20 percent thought physical ability, 10 percent felt skills of tem work the similar number of respondent 10.2 percent said knowledge of trekking route and 6.1 percent said all of above. According to respondents all are needed but comparatively education is most important factor of to be good trekker.

5.12 Primary Profession

Each and everybody involves in different fields but there is some with a main occupation which lasts that is called the ‘primary profession’ and is the most important one to have.

Table 5.12: Primary Profession of Respondent

Responses	Responses	Percent of Cases
Farmer	40	80.0
Business	6	12.0
Trekking	45	90.0
others	2	4.0
total	93	

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table above shows that 90.0 percent respondent's primary profession was trekking. 80.0 percent were farmer, 12.0 percent in business, only 4.0 percent in other profession. Mainly Nepalese primary profession is farm but in this research area is small Sherpa village and famous trekking route so most of respondent worked in trekking that's why maximum respondent's primary profession was trekking.

Case III

My name is Danuri Sherpa I am from Gaurishankar 2 Dolakha. I am first son of my father and mother. I am married and have three sons. I had no any formal qualification in any Nepali school but I got Buddhist (Lamanism) education experience for 4 years. After my father's death I left my study and started to help my Mother with the farming.

I am involved in trekking since 2034 BS in the age of 18 years old, with the support of my relatives. First 6 years I worked as porter (*Khurma*) and kitchen boy in Summit Trekking office then as a cook for 5 years. After that I learnt English language then start to work as a Sardar (looking after tourist's accommodation) and guide. I started to climb mountain in 1986 AD I got 3 month climbing training in Switzerland and 1 month in France. I climbed Mount Everest in 1997 AD. I was the first man to climb Mount Everest from my village Simigaun, since that I have been climbing mountain (khangri). And now I have climbed 29 times over 7000 meters. I have visited South America, Europe and Russia for tourism purposes. So trekking is my main income source which helped to change my life. Before starting tourism I was a farmer in my village with basic accommodation. Now I have a house in Kathmandu, I sent my three sons to private school. I live in Kathmandu with my family and I also work for my

society in my village. Now economically far better than before and also am a socially respected person, I like to help needy people and places, In tourism trekking is good for those who cannot invest in any business. They can just go for trekking in trekking season and after finishing season go back home to help family. In trekking you need to be fully dedicated because if you got complaints about your work, then you will loss opportunities for the future.

In my view we have made major contributions towards Himalayan mountaineering. It is a dangerous sport. We \make money, and perhaps become famous but also many Sherpas died because of sickness or accidents. Tourism helps economically backward regions of a country, improves international understanding between different nations and among the people, widening the knowledge and promoting different races and cultures. Nowadays its being more competitive get work because new the young generation are better educated than our generation. Also so many travel agencies have opened so even if tourist numbers grow there are fewer jobs available. For more support and to make a better future in tourism we should improve our qualifications and expand trekking into new areas.

CHAPTER VI

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF TOURISM IN THE SHERPA COMMUNITY

This chapter portrays the social and economic impact of tourism in the Sherpa community with a detail scrutiny of their involvement in trekking tourism and the consequent impact on their lives.

6.1 Social and Economic Impact of Tourism

Human beings are social animals and their existence is influenced by their society. For the existence of society there are certain norms and cultures which help people to exist in the society. Over the decades, tourism has experienced continued growth. Modern tourism is closely linked to development and encompasses growing number of new destinations. These dynamics have turned tourism into a key driver for socio-economic progress. Tourism has become one of the major players in international commerce, and represents at the same time one of the main income sources for many developing countries. This growth goes hand in hand with increasing competition among destinations. The contribution of tourism to economic well-being depends on the quality and the revenues received (Stevens, 1996)

6.2 Impact of Tourism in Social Relation

Every society has their own social norms and values and the Sherpa community in Simigaun has the same as every other society. In the past there was more close interaction within the society rather than at present. It shows in their participation in the local festivals and gatherings. Nowadays it is getting less because most of the Sherpas live in Kathmandu. Also some of the well off people does not feel comfortable to go to every type of gathering. But still comparing other societies the people in this area is helpful to each other when in need. In the trekking season mainly October/November and March/April most of villagers go trekking so during that time if there is any people got sick or accident only teachers or old age people will be in the village. So those people help to carry down to the road head to get a bus and send to hospital. Also they will help each other with cash loans for funerals, wedding or building a new house.

6.3 Impact of Tourism in Economic Sector

The rise of the tourist economy in Simigaun has brought in a great deal more cash into the society than they ever had in the past. It has become more a cash based economy. In the past it was a barter economy exchanging grain and other goods among society. It lies on a tourist route and the Sherpa from this are go trekking so whilst goods and crops are more valuable than money in the village many Sherpas who get a good income from trekking have left their land and house and moved to Kathmandu. Some Sherpa who works teachers in the government school or work on farms and the local shopkeeper they are still comparatively poor and are still living in the village. Some Sherpa who had private school education are also involved in trekking to earn money. Also some Sherpa girls went to Arabian countries as housekeepers or after getting nursing education, as nurses. So education is second priority in this society because of job opportunity. However advanced education is not necessary to carry out trekking work. Sherpa people get on well with tourists if they speak just a little English language. Thus the overall impact of tourism is positive in the Sherpa community of Simigaun.

6.4 Impact of Tourism on Education

Trekking has been the main way to change the lives of the Sherpa community in Simigaun, There is only one Primary level school in the village. Many of the original Sherpa children are in schools in Kathmandu so in the village now there are also Sherpa and Tamang children from the poorer families who need a local school. Many of the well off Sherpas hires Tamangs to look after their houses and fields in the village. Some of the Sherpas who are still in the village also send their children to Kathmandu. In the Primary school there are three Sherpa teachers but for the first time the school Chairman is not a Sherpa.

6.5 impact of tourism in drinking water

Before tourism and in the Panchayat period there was one water irrigation point for whole villager, Later a tourist from America organized drinking water door to door piped to each and every house. The water was brought from the river northeast of village called the Ghattekhol. After another few years again next tourist provided more water to door to door to new houses which had been built after the first water scheme. So now they also have some water to irrigate vegetable patches and spices.

So, the link with tourists, improved English speaking in the village has helped contact with foreigners and helped the village development.

6.5 Impact of Tourism on Religion

Normally trekking season is in spring and autumn so same time there are Sherpa festivals. So often at the time of Losar (New Year) the trekking Sherpas are away and they cannot be at home. But they can come for the summer, monsoon time festivals. Also when the village was only Sherpas then the religion was only Buddhist. But now also there are some Hindus in the village and there has been some conversion to Christianity. In the old days all the Buddhists could collect in one place at the stupa but that is not so easy now. So from this point of village religion the impact of tourism and development has not been good.

6.7 Impact of Tourism in Culture Change

This village is at around 1850 ms altitude so it cool year round and cold in the winter. That is why Sherpas used to be wear bakkhu (Sherpa dress) every women and eat dhido. Nowadays only old age women wear traditional dress. Most of girls wear trouser rather than bakkhu because it is easy to walk around for trekking and mountaineering. Even those ladies who do not go trekking also wear trousers and t-shirt. Also it is fancy/fashion for them. Also nowadays they do not often wear saris. So indeed the arrival of foreign visitors/tourists has had an impact on the old culture. Also some of the villagers can speak English and a few a little French or German. Also they speak more Nepali and less Sherpa so indeed there have been changes.

6.8 Impact of Tourism on Agriculture

Tourism has been reported to have had a number of adverse effects on local subsistence agriculture in Sherpa community of Simigaun. The fact that more potatoes and little millet, mazes, wheat are grown for food. Tourism can have major indirect impacts on land use, labor and lifestyles these are the factors which are thought to have transformed Sherpa's agriculture. Whereas some of these reported impacts are indeed significant others rather less important than has been imagined. Inflation in agricultural day – labor rate has grown up. So most of land are not used in that area because of migration of Sherpas. The main thing is those crops are not getting good

market prices comparing farming cost and produce less income compared to trekking. Agriculture is given lower priority in the village compared to trekking/tourism work.

6.9 Impact of Tourism in Pasturing

Tourism has played a great role in bringing changes in pastoralism in Sherpa community of Simigaun. There used to be yak in this community but for some years these are no more, because now there is a shortage of labour as most villagers are working in the tourist industry. Yaks and zopyaks are neither cheap to buy nor easy to keep so now there are only some cows and goats in the village. Recently there was just one house who still had two yaks, but they were sold two years ago due a shortage of labour to look after them.

6.10 Tourism and the Environment

Impact of tourism in Simigaun forest has brought degradation of the environment with trash along the trails and some wood loss due to cooking and heating needs of tourists. New lodges have also been developed but this is not harming the environment as kitchen gardens and toilets have also been built. Recently an Australian funded project assisted with the construction of toilets also for all houses. All this has helped increase environmental awareness amongst the villagers. This is due in essence to the arrival of tourism in the area.

CHAPTER VII

SUMMARY, FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Summary

This study focused its research activities on the social and economic impact of tourism amongst the Sherpa community of Simigaun. The study area was undertaken in Gaurishankar 2/3 Simigaun village, a popular tourism route, which is situated in the Northeast part of Dolakha District of Janakpur Zone. Thus the general objective of the study is to analyze the social and economic impact of tourism on the Sherpa community of Simigaun. The specific objectives are to analyze the contributions of Sherpa in trekking and mountaineering inside tourism and assessing the views of Sherpas regarding the coming generation in tourism.

This study employed both exploratory as well as descriptive research designs in order to analyze the ways tourists make perceptions about Nepal and to evaluate the challenges involved in the trekking and mountaineering profession. The scope of this study included all the Sherpa of Gaurishankar 2/3 Simigaun village. 50 Sherpas were sampled as respondents by following systematic sampling. The unit of the analysis was 'the trekking guide'. The study was mainly based on primary information taken from personnel involved in trekking as well as mountaineering who work in tourism from Gaurishankar 2/3 Simigaun Dolakha. The primary data was both qualitative as well as quantitative in nature. Some secondary data were collected from the different sources like published and unpublished works, document, reports, article, journals, etc.

Techniques and tools of data collection used in this research were by observation, and the use of questionnaire papers. Also key informant interviews with various stakeholders were carried out. Besides, a number of semi-structured interviews as well as some informal interviews were undertaken. The primary and secondary collection data were recorded, edited, tabulated, and analyzed in the appropriate format. Quantitative data were analyzed using SPSS program in computer. For analysis,

some basic statistical tools like frequency and percentage distribution have been used. Apart from this map, tables, charts, diagrams have also been used.

Most of the Sherpas from Simigaun now live permanently in Kathmandu with their families. The perception of the Sherpa trekking guides towards their profession is not always the same. Some of them were happy with it and some were not. Also some Sherpa left the village and came to Kathmandu and then went on to the Middle East countries because of the lack of opportunity in trekking.

7.2 Major Findings

According to data the total population of the study area was 365 and out of which 181 male and 184 female. During the survey it was learned that the study area was opened in 1971 for foreign tourists to visit. The local history of trekking shows that the first man from the area to be involved in tourism was Renarbu Sherpa who also went trekking with Sir Edmund Hillary. It has been found that Sherpa of different ages are engaged in tourism mainly trekking and mountaineering from Simigaun.

The majority of the respondents were male, with some female. Education and physical fitness is most important for trekking and mountaineering. Respondents had different educational qualifications ranging from just literate; SLC passed, to university graduates. Majority of the respondents were just literate and had very little English language ability. Data shows that the respondents were only Buddhist. Importantly a few respondents said that they have no belief in religion. Less than half of the respondents were living in a joint family and the rest were living in a nuclear family. More than half respondents live in Kathmandu permanently and some of them part time village and part Kathmandu. For a vast majority of the respondent their primary profession is agriculture. 39 percent of the respondents went to the Annapurna area for trekking with the tourist. As expected the respondents reported that most tourist came for trekking to spend their holiday time. Data shows that a vast majority of the respondents got economically partial help from trekking. It has also been found that a majority of the respondents sent their children to private school after being involved in tourism. This reflected their economic gain. Total respondents from research area thought that their lifestyle had changed due to tourism.

All respondents used to depend on agriculture before they started tourist work. Trekking has been found to be less than before due to the road network extension affecting trekking routes. It has also been found that only few Sherpas became qualified climbing guide and only one achieved international climbing guide level. The rest remained ordinary guide, helper or cook. More than 70 percent of respondents are involved in trekking for improved income. Most of respondents came to trekking through their friends. Most i.e. 60 percent of the respondents earn more than Rs 2 lakhs in a year from the trekking. It has also been discovered that most of respondents felt they are dominated by others because of their lack of education. To improve the quality of man power, the Government should provide training and have firm rules governing the tourism sector. Most of the respondents perceive the future of tourism to be not very positive.

7.3 Conclusions

The findings made from this research there has been a social and economic impact on the Sherpas of Gaurishankar 2/3 Simigaun Dolakha from Tourism. Most of them have experienced some improvement in their social status. With increased satisfaction and income they have invested in tourism with more education and more training. This will also help with promotion of tourism in Nepal. On the one hand tourism has been providing their life by offering them improved employment opportunities and on the other hand people from the same village improved their economic and social status compared with pre tourism times. This also may affect religious and cultural systems in the villages in the future.

Tourism bought new life in the Sherpa community, which is a big gain for them, rather than depending on agriculture in the traditional way. They started trekking as just porters or kitchen boys but are now cooks or qualified guides. In this way, they have been contributing very positively for the tourism sector not only in this village but also in Nepal and to international mountaineering. Though tourism has been main income source for Sherpas Gauri Shankar 2/3 Simigaun Dolakha, their contribution has been made more or less invisible while talking about the bigger scene of tourism in other Sherpa communities like Solukhumbu. As a result, they have not been getting sufficient attention for their own promotion from government side and have been facing problems of varied sorts. Thus, it can be concluded that it's the high time for

the recognition of their contribution and thereby their promotion so that they play much enhanced role in the promotion of overall tourism sector of Nepal.

The findings from this research indicated that the socio economic impact of tourism in Sherpa community has been good, but not as much as they hoped for. Nowadays tourists are coming from more different countries than before but the job opportunity is getting less because of tough competition among many trek and travel agencies and the reduction in available trekking trails due road extensions in trekking areas. That is why coming generations cannot depend only on trekking. It is a seasonal job so for many trekking guides like this and wishes to continue working in trekking. It is better rather than other business or job because there is no need to invest any money to work in trekking. The people from Simigaun who work in trekking have a better life than those in the village who do not.

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Semi -structured interview

General Introduction

Date-----

Sample no-----

Name of the respondents-----

Address-----

Religion----- Marital status Single Married

Cast /ethnicity-----

Post-----

Qualification

Literate	Illiterate
A-under SLC B-SLC C - +2 D – Bachelor E -Masters	

1. How long have you been in this profession?
 - a. 1-5 years
 - b. 6-10 years
 - c. 11-15 years
 - d. 16-above
2. What are the sources of your family income?
 - a. farmer
 - b. business
 - c. Government job
 - d. others
3. What is your primary profession?
 - a. farmer
 - b. business
 - c. trekking
 - d. others
4. What is your secondary profession except trekking?
 - a. farmer
 - b. business
 - c. student
 - d. others
5. Are you trained or not?
 - a. Yes
 - b. no
 - i. If yes from where?
 - a. Government agency
 - b. private agency
 - c. day
 - d. month

- ii. how many times?
 - a. 1-5
 - b. 5-10
- 6. What are the motivational factors that attract you to involve trekking?
 - a. better income
 - b. interesting
 - c. to visit new place
 - d. other
- 7. Which part do you mostly go for trekking with tourists?
 - a. Everest
 - b. Annapurna
 - c. Langtang
 - d. others
- 8. How to, you been in this profession?
 - a. Yourself
 - b. with parents
 - c. with friends
 - d. Other
- 9. How often do you for trekking with tourist in a year?
 - a. 1-5 times
 - b. 6-10 times
 - c. More than 10
- 10. What are tourist's major activities in trekking?
 - a. Mountaineering
 - b. trekking
 - c. bird watching
 - d. rafting
- 11. In which extent are you satisfied in trekking?
 - a. fully
 - b. partially
- 12. What do you think, is a problem while being the involve in trekking sector?
 - a. hard to work
 - b. easy to work
 - c. not good income
 - d. other
- 13. What positive aspects did you get to interact with tourists?
 - a. cultural exchange
 - b. source of income
 - c. access to visit new place
 - d. other
- 14. What you need to be good trekkers helper, out of these factors
 - a. education
 - b. skills of team work
 - c. physical ability
 - d. knowledge of trekking route
- 15. What is your perception about the role of education in trekking?
 - a. easy to interact with tourist
 - b. chance to get more opportunity
 - c. low chance to cheat from agency
 - d. other
- 16. Do you know about ethics of tourism?
 - a. yes
 - b. some
 - c. no

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