

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Travelling is one of man's prehistoric activities. Primordial man moved around the world mainly under economic or climatic pressures. The human capacity to adapt to living conditions in different parts of the globe is quite extraordinary. Consequently, man made use of this physical potential in order to search for necessary objects which were not accessible in his immediate environment, such as grazing ground, salt and similar facilities and objects. Migration has always been a search for something immediately inaccessible (Inguanez, 1992). Tourism is expanding at drastically annually at the global level. World Tourism Organization observes that tourism has now become one of the world's largest industries. Tourism is now a fast-growing economic phenomenon throughout the world as a result of urbanization, industrial development, easier travel and rising living standards. At present, almost half the world's population travels away from home for at least a four day trip in its own country and a further 300 million people cross international borders (Holloway, 1988). This has made tourism a social fact of great magnitude, and as such a suitable object of sociological analysis.

There has been a considerable growth of tourism in Nepal. It not only generates income but also help to rise direct employment in all the segments. Hotel industry, trekking and mountaineering, although in seasonal character, trekking employment especially may be a road to open the door of development for many exquisite places. Which still remain in dark? Therefore, the need of proper evaluation of the impact of tourism into national economy is felt necessary to understand the extent of economic development led by tourism in Nepal (Sharma, 2012).

There are immense natural resources in Nepal which have created a good possibility of making tourism industry a major contributing sector for economic growth. Well planned activities must be carried out for realizing this opportunity. Without properly planned development and visitor management, the success of tourism sector is likely to be

ephemeral. Without formulating achievable plans and devoid of their proper execution, it is obvious that tourism sector cannot contribute to the development of the country. Nonetheless, in some cases, negative impacts may result from the presence of tourists and their behavior patterns.

The places located in mountain regions of Nepal, especially Sikles, are heavily gifted with tourism resources such as natural virginity, cultural diversity and piety. For getting most out of the tourism industry, it requires a deep understanding of the visitor's patterns and perceptions as well as their motivations.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Nepal is a land of natural wonders and cultural diversity. This small country has unlimited possibilities of promoting various kinds of tourism. In Nepal tourism holds greater importance in socio-economic sector. Tourism Statistics 2016 of Nepal showed 729,550 foreign tourists visited Nepal in 2016. The number of foreign tourist visiting Nepal in 2016 increased by 24% as compared to 2015. A total number of 554,747 tourists had visited Nepal in 2015 while the number of tourist was up by 174,803 in 2016 as compared to 2015.

The National Plan of Nepal has recognized Tourism as a crucial alternative economic activity of the country. Tourism is also considered as a priority sector due to its potential to contribute in providing rural development and increasing income at the local levels. It has contributed to increase the domestic and international investments in the productive sectors. Tourism is also relatively a more stable than other industries to cope with the impending crisis. Given this, it has become important to comprehend the tourists perception on the area they have visited. Their psychology, motivational level on tourism are vital in boosting the tourism industry. Likewise, their visit and tourist inflow create certain impact on host community- social, environmental and economic.

In this context, it has become important to carry out studies in order to find out the interests of tourists in tourism resources and their visiting trends and their perception and experiences. This study is focused in finding out answers to the following research questions:

- What tourism resources of Sikles attract tourists the most?
- Why do people visit Sikles? What are their expectations?
- What do they feel when they return back from Sikles? Are the expectations met?
- What is the general social effect of tourism in Sikles?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The general objective of this study is to examine foreign tourist's tourism experiences in Sikles and the social effects of tourism in host community.

The specific objectives are:

- to explore the tourism resources that appeal tourist most in Sikles.
- to find out tourists, motivations and to analyze whether their expectation have been met.
- to find out social effects of tourism in Sikles

### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

Though there are an increasing number of tourist in-flow in Nepal, there is relatively few studies about the motivations of tourists. This research study is based on field work carried out in November-December 2016 to find out the types of tourists that visit Sikles, what they expect before their visit, what are their perceptions and experiences after their visit and what, in general, is the of tourism activities in Sikles. This study will fulfill the gap of knowledge in this field by furthering the knowledge of the market. Such an understanding may also provide a basis for the improved management of tourists for environmental and other developmental goals.

Number of natural resources in Nepal create a good possibility of making tourism industry a major contributing sector for economic growth. Well planned activities must be carried out for realizing this opportunity. Without properly planned development and visitor management, the success of tourism sector is likely to be ephemeral. Without formulating achievable plans and devoid of their proper execution, it is obvious that tourism sector cannot contribute to the development of the country. Nonetheless, in some cases, negative impacts may result from the presence of tourists and their behavior patterns. Therefore the knowledge gained from this research may help in formulating

tourism plans in Nepal. For getting most out of the tourism industry, it requires a deep understanding of the visitor's patterns and perceptions as well as their motivations. The results of this study could be applicable to improved management of tourists in Sikles.

The systematic management of tourism activities will result to more foreign currency earning and economic growth. There will be a significance of this research in local people for flourishing their tourism business and earning more foreign currency. Infrastructures will be improved and new facilities will be maintained. Traditional customs, festivals will be preserved. Tourism will bring cultural interchange and understanding resulting to global cultural knowledge in people of Sikles.

### **1.5 Operational Definition of Terms Used in Study**

**Perception -** View of the local people of Sikles Village of Parche

**Local people-** Inhabitants living in the periphery of Sikles village.

**Inflow -** A large amount of people that moves or is transferred into Sikles for tourism.

**Tourist-** A person who is travelling or visiting a place for pleasure in Sikles village.

**Tourism -** The commercial organization and operation of vacations and visit to place of interest in Sikles village.

**Attitude-** Is a psychological tendency that is expressed by evaluating a particular entity with some degree of favor or disfavor of Sikles village.

**Communities-**This is a group of people who have some religion, race, and occupation with shared interest and a common identity. They also have similar feeling, attitude, perceptions and aspiration toward tourism development of Sikles village.

**Host Community-** Local People's Community of Sikles village of Parche.

### **1.6 Limitations of the Study**

The study has been conducted in Sikles which is located 36.5 km north east of Pokhara. There were total 70 tourist visiting Sikles in the period of November-December, 2016 but the researcher collected data from 50 tourist in Sikles in one month period. Viability

of limited time for research is the main limitation of this research as all total 70 tourist visiting Sikles were not available for data collection.

The conclusion drawn from this limited study may not indicate the whole tourists of the country or every of tourism perception in Sikles. Hence generalization of finding may not be possible. This research is carried out for the fulfillment of the master's degree with in a limited time, money and efforts. Hence there are multiple limitations.

## **1.7 Organization of the Thesis**

This thesis is divided in to seven chapters excluding preliminary section and Appendix, The preliminary section includes title page, acknowledgement table of content, list of tables, figure and case study acronyms and abstract.

**Chapter I :** It includes introduction, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, operational definition of term used in the study limitation of the study and organization of the study.

**Chapter II :** This chapter is about review of related literature. In includes introductions, concept review, tourism in Nepal, theoretical review of conceptual frame-work of the study.

**Chapter III :** This chapter is about research methodology, in includes introduction, research design, study site description and rational behind selection study area. Study population and sampling, nature and sources of data and methods of data organization, processing and analysis.

**Chapter IV :** This chapter is about profile of the study area.

**Chapter V :** This chapter deals with Tourist inflow, types and tourist perception and experiences on tourism in Sikles.

**Chapter VI:** This chapter deals with social effects of tourism in the host community of Silkes, Parche, VDC, Kaski, Nepal.

**Chapter VII :** This is the last chapter of the study. It has wrapped up the study with summary of findings, conclusion and suggestions to future researchers.

## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In this chapter, an attempt has been made to provide the concept review of travel, tourism and social exchange principles along with the theoretical review and retrospection of related theories, principles and previous studies. The conceptual frame work of the study has been also elaborated in detail.

#### 2.1 Conceptual Review

Tourism linguistically, comes from the word "tour" and includes the meanings of journey and travel. Tourism has become one of the most rapidly developed economic sector and international economic activity. The number of tourists that visited a country or annual income from tourism is a competitive issue among the countries and national economies. Hitherto tourism, as a hot topic, has been studied by many fields and disciplines from management to psychology, from economics to sociology. However, it is accepted, as far as social sciences concerned, as peculiar to industrial and modern age (Mieczkowski, 1990).

As a concept for research in the social sciences, tourism was first formulated in the period between the two World Wars. Since that time numerous definitions of tourism have been forwarded. Perhaps one of most apt definitions is offered by Macintosh: Tourism is the sum of the phenomena and relationships arising from the interactions of tourists, businesses, host governments and host communities, in the process of attracting and hosting these tourists and other visitors (Macintosh, 1977).

The broadest accepted technical definition of tourism was proposed by the international union of official travel organizations (IUOTO) in 1963, which is also approved by the World Tourism organization in 1968. It is stated that international tourists are:

*Temporary visitors staying at least twenty-four hours in the country visited and the purpose of whose journey can be classified under one of the following*

*headings a) Leisure (recreation, holiday, health, study, religion and sport) and B) Business (family mission, meeting) (Cohen, 1984, p.p. 179-201).*

For instance, tourism is an activity of financial operation which transfers money from visitors to local place. Visitors also exchange money in holiday destinations: therefore tourism is also a sort of transferring operation financially (Escobar, 1994). The most significant point in economic dimension of tourism is interconnection between tourism and economic development. Tourism has been achieved as an alternative policy to aid economic growth by developing countries since 1960s. After the World War II, there has been a growth in demand for international travel depending on increase of the income in developed countries. On the other hand, developing countries need foreign exchange earning to aid their import and economic development. Other than approaching tourism sector as a tool for development of the whole economy of or country, it brings some economic benefits for the settlements; since tourism includes many subsector from transpiration to entertainment; from shopping to accommodation (Mill and Morris, 1985). In fact tourism is not totally new concept. The tourism of the 1970s, 80s and 90s, however differs in several ways. It is revealed that over 70% of all American now participate in recreation. Likewise, many other developed countries also exhibit similar level of participations. Growth in tourism is difficult to quantify because few countries collect statistics in a way which separated purely rural from other forms of tourism (Seth, 1999).

## **2.2 Theoretical Review**

This segment encompasses the review of tourism from sociological and anthropological perspectives. The literatures which are already published are reviewed and retrospectively under the topic 'review of book, journals and other publication'. But some other relevant literatures which are still unpublished like these works are kept under 'review of dissertations' to assess and evaluate the inferences forwarded by the authors. And the deductions and conclusions made by them have also been utilized as per their relevancy to the present study.

### **2.2.1 Economic and Socio-cultural Dimensions of Tourism**

It is a fact that tourism has economic dimensions. One dimension is within definition of tourism activity; that is from tourist side, tourism must not be connected to earning activity. That means, one of the main conditions of tourism activity is "not doing any income activity" in travelling area (Eralp, 1983). However from supplier side, it is a sector and economic activity that occurs from the consumption and traveling activities of the visitors in one place (Can and Guner, 2000). However, as economic dimensions of tourism activity, mostly economic impacts of tourism are understood and studied literally. For instance, tourism is an activity of financial operation which transfers money from visitors to local place. Visitors also exchange money in holiday destinations; therefore tourism is also a sort of transferring money operation financially (Escobar, 1995a).

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Tourism is considered as a social event by many scholars, since tourism activity occurs between two different groups of people; that one is local and other one is visitor, and foreigner group. Tourism as a social event establishes relations between societies that have different social and cultural features; and creates interaction between different cultures, customs, and manners. As a result, tourism may give rises to some changes in social structure, patterns of behavior, and life styles (Cohen, 1979).

Eric Cohen (1996) defines tourism through some sociological perspectives: Firstly, tourism is a type of commercialized hospitality, which means tourism commercialize and eventually industrialize and institutionalize traditional guest-host relations. Secondly,



modern mass tourism is a democratized expansion of aristocratic travel of an earlier age. In other words, aristocratic type of travel in early age was historically transformed into modern and mass type of tourism today. Thirdly, tourism is a type of modern leisure activity free of obligations. Fourthly, Tourism is modern variety of pilgrimage travels in traditional societies. Fifth, tourism is an expression of basic cultural themes. In addition, tourism is an acculturative process between tourists and host. Furthermore, tourism is an ethnic relation between tourist and host in terms of production of ethnic arts for tourism market, and commercializing of ethnic identities for tourists. Lastly, tourism is a form of neocolonialism; that means, tourism creates a dependency between tourist sender metropolitan, developed, core countries and tourist receiver peripheral countries, on the global economic scale.

Other than consideration and conceptual definition of tourism through social and cultural dimensions, there are also some sociological and anthropological impacts of tourism. One important source of sociological and anthropological impacts is the relation and interaction between tourist and host. Tourists interact with local residents during their stay in destination. That interaction occurs when tourist buys a good or service from host; or they may meet, with each other; and may interest in the same place and at the same time; and they may share same ideas, information. In any case that tourist and host come face to face with each other, traditional hospitality may transform into commercialized one, and they experience a transitory, unequal, and unbalanced relation that is also limited by spatial and temporal constraints in society and culture of host community. (Holloway, 1988)

Tourism itself is a cultural event. Interests of people on other cultures are main purpose of some tourism activity, and in any tourism activity, there is also a cultural interaction between comer and host. To eliminate the negative impacts of working, and to reproduce the labor, human beings need free time. How to spend that free time is issue of tourism activity; so tourism can be defined as a culture of leisure activity. (Ahmad, 1986)

Cultural impact of tourism activity results from substantial cultural differences between residents and tourist, related to value and logic systems, religious beliefs, traditions, life-styles, customs, behavioral patterns, dressing codes, senses, attitudes, and so on. Those cultural differences can create frustrated situations and misunderstanding in

communication between residents and tourists (Berger, 1978). Furthermore, dwindling interests of tourists in host culture can reason reawakening and renewing of cultural heritage to sell it as a commodity in tourism sector. Being commodity process, cultural heritage may help to preserve the heritage, such as historical architecture, and artifacts. In opposition, it may create sometimes, degeneration and erosion in traditions, and beliefs (Cohen, 1979).

### **2.2.2 Anthropology of Tourism**

The phenomena of traveling by a stranger to a community having different socio-cultural tenets induces a kind of emotion either on visitor or visited or both. The emotion sensitized in this way may appear in physical, cultural, social or environmental implication be it latent or in manifested forms. Someone who travels in a strange location find on unfamiliar set up not only geographically but personally, socially as culturally. McIntosh et al (1995) articulate that visitors must manage their social interactions and social relation to obtain substance, shelter, and other need and possibly to find companionship. People who travel do so with different degree of contact with the new culture in which they find themselves. In this context traveling comprises a process of socio-cultural adjustment as a part of cultural anthropology.

Nash (1995) writes that tourism has become an obviously important social fact in today's world. His opinion may get support by the fact that travel experiences have a profound effect on the traveler as well as on society, because travel experiences often are among the most outstanding memories in the traveler's life and a portion of it passes to the family and then to the society. Travel process embraces a number of encounter and interaction with living and non-living object. A traveler encounters hosts with varied culture and engages in a give and take affair which ends up with reciprocal acculturation effects over the tourists, their local peoples, and the organization and societies they involved. Eralp (1983) enunciates that there are so many different anthropologies that it might seem presumptuous to speak of anthropology as a whole first, there has been the tendency to see human social action as part of a larger picture which includes a culture or society, its setting and its history. Also is the tendency to view subject-matter in a trans-cultural context that can include all of humanity and third is the tendency to consider social action to have a component of meaning that must be got at and communicated. But

he considers anthropology as a generalizing and explanatory science which is capable of finding out what humans are like and why they are as they are. He holds similar opinion regarding the anthropological studies of tourists which, according to him, have been carried out from one of the three perspectives. The first perspective advocates tourism as "development or acculturation". Whereas the second perspective views tourism as a "personal transition". The third perspective elucidates tourism as a kind of "superstructure".

Kunwar (1997) has identified the two broad approaches of tourism study, one aspect of the study of tourism concentrates on the political economy, making the case that tourism can have a substantial and disruptive impact on the local community. The anthropological reaction to the development of tourism is dominantly negative and fits generically with the anthropological critique of modernization already well developed in literature on the folk culture and deurbanization. The other aspect of the anthropological response of tourism focuses on its cultural dimensions assessing the range of empirical effects that tourism has upon the socio-cultural system of local societies.

The brief overview of various approaches reveals that the study of tourism from an anthropological perspective follows and adopts the term like 'host encounter', 'cultural exploitation', 'individual experience', 'social response', 'social instruction' and 'social relationship' in a broad sense to encompass many social issues and implications which have been the subject of social and cultural dimensions in the tourism literature remaining in the proximity to sociology in spite of having a considerable grey area in between sociology and anthropology,

### **2.3 Rural Tourism**

In fact rural tourism is not a totally new concept. The rural tourism of the 1970s, 80s and 90s, however, differs in several ways (Can and Guner, 2000). It is revealed that over 70% of all Americans now participate in rural recreation. Likewise, many other developed countries also exhibit a similar level of participation. Growth in rural tourism is difficult to quantify because few countries collect statistics in a way which separated purely rural from other forms of tourism (Seth, 1999).

Rural tourism is a complex multi-faceted activity. It is not just farm or agriculture based tourism. It includes farm-based holidays but also comprises special interest nature holidays and ecotourism, walking, climbing and riding holidays, adventure, sport and health tourism, hunting and angling, educational travel, arts and heritage tourism, and in some areas, cultural and ethnic tourism (Pandey, 1996).

Tourism in Sikles is practiced more as an international tourism activity. Along with local tourists, there is a significant number of foreign tourists who visit Sikles- Grase Khoeka eco route to see thrilling landscapes, protected areas, historical places and religious places. These activities have constructed a new global image of Sikles. Therefore, the relation between globalism and rural tourism is crucial to understand the tourism activities in Sikles.

Rural tourism is the special dimension of tourism in developing countries. The boom of international tourism from developed countries to rural areas of developing countries is explained with some various reasons by scholars. First, the people living in developed countries as tourist sender countries have been witnessing rapid rise in their real wages and incomes, and larger leisure time. Secondly, the worldwide explosion of communication and transportation technologies enabled the people in developed countries to access touristic destination at affordable prices. The increase in communication technology led touristic destinations at affordable prices. The increase in communication technology led touristic countries to advertise themselves and gathering knowledge about tourism destinations became easier (Mieczkowski, 1990).

Generally rural tourism in developing countries is now seen an important generator of economic activity (Pollard, 1976), but almost nothing is known of domestic tourism in those countries. Many developing countries have identified international tourism as a source of foreign exchange earnings (Ahmad, 1986). Several West African countries, for example, have attracted two types of international tourists: the beach holiday visitors or mass tourists, who are looking for sun and fun, and the investigation tourists who are taking tours in the hope of learning more about the people and the land they are visiting (Fish, 1982). Both types can represent considerable foreign earnings.

One of the biggest problems in the field of rural tourism development in developing countries is the lack of planning institutions in general to help direct it, and tourism

planning in particular. Templemen (1975) pointed out that planning for tourist facilities is an urgent need in most developing countries. In this sense Robinson (1972) pointed out that the study of tourism geography in developing countries has largely been seen as part of the study of the recreational fields of the inhabitants of the developed countries. As a result much of the research that has been done on the impact of tourism on third world economies has been conducted from the point of view of the world. In contrast almost nothing is known of the tourist activities and needs of the local people in third world areas, and little attention has been given to providing for those needs in many poorer countries (Kale and Weir, 1986).

## **2.4 Typology of Tourism**

As there are differences in the desires, purpose, economic status, nature etc. of individuals, there are different types of tourists (Escobar, 1995a). The travel entrepreneurs, taking into account the different types of tourists, are also ready to provide necessary services to the tourists accordingly. Thus there are different types of tourists and tourism which can be classified on various basis. However, for the convenience of the study, categorization of tourists and tourism can be done as:

- Holiday/Pleasure tourism,
- Adventure Tourism,
- Business/Professional Tourism,
- Friends and Family visiting tourism.

In recent years, the number of Holiday/Pleasure type of tourists is growing very rapidly in the world. The taste and desire of tourists change according to the time and situation. In the past, people like to see and visit old and traditional things but nowadays people like to visit new places. Nowadays, most people like to travel to South Asia, East Asia and Pacific countries rather than traditional ancient cities of European countries (Shrestha, 2008).

## **2.5 Tourist Inflow in Nepal**

Nepal opened its borders to foreigners in 1951, but not until 1960s did many westerners visit the country (only 4017 in 1960). Among them were mountaineering teams some

members of which went to established adventure travel programs in the country. The rise in Nepal's popularity as an adventure travel destination began in earnest during the 1970s when Kathmandu was the terminus for long overland journeys undertaken by backpackers from Europe (Cohen's "counterculture traveler"). During the past two decades, the numbers of tourists entering Nepal has grown steadily (Zurick, 2002).

In 2007, the number of international tourists visiting Nepal was 526,705, which was an increase of 37.2% compared to the previous year. In 2008, the number of tourists decreased by 5% to 500,255. In 2008, 55.9% of the foreign visitors came from Asia (18.2% from India), while Western Europeans accounted for 27.5%, 7.6% were from North America, 3.2% from Australia and the Pacific Region, 2.6% from Eastern Europe, 1.5% from Central and South America, 0.3% from Africa and 1.4% from other countries. Foreign tourists visiting Nepal in 2008 stayed in the country for an average of 11.78% days. As of 2010, 602,855 tourists visited Nepal (Tourism in Nepal, 2017).

Nepal received 797,616 in 2013, 790,118 tourists in 2014 and a six-year low of 538,970 in 2015. Ministry of Tourism 2016. Tourism statistics (2016) of Nepal Government showed 729,550 number of foreign tourists visiting Nepal in 2016 increased by 24 percent as compared to 2015. A total number of 554,747 tourists had visited Nepal in 2015. While the number of tourists was up by 174,803 in 2016 as compared to 2015 (Tourism in Nepal, 2017).

Analyzing the number of tourists who visited Nepal, their growth rates and the length of stay, the number of tourists visiting Nepal during the period (January 2015 to January 2016) has increased by 24 percent. The number of tourists increased from 554,747 to 729,550 tourists as compared to its figure during the period between January 2015 and January 2016. The average length of stay per tourist during the period 2015/16 has been 13.12 days against the figure of 12.67 days during the period 2015/16. Similarly, of the total number of tourists visiting Nepal between the periods of January 2015 and January 2016, 53.7 percent came for tours and travels, 11.7 percent for trekking and mountaineering, 8.7 percent on religious trip, 4.1 percent for recreation, 2.4 percent for trade and business, 3.3 percent on official visits, 1.5 percent for meetings/seminars, 0.3 percent for rafting, 4.1 percent with other purposes and 9.5 percent with unspecified purposes. Among the five countries with the largest number of tourists arrivals during this period, 20 percent were

from India, 8.4 percent from China, 8.1 percent from Sri Lanka (including tourists on a one-day visit to Lumbini), 5.7 percent from USA, and 5 percent from United Kingdom. For the same period in the previous fiscal year, 20.1 percent tourists came from India, 7.7 percent from China, 7.6 percent (including tourists on a one-day visit to Lumbini) from Sri Lanka, 6 percent from USA, and 5.8 percent from UK (Economic Survey, 2016).

According to Nepal's Ministry of Tourism, major tourists activities include wilderness and adventure activities such as Mountain biking, Bungy Jumping, rock climbing and mountain climbing, trekking, bird watching, flights, paragliding and hot air ballooning over the mountains of Himalaya, exploring the waterways by raft, kayak or canoe and jungle safaris especially in the Terai region. Given the tourist inflow in Sikles for wildness and adventures, the previous information on tourist inflow in different parts of Nepal can provide certain incentive for the current study.

## **2.6 Review of Previous Pertinent Literature**

Tourism, in fact, cannot remain in isolation. There are a lot of meeting and mingling among the people of various faith, belief, creed, standard, language, concept and background. So the economic as well as non-economic effects of it always remain over the local peoples or the quests either temporarily or permanently.

Pearce (2001) has extended the issue of tourist- resident impacts based on the perception of the destination community. He offers the proposition that social effect may be real since objective data can be found to verify their existence, or may be perceived in views held by the community that life is different. perceived views are equally important to real views because if resident believe an impact does exist (regardless of whether or not it is true), their behavior will be altered. Pearce has presented his work with some remarkable findings that the effect of the tourist-resident interaction process appear to have maximum social and psychological impacts on resident when the destination areas are small, unsophisticated and isolated. these impact may be either powerful, direct interpersonal encounters or more subtle, indirect influences on the visited community. Conversely, These impacts are less in the larger extent when the destination are is more urbane and urban. After reviewing the literature on social impacts of tourism and the variety of models that have been developed, the author has presented five emerging solutions to combat for reducing the decline of tourist-resident social contact include:

better education and training, incorporating community perspectives in development' increasing resident opportunities: establishment of local equity and management committees: and increased research and monitoring of social impacts.

The research work of Gurung (1995) for ICIMOD mainly concentrates to examine some of consequences of tourism on woman and the economic and social transformations that are accruing as a result of these development in mountain areas, especially in Dhampus- a scenic village of Kaski district. She has concluded her study with some remarks that tourism and external development interventions have brought about positive changes, but woman have still not been fully accepted as equal partners in to the development process by the community, though they have developed remarkable ability to work together sharing their skills and resources. In spite of it, women's constant efforts to be recognized and respected in society are slowly gaining ground. The overall status and decision - making women able both within the husband and the community have increased considerably. She further opines that the opportunities opened to the people of Nepal through mountain tourism are many. However, due to lack of gender sensitivity in the tourism development strategies of the government, as well as the socio-economic inhibitions of women which are perpetrated by society, very few mountain woman have been able to harness the full benefits from these opportunities. Instead, many woman have to bear such costs as spending more time to search for fodder and fuel- wood because of benefits that occur to other. Prostitution is another aspect of the side effects which, although not originating with tourism, are exacerbated by it. Therefore it is of paramount importance to devise gender- sensitive tourism development policies and strategies to benefit the many hitherto oppressed rural woman in mountain area.

Borger (1978) was the first person who conducted the doctoral level research to study the impact of tourism in Nepal through an input- output analytical model. The main objective of his study were to analyze the impact of tourism on the economy of Nepal and to present information to Nepal's development planners. His aim was to provide assistance to them in making decision with regards to the contribution of tourism industry to national goals and in devising policies and strategies such that Nepalese society can derive the maximum possible benefits from this activity while minimizing the negative effects which are often associated with tourism. The researcher, in his conclusion remarks has expressed that tourism in Nepal is an effective and promising



instrument to earn foreign exchange but it requires high investment from both private and public sector which can provide relatively few employment opportunities and little scope for the improvement of personal and regional income distribution. He has also emphasized to concentrate on society's resources to develop tourism and to share the benefits to tourism more widely with all associates in the society in equitable basis to reduce the unfavorable impacts of tourism development.

Mercer (2001) has explored the rather uneasy relationship between contemporary western tourism development and native people. His examination of the Aboriginal 'outback' population of northern and central Australia focuses on the social appropriateness of tourism development from the native Aboriginal viewpoint. Two case studies were presented, both dealing with the concepts of control and choice. Control relates to whether native population control their own destinies while negotiating decisions regarding tourism control their own destinies while negotiating decisions regarding tourism development on their land choice related to their having the freedom of choose to negotiate, or to simply refuse to do so. The author's remarks state that growing aboriginal militancy related to what they viewed as their basic rights had come up against the western practice of eminent domain, i.e. government gaining control of individual (or group) owned land 'for the good of the many', through a legal process often including condemnation. This practice, together with other denials of land ownership, led to what some writers termed, 'the invasion and theft of the Aboriginal nation'. According to the researcher, the key problem is related to the principle of equity or fairness, and how, today, native peoples including Aboriginals can achieve the most benefits derived from tourism without being overrun and overwhelmed by the excesses that tourism itself often causes.

Dhungel (2002) has prepared a dissertation on the topic entitled "Socio-cultural impact of tourism in Sauraha in Chitwan district" for the partial fulfillment of the requirement of Master degree. She has confined the Tharu community of Bachchhauri VDC of Chitwan district for her study with the general objective of understanding the nature and effect of tourism on the local socio-cultural structure, environment and economy of the proposed area. The specific objectives of her study were to describe the inflow of tourist in Sauraha to show the relation between the park and people, to find out the interrelationship between the hosts and guests, to assess the social impact of tourism in

the study area and to describe the cultural impact of tourism over the study area. She has concluded that the Tharu community of Sauraha has been highly influenced by tourism and their influence, according to her report, has both positive as well as negative facts. Moreover, as evidenced in other parts of the country, the community of Sauraha has undergone the transitional phase of transformation due to the influence of modernization urbanization and industrialization. She has pointed out that in spite of the trivialization of the local Tharu culture; tourism has also made them (the local community people) aware to preserve their culture, values, norms and heritage for tourism. The awareness level has tremendously gone up in that community due to the sheer development of tourism.

There are a few research works which examine the perception and impact of tourism remaining within the parameter of sociology and anthropology. Most of the popular works belong to the foreign researchers and that too, based on the foreign lands/destinations. But there are plethora of research studies, which have been undertaken mostly confining to analyze and interpret, the economic impact of tourism on the destinations of Nepal and abroad. However, the studies, which encompass the societal as well as cultural factors to analyze the impacts and implication of tourism on the Nepalese context remaining entirely within the sociological/anthropological framework, are very less and insufficient. And most astoundingly, none of the researchers are found so far to have stuck strictly to the local people's perception and social effect of tourism focusing Sikles village as their study area. Considering this veracity and the essential requirement to analyze the social implication of tourism for sustainable tourism development of the destination, the present study is conducted from sociological/anthropological dimensions.

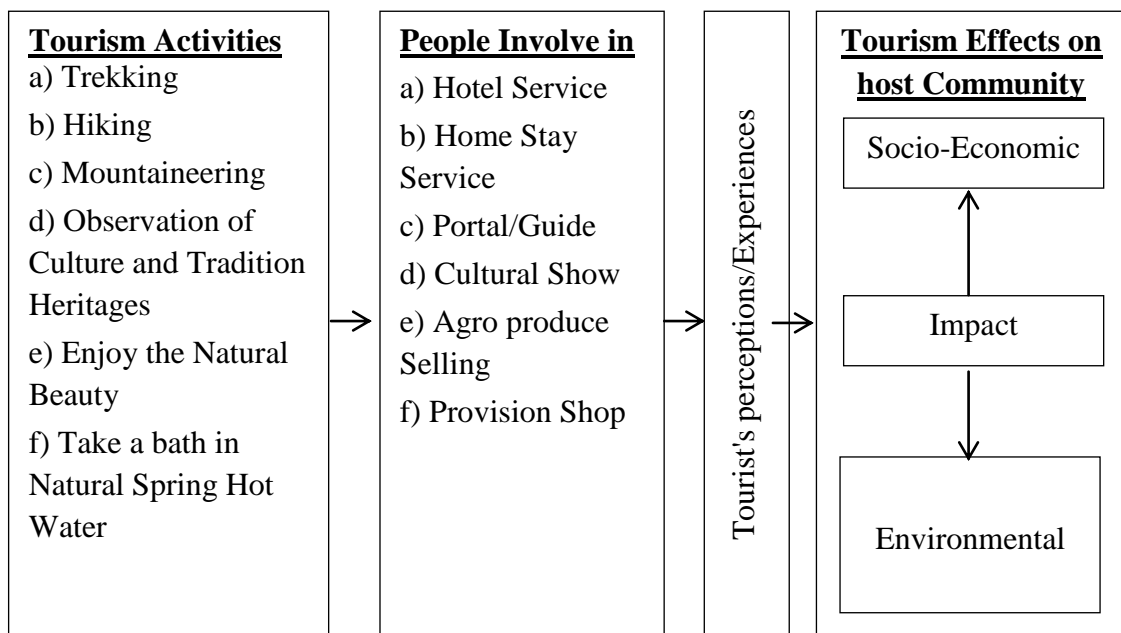
## **2.7 Conceptual Framework of the Study**

Tourism is a temporary movement of the people to destinations outside their normal places of work and residence. The activities undertaken during their stay in those destinations, and the facilities cater to their needs, their relationship with local people change the local individuals, the local communities quality of life-value system, labor division, family relationship, attitude, behavioural patterns, ceremonies and creative expressions. Increasing economic dependence upon tourism may alter the job structures. Increasing economic dependence upon tourism may alter the job structure and role of

community sometimes creating more new job for woman than man as claimed by poel (2006).

But it is imperative to consider that the social cultural characteristics of the local community are of course, continuously influenced by the political, economic, technological, environmental, social, cultural and natural aspects or to distinguish them from other modernizing influences. So this research deals with the impacts perceived by residents/stakeholders as the impacts of tourist-activities and tourism development. The variables, which were generally considered for the investigation and analysis in this research work are depicted pictorially in figure.

**Figure 1: Conceptual Framework of the Study**



People travel for many purposes. They do different activities which create many opportunities. It has influenced socio-economic and environmental aspects of the host community, creating different negative and positive impacts in the host community.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHODS**

This chapter presents the research methods adopted in the study specifically mentioning what has been done on study site research design, sampling, nature and sources of data etc.

#### **3.1 Location of Study Site and Rationale for Site Selection**

Sikles, Parche VDC, a popular tourism destination, is the study site. Sikles has already been connected with Ghalekharka Sikles eco trekking route, its culture and natural resources have been valuable assets to attract the tourist. There is a special rationale for selecting the area because this village is well known for domestic and international tourism and the flow of tourists is frequently increasing. In the recent year Sikles has been connected to Pokhara by an earthen motorable road and nowadays there are regular bus services between Sikles and Pokhara which has certainly had effects in the host community as well as in the tourist as well as the social economic sector of the village. Hence the selection of the Sikles as the study site is justifiable.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

Descriptive and exploratory research design has been adopted in this research. When the purpose of research is to gain familiarity with a phenomenon or acquire new insight into tourism experiences and effects in order to formulate a more precise problem, the exploratory studies are helpful. The goal is to learn 'what is going on here?' and to investigate social phenomena without explicit expectations.

In this research work detailed factual information is collected which describes the existing phenomena. Visitors were interviewed, several secondary data were studied and analysed in order to gain familiarity on the tourists' behavior, perceptions and its effect in social life. Therefore, descriptive and exploratory research design has been used.

### **3.3 Nature and Sources of Data**

Data has been collected from both primary and secondary sources. Data collected for the purpose of the study are both of qualitative and quantitative in nature. Both primary as well as secondary sources of data are used in the study.

### **3.4 Universe and Sampling**

In the period of November-December 2016 total 70 foreign tourists visited Sikles of Parche VDC. This total number of tourists is taken as the universe of the study. From the universe, 50 foreign tourists were selected under using non-probability sampling method. According to the nature of trekking, tourists do not accumulate in a particular area in the required time. So, non-random sampling is most appropriate to collect the data from the tourist that were available during the data collection period. As only 50 tourists were available during that period hence they were selected for the study.

### **3.5 Techniques of Data Collection**

#### **3.5.1 Primary data collection**

- a. Interview: Semi-structured interview based on interview schedule (Given in Annex I) was used to collect information about tourists' details and their experiences. Interview was designed in such a way information required for fulfilling the objectives of the study was served. Total of 50 visitors (28 Male and 22 Female) were interviewed.
- b. Observation: The tourists were observed while they arrived Sikles on their way to their trekking destination and their interaction with local people in the hotels, the behavior of local people toward visitors and interaction style. The social effects of tourist inflow was also observed.
- c. Key Informant Interviews: For this purpose 1 represent from mother group of Skiles, 2 represent from hotel entrepreneurs professionals, 1 represent from ward development committee and 2 represent from ACAP Sikles, were taken as the key informants of this research in order to collect views regarding the tourists inflow and its social effects on the host community of Sikles.

- d. Case study: Five case studies were made on locales experiences on social effects of tourisms in Sikles. There were tourist, hotel entrepreneurs, member from ward development committee and staff of ACAP Sikles.

### **3.5.2 Secondary Data Collection**

In order to get information on past and present tourism experience and effects of tourism in social, economic and environments in the global and Nepalese context books, article, journal and news paper were reviewed, most importantly, important data, related book and article, journals were gathered from ACAP headquarter Pokhara and ACAP, (VCO), Sikles.

### **3.6 Data Processing and Analysis**

The collected information was edited, coded, tabulated and classified according to the objective of the study. The data was analyzed with the help of statistic software SPSS 11.5 and Ms excel.

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA**

Nepal is located between China and India in the southern part of the Himalaya mountain range. The country is well known for the world's tallest mountain, Mount Everest, and for several tallest peaks of the world which are located within its borders. The mountain landscape makes Nepal an attractive destination for tourists who want to ascend or admire the majestic peaks. In 2011 more than 736000 foreign visitors arrived Nepal (Ministry of culture, tourism and civil aviation, 2012).

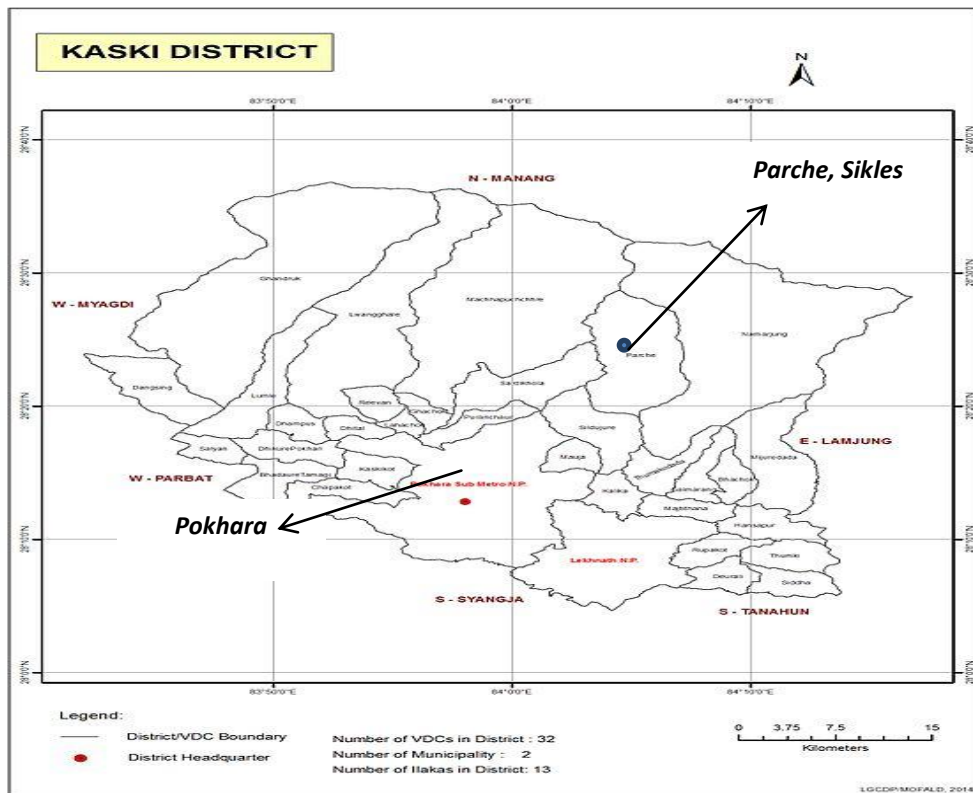
The natural landscape of the country is significantly diverse from south to north and can be divided into three main topographical zones, each stretching as a horizontal belt across the country FAO. The southern Terai region is placed at a low altitude with sub-tropical climate and flat terrain. Further, to the north the hill region is found where the study area of this thesis is located in Kaski District. The valleys and hills of this region, which in some places, rise as high as 3000 metres. In the mountain areas the temperature is lower and the climate can be quite dry. The western parts of the country have less rainfall than the east, and a large part of the rain falls in the monsoon period from June to September (FAO, 1992).

#### **4.1 Kaski District and Parche VDC**

Located in the western development region of Nepal, Kaski district lies at the foot of the Annapurna mountain range. Pokhara, which is one of the largest cities in Nepal, is located within the district. Kaski district covers a land area of 2017 sq km and had in 2011 492098 inhabitants. Pokhara attracts many tourists because of the beautiful scenery around Fewa Lake with the snowcapped Annapurna Peaks rising in the north. The city offers a starting point for trekkers and mountain climbers who are heading for these mountains. Around the Fewa lake there have been established numerous guest houses, hotels, restaurants and tourist shops, composing a touristic area referred to as the "Lake Side". The centre of the old city is located a few kilometers further to the north West. When the city's airport opened in the end of the 1950s the transport of goods from

Kathmandu to Pokhara were facilitated. During the second part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century highways were made connecting Pokhara to nearby districts. Kathmandu and the border of India from this strategic locations and hence. Pokhara developed into an important market of central Nepal (Adhikari and Bohle, 1999).

**Map 1 : Map of Kaski district**



*Source: Village profile of Parche VDC, 2068.*

Although Nepal is comparatively big in size, has very high diversity in its geography. The altitude of it varies from 59 m to 8848m and mountain as the third pole of the world. Nepal is divided in to 3 region viz High mountain. Moderate High Mountain and Plain Terai on the basis of the Geo physical and geo ecological aspect. In the administrative and political base it has been divided into 5 development regions. 14 zones and 75 district. Village development committee is the smallest political and administrative division in Nepal. Parche is also a village development committee with a total population of 3396.



**Table 4.1**

**Population of Parche VDC**

<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
1665	1731	3396

*Source: VDC Profile, 2068 B.S.*

This VDC is one of the 34 VDC of Kaski district which is located to the north east of Kaski and situated in the yard of beautiful Annapurna Mountain. It is one of the most remote place of the district and 36.5 km from the district headquarters Pokhara. The geographical location of Parche VDC is 28<sup>0</sup>, 19'06" north to 28<sup>0</sup> 32'21" north whereas 84<sup>0</sup> 3'02" east to 83<sup>0</sup> 16'51" east. Likewise the altitude of the VDC varies from 1040m to 7937 mtr. It borders with Nagarjung VDC and Lamjung district to the east, Sardikhola and Machhapuchre VDCs to the west, Chame VDC of Manang District to the north and Sildujure VDC to the south. The total area of Parche VDC is 295.3 sq KM (Village profile of Parche 2068). Parche being Very nearest VDC from Annarpurna mountain, there is lots of rainfall and snow fall. Parche VDC has the record of 335 mm rain fall. Some times in the winter there is snow fall in Sikles Villages too. "The temperature of the VDC goes down from 0 degree Celsius in winter and 30 degree Celsius in the low land. The climate of the VDC also varies from Temperature, alpine to Tundra in the high land, with the raise of altitude the cone, species and the pasture land also available in the VDC. The VDC is also very rich in flora and fauna to. Leopard, bear, deers, Jharal, Ghoral Assammies monkey are found in mammals whereas Danfe. Monal Kalis, Pyura, Luinche, Eagle, Jureli, Kapche etc. species are found in the VDC (MOP Parche 2066). Besides these various kinds of butterflies and reptiles are found here. Most part of the VDC is covered by sloppy hills, cliff deep valleys. The Annapurna II mountain (1937 m) and Lamjung mountain (6983 m) are in Parche VDC.

The major river system of the Parche VDC is Madi river system which origins from the Annapurna mountain to flow to the south perennially. The river flow about 18.54 km through Parche VDC and some of the parts boarders with Namarjung VDC. About a dozen of tributaries ate come to join the madi river from different part of the VDC. Among them Ngachankhola and the Chipikhola are those from where Micro-hydroelectricity has been produced in the local level.

Sikles is a major village of Parche VDC which is one of the biggest Gurung Villages of Nepal. According to the Village profile of Parche VDC-2068 the total population of VDC is 3396 and the household on of Sikles is 1772 and 307 respectively with a total 80% population of indigenous Gurung and 20% Dalit population.

**Table 4.2**  
**Population of Sikles Village**

Female	Male	Total
845	896	1741

*Source: VDC Profile, 2068 B.S.*

Sikles village is located about 36.5 km north east of Pokhara. It is famous for its culture and natural beauty. The major population of Sikles is dominant by the Gurungs and Dalits. The Gurung of mid hills of Nepal were supposed to arrive from Manang by crossing the high mountain of Annapurna. At the beginning of arrival they planted some seeds of grain and next year found the seed grown then they began to settle with more population. The place where they settled was named as *Kohla Sonthar/ Kohal Sopretohn* (Three village) This *Kohla Sonthar* of south of Annapurna mountain was supposed to be the capital of the ancient Gurung Regime. The *Kohla Sonthar* where lots of fossils and ruined structure can be seen even today is now a just a day walk from Sikles. After the increment of population there, the Gurungs migrated to various place including Sikles from *Kohla Sonthar* Bed Bahadur Gurung (Shyam) and Jagman Gurung. Tamuwan-1, 2064/Village profile of Parche VDC, 2068).

The name of the Parche VDC has been derived from the Gurung word "PAACHE" PAA means hilly and CHE means plain which combinely means plain land in hill. Later it was called PARCHE. In the local Gurung language Sikles is called CHIULI. The history of the Name CHIULI is associated with the migration of Gurung people from Kohla Sonthar. When migrating so Sikles they settled themselves in Five (Ngo) settlement (Thar)/Five tole (Ngothar). Further a local bird has the local name CHULI which according to story told by local people called the people of five villages to make a single combined settlement in a single place. Later the people following the voice of the bird made a joint village which was named as CHULI village (Source: Karna Singh Gurung). Other history is also associated with the name of CHULI. The village CUILI was called

as "CHYAKLI" CHYA means bird and CKI means excreta. There was a big tree of here where lots of birds used to dwell and there was big mass of excreta of birds just beneath the tree. The place was called CHYAKLI and later the word was termed as CHIULI. The CHIULI word in Nepali Language was known as Sikles. (Source: Dambar Bahadur Gurung Karma Singh Gurung, Chandra Singh Gurung (Village profile of Parche VDC., 2068).

Sikles Village is largely spread with 307 households. Traditionally the large village settlement has been such divided into six toles (thars) viz Koi-thar, Sabbha-thar. Gairi-thar, Dhapreng-thar. Harpu-thar and Lama-thar. They have their own pride and sentiment to be the dwellers of their own thar. The six thars people of Sikles have their own Gurung language which is widely used to communicate. The non Gurungs of the village also fluently communicate in the Gurung language. There has been still a *Katuwal* system in Sikles to communicate the people in common issues. *Sabhachock* is a common place of Sikles where decisions of the traditional and cultural rituals are made even today. Politically there are 5 wards of Parche VDC in Sikles vilalge. Ward no. 5 covers Sabha-thar and Koi-thar, ward no. 6 Gairi-thar, ward no. 7, Dharprang-thar, ward no. 8 Harpu-thar and ward no. 9 Lama-thar.

Culturally and religiously, Gurungs are the follower of Bonpo religion but they have the mutual respect on Buddhism and Hinduism too. They are nature worshipers and side by side they also worship Buddha. Shiva, Bishnu, Krishna etc. They mainly have three type of priest viz lama, Pachyu and Ghyapries to conduct their rituals but some time they also works with Hindu priests to perform some rituals work. Sikles is famous for its cultural richness. Ghantu, Sorathi, Jhyaure, Naumati are the main dances in Sikles community. They celebrate Lhosar, Maghesakranti, Dashain. Tihar, Buddha Jayanti. Wild honey hunting. Pilgrimage to Dudhpokhari, are some important cultural parts of life of people of Sikles. There are lots of religious sites around the Sikles village. Maudu, Bhumethan Tin danda. Naskon are Culturally important place and Ranghyou Tarahill top. Kori, Kohla Sonthar. Hugu, Kahfuche glacier are some of the important tourism sites around Sikles village.

The traditional costumer of Gurung male is *Bhotokachhad* and a locally weaven nettle fibre scarf (*Bhangara*) and for ladies it was *Sadi of Chhit* and *Choli* of Velvet with

*Ghalek* (big Velvet scarf). *Lungi*. T-shirt and Thin scarf is commonly used costume for ladies. But today the new generation is wearing pants, jacket and such other modern costume owing to tourism effect.

The common traditional food in Sikles was mashed flour (Dhindo) but now a day rice and pulse is common. Most of the house in Sikles are made of stone mashary with mud plastering and the common roof is made of slate and corrugate sheet. The yard of houses and the paths inside the village have been beautifully paved with stone slate. Now a days all the households of Sikles are facilitated with a toilet. And there is drinking water facility for almost all the households.

There are 4 schools out of them two are high schools, a primary school and a Lower secondary school in Parche VDC. There is a Health Post, VDC Office and Office of ACAP in Sikles. There are two micro hydro electricity plants which have been serving Parche VDC without load-shading.

**Table 4.3**  
**Literacy Rate of Sikles**

Female	Male	Total
72.01%	85.76%	78.98%

**Sources:** ACAP, Sikles, 2017

Being LAHURE (Army job in British army, Singapore police and Indian army) is sentimentally a prestigious job in Gurung society which is supposed to be a status symbol in society. The major source of income is agriculture, animal husbandry and foreign remittance. The foreign remittances have created a cause of migration in Sikles.

## **4.2 Tourism History of Sikles**

The Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA) is well known popular protected Area in Nepal. It is Nepal's largest protected Area, covering an area of 7.629 km<sup>2</sup> in the northern-central part of the country. In 1992 it was declared an IUCN category VI protected Area, meaning it is primarily managed for the sustainable use of natural resources. It has been recognized as one of the most culturally and geographically diverse area in the world. It

is nestled among the central Himalayan landscape and contains the World's deepest river valley, the Kali Gandaki.

The physical geography of the ACA is greatly varied with altitude ranging from 800 m to over 8000 m above sea level within 120 km (Nyaupane and Thapa, 2004) and the area boasts 300 km of trail network through mountain ranges, gorges, and high plateaus. The area also harbours great biological diversity containing: 22 different forest types, including the world's largest rhododendron forest; over 1200 plant species; 488 bird species; 102 mammal species; 40 reptile species; 23 amphibian species; and 20 fish species (ACAP, 2009). The cultural diversity is equally great and the area is home to a population of approximately 120,000 people belonging to 10 district ethnic groups, each with their own local dialect, unique culture and traditions (ACAP, 2009). The residents are mainly subsistence farmers, labourers, traders, herders and are very reliant on the area's natural resources.

The history of tourism in Sikles is connected with the arrival of people for bartering business. The outsider people from nearby VDCs of Brahmin and Kshetris, settlement come to by with the seeds of local potatoes, bamboo mats and soyabeans. The pilgrims of Dudhpokhari in the time of Janaipurnima and pilgrims of Maudukyufui (a local pilgrimages site) in the period of Maghesakranti were the tourist attraction of Sikles. Before the year 2040 B.S. some months of the year were restricted for the outsiders to visit Sikles especially in the period of crop planting and harvesting seasons.

Later the arrival of tourists from European and American countries begins after the inception of circuit Trekking Route and Eco Tourism Development Project (CTREDP) which is widely known as Ghalekharkha Sikles Eco Tourism Project (GSEP) which has been taken as a first eco-tourism model project in Nepal. This project was designed to develop a circuit trekking route in the lower belt of ACA. Where Sikles is one of the important destination along this route. The GSEP was design in 1992 under the loan assistance in GSEP to deliver the nature friendly activities at the public level. Natural conservation is one of the most important components of the project which includes the activities like forest nurseries operation and afforestation. Local infrastructure development as well as the awareness creation toward the environment are other component of the project which include construction of school, bridge, community

toilet, drinking water schemes cleanup campaign, Rubbish management pits format and informal education focusing to tourism and environment in the school and conservation mobile camps in the different villages, Required number of campsites with the facility of toilets, rubbish pits, drinking water were developed along the designated route of eco trek to develop the tourism in the route. Sikles itself being a largest Gurung settlement along the eco trek route became success to attract the tourism from its unique settlement and culture (NTNC-ACAP, Sikles, 2016).

The CTREDP was actually established as an alternative trekking route to fulfill the needs of reduction of pressure of tourists of the heavily trekked are of ACA like RAT, further the purpose of establishing GSEP was to identify alternative destination and to manage the tourism in ACA in the sustainable way so that environment could be protected and pressure on environment due to tourism could be reduced as well as to bring attitudinal changes in the minds of local people and visitors about environment and sustainable tourism management. The project has main focus to develop model eco trekking route between Ghalekhurka and Sikles so that alternative trekking route could be developed with the minimum negative impact in natural and culture worth of local peripheries.

## **CHAPTER V**

### **TOURIST INFLOW AND TOURISM EXPERIENCES IN HOST COMMUNITY**

This chapter deals with tourist inflow in Sikles, tourists perception on local tourisms and their experiences in host community has been discussed in detail.

#### **5.1 Introduction**

The GSEP contributes to develop tourism and the main arrival of tourist was the international category. The local festivals contributes for the flow of outsider people for sports organized by the local youth club. The flow of domestic tourist was found to increase after the road access till Sikles from 2066 B.S. But the tourist data record shows the flows of international tourists who come to trekking on foot are in decreasing order. The international tourist of number 489 in 2013, 531 in 2014, 197 in 2015 and 371 in 2016 visited Sikles. The deadly earthquakes in 2015 is the main reason for the decrease level of tourism sector of all over the country (NTNC-ACAP, Sikles, 2016).

##### **5.1.1 Number of Foreign Visitors to Sikles (2012-2016)**

Sikles itself being a part of Eco tourism trekking route of ACA, the only eco tourists in an organized trekking group were allowed to travel along the route, where all the necessary food and other supplies had to manage themselves for all the days of trekking. Only camping tourist group were allowed and they have to stay in the predefined camping site constructed in definite place. The number of tourists visiting Sikles in different years are as follow:

**Table 5.1**  
**Foreign Visitor in Sikles**

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of visitor</b>
2012	844
2013	489
2014	531
2015	197
2016	371

*Source: NTNC, ACAP Sikles, 2017.*

The above chart reveals that tourism inflow is gradually increasing over the years. During the insurgency period there was significant cut in the number of visitors and in recent years the tourist inflow has saturated.

Due to tough cold weather, tourists inflow is critically low in October-December and January-March periods of the year. The inflow is quite high in June-September period due to favourable warm weather.

### **5.1.2 Distribution of Respondent by Country of Origin**

Tourist from all over the world used to visit Sikles. The number of tourist who visited Sikles during Nov-Dec 2016 from different countries are shown in the table below.

**Table 5.2**  
**Distribution of Respondent by Country of Origin**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Number of Tourists</b>	<b>Percent (%)</b>
Australia	1	2.0
China	5	10.0
Holland	3	6.0
British	10	20.0
Israel	2	4.0
Italy	3	6.0
Singapore	2	4.0
Slovakia	2	4.0
Spain	3	6.0
Switzerland	7	14.0
USA	10	20.0
Canada	1	2.0
France	1	2.0
Total	50	100.0

*Source: Field Study, 2017*



The above table shows that most number of visitors are British and US citizens. During the data collection period of November-December, 2017 only 70 foreign tourists had visited Sikles of which only 50 were selected for study. Among the 50 visitors interviewed, 20 percent were from Britain and USA followed by Swiss 14 percent, Chinese 10 percent and others from Australia, France, Holland, Israel, Italy, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain and USA.

## 5.2 Sex

The number of respondents by sex has been presented in the following table. This table shows that 56 percent of the respondents were male and the remaining 44 percent were female. It is envisaged that this could be because tourists normally come in pairs with their girl friend or spouse.

**Table 5.3**  
**Visitors' Sex**

<b>Visitors' Sex</b>	<b>Number of Respondents</b>	<b>Percent (%)</b>
Male	28	56.0
Female	22	44.0
Total	50	100.0

*Source: Field Study, 2017*

Table 5.3 shows that the number of male and female tourists is almost equal.

## 5.3 Age Group

Tourist below 16 years of age visiting Sikles were not found during research period so they are not included in research. Only tourist aged above 16 years of age visited Sikles.

Below is the table 5.4 of respondents according to 5 age groups. More than one fourth respondents were 36-45 years old.

**Table 5.4**  
**Visitors' Age Group**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Number of Respondents</b>	<b>Percent (%)</b>
16-25	4	8.0
26-35	13	26.0
36-45	17	34.0
46-60	12	24.0
60+	4	8.0
Total	50	100.0

*Source: Field Study, 2017*

Total of 50 respondents participated in the interview. Of them, more than one fourth respondents were more than 36-45 years of age. All the visitors arrived in Sikles for travelling. This data shows that travel is the main cause of the tourism in Sikles.

#### **5.4 Travel Partner**

Tourist need some company during their visit to new place. The following table shows the number of respondents who travelled through Travel Agency and those who travelled on their own. Maximum numbers of respondents were found travelling on their own.

**Table 5.5**  
**Travel Partner**

	<b>Number of Respondents</b>	<b>Percent (%)</b>
On their own with family members/friends	31	62.0
Through Travel Agency in group	19	38.0
Total	50	100.0

*Source: Field Study, 2017*

Data show that, a large number of respondents 62 percent travelled on their own with family members or friends. And the remaining 38 percent travelled through travel agency in group. This reveals that a large number of visitors to Sikles come on their own. The respondents coming through travel agency were accompanied by a Nepali guide.

## 5.5 Occupation

The backgrounds of tourist travelling are different. The backgrounds of tourist travelling are illustrated below.

**Table 5.6**  
**Visitors' Occupation**

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Number of Respondents</b>	<b>Percent (%)</b>
No paid work/at home	10	20.0
Student	5	10.0
Sales	3	6.0
Administrator/Manager	6	12.0
Professional	15	30.0
Skilled worker	2	4.0
Retired	9	18.0
Total	50	100.0

*Source: Field Study, 2017*

Table shows that number of respondents by their occupation. Larger percentage of respondents were professionals (30%) followed by "no paid worker/at home" (20%) retired (18%) and so on.

These data reveal that the number of professionals is the highest who visit Sikles. The other significant number of visitors includes retired workers, and administrators/managers. Interestingly 30 percent of the visitors are the professionals who visit Sikles. As professionals are economically strong, it is easy for them to travel and spend money.

## 5.6 Days Spent in Sikles

Tourist stay in place during their visit, more the number of day they stay in place more the profit to the business. During research the number of days tourist spend in place are shown in the table.

**Table 5.7**  
**Days Spent in Sikles**

<b>Days</b>	<b>Number of Respondents</b>	<b>Percent (%)</b>
1	5	10.0
2	30	60.0
3	8	16.0
4	5	10.0
5	2	4.0
Total	50	100.0

*Source: Field Study, 2017*

The following table shows the respondents' number according to the days of their stay in Sikles. This data shows that 70 percent of respondents spent 1-2 days whereas 26 percent of the respondents spent 3-4 days. Above data reveal that, a large number of visitors stay in Sikles either for 1 to 2 days or for 3 to 4 days. This seems logical because those who come for travelling purpose return back home in 3-4 days while those coming for sight-seeing.

## 5.7 Trip Frequency

Most of the respondents 94 percent are found to be travelling to Sikles for the first time. The table below shows the number respondents who travelled for the first time and who travelled before as well. If the tourist finds the place interesting they prefer to visit that place again and again, some visit for the first time. The answer of the tourist are shown in the table below.

**Table 5.8**

**Frequency of Visit**

	<b>Number of Respondents</b>	<b>Percent (%)</b>
First time travel	47	94.0
Travelled before	3	6.0
Total	50	100.0

*Source: Field Study, 2017*

The respondents, who responded that they travelled Sikles before, were asked for their frequency of their past visit to Sikles. The repeating visitors travelled Sikles one-time to 5 times which is shown in Table 5.8.

**Table 5.9**

**Travelled in the Past**

<b>Time of travel</b>		<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
Valid	1	1	2.0	33.3
	2	1	2.0	33.3
	5	1	2.0	33.3
	Total	3	6.0	100.0
No Response		47	94.0	
Total		50	100.0	

*Source: Field Study, 2017*

The above table shows that only 3 respondents were repeated visitors and one of them stayed for 5 days. The repeating visitors were mainly attracted on natural beauty of Sikles which is unforgettable and enchanting. However, (94%) tourists were travelling for the first time, hence it was a new experience in a new place.

## 5.8 Information Source

How do you come to know about Sikles, medium like internet/friends/travel agencies etc. The answer is illustrated below. Table showing the source of information for the respondents' travelling to Sikles. Most of respondents were informed about Sikles by their friends, relatives and co-workers (60%), (28%) tourists got information from travel agency.

**Table 5.10**

### **Sources of Information**

	<b>Number of Respondents</b>	<b>Percent (%)</b>
Internet Search	4	8.0
Friends/Relatives/Co-worker	30	60.0
Travel Agency	14	28.0
Others	2	4.0
Total	50	100.0

*Source: Field Study, 2017*

Large number of respondents 60 percent got information about Sikles by their friends, relatives or co-workers. the remaining respondents were informed by a Travel Agency followed by Internet Search. The enchanting beauty of Sikles and the hospitality of the local people touched the hearts of tourist and hence after their return they informed their friends/relatives in their to visit Sikles.

## 5.9 Purposes of Visit

People visit new places for different seasons. Some visit for leisure, some for rest, some for adventure, etc. The answer for the question asked to tourist during their visit to Sikles are shown in the table below.

**Table 5.10**

**Reasons of Travel**

<b>Reason</b>	<b>Number of Respondents</b>	<b>Percent (%)</b>
Relax and Rest	9	18.0
Adventure	14	28.0
To get away from daily life	2	4.0
Travelling is my hobby	25	50.0
Total	50	100.0

*Source: Field Study, 2017*

The table presents the reason of respondents' travel to Sikles, (50%) of the respondents travelled for hobby purpose, followed by adventure (28%), for relaxing (18%) and to get away from daily life' (4%). The highest percent of respondents 50 percent visited Sikles for travelling purpose. The number was followed by adventure, and relax purposes respectively. It also indicates that in the present time also the people believed on new activities.

**5.10 Tourists Satisfaction**

Whether tourist are satisfied or unsatisfied depends on their experience. It is illustrated in table below. The following table 5.11 shows that almost all of the respondents' expectations were met during their stay in Sikles. Only one respondent answer "No".

**Table 5.12**

**Visitors Satisfied**

		<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
Valid	Yes	48	96.0	98.0
	No	1	2.0	2.0
	Total	49	98.0	100.0
No Response		1	2.0	
Total		50	100.0	

*Source: Field Study, 2017*

Among the 50 respondents (96%) commented that their trip was amazing and par-expectation. They found the scenery beautiful, landscapes breathtaking and unmatched cultural diversity. One of the respondent was not satisfied because he experienced rude behavior from one of the hotel owners in Sikles. Below is the case what he expressed in his own words:

### **Box 5.1**

#### **Case Study 5.1**

##### **Bitter Experience of Visitor**

*I am John Parker from England. I rented a room on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2017. I had been to a temple visit on 15<sup>th</sup> morning taking the room key with myself on returning I found that someone has entered in our absence and refill the minibar, room cleaning was done. I got annoyed as how can anybody enter my room without my permission if the keys are not left in reception. Above all one piece of cloth legging was missing from the room which was kept on the bed. As I had to change cloth on returning I thoroughly checked everything in the room for 1.5 hour to find it out. It was nowhere in the room how can something which was kept on the bed be missing in the few hours, when the key was in my pocket. It was not a very expensive things. But important was I had to wear it. I complained at the reception while checking out an hour later. But got a very cold response. Not even apologetic. Nobody was interested in listening to me.*

### **5.11 Tourist Attractions**

From the field study, it was found that 44% of the respondents' were attracted to Ghalekharka-Sikles eco-tourism route followed by people and culture, 32 percent Landscape/Scenery 24 percent and so on. The table below shows the total number of respondents in this respect.



**Table 5.13**

**Tourist Attractions**

	<b>Number of Respondents</b>	<b>Percent (%)</b>
People and Culture	16	32.
Landscape and Scenery	12	24.0
Ghalekharka-Sikles eco route	22	44.0
Total	50	100.0

*Source: Field Study, 2017*

Ghalekharka-Sikles eco route was the most attractive destination for the (44%) respondents. Other attractions were people and culture and landscape and scenery. For (32%) tourist local culture and people were Fascinating and were the key source of attraction.

**5.12 Friendship**

The respondents were asked whether they made any Nepali friends during their stay in Sikles.

**Table 5.14**

**Friendship in Sikles**

		<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
Valid	Yes	10	20.0	43.47
	No	13	26.0	56.52
	Total	23	46.0	100%
No Response		27	54.0	
Total		50	100.0	

*Source: Field Study, 2017*

Table above table shows that half of the respondents choose not to respond to this question. Among those who responded (43.47%) made Nepali friends and the remaining did not. This could be due to short stay period (average 2 days) of tourists in Sikles.

Those who came for Ghalekkharka-Sikles eco Trek could be those who answered 'Yes' who had around 1 week stay period.

### 5.13 Exchanges of Gifts

Among the total respondents, only 20 percent received/gave gift from/to local people. The following table shows the complete number. Tourism also enhances the exchange of Gift between different societies. It help in learning of different culture. The result of the study is shown in the table below.

**Table 5.15**

#### Exchange of Gifts

		No. of Respondents	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	10	20.0	21.7
	No	36	72.0	78.3
	Total	46	92.0	100.0
No Response		4	8.0	
Total		50	100.0	

*Source: Field Study, 2017*

Many of the respondents did not exchange any gifts with local people. However, (20%) of them were socially and culturally attached with the local people and hence they exchanged gifts. Many other tourists did not exchange any gifts because the period of stay was relatively short and they were unable to be friendly with local people.

### 5.14 Overall Impressions of Visitors on Local People

The behaviour of the locals also affects tourism. During the study period tourist were asked if they liked the overall impressions on local people and the answer are shown in table below.

**Table 5.16****Overall Impression of Visitors**

	<b>Number of Respondents</b>	<b>Percent (%)</b>
Friendly	1	2.0
Generous and friendly	1	2.0
Good	1	2.0
House-warming	1	2.0
Kind, welcoming	1	2.0
Sikles people are tough, disciplined, self-contained generous and friendly	1	2.0
Nice people, welcoming and polite	1	2.0
Super	2	4.0
They are very nice	1	2.0
Very friendly	1	2.0
Very friendly except owner of Sikles	1	2.0
Very industrious and friendly	1	2.0
Very kind	1	2.0
Very nice	1	2.0
Very open, gentle, kind people	1	2.0
Very polite and respectful	1	2.0
No Response	33	66.0
Total	50	100.0

*Source: Field Study, 2017*

The respondent's overall impression about the people of Sikles was positive. Many respondents responded that the people were friendly, generous, house-warming, kind, polite, respectful and nice. Some other respondents had impression that people of Sikles are tough, disciplined, self-contained and industrious. Some respondents expressed objection about the behavior of a hotel owner in Sikles. The case of a visitor illustrates the scenario of hospitality and cordiality they received in Sikles.

## Case Study 5.2 Pleasant Experience for Visitor

*I am Stephanie from Canada. We (3 adult and 2 young) stayed at Namaste Hotel during a trekking in December, 2016. The owner and staff were exceptionally friendly. The Nepali Gurung Tradition food is great and the room even better (Greater View) over the village. Also the villagers behaviours were good and cordial to others. Sikles is one of the best sample village. If you want to learn Gurung cultures and traditions then visit this village. It was my pleasant experience ever.*

### 5.15 Tourist's Contemplation on Sikles as a Tourism Hub

The respondents expressed the remarks regarding their notion on the vitality of Sikles as a tourism hub.

**Table 5.17**

#### Visitors' Contemplation on Sikles

	Number of Respondents	Percent (%)
A beautiful, exciting place to visit	1	2.0
Amazing	1	2.0
Beautiful	2	4.0
Beautiful Scenery	1	2.0
Beautiful, impressive, amazing	1	2.0
Big Super	1	2.0
Dry, cold and very interesting	1	2.0
Good	1	2.0
Great	1	2.0
Interesting place	1	2.0
It is a nice region full of contrasts because of the nature	1	2.0
Nice	1	2.0
One of the best experiences, I have had. Beautiful	1	2.0
Superb	1	2.0
This is amazing and beautiful	1	2.0
Wonderful	1	2.0
Worth visiting and learning how to live an unmaterialistic life	1	2.0
No Response	32	64.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Study, 2017

The above table shows that 64 percent of respondents did not respond the question. This was due to their tiredness and less interest in participating in interview. Most of the respondents expressed their impression about Sikles to be a beautiful, amazing, wonderful, exciting, impressive and full of contrasts. Some respondents found Sikles to be interesting, dry, cold and un-materialistic.

### 5.16 Visitors Intention to Revisit

A large number of respondents 68 percent responded that they would return to Sikles once again and recommend others to visit Sikles. The complete data is presented in the table below.

**Table 5.18**  
**Revisit Intention**

		No. of Respondents	Percent
Valid	Yes	34	68.0
	No	8	16.0
	Total	42	84.0
No Response		8	16.0
Total		50	100.0

*Source: Field Study, 2017*

The above table shows that 68% respondents expressed their desire to return to Sikles. The reasons they presented were natural beauty, beautiful landscape, indigenous culture and pleasing behaviour of the people of Sikles. However, (16%) respondents were refused to return back to Sikle and another (16%) were silent on this. The major pull factors of thrown in Sikles were natural beauty and beauty landscapes, indigenous cultures.

### 5.17 Appealing Factors of Sikles

In a new place tourist may found something particularly interesting for them. What they loved the most in that place is also a important thing. The respondents were asked for

the appealing factors of Sikles that lured them to visit Sikles. The responses have been presented in the table below their own expressions.

**Table 5.19**

**Appealing Factors of Sikles**

	<b>Number of Respondents</b>	<b>Percent (%)</b>
Attractive Landscapes. Natural beauty.	5	10.0
Beautiful culture and scenery	4	8.0
Beautiful landscape	3	6.0
Because what I saw is very different from the way I live and know. I would like to find different environment	1	2.0
For having an great experience	1	2.0
Once is not enough- may be under the right circumstances another trek with friend/family would be good.	1	2.0
No Response	35	70.0
Total	50	100.0

*Source: Field Study, 2017*

The above responses reveal that the factors that attract tourists to Sikles are beautiful landscapes, natural beauty, wonderful and the cultural diversity of Sikles. From the above result we can conclude that Sikles is really a nice place for tourists and there are many appealing factors of Sikles on the past of tourists.

**5.18 Attracting more Tourist in Sikles: What need to be done**

People visit new place because that place has a particular importance. Different place are well known for different reasons. What are the pros and cons of the place and what should we do to overcome those problems, so more tourist visits the place. Tourists is a lifeline of peoples economic in Sikles. The suggestions given by the respondents for attracting more tourists to Sikles have been presented in the table below.

**Table 5.20**

**Attracting more Tourists: What need to be done**

<b>Suggestions</b>	<b>Number of Respondents</b>
Preserve Natural Beauty	15
Develop Infrastructure	10
Keeping place clean	12
Developing social activities and education for local business.	9
Making provisions for toilets, wash, etc.	3
Lodge owner of High Camp/Be Polite	1

*Source: Field Study, 2017*

Above table shows that most of the respondent suggested to "preserve the natural beauty" (15 respondent) following by keeping place clean (12 respondents) and so on. Majority of respondent signaled their preference to "Natural Beauty" of Sikles. It indicates that most of tourist place of the world are modified artificially and the tourists are in search of natural beauty.

In conclusion it can be said that the local natural resources, religious as well as socio culture are main source of attraction and beside that tourist come to Sikles for adventurous tracking and relax too. If managed and well planned by the local stakeholder it can increase the number of tourist which will definitely increase the income sources of the villagers and that will change their life style.

# **CHAPTER VI**

## **SOCIAL EFFECTS OF TOURISM IN THE HOST COMMUNITY**

This chapter covers social effects of Tourism in host community. Tourism has been boon for the rural people, livelihood however it has both positive and negative effects on socio-economic and environmental sector.

### **6.1 Introduction**

Since the second half of the twentieth century, tourism has been gaining momentum and in 2011. Total revenues from tourism activities have reaches 1000 billion dollars. So we can firmly say that tourism compared to other industries has a superior capacity to distribute wealth and promote regional development. It has a high multiplier effect and it generates a varying consumption of goods and services.

Tourism activities take place in a natural and manmade environment, which is extremely complex. The manmade environment consists of economic, social and cultural processes and factors, and the natural environment is made up of the natural landscape, climate, flora and fauna present in a certain space (Mason, 2003) argues that there can be made a clear delimitation between the two environments, which is necessary when we talk about tourism's impacts.

Tourism increase traffic congestion and crowdedness in the public area, and brings social problem. Tourism also contributes to social ills such as bagging, gambling, drug trafficking, and prostitution, as well as the uprooting of traditional society, and causes deterioration of the traditional culture and customs of host countries (Ahmed & Krohn, 1992).

Tourism contributes to on undesirable increase in the consumption of alcohol, increased traffic congestion, and overcrowding because of visitors (Backman & Backman, 1997), However, tourism brings more opportunities to upgrade facilities such as outdoor recreation facilities, parks, and roads, but brings crowdedness in theaters, movies, concerts and athletic events (Lankford & Howard, 1994).



The activities of the tourism professionals entrepreneurs and local people were observed in order to find out the effect of tourism in social life of Sikles. Similarly, the tourists' activities were closely observed to synthesize knowledge on social impacts. In general, it was found that tourism has both positive and negative effects in the local social and economic life.

### **6.1.1 The Economic Effect of Tourism:**

In the '60s and '70s the first studies regarding the impact of tourism on regions or destinations had focused on economics. This singular point of focus was based on two facts: 1. the economic impact was easier to quantify and 2. there was a general optimism regarding the benefits that tourism generates. But tourism in its nature is drawn by unique and fragile destinations, and it became clear that in some cases the economic benefits can be shadowed by the negative consequences on the community and the environment, which were never estimated in the past (Dwyer et al. 2004: 307 – 308; Archer et al. 2005: 79-80)

The benefits and costs generated by the tourism activity should be viewed from three sides: tourists, local community and authorities. On one side we have the tourists, who pay to enjoy a certain form of tourism. On another side, we have the local community who enjoy the benefits (mainly financial) from the tourism activity. At the same time, they are the ones who have to face the hidden costs tourists leave behind. Last but not least, we have the government and the local authorities. For them, tourism generates revenues through taxes, the creation of jobs and contribution to the balance of payments (Goeldner and Ritchie, 2012:24, Lickorish and Jenkins, 1997:65-66; Saarinen, 2007:42). If we go further into details, we can talk about a fourth side: investors. From their perspective, the benefits are solely financial, based on the incomes of the businesses they have set up in the host- region. Regarding the costs, investors are immune to any other cost, than the financial one.

The tourism industry seems to be the most efficient branch of the economy in generating jobs and income in less developed, peripheral countries / regions, where development opportunities are limited. In these regions, the economic impact of tourism is felt most strongly. People from these regions are generally farmers or fishermen and the involvement in tourism activity can substantially increase their household income. Also an increase in the local tourism industry can provide an

incentive for related activities (agricultural products or souvenirs that could be used for the accommodation and catering). According to some authors (Archer et. al., 2005:81-82), the introduction of tourism industry in these regions may have a greater effect on the welfare of the resident population, compared to a more developed region in the same country. For such a development of tourism in an emerging country or region the following are need: basic infrastructure (access roads, drinking water etc.), lodging (hotels, pensions, etc.) and other facilities and services necessary for tourism (catering, transport, etc.)

Archer et. al. (2005:83) believes that some of these utilities are indivisible in the sense that they are provided by the tourism industry, and at the same time they are used by local people. Thus, in many emerging countries, motorways and airports built for tourism, now offer easier access to more distant markets for many local products. Unfortunately, the local population enjoys little benefits from this development. This is essentially a problem of distribution, both physical and economic.

The market does not ensure that development will keep up with demand. It is imperative that realistic and accurate planning is made and the enforcement of rules and laws to reduce conflicts and, where appropriate, preserve and protect the unique features of the nature tourists and residents can enjoy. This is a lesson that was learned quite recently by emerging countries. At a superficial level, the economic benefits of tourism seem obvious. In recent years an increasing number of authors have expressed reservations about the nature and extent of the benefits of tourism and expressed skepticism about the potential of tourism as a catalyst for growth and development as a means of maximizing the welfare of local people (Archer et al., 2005:82-83). In a study conducted in Turkey (Tosun et. al. 2003:155-159), it was noted that although tourism – as an economic development strategy- increased the rate of economic growth and created inequalities between regions and social classes. The inequalities were caused by economic incentives for coastal tourism development at the expense of rural areas. In essence, this is a problem of allocating resources and whether the developing of the tourism industry represents the optimal use of available resources - natural, human, etc.

Rural areas are generally lacking economic diversity and adequate infrastructure, and are based on a limited number of economic activities, and have a less

educated population. All this contributes to the limitation of the rural population to secure jobs, promote investment, etc.. Also, in these regions there is some lack of planning, management and monitoring of economic activities – including tourism. In terms of jobs the ones supplied by tourism they are to some extent seasonal, with low wages and limited opportunities for promotion. If we compare it with other industries, tourism requires employees with a low level of specialization, which determines the relatively low salary (Mathieson and Wall, 1982, Lickorish and Jenkins, 1997:73, Muller and Jansson, 2007:4). In nutshell it can be said that tourism has both drawbacks and positive effects. In Sikles the positive economic effects of tourism are as follows

- a. **Positive Economic Effects:** Tourism in Sikles has direct effect on economy by bringing in foreign currency. Additionally, tourism had created jobs, both through direct employment within the tourism industry and indirectly in sectors such as retail and transportation. When these people spend their wages on goods and services, it leads to what is known as the "multiplier effect", creating more jobs. the tourism industry also provides opportunities for small-scale business enterprises, which is especially important in rural communities, and generates extra tax revenues, such as hotel taxes, which can be used for other development works.

The statement of a case respondent regarding the positive Economic effect of tourism has been presented below:

#### **Box 6.1**

##### **Case Study 6.1**

##### **Positive Effect of Tourism**

*"Tourists coming to Sikles bring in foreign currency. They live in the hotels here n Sikles and spend their money. In this way, hotel owners make profit and on the other hand the hotel owners can give employment to some other people. Tourism has many positive effects..." I am happy that tourism has flourish in Sikles there has been different positive social effect of tourism.*

- b. Negative Economic Effects:** Successful tourism relies on establishing a basic infrastructure, such as roads, visitor centers and hotels. The cost of this usually falls on the government, so it has to come out of tax revenues. Jobs created by tourism are often seasonal and poorly paid, yet tourism can push up local property prices and the cost of goods and services. Money generated by tourism does not always benefit the local community, as it leaks to hotel owners.

A statement by a local respondent during key informant interview has been presented below:

*It can have some negative economic effects, including leakage, decline of traditional employment and seasonal unemployment. Also tourism entrepreneurs experience problem in keeping workers in primary industries. Seasonal unemployment can be a problem in tourist destinations that are not active all year round. It puts an extra strain on local and national government resources. Influx of visitors to Sikles has pushed up the price of goods and services, particularly when demand is high in peak season. This has disadvantaged local people who are compelled to pay higher prices for food, drinks, entertainments, transport, etc. Also extra charges may be levied on the local community to finance facilities and service for visitors".*

In conclusion, from an economic perspective, the objective of the local community should be to obtain higher results than the costs they have to pay, but in Sikles the local community is bound to face certain negative economic effects of tourism.

### **6.1.2. The Socio-Cultural Effect of Tourism**

Tourism has often been associated with the contact between cultures, behaviors, values and traditions. Tourism is considered a framework where hosts and tourists can learn better about from each other, through direct interaction. Also, tourism requires host communities to be more responsive and educated to provide quality services to tourists. In addition, interactions between locals and tourists generates the emergence of new ideas, values and motivations for social and economic progress (Brown 1998: 237-238; Bersales 2005:239; Nyaupane et al. 2006: 1373). Tourism can revitalize a community's cultural life, as art and traditions are an attraction for foreign visitors (Mason 2003:43)

The attitude of local people on tourism crosses four stages, as they were defined by Doxley (quoted by Fennel 2007:47-48):

**Euphoria** – tourists are welcomed by the community, without control or planning.

**Apathy** – tourists are considered a given by the community, and the tourists – locals relationship becomes formal and commercial

**Discomfort** – reaching saturation with the tourism industry, the community starts to change its attitude towards tourism. Decision makers further develop infrastructure instead of limiting growth.

**Antagonism** – locals show their irritation with tourism and tourists. Planning should be the remedy, but increased promotional activity is contracted to change the deteriorating image and reputation of the village.

We cannot talk about the socio-cultural impact of tourism without talking about globalization and its effects on local cultures. One result of globalization is consumerism. It is defined as an increase in demand for consumption in an increasing variety of products and services. Consumerism affects tourists, who are a part of the consumer-oriented society, characterized by: modern urban lifestyle, expectations for high-level services and an attitude characterized by the expression: "everything is for sale"(Reisinger 2009:11-13

Reisinger also argue that consumerism destroys culture and generates environmental and social problems: traffic congestion and queues at natural and man-made attractions. An example of this is Venice, which is overwhelmed by tourists, generating an increasing number of environmental and social issues. The invasion of tourists in San Marco Basilica caused damages to the frescoes due to the condensation created by the breath of the visitors. Also, the stone floor was constantly eroded by the river of travelers. Unfortunately, this type of problem is often accepted by tourists as an important part of the personal experience.

Globalization is accused of destroying the socio-cultural identity of the local communities and indigenous values, traditions and lifestyle (Macleod, 2004). Cities

visited by tourists in developing countries are not authentic, but rather disinfected and McDonaldized (Paramo - La, 2008). Diversity gives way to efficiency and local culture to global culture. A small village, which is facing many economic problems can succeed a change of 180 degrees, by capitalizing on several features: beautiful scenery, tranquility and lack of congestion. Unfortunately, for many communities the change equals with the loss of local traditions and values by replacing them with a false rural culture (Hester, 1990:5).

The need for "authentic" has tarnished to some extent the traditions of certain civilizations. The Keechak dance, interpreted by the Hindu community in Bali on some special occasions, was shortened, and performed out of the religious context, daily for the foreign tourist groups. In theory, tourists may feel cheated by such non - authentic events, but that would require a good knowledge of the cultural traditions of the area visited by foreign tourists (Mason, 2003:46). In the cities and urban concentrations, the response to consumerism is the emergence of a growing number of stores or shopping centers in central areas. The transformation of spaces into tourist attractions was called by Paramo - La Haine *Disney-fication*. "Through this process, a general feeling of security was created with an excessive control combined with increased attention. Security cameras are installed, alarm systems are engaged and security services are hired, to ensure that tourists are not bothered by the negative realities such as poverty, begging, social issues or ecosystem degradation. The less beautiful face of the world has no place in this controlled environment (Paramo, 2008).

Liu (2003:468) states that tourism is not the main culprit for the loss of cultural identity and traditions: "The globalization and homogenization of culture, often referred to as Coca- colaisation, Hollywoodisation or Mc Donaldisation may not be caused only by tourism. The media, by means of modern communication and information technology often play a more important role in shaping the values, opinions, lifestyle and fashion of the world." Unlike this global trend there has been some positive social- cultural effect of tourism in Sikles.

**a. Positive social-cultural Effects of tourism in Sikles**

- **Customs and Traditions Preservation:** Tourism has encouraged the preservation of traditional customs, handicrafts and festivals in Sikles that might otherwise have been vanished, and it has created civic pride. People are preserving their traditional norms and practices. The people feel pride to show the foreigners that they are rich in such customs and traditions.
- **Cultural Understanding:** Interchanges between hosts and guests has created a better cultural understanding and also helped to raise global awareness of issues such as poverty and human rights abuses.
- **Education:** Tourism has urged local people to get knowledge of foreign language especially English. Educational institutions have opened in Sikles and youths are studying higher level education.
- **Decision Making:** Tourist flow in Sikles has also effected decision making structure within households. Sikles was relatively female-headed society. Now gradually decision making power is shared equally by male and female in households. This is big change.
- **Health and Sanitation:** Tourism industry flourishes only when the infrastructures, tourism sites and residential area is clean and healthy. Therefore people of Sikles have raised awareness in health and sanitation. Roads, houses and hotels are clean and sanitized. The behavior of people and physical resources both have changed and become conscious about good health and sanitation.
- **Family Structure:** The culture, customs and lifestyle of tourists have created a direct impact on family structure of the households of Sikles. Joint family structures are gradually transforming into nuclear family structures
- **Marriage System:** Polygamy marriage practices were in mass practice in the past. But due to increased education level and cultural interchange with tourists, it is dramatically decreasing nowadays in Sikles.

**b. Negative Social Effects:** Visitor behavior can have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of the host community. For example, crowding and congestion, drugs and alcohol problems, prostitution and increased crime levels can occur. Tourism can even infringe on human rights, with locals being displaced from

their land to make way for new hotels. In Sikles interaction with tourists has led to an erosion of traditional cultures and values of host community. The village has faced negative impact of globalization. A statement by a local respondent during Key Informant Interview has been presented in below:

*"Many years ago when I was young, people here we so disciplined. But now many people are not disciplined. They have forgotten our traditional cultures. This is mainly because of tourists coming here. Young boys and girls here have learned bad habits such as drugs and prostitution..."*

### **6.1.3 The Environmental Effect of Tourism**

If the positive impact of tourism can be observed most easily on the economy, then surely, that the negative impact on the environment is the most evident. Compared with the economic impact of tourism, the environment has become a theme for studies and research recently, joining in the ecologist stream at the end of the '80s and early '90s (Holden, 2003:94).

For an accurate overview of the relationship between tourism and the environment we must take into account a large number of actors involved in tourism activity(Holden, 2009:17): authorities (local and central), private sector (local and external contractors), non-governmental organizations, with the focus on tourism activity, local community, tourists/visitors.

The common denominator of these actors is the man. Consequently, when we talk about the relationship between tourism and the natural environment it is necessary to consider that this relationship is the expression of human interaction with nature ... [so] to determine the effect of tourism on the natural environment we should take into account the following: the price we attach nature, cultural stereotypes about nature and the ethical relationship of man with nature." (Holden, 2009:17).

Sharpley (2006:22) believes that the environment is a fundamental element of the tourists' experience. Tourists are looking for attractive natural resources, different and special, allowing specific tourism activities. At the same time, the development of tourism consumes resources, creates waste and requires a certain degree of infrastructure development, which in some cases can lead to the degradation and destruction of the environment. The relationship between tourism and



the environment crossed four stages over time (Sharpley 2006:122):

- coexistence in the beginning of tourism activities, the impact was minimal;
- conflict: mass tourism was seen as a destroyer of nature;
- idealism: symbiosis possible by developing "green" tourism;
- realism: different approaches to development that put in balance the needs of the tourists, the locals and the environment

Sharpley (2006:121) argues that there is a high degree of difficulty to pinpoint the negative impacts that tourism can have on the environment because:

- it's not always clear if the environmental degradation is caused by tourist activity or other human activities;
- the impact of tourism on the environment is rarely visible immediately; tourism development may cause an indirect impact that is felt in some cases in other regions;
- often we lack references to measure the consequences of tourism on the environment.
- often we lack references to measure the consequences of tourism on the environment.

On one hand, Swarbrooke (1999) and Holden (2009:22) believe that the natural environment has benefited from tourism, through the conservation actions and protection of nature (natural and national parks, protected areas etc.). Also, tourism causes a deeper appreciation of the nature of the tourists and the local population. Tourism is considered a "friendly" alternative to other industries that could benefit the locals.

On the other hand, tourism has direct negative effects on the natural environment and it puts a high pressure on the carrying capacity of host regions and indirect, from development of tourist facilities (Ioannides, 1995:583). It becomes obvious that the environment consisting of the countryside will suffer from the construction of hotels, parks, shopping malls or amusement parks. Most common consequences of tourism on the environment are:

- changing the structure of flora and fauna (ski slopes);

- pollution of water, air and soil, etc.;
- soil erosion (landslides or disappearance of beaches);
- depletion of natural resources;
- traffic congestion and public transport;
- visual impact (anarchic/chaotic urbanization of seaside and mountain resorts).

Unfortunately, the local population is one that has to "pay" the costs of the resulting environment degradation from tourist exploitation and the degradation is most of time observed or felt only after a period of time (Beeton 2006:19; Holden 2009:19). In Sikles there has been both positive and negative effects of tourism on local environment. The positive effects are as follows:

- a. Positive Environmental Effects:** Tourism has helped promote conservation of wildlife and natural resources such as forests as these are now regarded as tourism assets. It has also helped generate funding for maintaining animal preserves fees. By creating alternative sources of employment, tourism has reduced problems of protected wildlife killing, deforestation and other environmental malpractices in Sikles. A statement by a local respondent during Key Informant Interview has been presented below:

*"It is possible for tourism to be good for the environment sustainability. Tourism has attempted to use the resources available whilst also conserving them for the future in Sikles sustainable environment tourism. If tourism can be developed, the money generated can be used to repair and improve the natural or built environment. Tourism can also be used to educate people and raise awareness of the importance of environments-hopefully securing their future".*

- b. Negative Environmental Effects:** Tourism poses a threat to a region's natural and cultural resources, such as water supply and heritage sites, through overuse. It also causes increased pollution through traffic emissions, garbage on trekking routes, increase sewage production and noise. A statement by a local respondent during Key Informant Interview has been presented in below:

*"The air pollution coming from tourist transportation is one of the major negative environmental effects of tourism in Sikles. Traveling by bus, bike and Road has resulted to air pollution in Sikles has damaged the*

*environment also the noise garbage on trekking routes is another factor of Negative Environmental effects in Sikles"*

In conclusion it can be said that the social effects of tourism in the host community of Sikles has been both negative and positive. However, there are more positive effects of tourism because it has help in preserving local Gurung tradition and culture. It has helped in promoting cultural, understanding between guest and hosts. It has influenced decision making role within family and helped in reforming the marriage system. However the negative environmental effect of tourism in Sikles, serious concern. Hence it is necessary to promote environmental friendly sustainable tourism in Sikles.

# **CHAPTER VII**

## **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCHERS**

### **7.1 Summary**

The main focus of this study is to find out explore foreign tourists tourism experience in Sikles and the social effects of tourism in host community. For this, Sikles Village of Nepal was selected with the assumption that this village could represent the tourism activities of the whole mountainous region of Nepal.

For carrying out this study, exploratory and descriptive research design was used. Detailed factual information were collected which describe the existing phenomena. Data were collected from visitors, entrepreneurs and other local people. Several secondary data were studied and analyzed in order to gain familiarity on the tourists' behavior, perceptions and the effects of tourism activities in social life.

Taking 70 tourists visiting Sikles in the period November-December 2016 to Sikles as Universe, 50 timely available tourists within the universe were selected under non-probability sampling data were collected through, Interview, case studies, Key Informants Interview and secondary data sources specifically from NTNC-ACAP, Sikles.

The collected data from interview was tabulated and analyzed calculating the percentage. The findings of the study have been presented below:

- Out of the 50 respondents, largest numbers (20%) of travelers were British and USA. After that second largest numbers of visitors were from Switzerland 14 percent.
- The largest number (34%) of the people visiting Sikles were aged 36-45 years or above and they had the purpose of Trekking tourism. This number is followed by the age group 26-35 which is 26 percent.
- 62 percent tourists travelled at their own with friends.

- Majority tourists have a very short period of stay in Sikles. Average period of stay is 3 days. Round Ghalekharka Sikles eco Trekkers stay 6 days on average.
- The types of tourists visiting Sikles are Professionals (30%), Retired workers, Administrators, Managers, sales Workers, Skilled workers, Students and Non-workers/at home.
- Information from the friends, relatives, co-workers have become the vital sources on Sikles tourism. (60%) visitors knew about Sikles from their friends/relatives and only (8%) came to know about Sikles through Travel Agency.
- The general experiences of the visitors on Sikles tourism is positive. 96% visitors responded that their expectations were met. However a respondent was dissatisfied regarding the rude behavior of a hotel owner.
- The main purpose of tourists visiting Sikles apart from hobby purpose was for Adventurous experience. The natural beauty is main tourist attraction. The visitors suggest preserving and maintaining this beauty. The prime concern is on the conservation of natural beauty rather than infrastructure development.
- Round Ghalekharka-Sikles eco Trekking, Landscapes, and People/Gurung culture of Sikles are the main appealing factors of Sikles.
- The landscape and breathtaking scenery attracts the tourists and compels them to recommend their friends and relatives to visit this place once. Additionally they are motivated to visit this place once more.
- Tourism activities have both positive and negative economic, social and environmental effect on social life of Sikles.

## **7.2 Conclusion**

There are a number of tourism resources that attract tourists to Sikles. The attraction resources are natural, as well as socio-cultural. Tourists come to Sikles for adventure-trekking, relax/rest. Tourists to Sikles are from many fields such as professionals, skilled workers, students, sales person and house workers. The visitors' expectations were fulfilled during their visit. They are quite satisfied with their tourism experiences in Sikles.

Tourism had brought both positive and negative effect on economic, environmental and social life of Sikles. The increasing number of visitors to Sikles has opportunity to

increase economic condition of the people of Sikles but it has also posed some threats to the social life. In order to convert those threats into opportunities, tourism resources and activities need to be planned and managed well. Despite the positive experiences of tourists on Sikles tourism and the both positive and negative effects of foreign tourists on host community, all the stakeholders- local people, entrepreneurs and the government department need to be careful on preserving the natural beauty and the local culture of Sikles in a sustainable manner for a sustainable tourism.

### **7.3 Suggestions to Future Researchers**

For future research it may be interesting to do a comparison of various tourist village instead of only one. In this way information could be gathered with regard to determining if difference exist in perception with village from different environments or light of operation also to determine what factor emerge from different village as contributors of positive or negative perception.

Additionally, it is debatable that tourist are truly helpful to local people specifically. Whether tourists in Sikles improve the quality of local community? How is the interaction between local people and guest? Are there misunderstanding between them due to cultural differences? These are important issues which need to be researched in future. This dissertation only depicts the situation on one side of the scenario. Therefore, getting tourists perspective is necessary for tourism planner and tour operators to see the whole picture.

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**ANNEX I: INTERVIEW SCHEDULE**

**TOURISM EXPERIENCES AND SOCIAL EFFECTS OF TOURISM IN THE HOST COMMUNITY: A  
STUDY OF SIKLES, PARCHE VDC, KASKI, NEPAL**

**SECTION 1 : ABOUT YOURSELF**

1. Your name, please:.....
2. Sex: (male/female/other).....
3. Age group: (please tick)

16-25	.....
26-35	.....
36-45	.....
46-60	.....
60+	.....

4. Country of origin:
5. You travelled to Sikles: (please tick)
  - On your own with your family members/friends .....
  - through Travel Agency in group .....
  - (please specify) .....

6. What is your occupation: (please tick)
  - No paid work/at home .....
  - Student .....
  - Sales .....
  - Administrator/Manager .....
  - Professional (please specify) .....
  - Skilled worker .....
  - Unskilled worker .....
  - Retired .....
  - Other (please specify) .....

**SECTION 2 : ABOUT YOUR TRAVEL**

**7. How many days did you spend in Sikles? .....**

**8. Is this your first trip to Sikles? (yes/no) .....**

**If no:**

**3. How many times have you been before?..... For how long?.....**

**9. How did you come to know about Sikles as a travel destination?**

Internet Search .....

Friends/Relatives/Co-worker .....

Travel Agency .....

Other (please specify) .....

**10. What is the main reason of this travel? (Please tick)**

Relax and Rest .....

Adventure .....

Know about art and culture of Sikles .....

Visit relatives and friends .....

To get away from everyday life and obligations .....

Business/Official Purpose .....

Training/Educational Purpose.....

Travelling is my hobby .....

Other (please specify) .....

**11. You had some expectations from Sikles before you left your country. Did this trip meet those expectations? (yes/no).....**

**12. What attracted to most of Sikles as a Travel Destination? (tick 1)**

People and Culture of Sikles .....

Landscape/Scenery .....

Ghalekharka-Sikles eco Trek .....

Other (please specify) .....

**SECTION 3 : LOCAL PEOPLE AND CULTURE**

13. Did you make any Nepali friends in Sikles? (Yes/No) .....

If yes, Please given details:

.....

14. Did you have a Nepali "guide" to show you the sights? (Yes/No).....

15. Did you give or receive gifts to/from any local people? (Yes/No).....

If yes, please give details:

.....

16. What is your overall impression of the people of Sikles?

17. What is your general impression of Sikles?

18. Would you return to Sikles and/or recommend your friends/relatives to visit Sikles? (Yes/No).....

19. What are you suggestions to attract more tourists to Sikles?

Preserve natural beauty/widerness .....

Develop infrastructure (all weather road/treking trail, etc.).....

Other (please .....

specify) .....

.....

20. Finally, do you have any other comments you'd like to make about your trip to Sikles?

21. What are the positive and Negative effects of Tourism on local culture, society and the local social life as a whole?

.....

.....

.....

**ANNEX II - THE RESPONDENTS**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Country</b>
ISABEL MARTINEF HEERVAS	Female	26-35	SPAIN
YOUNG MINGLU	Male	26-35	CHINA
CHEN YUEPING	Male	26-35	CHINA
DEBONS ARMAND	Male	16-25	SWITZERLAND
DEBRNS MORCE BLOUEHO	Female	16-25	SWITZERLAND
GIBSON	Male	26-35	SINGAPURE
CHEN XI	Female	26-35	CHINA
YOSSEF	Male	46-60	ISRAEL
BELESIA ENRICO	Male	26-35	ITALY
ALMA MARTINET HERVAS	Female	46-60	SPAIN
CARLOSE VINADER MORALEDA	Male	46-60	SPAIN
ROSEMARY GUTWILLIG	Female	16-25	USA
LUCIA MIKUSOVA	Female	26-35	SLOVAKIA
RUTH KATZ	Female	46-60	ISRAEL
LURCI MARINA	Female	26-35	ITALY
RAFFAELLA CURCI	Female	60+	ITALY
MOLIN	Female	36-45	CHINA
WEL WEL DONG	Male	36-45	CHINA
TIM BYRNE	Male	26-35	AUSTRALIA
KELLIE MCLOGY	Female	60+	SWITZERLAND
MOULIN JEVEL SOULS	Male	36-45	SWITZERLAND
DONIALE	Male	36-45	ENGLAND
SUZANNE	Female	36-45	ENGLAND
JORRIC	Male	36-45	ENGLAND
BRENDA W.	Female	16-25	ENGLAND
KENDO	Male	26-35	ENGLAND
MARKO	Male	36-35	ENGLAND
SANT	Male	36-45	USA
LOMANIA	Female	36-45	USA
MICHEL	Male	36-45	USA
LAOR	Male	46-60	USA



JERRIC	Male	46-60	USA
JOHN. PARKER	Male	36-45	ENGLAND
ERIC A	Male	46-60	ENGLAND
STEPHENIE	Female	36-35	CANADA
SUL	Female	46-60	ENGLAND
BRAIN JACKSON	Male	26-35	USA
JAMIE JACKSON	Female	26-35	USA
CATHRINA JOHANNA BROYAL	Female	46-60	HOLLAND
GERTRUDA ANNA. H LEMPENS	Female	46-60	HOLLAND
RAYMUNDUS J.M.	Male	46-60	HOLLAND
EDILSTEIN SIMOM	Male	36-45	FRANCE
EDELSTEIN MINDUK ODILE	Female	36-45	SWITZERLAND
GIROUD TSCHOPP	Male	60+	SWITZERLAND
TSHOPP NICOLAS	Male	60+	SWITZERLAND
MARCK	Male	36-45	USA
LEMKIN	Male	36-45	SLOVAKIA
PUREE C.	Female	46-60	SINGAPORE
JUSTIN	Male	36-45	USA
GRIC	Female	26-35	ENG

**ANNEX - III**  
**PHOTOGRAPHS**



**ACAP Office Sikles**



**ACAP Office Sikles Staff with Researcher**



**Hotel Owner of Sikles with Researcher**



**Local People of Sikles with Researcher**



**Photo shot of Tourists in Sikles**



**Tourists having their breakfast at Sikles**



**Tourists points out the Sikles vilalge**



**Differnt Activities of Tourist in Sikles**



**Tourist playing with kid**



**Different Activities of Tourist in Sikles**