

CHAPTER – ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Background

1.1.1 Background of Tourism

Global Context

Tourism, a smoke less industry, is regarded as one of the biggest and ever expanding service industry in the world .The first recorded tour was held in 1841 July 5 by Thomas Cook of Europe who organized worlds first tour . It was an excursion tour in a train that ran from Leicester to Loughborough and back with 570 tourist passengers at a round trip fare of one shilling. Tourism industry leaped forward after the introduction of steam engine in 19th century. Now travel and tourism constitute the world's largest and most rapidly expanding industry with an average annual growth rate of 1.9 % generating world widely about us \$944 billion as an overall receipt from tourism in 2008. It has provided employment to thousands and has become a base of livelihood.

Nepal's Context

Nepal is one of the important tourist destinations of the world. The Himalayas and the scenic beauty are the prominent attractions to the tourists in Nepal. Along with it its awesome scenery and friendly people has long been known as a heaven on the earth. Gorgeous mountains, rivers, water falls, lakes, green forest, caves and rare flora and fauna always plays great attraction force to tourists and visitors. Its forests, hills and mountains criss-crossed by a myriad of trails and diverse cultural heritage attract both novices and experienced trekkers, so it is also known as a trekker's paradise.

The inception of tourism in Nepal was about six decades ago in 1950s, since then tourism in Nepal has come a long way. At present, tourism is one of the main sources of foreign exchange earning and employment opportunities at different levels it also plays a pivotal role in the economic development by promoting cottage industries, trade and other services in various sectors. In 1998 the tourist arrival in Nepal was 4,63,684 and total foreign exchange earning from tourism was Rs. 9,881.6 millions which leaped to maximum 5,26,705 tourist arrival generating total foreign

exchange earning of Rs. 18,6503,millions in 2007. It was the maximum point met till now. In 2008, total number of tourists visiting Nepal has decreased to 500,277. It has decreased the amount of total foreign exchange earning to 16,825 millions in the first eight months of the fiscal year 2008/09. Nearly 3.3% of the total GDP was shared by tourism industry in 1998, which decreased to 2.3% in 2008. It has increased to 2.6% in first eight month of F.Y. 2008/09 (MoTCA, 2008). To increase total tourist influx in the future government of Nepal in consultation with Nepalese Tourism Industry has launched a national tourism campaign "Nepal Tourism Year 2011". This announcement reflects the government's anticipation to bring into at least one million international tourists in Nepal by 2011 and spread the benefits of tourism to the people at large.

1.1.2 Protected Areas and Tourism

World's recorded first national park is the Yellowstone National Park of the USA which was established in 1872. This was a milestone in the evolution of the concept of national parks.

The Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas (CNPPA)has defined national parks as "Natural areas of land or sea designated to (a) protect the ecological integrity of one or more ecosystems for present or future generation, (b) exclude exploitations or occupation inimical to purposes of designation of the area and (c) provide a foundation for spiritual, scientific, educational recreational and visitor opportunities all of which must be environmentally and culturally compatible"(www.iucn.org).

Chitwan National Park was the first national park of Nepal established in 1973 after one century then that of world's first national park. Since then Nepal has established a network of Protected Areas (PAs) that consists of a total of 9 National Parks (NPs),3 Wildlife Reserves (WRs),3 Conservation Areas (CAs), 1 Hunting Reserve (HR) and 11 buffer Zones (BZs), covering 19.7% area of the country . Distribution of Protected Areas in Nepal is shown in figure 1.

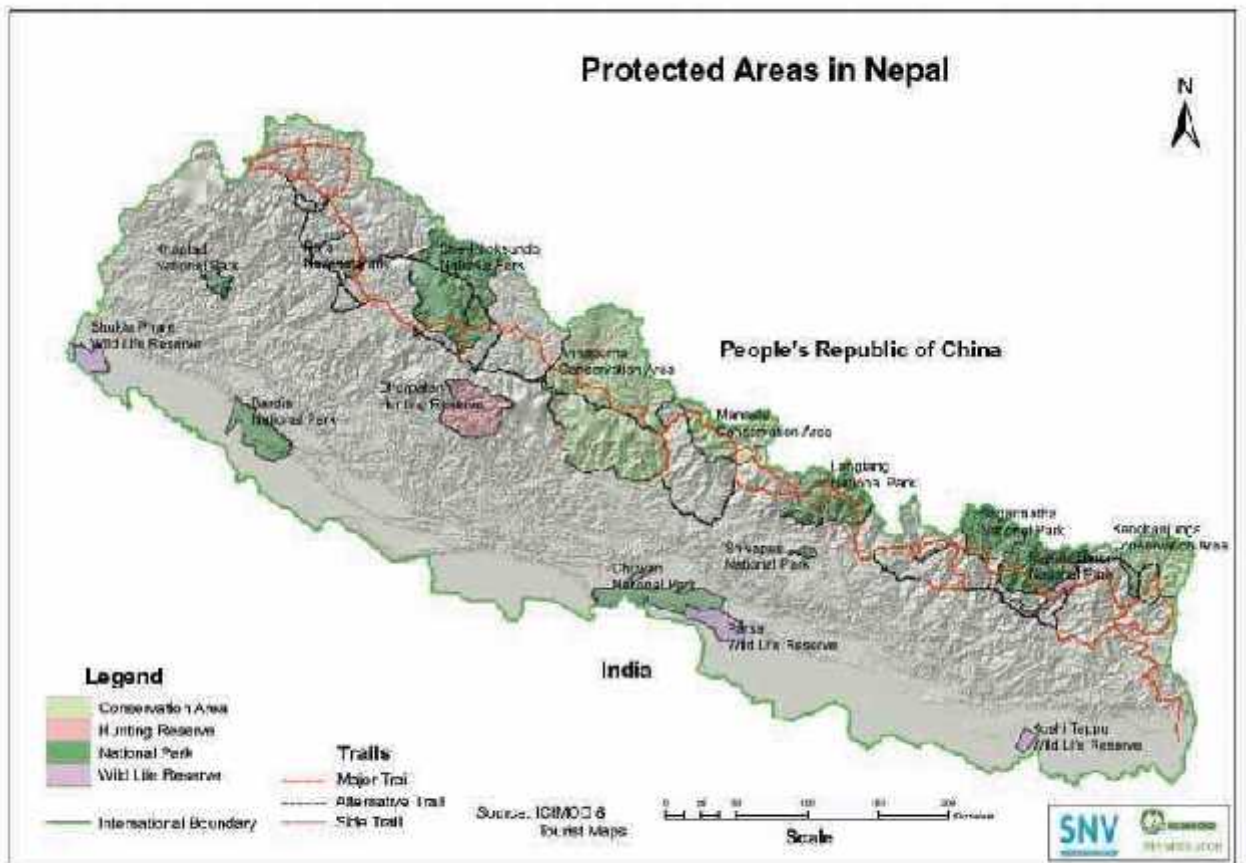


Figure No 1 Protected Areas of Nepal

According to NPWC Act 1973, national park is defined as "An area set aside for conservation, management and utilization of animals, birds, vegetation together with the natural environments". World Heritage Committee of UNESCO has included Chitwan National Park and Sagarmatha National Park in the World Heritage Sites. In compatible with the primary objective, to protect flora and fauna; landscapes or geological formation, the secondary objective of establishing these PAs is to develop tourism opportunities. Almost all tourism activity outside the Katmandu Valley takes place in protected areas. Among total foreign visitors coming to Nepal more than 25% visit PAs. Total number of tourists visiting in PAs in the fiscal year 2064/65 is 291040 (MoTCA, 2008). The net gross revenue from the PAs of Nepal for 2064/65 has reached NRs. 11,78,98,991 (Appendix 1).

At present the development of tourism and trekking (among Protected Areas) is limited in Chitwan, Annapurna, Sagarmatha, Langtang and Kanchangunga area. Besides these also there are many other potential protected areas which could be developed as tourism destinations. It is observed that tourism has received the attention of the government from the beginning of plan period, various programmes are launched in various time period, many governmental and non-governmental as well as public sectors are involved to promote tourism development. But all their

efforts have not been effective. Due to various reasons like lack of sufficient revenue allocation and lack of publicity, tourism sector in Nepal has not flourished as it should have been.

1.1.3. Concept of Ecotourism

"Ecotourism is a segment of tourism that involves traveling to relatively undisturbed or uncontaminated natural areas with the specific objective of admiring, studying and enjoying the scenery and its wild plants and animals, as well as any existing cultural features "(Adhikari, 2005). Ecotourism is a responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the welfare of the people. The Ecotourism Society has defined ecotourism as "Purposeful travel to natural areas to understand the cultural and natural history of environment taking care not to alter the integrity of the ecosystem while producing economic opportunities that make the conservation of natural resources financially beneficial to local citizens"(www.ecotourism2002.org).

Ecotourism is one of the fastest growing trends in the tourism industry. The term ecotourism is generally used to describe tourism activities that is conducted in harmony with nature and opposed to more traditional "mass tourism" activities. Ecotourism in other words, involves both a strong commitment to nature and sense of social responsibility. It is environmentally friendly tourism where both host and guest are aware of environmental degradation as a result of participation in tourist activities and entails protection and preservation of natural as well as socio cultural environment while traveling.

Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park and Ecotourism

Located just 12 km north of Nepal's capital city Katmandu Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park has a perfect blend of natural beauties and cultural heritage .After being gazatted as a national park in 2002 it has further gained tourists concentration. The park has high potentiality of attracting large number of tourists as it is an excellent destination for viewing rare species of flora and fauna, dense forest mountain range and water bodies.

The idea that culturally and ecologically responsible tourism can generate profits and promote conservation and management of natural areas for long term sustainable economic development was coined as ecotourism by conservationists in

1970s. As most of the tourist areas are very fragile in nature therefore the tourism should be considered in a way the environment will be preserved. As ecotourism means ecologically sound tourism or nature tourism which helps to sustain natural and cultural resources in any area. Several surveys have shown that ecotourism appears to have less negative impacts in the environment, society and culture. The great diversity of natural resources procures high potentiality for ecotourism development in the Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park.

1.2 Statement of the Problem.

Nepal has numerous geographically, climatically, culturally and biologically attractive places which plays gravitational force to large number of tourists each year.

Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park has very high potentiality of ecotourism development. It is an excellent destination for viewing rare species of flora and fauna like orchids, rhododendrons, sloth bear, leopard, barking deer and many species of birds.

Many religious sites of both Hindu and Buddhists pilgrims are present here such as Baghdwar, Bishnudwar, Sundari Mai, Nagi Gumba e.t.c.

The area is the primary source of freshwater for Katmandu Valley. Two main rivers flowing through Katmandu Valley (Bagmati and Bishnumati) originate from here.

Unique biological resources, mountain landscape and panoramic views of Katmandu city, and the Himalayan range are the major attractions which plays key role in attracting large number of tourists.

Despite of such high natural and cultural diversity and being easily accessible from the capital city Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park is not the primary choice of tourists. They prefer to visit Chitwan National Park or Pokhara rather than Shivapuri National Park.

1.3 Objectives of the study

The general objective of the study is to explore the prospect and problems of ecotourism development and analyze impacts of tourism in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park.

The specific objectives are:-

- i) To explore the potentiality of natural resources for ecotourism development in the study area.
- ii) To identify the cultural potentiality of ecotourism in the study area.
- iii) To find out the major problems for the ecotourism development.
- iv) To identify the socio-economic impacts of tourism in the study area.
- v) To analyze the environmental impacts of tourism in the study area.

1.4. Significance of the Study

Tourism is an important industry as a major source of foreign exchange earning which plays a pivotal role in economic development of least developed countries like Nepal. Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park area is becoming more popular among the tourists .This study analyzes the prospects of ecotourism development and identifies the problems prevailing in the study area against it.

This research explores the natural, socio-cultural, religious and biological aspects of the study area. It also explains how the local people can increase their income by tourism activities and get benefited. This study highlights the most common and important problems seen in ecotourism development.

Few research studies have been carried out in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park regarding tourism aspects. So this study will be helpful for policy makers, researchers and development agencies to conduct various researches and development programs in the park and the similar area.

1.5. Limitations of the Study

Constraints of time and finance are the major limitations of the study, as there was no funding available. Due to these constraints the study is concentrated in four VDCs of the park area viz: Budhanilkantha, Sundarijal, Kakani and Lapsiphedi which are the major entry points of the park. So the study will be very specific and the conclusion drawn from this study will also be very specific.

1.6 Origination of the Study

The thesis has been divided into six chapters.

The first chapter describes about background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study limitations of the study and organization of the study.

The second chapter has carried out a review of literature related to the study. Literature related to international, national and protected area tourism has been consulted and properly mentioned. Ecotourism related literature has also been studied. Details of the literature have been mentioned in the References section of the thesis.

The third chapter deals with research methods applied to carry out the study. It includes research design, nature and sources of data, sampling procedure, data collection procedure and data processing and analysis procedure.

Fourth chapter deals with study area and the people, which include sub sections like physical settings, socio-economics and cultural settings of the study area.

Fifth chapter includes analysis and interpretation of the collected data and information. It describes tourists and visitor's related information and socio-economic and environmental impacts of tourism.

The sixth chapter analyzes the natural, cultural and religious potentialities of eco-tourism in the study area.

Seventh chapter includes various problems seen in the study area regarding ecotourism development.

The eighth chapter is the concluding chapter which includes summary, conclusion and recommendations on the basis of findings from the study.

The appendix part includes supporting informations related to the study. These include interview and schedule used for the study, in formations related to protected areas and related photographs.

CHAPTER - TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

Concept of Tourism

Tourism is termed as a peace industry as it prospers only in peace environment and also contributes to extend the international affability among countries. It is also known as a dream industry as it sells dreams to the potential tourists to attract visiting the destinations.

Tourism denotes the temporary short time movement of people to destinations outside the places where they normally live and work and their activities during the stay at these destinations.

Etymologically the word tour is derived from the Latin word "tornare" and the Greek word "tornos", meaning a lathe or circle, the movement around a central point or axis. This meaning changed in modern, English to represent "one's turn ". The suffix "ism" is defined as "an action or process ". Therefore, like a circle a tour represents a journey that is a round tip, i.e., the act of leaving and then returning to the original starting point (Kunwar 2006).

Tourism is an ever growing industry of today's world. It has been considered as a major product of modernization and globalization. It's impact on every society is so rampant. It is multidimensional and multidisciplinary in terms of culture and nature. Somewhere it is blamed as a major cause of cultural erosion and somewhere it is appreciated as an effective tool for economic development and social harmony (Joshi, 2008).

According to Tewari (1994), the concept of Tourism is as follows:-

- A movement of people to various destinations has two components, journey and stay, both of which take place outside the normal area of residence and work.
- The movement is of a temporary nature and for a short duration, which distinguishes it from migration.
- It gives rise to activities at the destination, which are distinct from those of resident population of the place visited.

- The main motive for participation in tourism is largely recreational and the visit is made for the purpose other than seeking permanent residence or employment remunerated from within the place visited.
- Tourism, in the pure sense, is essentially a pleasure activity and involves a discretionary use of freely disposable incomes and free time.

Tourism is a key resource for sustainable development. Tourism provides the best platform for the business of local foods, customs and handicrafts. It helps in business promotion' and income generation by preserving the indigenous knowledge and skills. Conservation through tourism is possible. And tourism is only sector where invisible things like social values, norms, traditions, folk-stories do meant money. Tourism has both positive and negative impacts. It provides the modern facilities to the locals too, supports the local economy, provides employment opportunities, gives a sense of pride and good name to the locals and locality, and reduces social/racial conflicts and discriminations. Where, it also can commodify the culture, hike the price of goods, displace traditional residents, increase pollution, creates extra population (Joshi, 2008).

The most widely accepted, but technical definition of the tourist was proposed by the International Union of the Travel Organizations (TUOTO) in 1963 and approved in 1968 by the World Tourist Organization. It states 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., (b) business (Family, mission, meeting)" It is clear that he who visits abroad at least for twenty four hours is called the tourist. (Kunwar, 2006).

Evolution and Development of Tourism

Traveling from one place to other started back in ancient time .Travel in the past was not undertaken for the purpose of pleasure and it was not taken during the leisure time. The ancient people used to roam and travel to different places for food and safe place.

Travel before the industrial revolution was largely a matter of pilgrimages and travel for business or official purposes, no much private travel was done in the

medieval period. Travel in the 18th century was an activity undertaken by a small wealthy and mostly elite. These elite traveled chiefly for educational and for official purposes. After industrial revolution there was accountable change and increase in the economy of Britain, which had marked effects in laying the foundation of modern tourism. As the economic condition of people started to increase, they just not focused on food cloth and shelter but also on health and recreation. So they started to travel to various places in leisure time. A large number of people visited for salt water treatment (sea water) which is also known as *spa*.

The foundation of modern tourism was laid after the development of railway. But before the railway, the travelers traveled by road. Until the middle of the 17th century, such roads as existed were maintained from local funds. Then rather than the creations of a national road authority "turnpikes" were constructed.

The organization and sale of travel as it is known world wide today, began in 1841. It was started by Thomas Cook, the pioneer travel agent, who is considered as father of modern tourism. His first excursion train ran from Leicester to Loughborough, a distance of 12 miles, and back on 5 July 1841 with 570 passengers at a round trip fare of one shilling (Kunwar, 2006).

After the 2nd world war the standard of living of the working and middle class rose in the international countries. Tourism began to appear in the countries where it had been particularly unknown a few years earlier. The war also changed the concept of people especially in Europe. It broke down the international barriers and peaceful internationalism developed. This was the favorable climate in which tourism flourished. Enormous expansion of tourism has taken place primarily in the advanced industrialized countries where travel has become a part of life style. Thus the 20th century and onward can be called "the century of mass tourism" In the past, tourism was limited to limited countries and destinations. Now every country is directly or indirectly involved in tourism. All countries compete with each other to attract tourists.

Tourism in Nepal

The development of tourism started immediately after the fall of the xenophobic isolation of Rana regime in 1950s. Till then there had been very few tourists particular lily missionaries who came over to Nepal and discovered it as a

fascinating country. Perhaps that was the period when Nepal was Labeled with such romantic names as "Shangri La", "Garden of the East", etc Throughout the Rana regime and till the late 1950s, many writers and mountaineers visited Nepal and studied and wrote of such varied subjects as Tibetan Buddhism, Birds, Katmandu Valley, Himalayas etc.(Shakya, 2008).

The history of tourism in Nepal is not so long. After the establishment of democracy in 1951 Nepal followed an open door policy. On May 29,1953 Late Mr. Tenzing Norgy and Edmund Hillary scaled Mt. Everest and Worlds attention was focused to Nepal and subsequently a tourism industry began to develop . Until mid 1960 tourist inflow was not recorded when the Department of Tourism was established in 1966, under the Tourism Development Act 1964 the systematic recording of tourism started in Nepal. Although the tourism administration machinery has existed since 1956, tourism sector was further promoted only after Royal Nepal Airlines Corporation (RNAC) came into being in 1958 (Dhakal, 1998).

Tourism being an important activity plays not only an instrumental roe in alleviating poverty but also improve socio economic status of a community. It helps to earn foreign currency and provides a sustainable way of conserving environment and culture through integrated local participation .It, by all means is peoples industry, it is run by the people for the people at the core be they guests or hosts, and it is their well being and enrichment which should be the primary goal of tourism development (Kunwar, 2006). If the local people understand contribution of tourism at local and national level, they automatically initiate promotional programs in rural areas.

Eco-Tourism

In 1983 a tour operator in Costa Rica registered the word 'eco tourism' for his tour operating business. Soon after this the word was used in a few public articles in Costa Rica. The word became more known, when Hector Ceballos- Lascurain, in an article in the Mexico Journal in 1987 defined the word 'eco-tourism' and the same definition is used in shortened form in BOO: Ecotourism to be sustainable, the type and extent of tourism activity must be balanced against the capacity of the natural and man made resources available (Kunwar,2006) .

The history of nature tourism is traced back to Aristotle who traveled to the island of Lesbos in the Aegean Sea to study marine creatures. Milestones of nature

travel were also noted during the 19th century when people traveled in quest for spectacular and unique scenery. The concept of national parks which are the major tourist destinations today also came into being during the century. The concept of ecotourism is also rooted in the environmental concerns raised due to industrial development in Europe during the Sixties. The unprecedented industrial development essentially raised awareness regarding environmental concerns raised awareness regarding environmental conservation. As a result, conservation organizations came into being and demanded governments to set aside a landmass not just for tourism purposes but for preservation of ecosystem integrity. The Whale Conservation Movement during the second half of the sixties was an example of such a campaign and this period marked the birth of ecotourism. (Ceallos–Lascurain, 1991 cited in Limbu, 2001).

In the Nepalese scenario Eco tourism is not a precise term. In Nepal, a broad definition of sustainable tourism or eco tourism is adopted as "any style and type of tourism that has the potential to bring benefits to the local economy whilst contributing to natural and cultural resources conservation "(NTB, 2001).

Ecotourism principally concerns experiencing the natural or cultural environment without threatening it (Chauhan, 2004). While it started as a description of a kind of nature tourism that would raise consciousness to conservation issues, later it also included concern for host community. At present in Nepal it is referred to as the practice of nature tourism that minimizes the negative impacts of tourism on environment and socio-cultural aspects. It looks for a balance between "nature conservation", sustainable "socio-economic development" and "nature tourism", ecotourism also implies a managed approach to tourist development (Beun and Lamichhane, 1999).

Nepalese literature also provides some definitions of ecotourism. Ecotourism refers to tourism development which aims to capture a portion of the tourism market that is attracted to areas of natural beauty through providing low impact tourism products, visitor education and contributing funds to local conservation and development efforts. Sustainable tourist refers to a broad range of tourism ventures that take into account ideas of sustainable development (NTB, 2001).

Ecotourism respects the environment and encourages and promote the well being of local people .It is also not to be confused with adventure sports or even snow skiing, amusement parks e.t.c. which in fact might have a negative impact on the

environment. Ecotourism like to go round in a "Low impact way". Adventure tourists are not necessarily certainly needs a spirit of an adventure especially when negotiating bad roads. Ecotourism covers a broad spectrum plants, forests, animals in the wildlife, underwater life, coral reefs, and national parks e.t.c. (Chauhan, 2004).

Ecotourism is environmental friendly tourism where both host and guest are aware of environmental degradation as a result of participation on tourist activities. Protection and preservation of natural as well as socio – cultural environment while traveling has attracted the attention of all concerned with tourism. Ecotourism is travel to natural area with the motive of education leading to environmental conservation and local economic benefit. (Gurung,1997).

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

Ecotourism focuses on local cultures, wilderness, adventures, volunteering personal growth and learning new ways to live our vulnerable planet. It is typically defined as travel to destinations where the flora, fauna and cultural heritage are the primary attractions. Responsible eco-tourism includes program that minimize the adverse effects of traditional tourism on the natural environment, and enhance the cultural integrity of local people .Therefore, in addition to evaluating environmental and cultural factors, initiatives by hospitality providers to promote, recycling, energy efficiency, water re-use and the creation of economic opportunities for local communities re an integral part of ecotourism (Adhikari, 2005).

A new concept, called eco-tourism has emerged a placement to mass tourism as a way to reduce adverse impact on nature, ecotourism is a responsive to the

negative effect that mass tourism has had on the culture and geography of countries. In reality, ecotourism is a culturally and environmentally sensitive travel that contributes to conservation and management of nature for sustainable economic development (Gurung, 1997).

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

Ecotourism is carefully planned tourist activity (whether natural, historical, botanical, ornithological or archeological tours) that is compatible with sound ecological practices, ecotourism results in no ecological change damage from group impact on national parks and natural history resources. It is the philosophy to travel companies to support the destinations local resources. Operators lodging, guides and other tourist facilities or services and of showing evidence of continued support for the destinations conservation program and long term planning (Limbu, 2001).

Principles of Eco-tourism

The principles of ecotourism developed by The International Ecosystem Society (TIES) related to natural resources are:

- Avoiding the negative impacts that can damage or destroy the integrity or character of the natural or cultural environments being visited.
- Educating the travelers on the importance of conservation.
- Directing the revenues to the conservation of natural areas and the management of protected areas.
- Bringing economic benefits to local communities and directing revenues to local people living adjacent to protected areas.

- Emphasizing the need for planning and sustainable growth of the tourism industry, and seeking to ensure that tourism development does not exceed the social and environmental carrying capacity.
- Retaining a high percentage of revenues in the host country by stressing the use of locally owned facilities and services.
- Increasingly relying on an infrastructure that has been developed sensitively in harmony with the environment.
- Minimizing the use of fossil fuels conserving local plants and wildlife, and blending with the natural environment (Pradhan and Pradhan, 2006).

Characteristics of Eco-tourism

The World Tourism organization (WTO) has identified characteristics of ecotourism, and the features given below related to natural resource management:

- Comprising all nature based forms of tourism in which the main motivation of tourists is the observation and appreciation of nature as well as the traditional cultures prevailing in the natural areas.
- Minimizing the negative impacts upon the natural and socio-cultural environment.
- Supporting the protection of natural areas by:
 -) Generating economic benefits for host communities, organizations and authorities managing natural areas with conservation purposes.
 -) Providing alternative employment and income opportunities for local communities.
 -) Increasing awareness towards the conservation of natural and cultural assets among all concerned participants.

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

natural areas are required for the effective development of ecotourism. Appropriate planning, design and building criteria must be applied, minimizing impact of the environment, providing for a certain degree of functional self sufficiency and adding to the quality of the visitors experience. Interpretive centers are sadly lacking in most protected areas of developing countries. Special attention should be addressed to providing facilities which are attractive, pedagogically appropriate, and easy to operate and maintain, always in accordance to the social and economic reality of each case since many protected areas are located on sites of difficult access, and far from traditional services , it is wise to apply what is loosely termed as "eco-technique" such as solar energy (for heating water and/or providing electricity), capture and reutilization of rain water, cycling of garbage, natural cross ventilation, and the use of native building materials and techniques. Buildings should all be carefully designed so as not to abruptly interfere with the environment, as well as serving to enhance the visitor's experience (Ecotourism, 1994 cited in Bista 2008)

Through ecotourism tourists get appropriately for observation and learning it and contribution to natural conservation and long term sustainability of communities and natural resources and local economy. This may be achieved through various means such as employment for local people or programs where tourists contribute money to community activities. In Nepal, Annapurna Conservation Area project (ACAP) provides one of the best examples of ecotourism. Under this project, several village sites have been identified for community based ecotourism development. The main aim of ACAP is to balance natural resource conservation and sustainable community development. The area is characterized by both biodiversity and cultural diversity. ACAP has been successful in gradually changing the traditional subsistence activities into a framework of sound resources management, supplemented by conservation, development of alternative energy programs to minimize the negative impacts of tourism and to enhance the living standard of local people. It follows the principles of maximum people's participation, sustainability and a catalyst's role (Pradhan and Pradhan,2006).

Visible to all, Nepal's natural attractions, resulting from physical, historical, cultural monuments and temples, art treasures and festivals and it's wildlife are the best attractions for the foreign visitors. Nepal Himalayas and their scenic beauty are also the prominent attractions to the visitors. Nepal is the country of Mt. Everest, the land of Yeti, and land of Buddha. It has various snow peaked mountains, rivers and

Lakes, conducive climate and mysterious charms are inviting the visitors of the world. Cultural, religious and natural resources are the three major attractions of Nepal, which have eight cultural and two natural heritage sites. It offers nature based tourism activities like trekking, mountaineering, rafting and wildlife sanctuaries as well as cultural areas, people based and man made attractions (Shrestha, 1999). Considering the historical background, geographical situation and socio cultural wealth, there are enormous tourist potentialities in Nepal and the tourism industry has been playing a significant role in the country's economy.

CHAPTER – THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

Research methodology is the process of arriving to a solution of the problem through planned and systematic dealing with the collection, analysis and interpretation of fact and figure. Research is a systematic method of finding out solution to a problem whereas research methodology refers to the various sequential steps adopted by researcher in studying a problem with certain objectives in view. The Advanced Learners Dictionary of Current English defines Research methodology as – "A careful investigation or inquiry especially through search for new facts in any branch of knowledge.

The basic objectives of this study are to identify the problems and prospects for tourism development in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park. These objectives are therefore important because it provides micro level information which is useful to make the macro level tourism development plan about the area for related department of the government. In order to achieve these objectives it is needed to adopt certain methodology, which is explained in the following paragraph.

3.2 Research Design

Research Design is the plan structure and strategy of investigation to obtain answer to research questions. A research design is the arrangement of conditions for collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose with economy in procedure (Selltitz and others, 1959). Research design is the conceptual structure within which research is conducted.

This study attempts to identify the strengths and weakness of tourism development in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park. This study is based on descriptive (survey cum analytical) research design. Data and information are collected through field survey in the park and they are analyzed to get the answer of the research questions. For this study data was collected through questionnaire and schedule from tourist, local people and park staff.

The data collected through questionnaire and schedule were classified and tabulated according to the needs of the research.

3.3 Nature and Sources of Data

In this study both secondary and primary sources of data have been used. Secondary data and information have been collected from the sources mentioned below:

- Annual Statistical Report, Department of Tourism.
- Statistical Year Book of Nepal, Central Bureau of Statistics.
- Various Plans, National Planning Commission.
- Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation.
- Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park, Headquarter in Panimuhan.
- Annapurna Conservation Area Project
- National Trust for Nature Conservation
- Nepal Tourism Board
- Various Tourism Journals
- Different literature and Articles on Tourism
- Department of Soil Conservation and Watershed Management.
- Various websites related to tourism.

3.4 Sampling Procedure

Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park is expanded in four districts viz: Kathmandu, Nuwakot, Sindhupalchok and Dhading. It covers certain portions of 12 VDCs of Kathmandu, 9 VDCs of Nuwakot, 2 VDCs of Sindhupalchok and the Nagarjun forest area (incorporated in the park in 2009) covers more than 15 VDCs of Dhading and Nuwakot. The present study is carried out in four VDCs viz: Budhanilkantha, Sundarijal, Kakani and Lapsipedi, which are the major entry points of the park. These four VDCs have total 1102 households which is taken as the universe of the study, out of them approximately 4% (40 in number) is taken as sample. These four entry points are the major places from where almost all the tourists enter the park. Regarding all the tourists visiting the park as the universe a sample of 40 tourists are taken.

The sampling procedure is conducted through purposive and simple random sampling.

3.5 Data Collection Procedure

Secondary data have been collected from the above mentioned sources. Primary data have been collected using structured questionnaires and schedules. Three sets of questionnaire have been developed they are different for tourist, local people and park staff. Both closed and open ended questions have been included in the questionnaire

Primary data was mainly collected by following methods:

a) Questionnaire Survey and Schedule

Structured questionnaire was used to obtain the factual data from tourists. Household survey was also conducted but most of the local people of the park were not able to fill up the questionnaire form so the questionnaire was also used as schedule to get information from them.

b) Key Informant Interview

In order to obtain factual and authorized data about the park, Key Informant Interview was conducted. Here park staff and school teachers were interviewed.

c) Observation

The study area (Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park) was visited and various tourist sites and potential tourist areas were observed.

3.6 Data Processing and analysis Procedure

The responses and data obtained were categorized, tabulated, processed and analyzed.

Obtained data was analyzed and processed according to the following framework.

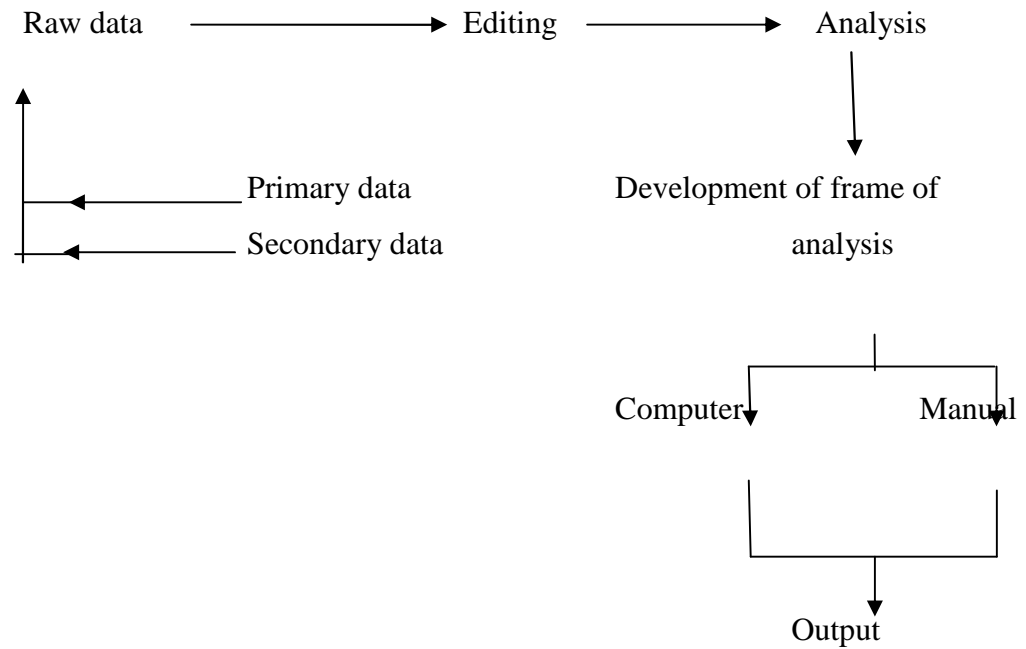


Figure No. 2. Framework of Data Processing.

CHAPTER - FOUR

DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA

4.1 Introduction

The study area, Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park is located at the northern part of Nepal's capital city Katmandu. It occupies four districts of Nepal viz: Katmandu, Sindhupalchok, Nuwakot and Dhading. It is situated between 27°45'30" to 27°50'15" Northern Latitude and 85°16'33" to 85°45'30" Eastern Longitude. It covers total 159 km² area and the altitudinal variation ranges from 1350 m to 2732 m. It lies in transitional zone between subtropical to lower temperate physiographic region.

The park was initially established as Watershed Conservation Area in 1976 with total area of 144 sq km. Later it was managed as Watershed and Wildlife Conservation Area in 1984. In 2002 the area was gazetted as a national park and in 2009 Nagarjun Forest area (15 sq km) was included in the park.

The national park occupies four districts of Nepal. They are Katmandu, Sindhupalchok, Nuwakot and Dhading. It covers certain portions of 12 VDCs of Katmandu district (Bajrayogini, Baluwa, Chapalibhadrakali, Gagalphedi, Joharmankal, Jitpurphedi, Kabresthali, Lapsiphedi, Nayapati, Sangla, Sundarijal and Budhanilkantha), 9 VDCs of Nuwakot (Chhap, Kakani, Samundra Devi, Likhu, Okharpauwa, Sikre, Sunkhani, Talakhu and Thanapati), 2 VDCs of Sindhupalchok (Bhotechur and Hainbung) and Nagarjun Forest area covers more than 15 VDCs of Dhading and Nuwakot districts.

Geologically Shivapuri area occupies the inner Himalayan region. The dominant rocks are gneiss, mica schist and pegmatic granite. The soil of the area range from loamy sand on the northern side to sandy loam on the southern slope. Entire area is characterized by its steep topography. More than 50% of the area has greater than 30° slope. In several spots soil erosion is a serious problem. Erosion hazards is very high in the northern slope. Landslide, gullies and stream bank erosion, both natural and man induced are found all over the area.

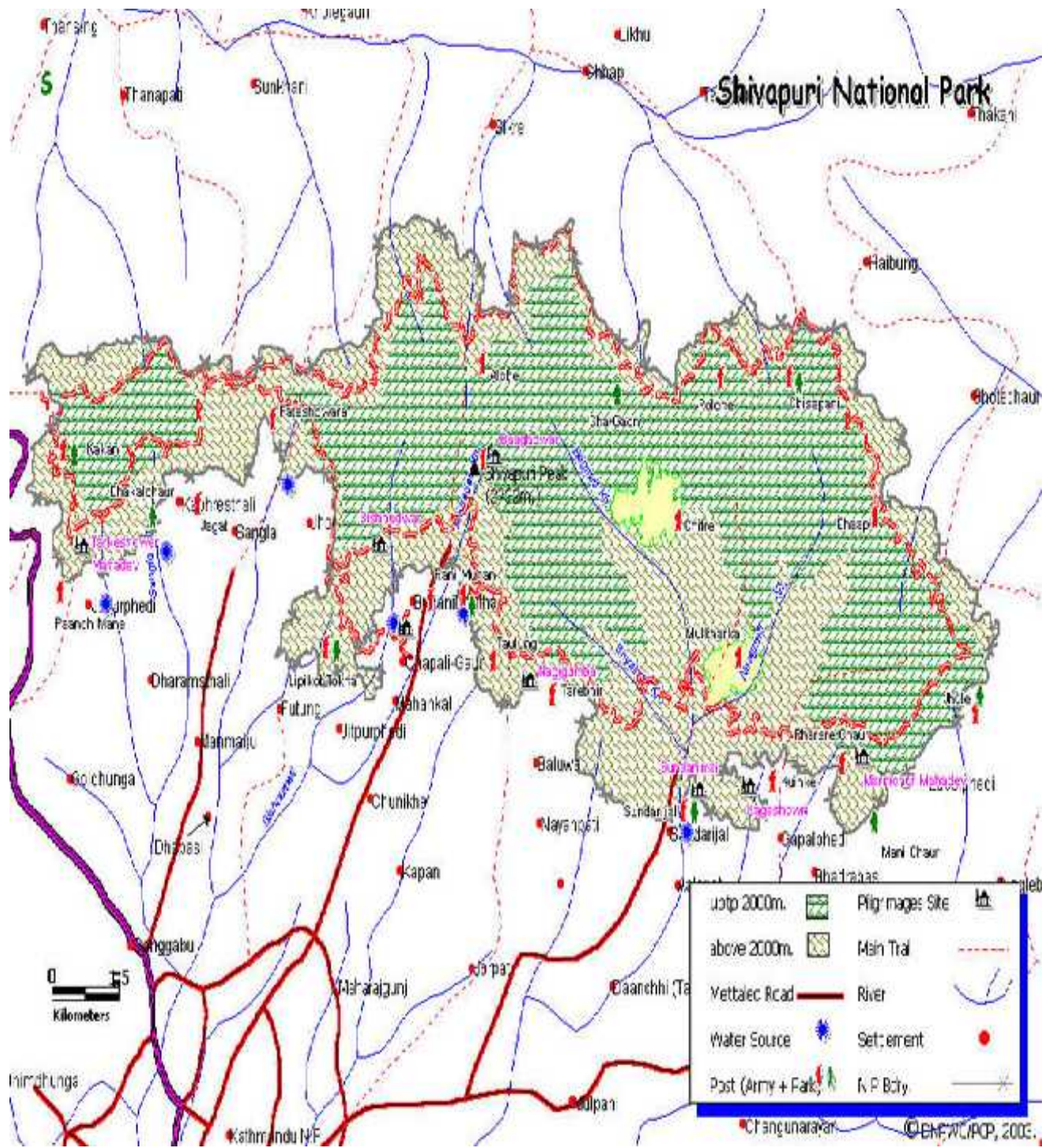


Figure No.3. Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park

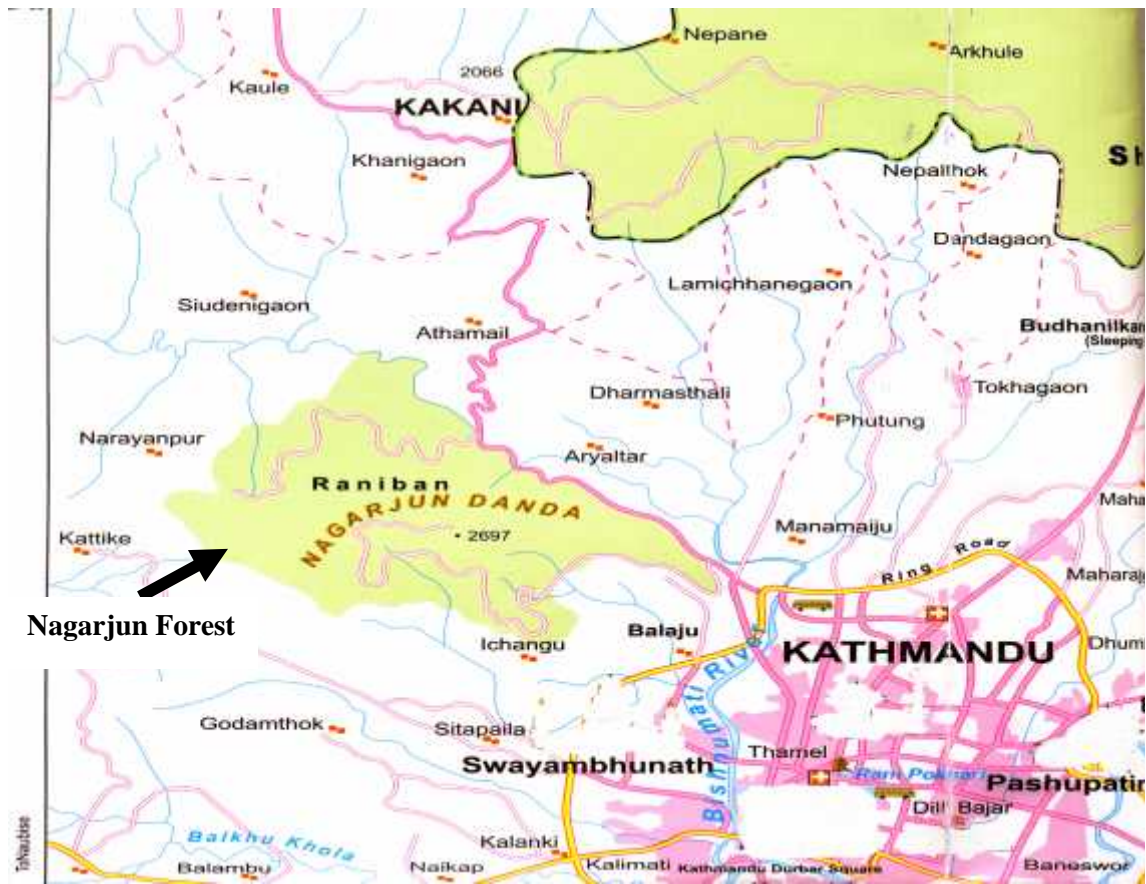


Figure .No. 4. Nagarjun Forest

4.2. Climate

Climate of the destination is always kept in mind without which tourism development is not possible, it determines natural vegetation, precipitation potential and biodiversity. Flow of tourists and flourishing of tourism market is also determined by the condition of the climate of the particular destination. Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park has sub tropical to warm temperate climate for four seasons. The spring or pre-monsoon (mid February to mid May) is windy, dry but pleasant with little or no precipitation. Summer or monsoon (June to mid September) is humid and hot with heavy rainfall. The autumn or post monsoon starts from mid September and ends in mid February. It is cool and foggy with short but sometimes precipitation. Normally the temperature

inside the park area ranges from 4° c to 5° c in mid December to 25° c to 26° c in mid

May .Mean annual precipitation ranges from 1800mm to 3200mm, about 80% of which falls during the monsoon.

Shivapuri is at higher altitude than Katmandu city area so the temperature is lower than the city area .Northern face of the park stands in front of Himalayan range so wind blows in the morning and evening .Due to presence of dense forest the temperature is not felt very high .So, in the summer time climate, environment and the weather remains sound and very enjoyable.

4.3 Demographic Situation:

An estimated 48,991 people live inside and around the park. Among them female constitute 50.4% and remaining 49.6% constitutes male. Total household number is 9,432. The park and its surrounding area have mixed ethnic zone. Of the total ethnic groups, "Tamangs" are the dominant groups having about 36,253(74%) population. Followed by Chhetri and Bhraman 7,349(15%) and Gurung, Magar and Newar 5,389(11%) (CBS, 2001).

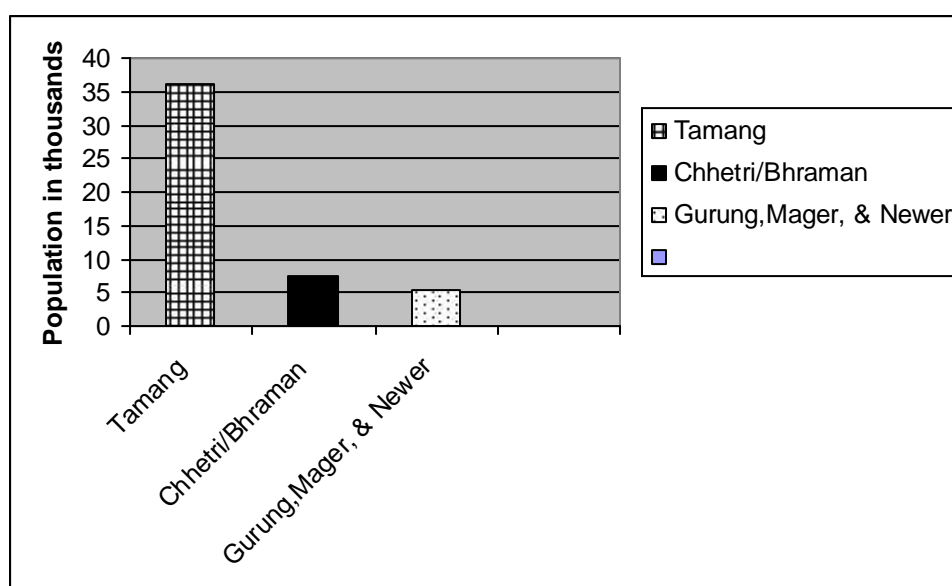


Figure No. 5 Major Ethnic Composition

4.4 Land Cover and Land Use Pattern:

Total land area of Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park is 159 km² Land use and land cover pattern of Shivapuri area i.e 144 km² (Except Nagarjun forest, 15 km²) is dominated by forest area 36.6%. Followed by cultivated land 36.2%, Shrubs 16.1%,

grasslands and shrubs 4%, settlement 0.8% riverine features 0.15% and others 6.15% (Paneru, 2004). Almost whole area of Nagarjun is covered by forest which is also known as Raniban. Nagarjun forest is also protected by Nepal Army and a royal bungalow or palace is present here. More emphasis is given in natural land cover or preservation of forests and natural vegetation. So less villages/ settlements (only three: Okhrenei Chilaune and Mulkharka) are present inside the park.

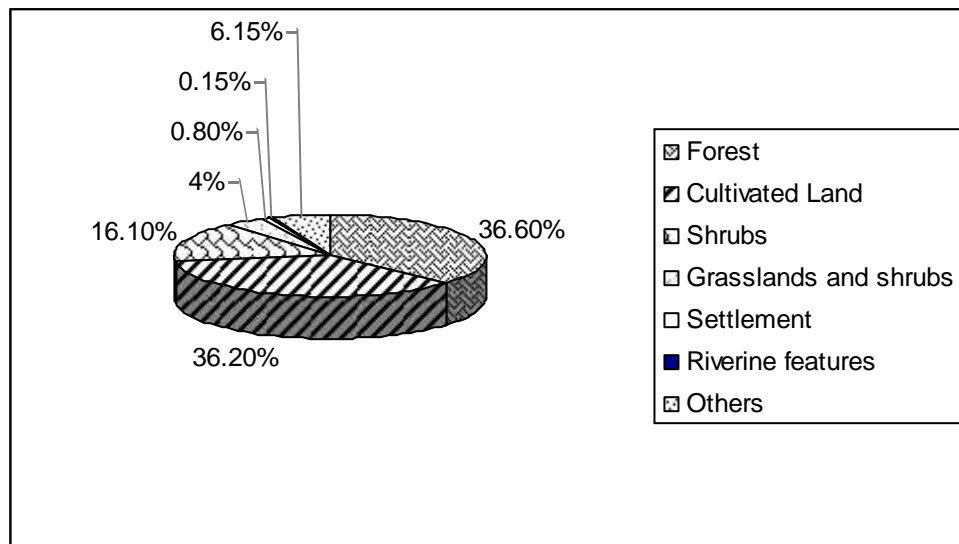


Figure No.6 Land Use and Land Cover Pattern

4.5. Rivers and Lakes

Water is the precious natural resources of Nepal because it is the second richest country of water resource in the world. Development and upliftment of the country is only possible if water resource is properly utilized and used. Water is used for drinking, bathing, washing, irrigation, agriculture, industries, hydropower generation, religious and recreational activities such as swimming rafting, boating and fishing e.t.c.

Shivapuri area is full of dozens of perennial rivers and streams. About 0.24sq km (0.15%) of the park is covered by all the wetlands. The area is the main source of water for domestic consumption in Katmandu valley. The streams that originate from the national park drain into Likhu Khola in the north, and those in the south into the Bagmati River. Baghdwaar and Bishnudwar are the originating points of the sacred Bagmati and Bishnumati River respectively which flows through Katmandu valley. Every day about 30 million liters of water is tapped from the major rivers and their

tributaries of the park for supplying drinking water, local irrigation, grinding mills and holy baths. Water collected through various streams and rivers supplied from different water reservoir of Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park are as follows:

Table No. 4.1

Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park

Total Water Received from Shivapuri in the three major Reservoirs

Reservoirs	Source	Capacity of reservoir	Water supply/day to Katmandu Valley		Average ML/day
			Dry(ML/day)	Rainy(ML/day)	
Balaju	Thulo Khola, Alle Khola, Bounde and Bhandare	3600	3.0	8.0	5.5
Maharajgunj	Bishnumati, Panimuhan	5000	2.5	5.5	4.0
Mahakalkchour	Sundarijal (Bagmati, Nagmati and Shyalmati)	9000	15.0	25.0	20.0
Total		173600	20.5	38.5	29.5

Source: Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park's Office, Panimuhan, Katmandu.

4.6. Flora and Fauna

Although Nepal occupies only 0.09% of the earth's surface area, it is very rich in bio-diversity having 118 types of ecosystem with 833 species of birds, 181 species of mammals, 100 species of reptiles, more than 200 types of medicinal plants and more than 6500 species of angiosperms (www.iucn.org)

Similarly Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park is also very rich in bio-diversity. Various types of flora and fauna are found here due to its diverse climate and topography. So, the park area can be the destination for environmentalists, scientists,

tourists and academic researchers of different discipline from around the world.

There are different types of vegetation found in the park. The evergreen forest is found in the area which never becomes leafless .Major type of forest are : mixed hardwood forest in the lower altitude and as the height increases Chirpine forest ,Oak forest and upper mixed hardwood forest are found .Some of the important plants are Chilaune, Utis, Khatus, Sallo, Khaphal, Okhar, Oak, Bhojpatra, Lali Guras e.t.c. The major floral diversity includes about 2122 species of flowering plants, 35 species of non timber forest products, 129 species of mushroom including some 50 species of endemic plants.

Different types of wild animals and birds are reported by the park authority and local residents .The common wild animals are barking deer Himalayan black bear, common leopard, clouded leopard, rhesus monkey, common langur, yellow throated marten, wild boar, porcupine e.t.c. Major faunal diversity includes about 311 species of endemic and migratory birds and 102 species of butterflies.

4.7. Entry Points

Major entry points of the park are as follows:

- (a)Panimuhan entrance
- (b)Sundarijal entrance
- (c)Jhule(Lapsiphedi) entrance
- (d)Kakani entrance

4.8. Transportation:

The park is situated at the distance of 12 km from the transportation centre of Katmandu, i.e. Ratnapark. Metalled road runs from Ratnapark to Panimuhan (Budhanilkantha) entrance point. So vehicle can be easily found .To reach Sundarijal entry point, vehicles reach to Sundarijal bazaar. From Sundarijal 35- 40 minutes hiking uphill reaches to the park entry point.

Length of motorable road inside the park is 99 km and length of trails inside the park is 19km.

4.9. Buffer Zone

Whole area (159 sq km) of the park falls under strictly protected area. Buffer zone has not yet been established but the process of establishing has been initiated.

4.10. Security Condition

Security arrangement is good inside the park .A Battalion of Army is present inside the park for conservation of biodiversity. Both park and army posts are present in various places inside the park.

Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park is best tourist destination. It offers the best view of Himalayas and the panoramic view of Katmandu city .It is an excellent place for viewing rare species of flora and fauna, dense forest, mountain range and water bodies. Many excursions and trekking are made inside the park as it offers the spectacular trekking routes .A 111 km long boundary wall has been erected around the park territory which also boasts a 95 km "forest inspection ring road" which literally snakes through the mountains neck and encircles it. Not only from the point of tourism but also from the point of view of religion this place is very important .The following temples are important from religious and tourism point of view: Baghdwar, Biushnudwar, sundari Mai, Nagi Gumba, Thulo Gumba, Tarakeshwor Mahadev, Marnichur Mahadev, Kageshowri temple. The park's summit is a flat area that provide camping site for an excellent views of the sunrise in the Himalayas. All places of Shivapuri have unique nature and adventure which reflects the prospect of ecotourism. As it is also known as the trekker's paradise and the bio-diversity hotspot.

CHAPTER - FIVE

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

5.1 Introduction

This study covers the information and data from 1998 to 2008. Information available from the primary as well as secondary sources are included in this chapter. The information on the number of tourist arrives in Shivapuri Nagarjun National park, purpose of tourists visit, length of stay, security condition and positive and negative impacts of tourism inside the park are analyzed in this chapter.

5.2. Tourists' Experience

5.2.1 Tourist Arrivals

Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park is a popular tourist destination of Kathmandu Valley. It holds an important part in tourist destination site among the National Parks and Wildlife Reserves of Nepal. This section examines the number of tourists visiting Shivapuri Nagarjun National park. The tourist arrival in Shivapuri is presented in table no. 4.1.

The table shows the trends of tourist arrival in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park from F.Y. 2054/55 to F.Y. 2065/66.

Table No. 5.1

Tourist arrival in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park

Fiscal Year	Number of tourist			Total
	Nepali	Foreigner	Educational Tour	
2054/55	15500	6700		22200
2055/56	14200	7900		22100
2056/57	12896	7643		20539
2057/58	15486	8340		23826
2058/59	21768	8326		30094
2059/60	32271	4577		36848
2060/61	33007	6077		39084
2061/62	39349	5151		44500
2062/63	39208	4593		43804
2063/64	77212	6173		83385
2064/65	68641	6777	1187	76605
2065/66	96362	10569	4225	111156

Source: Shivapuri Nagargun National Park Office, Panimuhan, Kathmandu

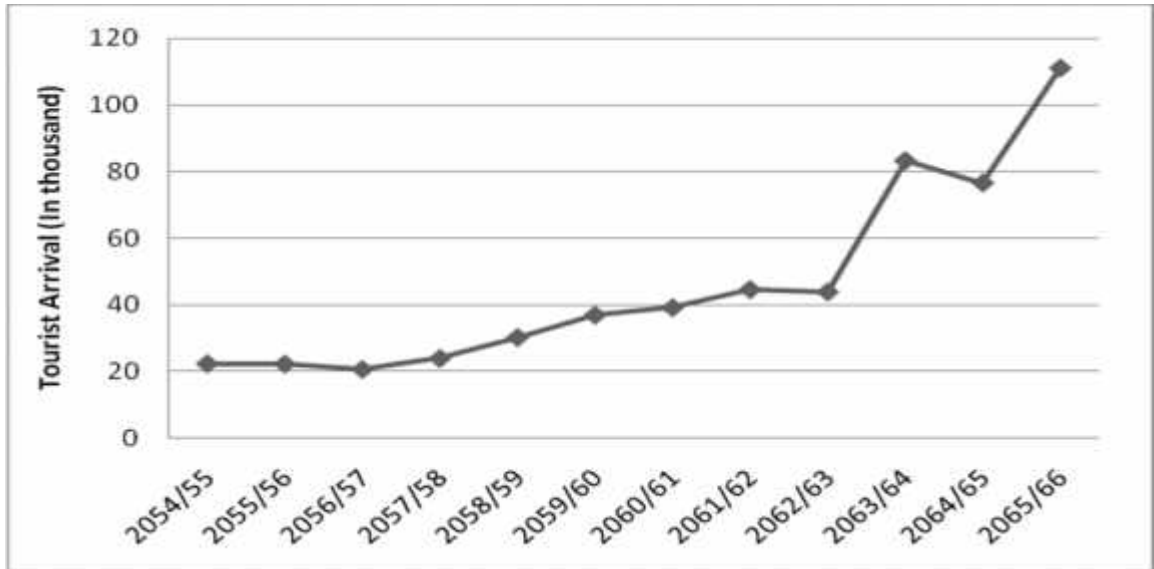


Figure No.7 Trend of tourist arrival

Trend of tourist inflow in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park was analyzed comparing number of tourist arrival in last twelve years i.e. from F.Y. 2054/55 to 2065/66. Tourist arrival in F.Y.2054/55 had crossed 22 thousands which gradually decreased and reached minimum 20,539 in the year 2056/2057. Increasing Maoist threat and insurgency on one side and worldwide terrorism on other side caused direct negative impact on tourist arrival in the whole country including this park. The insecurity caused by the violence in the country and direct threat to tourists halted the visitor's number. But after the peace accord signed on November 2006, in the F.Y. 2063/64 (2006/07) drastic increase in the flow of tourist was seen. In the F.Y. 2063/64 tourist visiting this park area reached 83,385 from 43,804 in F.Y. 2062/63, that showed the growth rate of about 47% from the previous year. This flow gradually decreased to 76,605 in 2064/65 and again increased and crossed one lakhs in 2065/66 when total tourist arrival was 1,11,156 with 96,362 domestic tourists 10,569 international tourists and 4225 visitors in educational tour. It showed a growth rate of 31% as compared to the previous year.

5.2.2. Age Composition

Tourists visiting Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park were found to be of different age groups. For convenience, tourists, visitors are classified into three age groups such as upto 20 years, 21to 40 years and above 40 years. The age composition is shown below:

Table No. 5.2

Age Composition of Tourists

S.N.	Age of Tourists in Year	No of Tourist Respondents	Percentage
1	<20	2	5
2	20-40	29	72.5
3	>40	9	22.5
Total		40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Above table shows that majority of tourists visiting Shivapuri were between the age group of 20 to 40 years (72.5%), followed by age groups of above 40 years (22.5%) and the least was below 20 years (5%)

5.2.3 Sex Composition.

Table No. 5.3

Sex Composition of Tourists

S.N.	Sex	No of Tourist Respondents	Percentage
1	Male	25	62.5
2	Female	15	37.5
	Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009

The table 5.3 provides information about the sex differentiation of tourists. Among the 40 tourists respondents 25 (62.5%) were male and 15 (37.5%) were female.

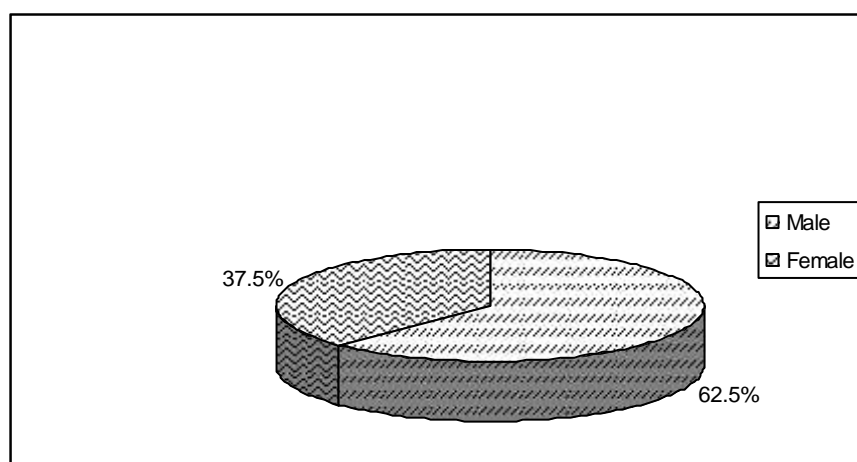


Figure No. 8: Sex composition of Tourists

5.2.4. Tourist arrival by Major Regions

It was found that majority of tourists visiting Shivapuri were from Asia (60%) followed by Europe (15%) and N. America (15%).

Table No. 5.4

Tourist arrival by Major Regions

S.N.	Regions	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Asia	24	60
2	Europe	6	15
3	Australia	4	10
4	N. America	6	15
	Total	40	100

Source: Fields Survey, 2009.

Table No. 5 .4 is made clearer in the following figure.

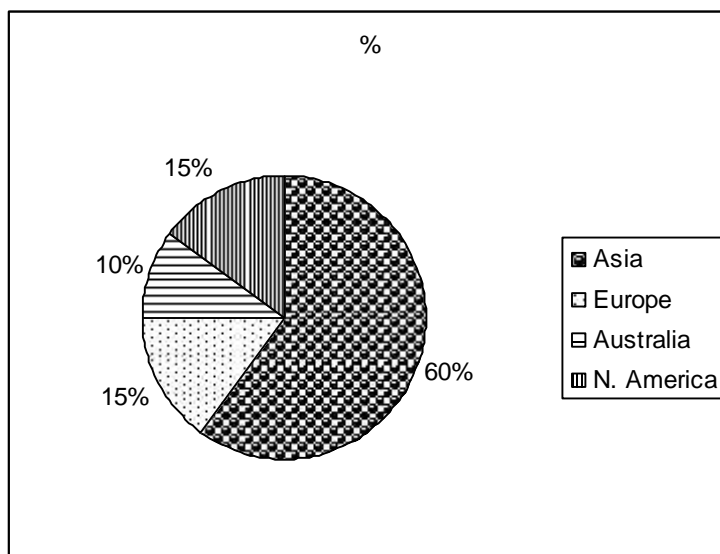


Figure No. 9: Tourists arrival by Major Regions

5.2.5 Purpose of Visit

Tourists visit Shivapuri Park area for various purposes. To find out the major objectives of their visit, tourists were asked about the purpose of their visit. It was found that out of 40 tourists majority (47.5%) of tourist respondents revealed

trekking as their objective of visit, followed by natural sightseeing and observing biodiversity (35%) religions purpose (12.5%) and picnic and recreation (5%).

On the other hand, 52.5% of local respondents admitted that tourist visit for natural sightseeing and observing biodiversity followed by trekking (27.5%), picnic (12.5%), religions purpose (5%) and research and survey (2.5%).

Table No. 5.5

Purpose of Visit

S.N.	Purpose of Visit	No of local respondents	Percentage	No of tourist respondents	Percentage
1	Natural sightseeing and observing biodiversity	21	52.5	14	35
2	Trekking	11	27.5	19	47.5
3	Religious purpose	2	5	5	12.5
4	Research and survey	1	2.5	0	0
5	Picnic and recreation	5	12.5	2	5
	Total	40	100	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Major objectives of visit in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park are also illustrated in the following figure:

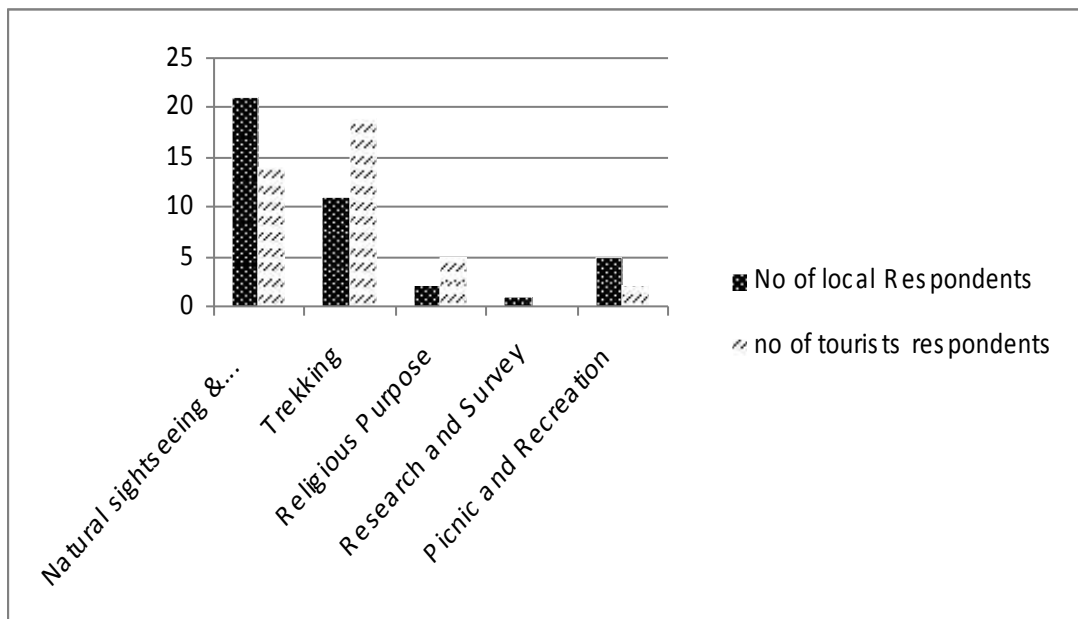


Figure No 10: Purpose of Visit of the Tourist

5.2.6. Length of Stay

The length of stay is a crucial factor in tourism development. In order to develop tourism industry, it is necessary not only to increase the number of tourist inflow but also increase their length of stay. The length of stay varies from tourist to tourist. It depends upon time, money, and purpose of visit of tourists. The length of stay of tourist in Nepal was 11.78 days in 2008.

The duration of stay as revealed by the tourists in Shivapuri is shown in the table below:

Table No 5.6
Length of Stay of Tourists

S.N.	Duration of Stay in days	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	1	25	62.5
2	2	10	25
3	>2	5	12.5
	Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009

From the above table we can analyze that the length of stay varied from 1 to more than 2 days. Most of the tourists prefer to stay for only one day (62.5%) followed by 2 days (25%) and more than 2 days (12.5%). Here religious tourists especially Buddhists were found who visited Nagi Gumba inside the park and stayed there for more than 2 days.

5.3. Impacts of Tourism

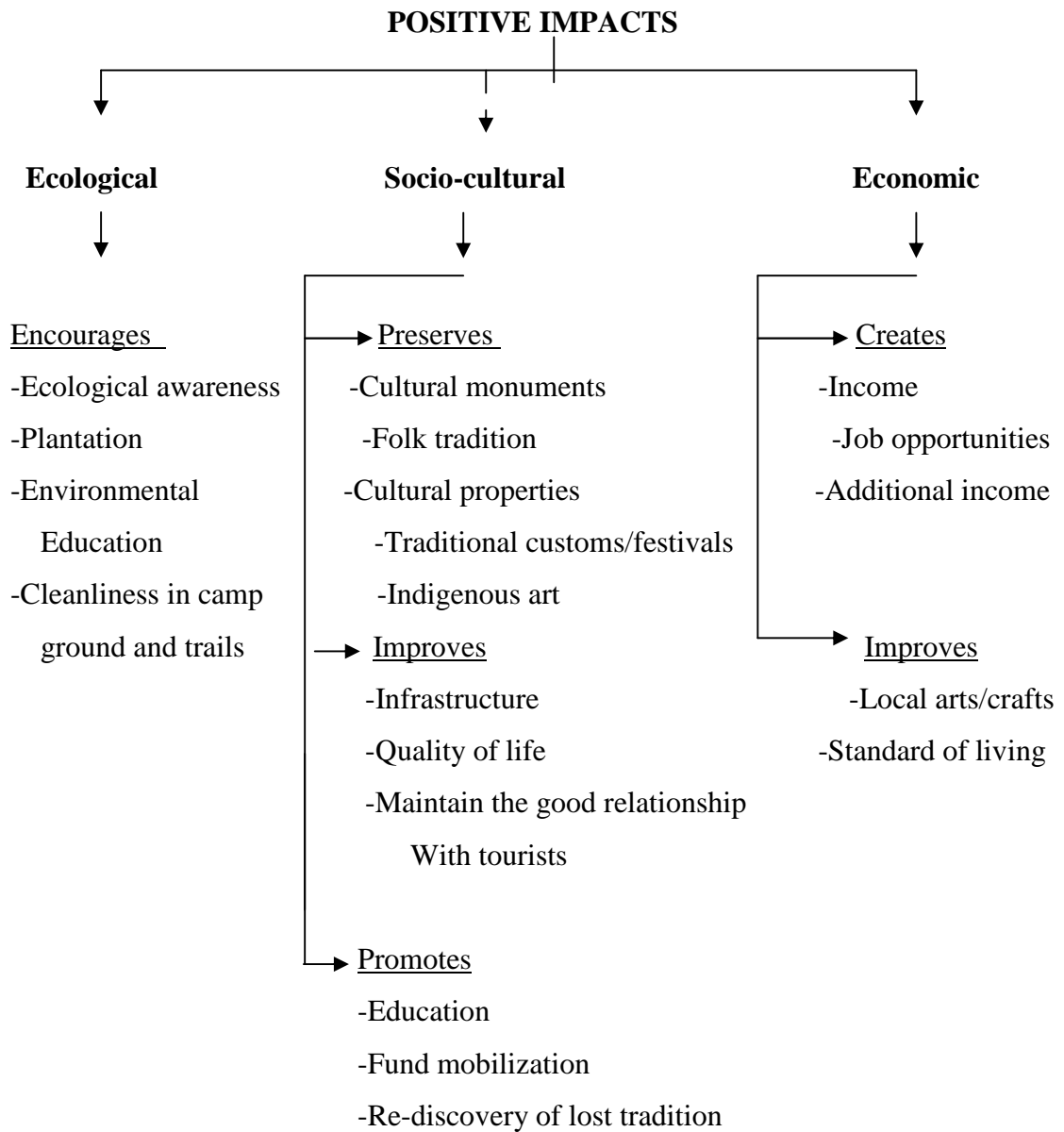
Tourism causes both positive and negative influences on culture economy and environment of the society.

In socio cultural sector it helps to develop the infrastructure like road electricity water supply health education and communication and brings changes in the living standard of people, behavior pattern of people, dress, lifestyle, language and food habit. Economically it helps to improve the economic condition of the local people in community directly and indirectly by providing the foreign exchange earning, income generation, creation of employment.

On other hand tourism also encourages the decline of local practices and institutions. It encourages the decline of local cultural practices, pollution of sacred places, interdiction of alien architecture styles and building materials. Along with it disruption of family and social relationships, hospitality resentment within communities, decline in morality and value, acculturation, prostitution, drug abuse, alcoholism, beggary are also negative impacts of tourism.

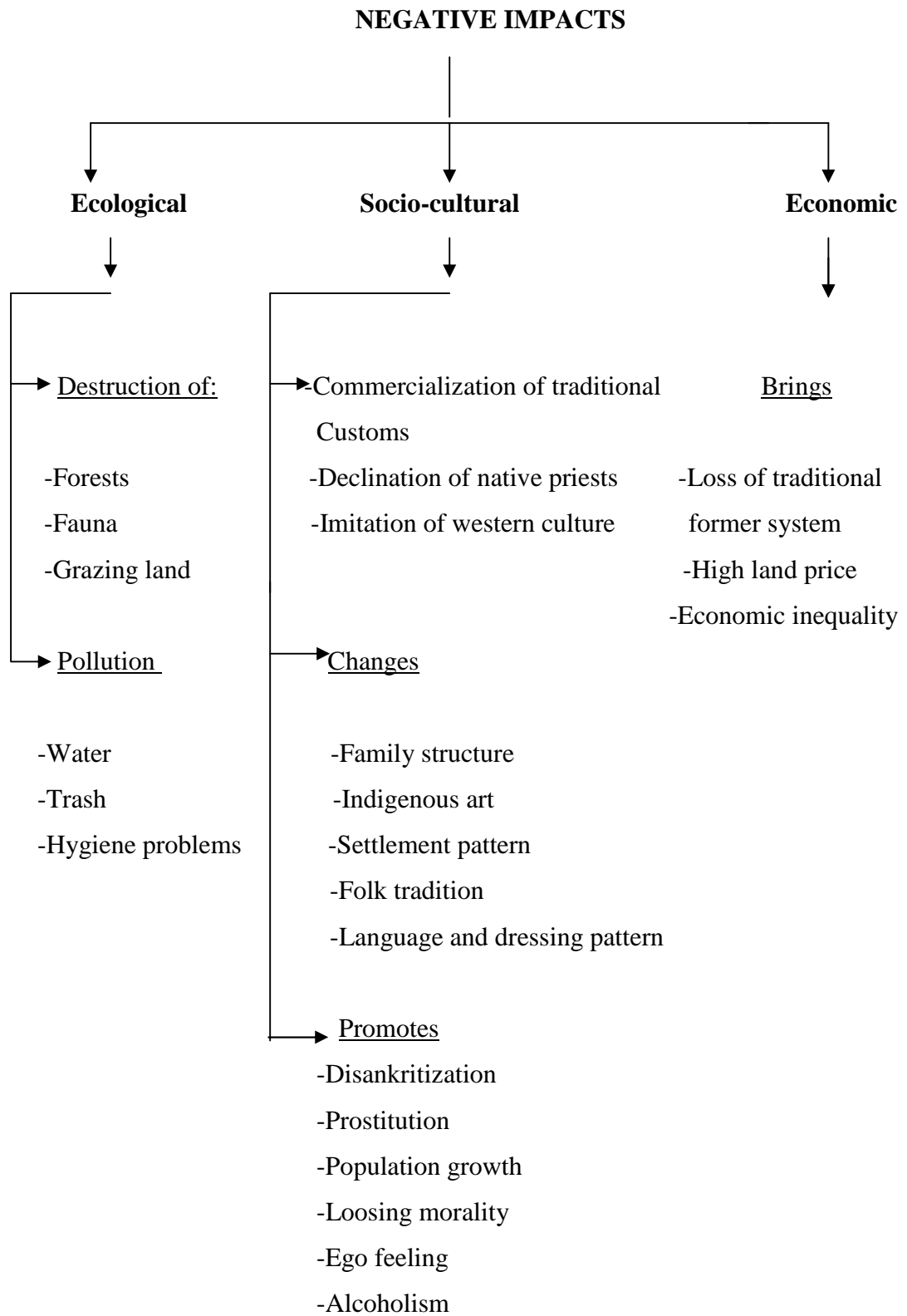
Environment is also positively and negatively affected by tourism. Depletion of forest due to firewood and timber extraction for hotels and households, effect on the natural habitat of flora and fauna, bio-degradable and non bio-degradable materials left by the tourists in the routes and in water sources have created serious environmental problems. Instead of these negative impacts, it encourages ecological awareness, conservation measures and awareness of sanitation to the people.

The following two diagrams show the positive and negative impacts of tourism in the study area:



Source: Adopted model from Singh, 1989 cited in Gurung, 2003.

Figure No.11: Positive impacts of tourism



Source: Adopted model from Singh, 1989 cited in Gurung, 2003.

Figure No.12: Negative impacts of tourism

5.3.1. Socio –cultural impacts of tourism

a). Positive socio cultural impacts

Development of tourism in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park has caused various positive socio cultural impacts. They are shown in the following table:

Table No.5.7

Positive Socio-cultural Impacts of Tourism

S.N.	Impacts	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Increased awareness	12	30
2	Contact with outside world	14	35
3	Urbanization	8	20
4	Increased communication	6	15
	Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

Table No. 5.7 shows that among 40 local respondents majority i.e. 35% reported that tourism has increased their contact with outside world, while 30% respondents reported that tourism has increased their awareness level, 20% said urbanization and 15% said increased communication as the positive impacts of tourism in the park and surrounding area. These impacts are also shown in the following figure:

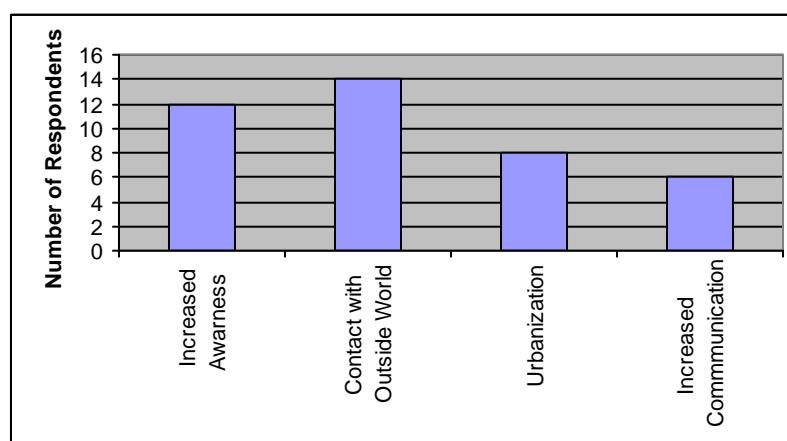


Figure No. 13 Positive Socio-cultural Impacts

(b). Negative Socio-cultural Impacts

Tourism in Shivapuri Nagarjun National park has caused following negative socio cultural impacts:

Table No.5.8
Negative Socio-cultural Impacts

S.N.	Impacts	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Imitation of western culture	30	75
2	Gambling/crime	2	5
3	Drug addiction	1	2.5
4	Disturbs indigenous style	7	17.5
	Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

Above table shows that among 40 local respondents majority i.e.75% said imitation of western culture as the major problem seen due to increased influx of tourists in the park area. Some part of the youth generation is affected by this problem. They keep long hairs, wear rings in the ears, and wear abnormal clothes. This may lead to cultural loss in the future. 17.5% of the respondents reported that high tourist influx disturbs indigenous style and their folk tradition, 5% reported that crime and gambling is seen in ore congested areas and only 2.5% said that some people (especially young) take drugs with the visitors who come in direct6 contact with visitors. These impacts are made clearer in the following figure:

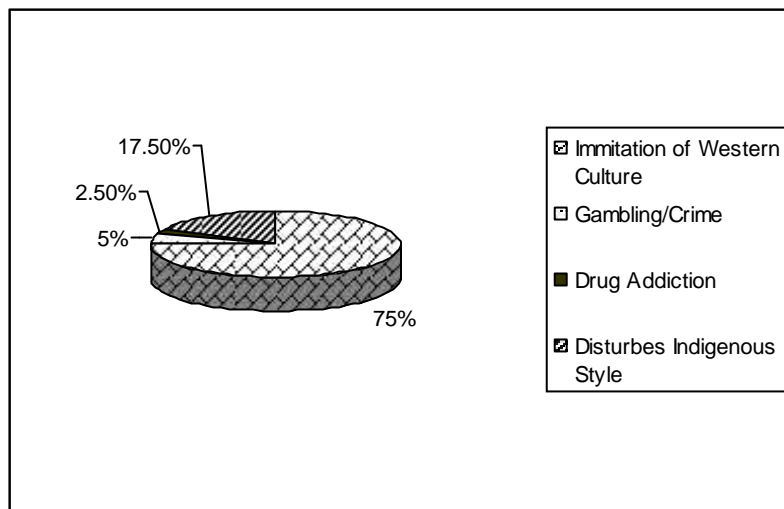


Figure No14 Negative Socio-cultural Impacts

5.3.2. Economic Impacts of Tourism

Nowadays tourism is becoming more and more popular and potential industry in most countries. In some countries tourism is the single largest foreign exchange earning. The impact of tourism in the host country's economy is quite massive. At present both developed and developing countries are trying to utilize their tourism resources for the economic development and growth. Shivapuri park area has high potentiality of tourism and the industry is gradually developing here. Significant numbers of local people are engaged in tourism industry both directly and indirectly.

(a). Occupation of the Local Respondents:

Survey respondents were asked about their occupation and it's link with tourism. The response is shown below:

Table No.5.9

Occupation of Local Respondents

S.N.	Occupation	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Agriculture	22	55
2	Hotel	10	25
3	Ship	5	12.5
4	Service	3	7.5
	Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Above table is made clearer in the following figure



Figure No. 15 Occupation of Local Respondents

Figure No. 15 shows that among 40 local respondents majority i.e. 55% (22 in number) were found to involve in agriculture followed by hotel business 25% and

shopkeeper (12.5%). It was also experienced during the study that if a respondent was unemployed, he/she chooses agriculture work as a last option. The percentage of agricultural occupation therefore is much higher among the respondents. Only 7.5% of the respondents were involved in service. As the occupation pattern varies their jobs related to tourism also vary. Among the local respondents 40% (16 in number) said that their job is directly or indirectly related to tourism. Some respondents were directly getting benefit from tourism by producing liquors and selling it in local hotels while some people sometimes worked as guide of tourists as their side business.

(b). Positive Economic Impacts of Tourism

Survey respondents were asked about the positive impacts of tourism in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park. The result is as follows:

Table No.5.10

Positive Economic Impacts of Tourism

S.N.	Impacts	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Employment generation	10	25
2	Additional income	12	30
3	Infrastructure development	6	15
4	Job for semi-skilled and unskilled people	4	10
5	Upliftment of standard of living	7	17.5
6	Better multiplier effect	1	2.5
	Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

Above table shows that majority of respondents 30% reported that development of tourism activity in the park area has provided additional income to the local people. Additional income here implies income made by selling various products found and prepared in the village and earning from small tea shops. 25% of the respondents said employment generation in local hotels and shops as an economic benefit due to tourism. 17.5% reported that tourism has either directly or indirectly helped to increase their standard of living to some extent while 15% said that establishment of the park and increase in tourism activity has helped in infrastructure

development, such as road construction.10% reported that unskilled and semi skilled people are engaged in income generating activities, such as almost all the members of a household are involved in various works such as cooking, cleaning, serving e.t.c. in a hotel. While one of the respondent (2.5%) confessed that tourism has created multiplier effect.

Positive economic impacts of tourism in the study area are made clearer in the following figure:

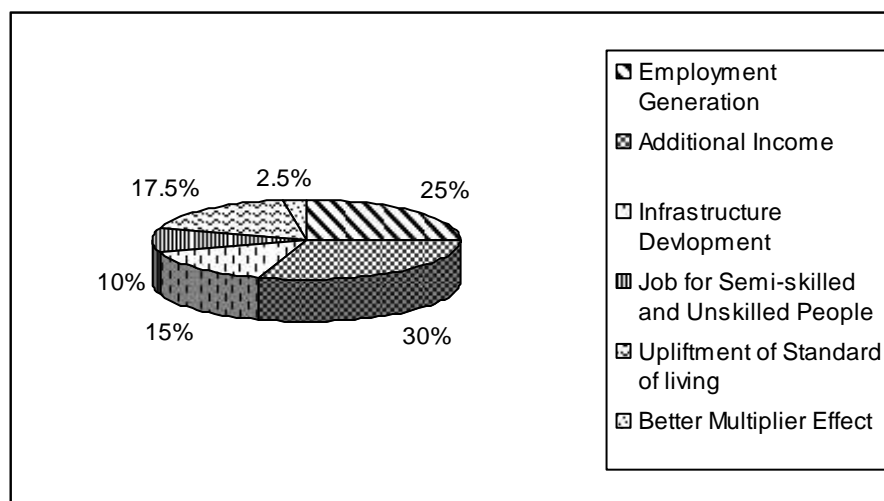


Figure No. 16 Positive Economic Impacts

(c). Negative Economic Impacts of Tourism

Tourism development has created various negative economic impacts in the study area. According to the respondents major negative impacts are as follows:

Table No.5.11

Negative Economic Impacts of Tourism

S.N.	Impacts	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Increased inflation	17	42.5
2	Leakages	8	20
3	Uneven economic development	14	35
4	Over-use of scarce resources	1	2.5
	Total	40	100

Source: Field survey, 2009.

Above table shows that majority of respondents (42.5%) said increased inflation as a major negative economic impact seen due to increase in tourist influx(especially international tourists).355 said that tourism has caused uneven economic development .Only those people who were directly in contact with the tourists made more economic profits. 20% of the respondents said that leakages is seen i.e. most of the camping tourist carry their daily food and other requirements with them and they do not help in promotion of local products. While 2.5% said that tourism has caused overuse of scarce resources.

5.3.3. Environmental Impacts of Tourism

(a). Energy Source

Type of energy source used in local households greatly help to identify the extent of forest destruction (which is also linked with tourism).the type of energy source used by local respondents is shown below:

Table No. 5.12

Major Source of Energy

S.N.	Source of Energy	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Firewood	25	62.5
2	Gas	13	32.5
3	Kerosene	2	5
	Total	40	100

Source: field survey, 2009.

Above table shows that major source of energy used in the respondent's house was fire wood. 62.5% of the sample house holds used firewood for their daily energy source so it's direct impact is seen in the forest of the park which (according to the local people) is depleting

Table No. 5.12 is made clearer in the following figure:

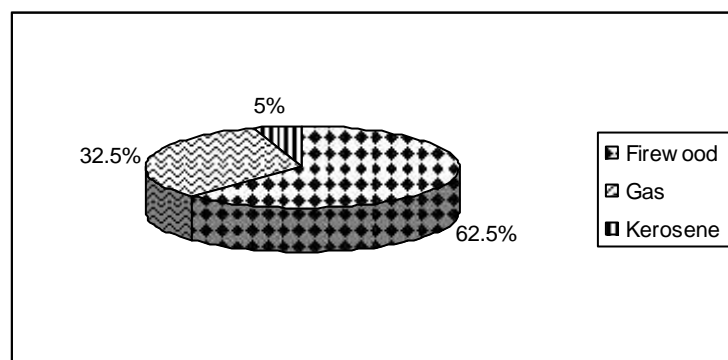


Figure No 17 Major Source of Energy

In the study area, significant impact on environment is due to tourism. After the expansion of tourism industry the forest of Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park has gradually decreased. Although the use of firewood, timber and fodder from inside the park is prohibited but due to lack of adequate security local people of villages inside the park and neighboring villagers are using firewood and fodder from the Park Forest. The fuel wood for cooking heating and construction of houses are the main cause of forest degradation. Among which the high demand of fire wood for cooking and heating have played the key role in degradation of forest. The following table presents the fuel wood consumption pattern in 25 households of total 40 sample households who used firewood as the main source of energy.

Table No.5.13

Total Household Consumption of fuel wood

S.N.	Quantity (<i>Bhari</i>)/month	No. of Households	Percentage
1	5-10	4	16
2	10-15	8	32
3	15-20	13	52
	Total	25	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

Note: 1 *Bhari* = 45-50 Kg.

Major environmental impacts seen in the park area due to development of tourism activity is given in the following table:

Table No. 5.14

Environmental Impacts due to Tourism

S.N.	Impacts	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Garbage	23	57.5
2	Water pollution	6	15
3	Congestion	7	17.5
4	Forest degradation	4	10
	Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

Table No. 5.14 shows that the most severe environmental problem seen due to increased tourist influx in the park is garbage. Majority of respondents (57.5%)

reported that garbage is the biggest environmental impact seen due to increase in tourism activity, which is followed by congestion (17.5%), pollution of water sources 15% and forest degradation 10% gradually.

Major environmental impacts due to tourism in the park area are illustrated in the following figure:

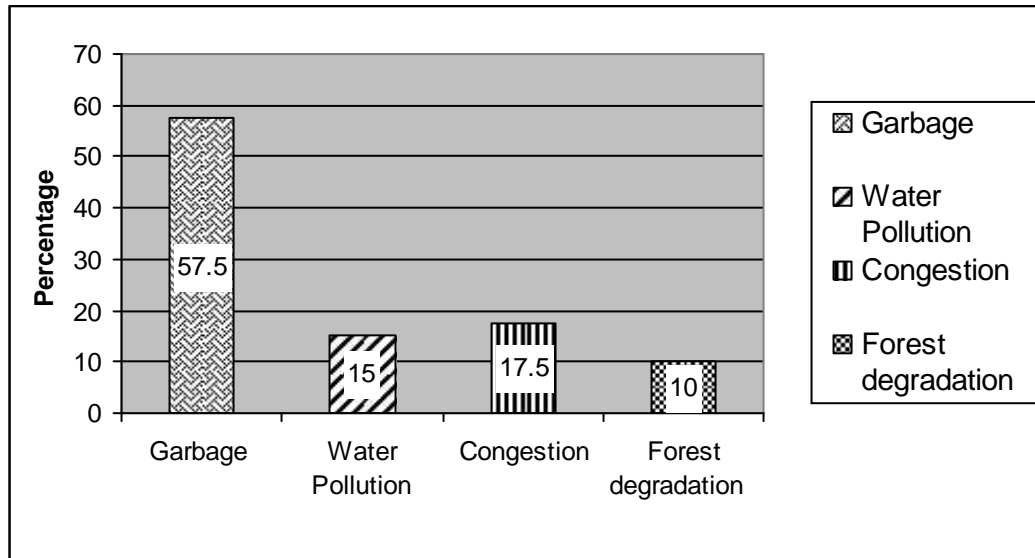


Figure No. 18 Environmental Impacts

5.4. Entry Fee

The park authority takes certain amount of entry fee from the tourists. The amount of entry fee is Rs. 10 for domestic tourists and Rs. 250 for international tourists.

5.5. Park Regulations

Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park has developed certain regulations for the tourists and visitors. They are as follows

- i. Respect religion and cultural sites and removal of cultural artifacts is prohibited
- ii. No one should walk within the park between sunset and sunrise.
- iii. Flora and fauna are fully protected and must not be disturbed.
- iv. Carry out non biodegradable items such as plastic bags and bottles.
- v. Visitors should be self sufficient in fuel supply (kerosene). The use of firewood is strictly prohibited.
- vi. Rubbish must be packed out, buried or disposed of in designated areas.
- vii. Do not purchase animal or plant products it is illegal.

CHAPTER - SIX

PROSPECTS OF ECO-TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

6.1 Prospects of Ecotourism Development in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park.

Prospects of ecotourism development in any area is influenced by different physical, cultural and religious components. These components of prospects of tourist development are as follows:-

1. Accessibility and location
2. Scenery : It contains:
 - i. Landscape
 - ii. Waterfalls, water bodies etc.
3. Biodiversity
4. Climate
5. Culture
6. Settlement features:
 - i. Historical remains
 - ii. Archaeological remains
 - iii. Town, city, village

The fundamental attraction of tourism in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park are: Natural sceneries, pleasing, weather, calm, environment, diverse, floral and faunal species, short trekking routes, customs of different communities such as Tamang, Bhote, Hill Brahman, Rural Newar etc. Detail explanation of some of the tourist attractions or ecotourism resources of Shivapuri are as follows:

6.2 Scenic Attraction

Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park area is loaded with outstanding scenic beauty and graceful charm. As it is located in high altitude, it offers exhilarating view in all directions. The hills, mountains, Himalayan ranges, rivers and waterfalls, forests, panoramic view of Kathmandu Valley are strong aspects for attracting tourists. The park offers a breathtaking view of Himalayas including peaks like Ganesh Himal (7111m), Annapurna range etc., which are seen very close at sight from the northern side of the park while the panoramic view of Kathmandu valley is

seen from the southern slopes of the park. The magnificent vivid natural sceneries provide an atmosphere of peace and tranquility.

6.3. Pleasant Weather

Climate is a primary element for the development of tourism in any tourist destination. Shivapuri area has very pleasant and healthy climate throughout the year due to its altitude. The pleasant climate is ideal for holiday. The climate of the park area is pleasant all year round but more tourists are attracted in spring (March to May) and autumn (September to November).

In such a short distance (12Km) from Kathmandu valley, here tourists get pleasant climate and pollution free environment. In mid summer the park is less hot than Kathmandu valley due to its height. The park has bright sunshine and cloudless sky almost in all months which attract tourists. A pleasant weather is important because it plays an important role in making holiday delightful. If surrounding sceneries are not clearly visible then it will minimize the pleasure of sightseeing. Due to its high altitude and pleasant weather Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park area is best for a good view of snow covered Himalayas which is clearly seen in October till March.

6.4. Trekking

Trekking in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park is the most adventurous task to the visitors. In comparison to Annapurna and Mount Everest region, this area has very few trekkers due to various reasons like lack of advertisement and information centers. However this area has immense potentiality for trekking because of its ethnic, cultural and natural richness. Along with it, it offers gorgeous sights, sceneries, diverse flora and fauna and waterfalls. Most part of the trail are found full of greenery of trees and shrubs with sweet smells of flowers and fresh air. Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park offers some of the most unusual and delightful trekking routes. Tourists visiting the park can make their tours more exciting and pleasant through such trekking. For this there are some of the major trekking routes through which they can enjoy travelling. They are as follows:

Popular trekking routes	Distance (Km)
a) Sundarijal – Chisapani	22
b) Jhule – Shivapuri Peak	12
c) Panimuhan – Shivapuri Peak	12
d) Panimuhan – Nagigumba – Baghdwar	18
e) Panimuhan – Sikre	12
f) Kakani – Shivapuri Peak	18

6.5. Tourist Places

Tourism in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park is a wonderful trip for the tourists. The area has lots of natural scenic and spectacular panoramic attractions for the tourists. Most of the foreign (international) tourists visit this area for trekking, sightseeing, adventure etc. while domestic tourists visit here for a day trip, picnic, roaming, research studies and religious purposes. The park area is the most fragile region where the natural originality can be seen. There are lots of remarkable tourist spots where tourists forget everything about the world and feel like a heaven.

Many remarkable places can be seen in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park with magnificent natural beauty and diverse cultural heritage. The hills around the park are covered with dense forest having diverse flora and fauna, gorgeous waterfalls and breathtaking view of snow clad mountains can be seen which makes the visitors speechless. During the trekking period there are lots of tourist spots along the route.

1. Sundarijal

Sundarijal, the most popular entry point of Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park, is the place which attracts large number of tourists (both domestic and international) every year. Water reservoir of Sundarijal where water from three main rivers flowing through the National Park (Bagmati, Nagmati and Sayalmati) is tapped. Total capacity of this reservoir is 9,000 m³. It is the major source of drinking water supply of Kathmandu valley. Electricity is also generated from the water of this reservoir. This water reservoir and the river flowing beside it is the major place of attraction for visitors especially for trekking, Saturday excursions, picnic and other nature lovers. It is also an excellent place for poets, love-birds and meditators.

1. Religious Sites :

(a) Nagi Gumba

Nagi Gumba is the most famous religious sites situated inside the Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park. Situated above 2000 m height it is a perfect blend for peace lovers. Each year thousands of visitors observe this place among them Buddhists are more in number. Buddhist students arrive here from different countries such as America, Japan e.t.c. they come here for meditation and stay here for 2-3 days. As it symbolizes God Buddha so every year very large number of tourists visits here in Buddha Jayanti.

(b). Baghdwar and Biushnudwar

Baghdwar and Biushnudwar are two temples located inside the park .These temples have special religious importance among Hindus as two sacred rivers of Nepal viz: Bagmati and Bishnumati originate from here respectively. On Nepalese new years day which falls in mid April, pilgrims from Katmandu valley and neighboring areas visit Baghdwar and Bishnudwar to take a holy bath.

(c). Sundari Mai

Sundari Mai Temple is another attraction for the pilgrims visiting Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park .It is situated in Sundarijal VDC. Religious tourists especially from Nepal visit this temple where as sometimes Indian pilgrims also visit here.

2. Shivapuri Peak

Shivapuri peak (2732 m) is located insides the park, which is another main attraction for both domestic and international tourists, especially for the trekkers. Northern slopes borderline of the peak is 1000 m above sea level while that of the Southern slope is 1500 m above. Jamacho Peak (2096 m) is another highest peak situated inside Nagarjun Forest area.

6.6. Cultural Attraction

Culture basically the traditional culture is a great motivation factor of attraction of tourists. Most VDCs inside the Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park is inhabited by “Tamangs” .Tamangs who are one of the casts and tribe enlisted as

“Adibashi Janajati” of Nepal. Literally the word Tamang is derived from the Tibetan words “ta” and “mang” meaning horse and soldier respectively. In Tibetan language Tamang means horse warriors, Tamangs were boarder police sent by king “Trisong” of Tibet around 755 A.D.

Tamangs have their own kind of identity and dignity, they are culturally very rich and rich in their own tradition and custom. They have their own language (which belongs to Tibet – Burman group) and unique dressing habit. Tamang men and boys usually wear long tunics and in winter they are seen in short-sleeved sheep wool jackets, always with a Khukuri knife stuck in the waistband. While women are seen in simple cotton sari and blouse, with a few ornaments.

Moving through the park Tamang culture can be observed in many small villages and settlements which come on the way .Traditional houses of Tamang can be seen which are well built with cut stone walls and wooden shingle roofs. In a few cases there are even slate roofs. Most of the houses have two stories; the upper storey is generally used for storage of grain and other household possessions, while the ground floor is used as a kitchen, dining place and bedroom. There is usually a balcony on the first floor and a verandah beneath it in front of the main entrance. The verandah is used as a living room.

The tribal priest of Tamang community is known as Lamas, Bombos and Tambas.

Most of the Tamang people follow Tibetan Buddhism religion. The Tamangs have their own typical culture with beautiful song and dance .The world famous dance of Tamang community is “Tamang Selo” in which they dance on the beat of a drum called “Damphu”; it is the traditional drum of Tamang. The tribal priest of Tamang community is known as Lamas, Bombos and Tambas.

Tamang people celebrate festivals jointly with their ethnic tribe their main festival is Lochhar. As 74% of people inhabiting in and around Shivapuri area are Tamangs, so such unique tradition and culture and rituals can be well observed while visiting the area.

Besides these aspects one most important thing for tourism development is hospitality and respect. Local people of Shivapuri park area show great respect to the

visitors which creates sound guest host relationship, hence plays a pivotal role in attracting more tourists to develop it as a major tourist destination.

6.7 Bio-diversity

Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park lies entirely within the middle hills physiographic zone. It lies in a transitional zone between subtropical and temperate climates, such diverse climatic condition and ecological habitat has created most favorable condition for diversity in flora and fauna.

This area can be the destination for environmentalists, scientists and researcher of different discipline from around the world. Main floral and faunal species that pose strong potentiality of attracting tourists are as follows:

Flora

There is diversity in floral species found inside the park. Forest and vegetation of this area is divided into four types.

- a) Lower Mixed Hardwood Forest
- b) Chirpine Forest
- c) Oak Forest
- d) Upper Mixed Hardwood Forest

Major plant types found in the forest are *Schima Wallichii* (Chhilaune), *Catanopsis indica* (Katus), *Alnus nepalensis* (Utis), *Anthosaphalus cadamba*, *Pinus roxburghii* (Sallo), *Myrica esculapta*(Kaphal) *Rhododendron arboreum*(Lali Guras), *Juglans regia* (Okhar), *Pyrus pashia*, *Quercus semecarpifolia*, *Eurya acuminata*, *Ilex dipyrens*, *Michelia champaca*, *Symplocos sp*, *Acer*, *Aesculus* etc.

Fauna

Different types of wild animals and birds are reported by the Park authority and local residents. The common wild animals are barking deer (*Mutianus mutijak*), Rhesus monkey, common leopard, clouded langur, yellow throated marten etc. It is reported that the park is a home of 311 species of birds including at least 9 threatened species such as orange bellied leaf bird, 102 species of butterflies including rare and threatened ones like the Kaiser-I and Hind, and 129 species of mushroom.

A list of flora and fauna in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park and their altitudinal variation are as follows:

Table No. 6.1**Flora and fauna in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park**

Forest Type	Altitude in meters	Flora	Fauna
Lower mixed hardwood forest	1000-1500	<i>Schima Wallichii</i> (Chhilaune), <i>Catanopsis indica</i> (Katus), <i>Alnus nepalensis</i> (Utis), <i>Anthosaphalus cadamba</i> (Kadamba)	Wild boar, Porcupine, Barking deer, Squirrel, Rhesus macaque, Indian hare
Chirpine forest	1000-1600	<i>Pinus roxburghii</i> (Sallo), <i>Catanopsis indica</i> (Katus), <i>Myrica esculapta</i> (Kaphal) <i>Pyrus pashia</i> (Mayal)	Wild boar, Porcupine, Barking deer, Squirrel, Rhesus macaque, Indian hare
Oak forest	2300-2700	<i>Quercus semecarpifolia</i> (Oak) <i>Symplocos</i> sp., <i>Rhododendron arboretum</i> (Lali Guras), <i>Michelia champaca</i> (Chaap).	Wild boar, Clouded leopard, Barking deer, Indian crested porcupine
Upper mixed hard forest	1500-2700	<i>Alnus nepalensis</i> (Utis), <i>Juglans regia</i> (Okhar), <i>Betula utilis</i> (Bhojpatra), <i>Acer</i> (Phirphire), <i>Aesculus</i> (Pangra), <i>Salix</i> sp.(Baish), <i>Querus</i> sp., <i>Celtis</i> sp(Khari).	Himalayan goral, Himalayan black bear, Clouded leopard, Yellow-throated marten, Wild boar

Source: Choudhary,1998.

6.8 Meditation centre:

Mediation centers located in and beside the park, such as Vipasyana and OSHO are other major attraction points for the national and international visitors. Tourists visiting the park also visit these centers, while on other hand people arriving at these centers for mediation also roam inside the park to observe it's scenic beauty.

CHAPTER – SEVEN

PROBLEMS OF ECO TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Problems of Eco-tourism in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park:

Although Shivapuri is a beautiful place to visit but there are various constraints obstructing full fledged development of tourism. There lacks some vital facilities for tourism development and promotion. Every day significant number of tourist arrive here but very few of them stay for more than one night, lack of good tourism infrastructure communication, hotels and lodges, information centre are the major constraints of eco-tourism development in the park. If there would have been these facilities, tourists would have stayed for a longer period of time and the number of both domestic and international tourist would have increased significantly.

Some of the problems of eco-tourism development in Shivapuri Nagarjun National park are as follows: -

7.1 Transportation and Communication

Transportation and communication facilities are assumed to be two separate milestones when considering tourism infrastructure development. It is a primary service needed for the tourists in order to reach their destination. In any area tourist products or potentialities would be of little importance if the locations are inaccessible. The destination should be of conducive transport system.

Although the road facility is available in Shivapuri from Kathmandu, transportation service is very inconvenient. The local micro bus from Ratnapark (Kathmandu city) is usually very crowded, congested and inconvenient. It is inconvenient because the micro bus service is used not only for passengers but also for transporting varieties of goods along with passengers. There is not any proper transport service especially for tourist from Kathmandu.

There is no any transportation facility inside the park to visit the tourist sites, so those tourists who are not interested in trekking are also forced to walk for 2-3 hours as two tourist sites are at the distance of 10 km in an average.

Communication is equally important to develop tourism. Convenient communication services such as telephone, internet etc, are equally important to increase tourist influx in any area. But inadequate availability and poor service of

these facilities inside the park (such as, frequent network problem in mobile phone, lack of public phone service and lack of internet service) has created constraint in tourism development.

Therefore, adequate efforts should be made to this aspect by the government and related authorities.

7.2 Lack of Information Center and Advertisement.

In this commercial age the most important aspects of any business activity are information and advertisement. Same condition prevails in the promotion and development of tourism in any area.

Most of the tourists in Kathmandu lacks the knowledge about Shivapuri Nagargun National Park. There is no system to show and communicate about the facts of Shivapuri such as the culture, religion, customs of ethnic community, trekking routes etc. Except in one or two places there is no sign post in the area and trekking routes showing the direction of temples, villages, monasteries and other tourist sites. Due to lack of proper advertisement Shivapuri is still unable to attract more and more tourists as compared to Chitwan National Park, Annapurna Conservation Area and other tourist related areas of Nepal. Effective advertisement and pamphleting about Shivapuri should be done through various tourism related organizations, travel agencies and hotels in Kathmandu.

7.3 Sanitation:

Sanitation is found to be a remarkable problem in the park area. Garbage, cans, plastics pieces and other wastes are found to be scattered in the jungle, path, picnic areas and even around temples and monasteries. It is due to the improper management to control non-biodegradable wastes. In some specific places some pits are constructed for garbage control (but the number of such pit is very less) but due to the carelessness of local people and tourists empty tins, bottles, plastic bags and the bio-degradable wastage products are found along the trekking route and picnic places. On other hand villagers are less conscious about hygiene and cleanliness which has a bad impression on the travelers. It has decreased people's attraction towards this place.

7.4 Recreational Facilities

Growth of tourism in any area largely depends on the development of recreational facilities. There is no provision of recreational facilities such as jungle safari, view tower, cultural program show, and certain places for bird watching etc. in Shivapuri. The forest could be well managed for educational, recreational purposes such as bird watching, wildlife viewing, biodiversity study, trekking etc. The collected entrance fee is only used for paying royalty to government, but it can also be used for the further management and conservation of the forest and infrastructure development in the area. Thus the new additional sources of pleasure are to be explored in the park area so as to attract more and more tourist and to lengthen their duration of study.

7.5 Poor Accommodation:

There is no proper accommodation facility inside the park. Tourist are attracted for trekking, camping etc. In order to increase tourist influx and lengthen their staying period availability of proper hotels, lodge or guest house is vital. Inadequate number of guest house, resting house, tea shop view tower at campsites and at along trails are other major constraints of tourism development in Shivapuri.

7.6 Lack of Awareness:

Lack of awareness in the local people regarding tourism is also an important factor which has created obstacle on tourism development of Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park. Natural and cultural resources present inside the park are very valuable for tourism promotion but due to lack of awareness it is increasingly degrading local people of the park are not yet aware that their culture can be a strong factor for attracting tourists. Along with it insufficient design of tourism infrastructure and facilities due to lack of awareness, poor garbage disposal and sanitation, poor toilet and drainage has also decreased the attractiveness of the park.

7.7 Park People Conflict:

Conflict between park administration and local people is also a major problem present in Shivapuri. Park and people conflict is mainly due to resource use especially for firewood and grasses. As there is no any provision made for using resources

present inside the park by the local people, and buffer zone has not yet been established. Such problem has posed constraint in developing tourism to its full fledge in the park. Conflict between local people and park has conveyed negative impression in tourist.

7.8. Miscellaneous

- a) Only few people those who are capable for investing money and who are nearby the main route of Shivapuri are getting economic benefits.
- b) No provisions have been set up for providing economic support to the poor people in order to make capable of investing in tourism industry in small scale.
- c) No mechanism has been set up by the local people to produce materials (food and other products) for the tourism point of view.
- d) No mechanism has been set up to integrate tourism with local development.
- e) No process has been set into motion properly in participating local people in decision making, related to tourism development and reserve management.

CHAPTER - EIGHT

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

1. Summary

In past few decades tourism activity has highly accelerated all over the world. The drastic change in technology, transportation and communication in recent years throughout the world has increased the pace of development of tourism industry. It has become a strong part of national economy of many countries.

Presence of unique biodiversity, environment and natural beauty has made Nepal the ultimate tourist destination in the world. Although gorgeous Himalayan range, beautiful landscape, rivers, lakes etc. are the major attractions of Nepal, Protected Areas (National Parks, Wildlife Reserves, Conservation Areas and Hunting Reserves) are also other major attraction points where a great share (more than 25%) of tourists visit. Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park is one of the Protected Areas which hold strong potentiality of tourism development.

Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park is situated at the northern part of Kathmandu Valley. It occupies certain portions of Kathmandu, Nuwakot, Sindhupalchok and Dhading districts. The park is rich in natural, cultural and biological diversity. Cultural heritage, natural attractions, trekking, biodiversity, religious sites have made Shivapuri famous for tourism.

The identification of different important spots for tourism is important to increase the length of stay of tourists. The tourism sector of Nepal is too heavily reliant on heritage (both manmade and natural). Among various tourist destinations Shivapuri is one of the most important tourist paradises of Nepal. Tourism in Nepal needs diversification. New sources of pleasure are to be explored so as to attract more and more tourists and to increase their length of stay. In this context this study has attempted to analyze the problems and prospects of ecotourism in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park.

The summaries of the major findings of the study are as follows:

- i. The number of tourists visiting Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park is rapidly increasing. Total 76,605 tourists arrived in Shivapuri in 2064/65 and 1,11,156 in 2065/66 which was only 22200 in 2054/55.
- ii. Autumn and spring are the peak seasons of tourist arrival.
- iii. Tourists visit Shivapuri basically for peaceful environment, sightseeing, trekking, and bio-diversity observation. Some tourists also come to Shivapuri for religious purposes and research and study programme. Majority of tourists visited Shivapuri with the purpose of trekking 47.5%, followed by sightseeing 35%, religious purpose 12.5% and picnic and recreation 5%.
- iv. The highest number of tourist (60%) visited Shivapuri from Asia. Equal number of tourist visited from Europe and North America (15%) followed by Australia (10%).
- v. Majority of tourists visiting Shivapuri are at the age group of 20-40 years of age (72.5%) followed by age group of above 40 years of age (22.5%) and below 20 years age (5%).
- vi. Length of stay is a crucial factor in tourism development in any tourism destination. In Shivapuri most tourists (62.5%) were found staying for only 1 day, followed by 2 days (25%) and only 12.5% were found staying for more than 2 days.
- Vii. Tourism has made both positive and negative impacts on socio-cultural aspects of local people. 35% of respondents believed that tourism has increased their contact with outsiders while 30% said that it has increased peoples awareness level. On other hand 75% of the respondents admitted that tourism has increased intensity of imitating western culture and 17.5% revealed it has disturbed indigenous style.
- Viii. Tourism has made significant impact on the economic condition of local people. Majority of respondents (30%) revealed that tourism has provided additional income to local people while 25% admitted that it has increased employment opportunities. On the other hand 42.5% of respondents revealed that tourism has increased inflation and 35% said that it has created uneven economic development.

- ix. Major source of energy used by the respondent households was firewood (62.5%) followed by cylinder gas (32.5%).
- x. Development of tourism activity has caused various environmental problems in Shivapuri Majority of respondents (57.5%) revealed garbage as the major environmental problem, followed by congestion (17.5%), water pollution (15%) and forest depletion(10 %).
- xi. Shivapuri area is a very potential place for tourism development. Major prospects of tourism in Shivapuri are pleasant weather, scenic attraction (such as attractive view of Himalayas, panoramic view of Kathmandu Valley, water bodies etc.), trekking routes, religious sites such as: Baghdwar, Bishnudwar, Sundari Mai, Nagi-Gumba, Marnichur Mahadev, Tarakeshower Mahadev etc., cultural attraction, biodiversity and meditation centers.
- xii. There are several problems prevailing in Shivapuri creating obstacle in tourism development. These problems are associated with transportation and communication, lack of information centre and advertisement, sanitation problem, lack of recreational facilities, poor accommodation, lack of awareness in local people about tourism development and park people conflict.
- xiii. Cleaning (sanitation) and patrolling are the suggestion made by tourists and local respondents for the betterment of the park.

8.2. Conclusion

Tourism is a smokeless industry and never ending but ever changing business. It has tremendously developed since last few decades providing additional income to large number of people. Ecotourism is an environmentally sound tourism that preserves both natural and cultural aspects of an area during the tourism activity.

This study mainly emphasizes on the present status of tourism, potentiality and problems of ecotourism development in an environmentally sustainable manner in Shivapuri. This study was mainly based on the primary data collected through questionnaires and schedules from 40 local people, 40 tourists, 1 park staff, 1 teacher and the secondary data was collected from various sources.

The potentiality of tourism in the area is evaluated on the basis of no of tourists visiting the area, their purpose of visit and other natural as well as cultural assets of the area. Natural resources and trekking routes are the major tourism attraction of Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park. Spectacular mountain scenery, pristine vegetation and rich biodiversity are the best resources that attract the visitors.

Pleasant environment, greenery, rich biodiversity, trekking routes and gorgeous water bodies offers greater opportunities for tourism development in this area.

Cultural richness of the "Tamang" community and various religious sites provides additional tourism potentiality in the area.

Equitable distribution of benefits and greater participation of local people are the key factors in ecotourism development.

Regarding various limitations, poor and inadequate transportation and communication facilities, lack of information centre and advertisement, garbage, and sanitation problems, lack of recreational facilities, lack of awareness in local people about tourism and prevailing park-people conflict are the major ones. The existing facilities and services regarding tourism development are not satisfactory. Increased awareness level, contact with outsiders, generation of additional income and employment opportunities are the major positive impacts of tourism in Shivapuri Park, while imitation of western culture, loss of indigenous style, increased inflation, uneven economic development, leakages, garbage and congestion are the major negative impacts of tourism. The ecotourism potentialities of the area are quite strong. But for ecotourism development, certain improvement is needed to fulfill the tourist needs and provide them better facilities.

8.3 Recommendation

Based on the research study, following recommendations have been made for the promotion of ecotourism in Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park.

1) Information and Publicity.

- a) A tourism information centre should be opened in Shivapuri which could provide detail information about animals, trees, shrubs, herbs as well as religious places and major tourist sites inside the park.

- b) Adequate, reliable and up-to-date information of the park should be made available to the tourists.
- c) To increase the inflow of tourist in Shivapuri, more promotional activities in Kathmandu is needed. Necessary information should be provided both by the tourism ministry as well as the hotels and other organizations engaged in tourism.

2) Infrastructure

- a) Maintenance and back-topping of ring road inside the park is needed.
- b) Provision of jungle safari should be done
- c) Adequate and improved communication facility inside the park should be provided.

3) Campsite

- a) Capacity and quality of the campsites should be increased
- b) Each campsite should be equipped with toilet, rubbish bin and drinking water

4) Way Site Facilities

Rest houses, tea shops, toilet and garbage disposal sites, sign boards, information board and location board should be developed.

5) Recreational facilities

Additional recreational facilities such as: community museum, view towers, cultural shows etc. should be initiated.

6) Revenue

The revenue collect by the government from the park should be used to develop tourism infrastructure of the area.

- 7) The park authority does not have any tourism development plan. So in Shivapuri tourism management plan should be especially introduced and urgently implemented by the government.
- 8) Local people's awareness should be enhanced by providing various trainings and workshops related to tourism.
- 9) More research and study should be carried out in the national park regarding ecotourism.

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