

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Legend of peace and nonviolence, Mahatma Gandhi had stated a sentence of worth as "I have watched the culture of all seeds blow around my house and other winds have blown the seeds of peace, for travel is the language of peace". This highlights the importance of travel and peace in a multi-cultural world. So, it depicts in that sense, man by nature cannot live in confinement, therefore, he seeks change to transform his consciousness. A modern man can live in a modest living, he cannot forsake his habit of travelling and hence, his interest of knowing something new, consequently tourism has developed astronomically throughout the world (Kunwar, 2010). Tourism persists with dynamic growth, new activities, new technology and new markets. Precisely, changes record numbers of tourists are travelling across the world for multiple purposes.

In today's world, tourism has become a fundamental activity of human beings. Governments of all countries are involved in the development of tourism sector. Tourism is considered to be a set of superior and praiseworthy activities of modern man. Tourism has become a medium of economic indicator of a country. It is considered an important source of economic balance of any country. According to Satyal (2000), it creates economic resources as well as promotes international understanding. Tourism is such a medium, through which we exchange knowledge with each other and we can create mutual understanding in the people of the whole world. Tourism teaches to respect different beliefs, religions, traditions and customs at the same footing. It inspires religious and cultural harmony and tries to create peaceful relationship among the nations of the world (Chandra, 2006).

However, tourism is not a new phenomenon for Hindus. In Sanskrit literature, there are different terms for tourism derived from the root *atan*, which means leaving home for some to other places. Some of these include, *paryatan* for going out for pleasure and knowledge; *deshatan* for going out to other countries primarily for economic reason; *tirthatan* for going out to places for religious purpose (Kunwar, 2010).

Many social scientists and economists who make forecasts concerning the nature of human society in the future seem to indicate that all modern countries are progressing quite rapidly in lifestyles towards which favor the growth and development of tourism. For example, factors increase real personal income; technological improvements and manufacturing have resulted in more productivity per worker. It also increases in leisure time with a decrease in the work week, predictions for longer vacations in most industries, higher levels of education, growth of interest in cultural matters that include appreciation of the cultures of other peoples and other places, technological developments and awareness of other countries.

Besides stimulating economic growth and job creation, tourism provides incentives to protect the environment and heritage of the destination. It plays a major role in the preservation of world heritage as it generates financial means to safeguard nature, heritage sites, and preservation of environment. It also promotes cultures and indigenous traditions. International tourism offers a unique opportunity for cultural exchange and dialogues between civilizations (Pathak, 2012).

A smokeless industry, tourism has become one of the primary industries in the world employing people directly and indirectly. Nepal has the greatest geographical variation and largest ethnic diversity in the world given with little space (0.1% of total land) it occupies. Nepal is the land of Mt. Everest (8,848), highest Tilicho Lake (6,967m), highest living mammal-yak, deepest Arun valley (9,391m), deepest Duna George and so on.

It has one horned Rhinoceros, abundant resources of medicinal and herbal plants, year-round pleasant and balmy climate a high level of hospitality. Mt. Everest, the birth place of Budha Lumbini, Bhaktapur, Changunarayan, Pasupatinath, Patan, CNP and ENP, among others, have highlighted Nepal across the world. In Nepal, Tourists activities range from mountaineering, longest rafting, trekking trips to jungle safari, bird watching, hunting and fishing, from pilgrimage and cultural tours, research and study trips to spa, yoga, meditation, bungee and paragliding (ibid).

It has embraced approximately 10% and 4.7% of contribution of GDP in the world and Nepal respectively (NTS, 2012). From tourism a country earns foreign exchange and creates jobs opportunities for people. Besides, it provides comforts and modern amenities to local and corrects regional desperation by developing various

infrastructures. However, we should not forget the impact of tourism on host society either positive or negative because "problems and benefits in tourism are the two sides of one coin" (Kunwar, 2010).

Nepal offers astonishing topographical variations along with the altitude ranging from 70 meters to 8848 meters amidst a width of 193 kilometers. Similarly, with its limited area and bounds, Nepal enjoys all the climates with alpine, temperate and the tropical jungle regions determined by its incredible altitude variation. (Sangal and Sangal, 1998).

Adventure tourism here dates back to the early attempts to scale the world's highest peaks. While trekking, mountaineering and game watching have long been popular, an entire range of other possibilities have been explored in the recent years such as rafting, biking, fishing, rock climbing, paragliding, piloting, hot air ballooning, mountain flight, boating, pony trekking, and bungee jumping. Trekking is the name given to travelling on foot. Some describe trekking as 'itinerary on foot'. Fun and enjoyment is the main motive behind trekking. Fun and enjoyment are the two main aspects of trekking which constantly attract youths and make them realize their youthful energy. Meanwhile, trekking is rapidly gaining popularity in western countries where man is becoming a slave of the mechanised mode of life (Ghimire, 2002).

People intend physical proximity with nature. However, trekking is not new in Nepal and India. 'Adhi Shankaracharya' travelled in all the four directions of India on foot and established the four dhams, i.e. pilgrimages. People who love natural beauty and enjoy themselves watching birds fly freely in the sky and buds blooming, forming groups every year and travel to Himalaya and other parts of Nepal in thousands. Certainly, the beauty of this place enchants most of the tourists from different parts of the world. The first golden ray of the sun in the sky, the blue sky filled with stars, and the beautiful sight of sunset enchant the tourists and trekkers get desperate to enjoy this natural beauty again and again (puri,2006). Whereas Nepal is the ultimate destination for the trekking enthusiast, offering a myriad of possibilities from the short and easy to the demanding challenges of the show peaks being called "A trekkers paradise" as here terrain mountain, hills and the terai offers some of the most spectacular trekking routes in the world (Pathak, 2012: PP. 99). According to

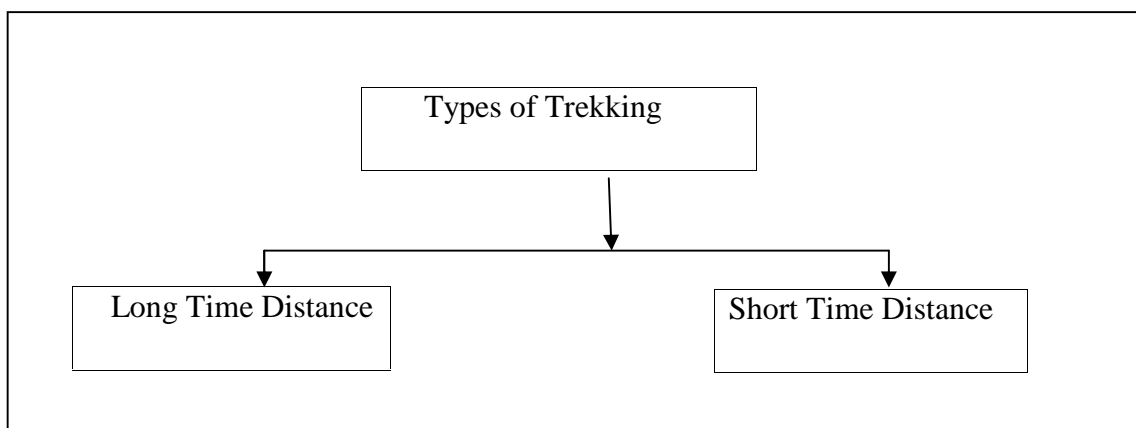
Ghimire (2002), Nepal had firmly shut its door to outsiders, hence all expeditions took the longer and more demanding route via, Tibet, but none were successful.

However, in the early 1950s, Nepal opened its doors to the outside world and there was a mad rush to climb from the south. It was only in 1953 that Edmund Hilary and Tenjing Norgay first scaled the top of Mt. Everest.

The development of tourism in Nepal began directly after 1950 when Nepal was opened to all the people in the world. It was a new destination for the international community which extended the fame of mountaineering as well as trekking. We should not forget the fact that, the first person to introduce the world to trekking in Nepal was Colonel Jimmy Roberts who had registered the first TA in Nepal where his idea, revolutionary for that time, was to provide tents together with Sherpa to porters, guides and cooks. Nowadays, the formula is well established; quality logistic supports, including meals, materials and cameras are arranged. Tourists can use Yaks, ponies and porters on their trekking to different destinations.

It is quiet difficult to categorize the types of trekking in Nepal. However, in terms of different variables such as time, budget, tourists flow and availability, trekking in Nepal can be classified into two major categories.

Figure 1.1 Types of Trekking



Source: Chhetri Ganesh, 2006

1. **Long time- (20-28 days)** (Annapurna circuit trek –Everest trek, Helambu-lamtang trek, Kanchanjunga trek, Upper Mustang trek, Manasalu trek etc)

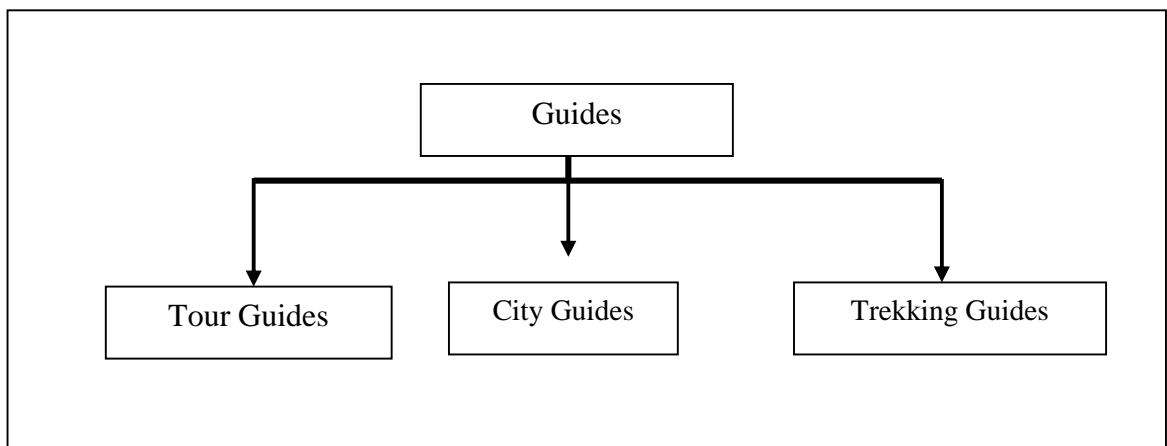
2. **Short time- (1-3 days)** (Kathmandu-Nuwakot, Trisuli, Gorkha, Nagarkot, Dhulikhel, Pokhara-Ghandruk, Ghorepani, Modikhola, etc)

It is not surprising to say that, the existence of guide during a trekking period is an important factor and it is often considered the backbone of any trek/ expedition. A guide is someone, who shows you the routes, the unknown paths and the bizarre myths about the place. It is the guide, who motivates, scolds and holds your hands more often than your boyfriend/ girlfriend does (<http://blog.nomadier.com>)

Likewise, in case of tourism, a guide plays a very significant role during the trekking period because he/she should have special qualities such as amicability, good health, tolerance, community knowledge, language proficiency, personal charms and physicality that are needed to bridge the gap between diverse communities. During the travelling period, we can see the importance of the guide's personality by showing that a poor guide can ruin an entire holiday experience through insensitivity, communication problems, or an authoritarian style projected at the wrong time (Kunwar, 2012).

According to the responsibilities, professions and works of a guide, we can split it into two categories in Nepal.

Figure 1.2 Types of Guides



Source: Kunwar, 2010

It is true that, men and women are the two wheels of a chariot and without womens participation, any kind of achievement of development activities cannot be fully obtained (Dhamala, 2010). And around the world, changes in women's status have

come through a combination of a long term macro level changes such as industrialization, urbanization, education and employment) and collective actions.

In many third world countries, as in Nepal the concept of the emancipation of women emerges in the context of nation liberation, state building and self conscious attempts to achieve modernity in the third world (Valentine, 2005). However, in terms of social, economic and political conditions they had been compelled to live on their stage of virtual slavery due to the patriarchal society. But now they have entered the age of rights and equality in the political and economic spheres (Pokhrel, 1982). And tourism as a smokeless industry, is being one of the major industries in the world as well as it has provided direct as well as indirect employment for Nepali women which is really praiseworthy.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In the early nineties, no one would have dreamed of Nepalese women guiding a trek. Because Nepalese society was ruled by the orthodox Hindu religion where women were considered the second-class citizens. Their role was to be a diligent wife, a loving mother, and an obedient daughter-in-law in the private sphere. Society dictated that woman should not cross out of her home threshold. However, nowadays many women from different backgrounds have been engaged in tourism sectors to contribute sustainable tourism development in remote areas.

Although, it is not easy to break down social barriers within a few years, where FTG is a new concept for Nepalese society. It has been a great challenge to bring women into this industry, since society does not condone women working as guides. But after a long struggle they have proven themselves right. Women can also work as guides if the opportunity is provided to them and demonstrated that women are as strong as men in multiple aspects.

Nowadays, Nepalese women are involved in many sectors and certainly tourism is one of the key industries for developing countries like Nepal. However, in order to take a profession of a trekking guide, they have to face many challenges in their work. In case of being female trekking guide, undeniably it is one of the challenging jobs for them. Another fact is that, due to the seasonal jobs they don't obtain full time employment in the entire year. Moreover, they have to face many social challenges

because of the stereotypical image of Nepalese society. Despite many physical as well as social restraints, some female have been engaging in FTG and contributing to Tourism sector. So we need to explore the challenges they have been facing during the trekking period. Bearing this fact in mind, the following research problems are identified:

Why are women interested in becoming a trekking guide?

- What are the challenges they have to face during trekking?
- What types of physical abilities do they need to be a trekking guide?
- Does the educational level also help Female to be a good trekking guide?

1.3 Objectives

To trace out the women's participation in trekking as a guide.

Specific Objectives

- To find out the motivational factors to the involvement of women in trekking guide.
- To explore the perception of female trekking guides.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Every research has its own values on the basis of its objective, study areas and availability of the resources. In a sector of tourism, many dissertations and books have been written and published for their academic requirement as well as personal purposes. However, in the context of women empowerment and employment in tourism no one has addressed the issues of the female trekking guides till now, which are certainly key issues for developing as well as the developed countries to raise the status of women through tourism.

To participate freely in the tourism industry is not certainly as easy task for women due to single or dual responsibility of their family. Moreover, Nepalese women have not been empowered effectively due to cultural gender and racial stereotypes of the society Similarly, the low participation in outside paid works is another crucial factor

which always keeps the women underprivileged getting chance to get economic and cultural empower in their society.

However, women have come across and involved in the trekking in order to empower themselves. In this way, it has also contributed to know barriers as well as motivational factors of those female who have been engaged and being empower through trekking.

In spite of these issues, many women have chosen tourism profession to become FTG which is really praiseworthy in our society. Thus, the study will especially be beneficial to them to find out their contributions and explore their perception towards this profession. Furthermore, the study will be motivational for other women as well. And it will also lobby to the governmental level for implementing proper policies for female workers in trekking sector.

1.5 Limitation of the Study

During the study period the following limitation has been incurred which can't ignored.

1. . This study is only related to the female trekking guides.
2. The study is conducted within the area of Pokhara valley.
3. Primary data is collected via snowball method as a non-probability sampling and secondary data from NTB, NATA, TAAN, REBAN, UNITRAP, Three Sisters Training Institute.
4. Selected statistical tools are used for the data presentation and analysis.

For the purpose of study, only female trekking guides have been used as respondents who are trained from NATHM (government), and other private sectors. Till 2012, 681 numbers of FTG from TSTC and 30 numbers from NATHM have been registered for Female Trekking Guide, which is the universe of my research. In order to collect data, the snow ball as a non- probability method has been used. And, minimum 32 respondents have been taken in the research because of the time and budget constraints.

1.6 Organization of the Study

There are all together seven chapters. The first introductory chapter deals with the background of the study. The background of tourism, statement of the problem, the objectives of the study, significance of the study and the limitations of the study are included in this first unit.

The second chapter is about the review of Literature dividing others sub contents such as; Conceptual review, Theoretical Overview, Review of Previous Study, Conceptual framework. The third chapter deals with the methodology, which was adopted during the fieldwork. It describes about the Rationale of the Study, Research Design, Population and Sample, nature and the source of data and data processing and Analysis of the study.

The fourth chapter describes the glimpse of the tourism in the world and Nepal. It elaborates about the numbers of Tourist Arrivals by Purpose of Visit, Major Trekking Routes of Nepal, Participating Numbers of Female and Female Trekking Guide Training.

Chapter five elaborates the existing scenario of FTG in Pokhara. Whereas the religious, age, education and caste/ethnic composition of the respondents and the popular Trekking Routes of Trekking Guides are included in this chapter. The chapter six describes about the perception of Female Trekking Guides. And the motivational factors, difficulties, negative aspects of Trekking, Sexual Harassment on Tourism, the code of ethics and essential qualities of Good Guide etc are included in this chapter. And the chapter seven summons the summary, findings and conclusion.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Conceptual Review

Kunwar (2010) explains, the word "tour" or travel comes from Europe. However, in east tourism is not a new phenomenon for Hindu. In Sanskrit language there are different terms for tourism derived from the root "atan" which means leaving home for some other places. They had different types of tourism which include, *Paryatan* for going out for pleasure and a knowledge; *Deshatan* for going out to other countries primarily for economic gain; *Tirthatan* for going to the places of religious importance; *akhet* for hunting.

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

Bhatia (1996) depicts the concept of tour or travel was actually started from the elite and rich people where the intentions of travel were trade, religious, missionary. Furthermore, in a history of tourism, the development of grand tour, origin of annual holiday, advent of railway (1980), sea transport, sea sides resorts, motor cars, advent of jet travel (1995) are also contributed a lot for the development of tourism.

In the world, travel is so much popular by nature human beings are fond of travelling. Human travel has started since nomadic times when they travelled and migrated for food and shelter due to natural compulsion. The origin of tourism can be traced back to the earliest period of human habitation in the globe. Travelling in those days was a must for the survival and existences of early men. During the 'Neolithic Age', several innovations in the field of transport changed the very nature of travel. In Egypt,

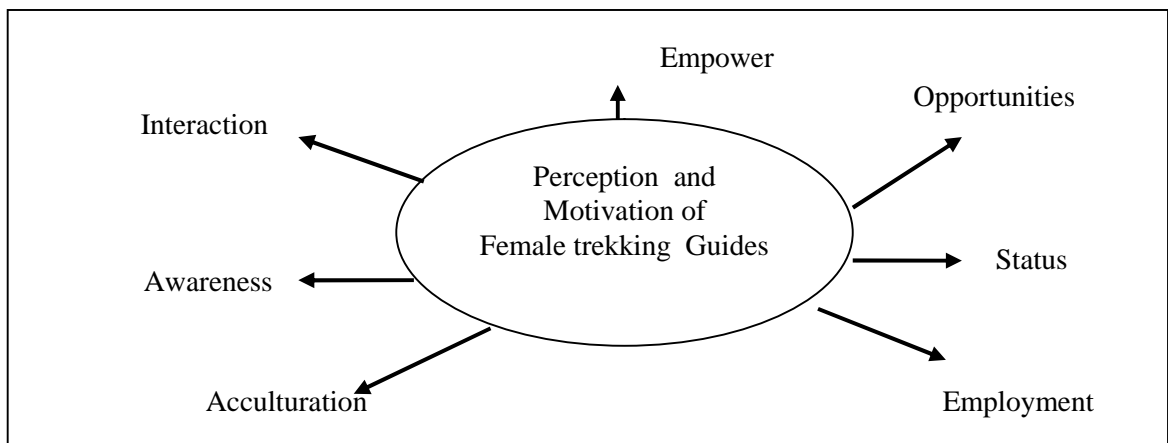
sailing vessels were built around 4000 B.C. which mark the beginning of the modern era of travel. The money invented by 'Sumerians' (Babylonians) around 3500 B.C. mark the beginnings of the modern era of travel.

The concept of pleasure travel as it existed in the west can be associated with the Romans empire which probably the first pleasure travelers in the world who also travelled during holiday occasions, particularly the famous Olympic games, Spas and seaside resorts which later were named as 'spas' were very popular with the Romans. However, according to Bhatia (1996), the important factors to develop tourism in the world can be put into followings headings.

- (a) The era of pilgrimage
- (b) The age of exploration
- (c) The Grand tours
- (d) Paid Holidays
- (e) Technical revolution

The participation of females in the trekking as guides has embraced several aspects of tourism sectors which are given as a conceptual framework in this

Figure 2.1 Conceptual Framework



2.1.1 Definition of Tourists and Travel

Kunwar (2010) opines that etymologically the word tour is derived from the Latin word "*tornare*" and the Greek, "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, and the suffix "ism" is defined as "an action or process" typical behavior or quality, while the suffix "ist" denotes 'ones that performs and given action'. Therefore, line a circle or tour represents a journey that is a roundtrip; i.e. the act of leaving point, and therefore, one who takes such a journey can be called a tourist (Theobald, cited by Kunwar). Hereby, the important eight characteristics of tourism are given below.

1. **Tourism as commercial hospitality:** The focus on the visitor components conceive of the touristic process as a commercialization of the traditional guest-host relationship through which strangers are given a temporary role and status in the society they visit. Thus tourism is viewed as a commercialized and eventually industrialized form of hospitality
2. **Tourism as democratized travel:** The emphasis is on the traveler component of the tourist role; the tourist is viewed as a kind of traveler marked by some distinct analytical traits. The tourists who pioneered this approach saw modern mass tourism as a democratized expansion of the aristocratic travel of an earlier age
3. **Tourism as a modern leisure activity:** Tourism is seen as a type of leisure and the tourist as a "person at leisure that also travels
4. **Tourism as a modern variety of the traditional pilgrimage:** This perspective focuses on the deeper structural significance of modern tourism and identifies it with pilgrimages in traditional societies.
5. **Tourism as an expression of basic cultural themes:** The emphasis here is on the deeper cultural meaning of tourism. Rejecting the general, "etic"- (outsider's view) approach to tourism, its advocates are trying to reach an "emic"- (insider's view) understanding of its culture specific, symbolic meaning that is "based on the views of the vacationers themselves".

6. Tourism as an acculturative process: Proponents of this viewpoint focus upon the effects that tourists have on their hosts and strive to integrate the study of tourism into the wider framework of the theory of acculturation.

7. Tourism as a type of the ethnic relationship: Advocates of this approach strive to integrate the analysis of the tourist host relationship into the wider field of ethnicity and ethnic relationship.

8. Tourism as a form of Neocolonialism: The focus is on the role of tourism in creating dependences between tourism-generating “metropolitan” countries and tourism –receiving, “peripheral” nations that replicate colonial or “imperialist” forms of domination and structural underdevelopment

However, there is no universal definition of tourist and tourism and many people have defined it differently from the early time of history.

According to Goeldner et al (2000, cited by Pathak) tourism is the science, art and business of attracting visitors, transporting them, accommodating them, and graciously catering to their needs and wants. It is basically the sum of the phenomenon and relationship arising from the interaction of tourist and host communities in the process of attracting and hosting these tourists.

Agrawal and Upadhya (2012) express their ideas that for the first time the definition of international tourism was considered in 1937 under the Economic Commission of the League of Nations. The main view was focused to make international travel statistics of all countries of the world comparable whereas, the definition runs as follows. “The term tourist shall in principle be implemented to mean any person travelling for a period of 24 hours or more in a country other than in which he usually resides”. And the light of above definition the following person might be considered as tourists: whose activities and intentions to become tourists are:

Person travelling for pleasure, for domestic reasons, health, meeting or missions of any kind (scientific, administrative, diplomatic, religious, athletic, etc.), business purposes, arriving in the course of a sea-cruise, and stay for less than 24 hours.

The definition also specified the persons as non-tourists in the following manner:
Persons arriving with or without a contract of work, to take up an occupation or engage in any business activity in the country, coming to establish a residence in the country, Pupil, students and young persons in boarding, establishment or schools, Residents in a frontier zone and persons domiciled in one country and working in an adjoining country, travellers passing through a country without stopping even if the half is for more than 24 hours.

According to Pathak (2000), the most widely accepted, but technical, definition of the tourist was proposed by the International Union of Official Travel Organizations (IUOTO) in 1963 and approved in 1968 by the World Tourism Organization (WTO). 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 states clearly that who visits abroad at least for twenty-four hours is called the tourist. This definition is useful primarily for “statistical, legislative and industrial purpose” but it is unsatisfactory for most sociological work because it is too broad and theoretically barren.

Charles et al (2012) argue that, many definitions of “tourism” and “the tourist” are based on distance travelled, the length of time spent, and the purpose of the trip. This makes it difficult to gather statistical information that scholars can use to develop a database, describe the tourism phenomenon, and do analyses. The International Conference on Travel and Tourism Statistics convened by the World Tourism Organization (WTO) in Ottawa, Canada, in 1991 reviewed, updated, and expanded on the work of earlier international groups. The Ottawa Conference made some fundamental recommendations on definitions of tourism, travelers, and tourists.

The United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) adopted WTO’s recommendations on tourism statistics on March 4, 1993. WTO has taken the concept of tourism beyond a stereotypical image of “holiday-making”. The officially accepted definition is. “Tourism comprises the activities of persons one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes.” The term usual environment is intended to

exclude trips within the area of usual residence and frequent and regular trips between the domicile and the workplace and other community trips of a routine character:

1. International Tourism

- a. **Inbound Tourism:** visits to a country by non-residents
- b. **Outbound Tourism:** visits by residents of a country to another country

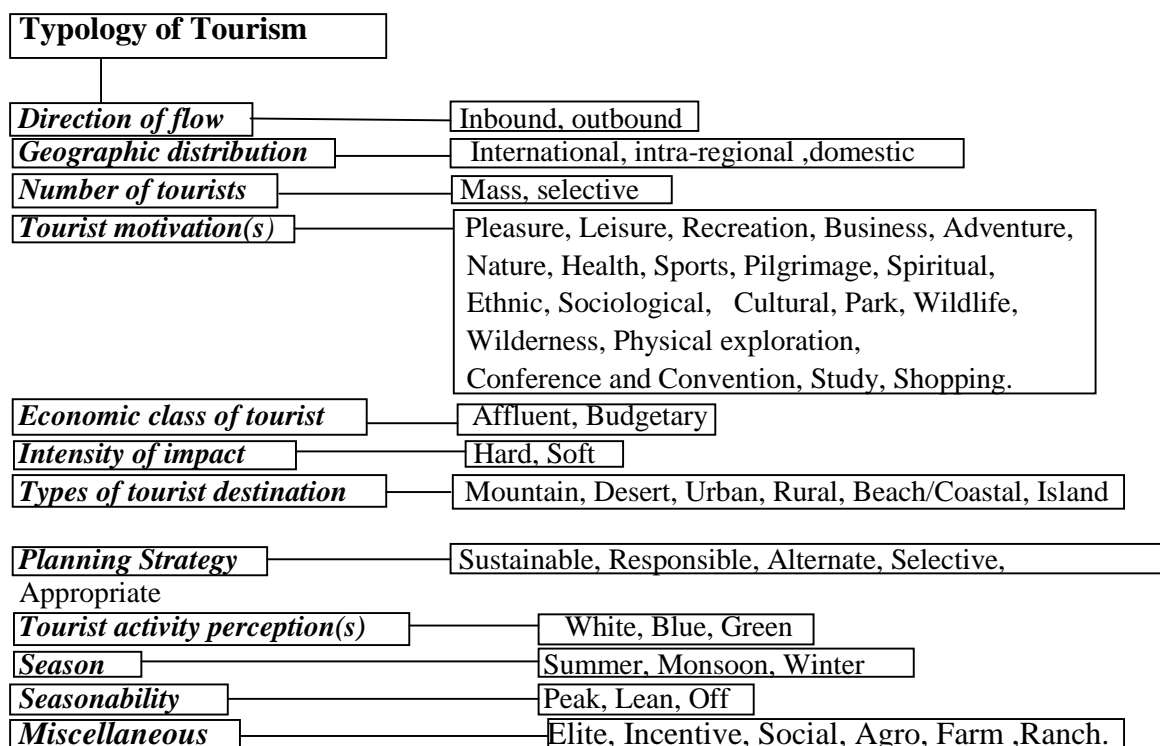
2. Internal Tourism: visit by residents of a country to their own country

3. Domestic Tourism: internal tourism plus inbound tourism (the tourism market of accommodation facilities and attractions within a country)

4. National Tourism: internal tourism plus outbound tourism (the resident tourism market for travel agents and airlines).

Likewise, according to Pathak (2012), the yearning for travel in every ancient time, tourism is often considered and presumed as contemporary phenomena. Tourism can be associated to wanderlust of men since the very beginning times having vast potential contribution of nation whereas, the patterns of travel in the history into following segments. The era of pilgrimage, the age of exploration, the grand tour, paid holiday and technological revolution. He has also categorized tourism on the basis of various factors which are as follows:

Figure 2.2 Typology of Tourism



Source: Pathak, 2012

The organization and sale of travel as it is known world-wide today began in July, 1841. It was started by 'Thomas Cook', the pioneer travel agent, who is considered as father of modern tourism. In the same year he conceived the idea of running a special train from 'Leicester' to 'Loughborough', a distance of 12 miles. On the 5th of July 1841, the train for which Mr. Cook had bargained carried 570 passengers for this trip from Leicester to 'Loughborough' and back. Thus, Thomas Cook can rightfully be recognized as the first travel agent whose pioneering efforts were eventually to be copied widely in other parts of the world. However, the first specialist in individual inclusive travel (the basic function of travel agent) was probably 'Thomas Bennet' (1814-1898), an Englishman who served as secretary to the British consul general in Oslo, Norway. In this position, Bennet frequently arranged individual scenic tours in as a "trip organizer" and provided individual tourists with itineraries, carriages , provisions, and a "traveling kit"(Chhetri,2000)

On the basis of those two dimensions, Cohen has developed a four- fold typology of drifters which are as follows:

I. Full Time Drifters

1. ***Outward oriented:*** The "adventure," the original individual drifter.
2. ***Inward oriented:*** The "Itinerant Hippie" the travelling dropout, on his way to some drug-sanctuary in Europe or Asia or drifting aimlessly from one "hippie" community to another.

II. Part-Time Drifters

1. ***Outward oriented:*** The "Mass- Drifter," usually the college youth, who spends a limited amount of time to see the world, meet people and "have experiences," but tends to stick to the drifter tourist establishment of cheap lodgings and eating places and cut-rate fare.
2. ***Inward oriented:*** The "Fellow-Traveller," the youth who associates with the "hippies" or other drop-outs, and models his behavior on these roles, but remains marginal to the "hippie" sub- culture.

According to Sangal and Sangal (1998), generally we consider tourism means people who are visiting a particular place for sightseeing, visiting friends and relatives, taking a vacation, and having a good time. They may spend their leisure

time engaging in various sports, sunbathing, talking, singing, taking, reading, or simply enjoying the environment. Any attempt to define tourism and to describe its scope fully must consider the various groups that participate in and are affected by this industry. Their perspectives are vital to the development of a comprehensive definition that four different perspectives of tourism can be identified:

1. **The Tourist:** The tourist seeks various psychic and physical experiences and satisfactions. The nature of these will largely determine the destinations chosen and the activities enjoyed.
2. **The Businesses Providing Tourist Goods and Services:** Business people see tourism as an opportunity to make a profit by supplying the goods and services that the tourist market demands.
3. **The Government and the Host Community or Area:** Their perspective is related to the incomes their citizens can earn from this business. The foreign exchange receipts from international tourism as well as the tax receipts collected from tourist expenditures, either directly or indirectly.
4. **The Host Community:** Local people usually see tourism as a cultural an employment factor. Of importance of this group, for example, is the effect of the interaction between large numbers of international visitors and residents. This effect may be beneficial or harmful, or both.

Thus, tourism may be defined as the sum of the phenomena and relationships arising from the interaction of tourists, business suppliers, host governments, and host communities in the process of attracting and hosting these tourists and other visitors.

International tourism is one 'export' for which a country does not have to move goods from its shores. It is an invisible 'export' as a country earns foreign exchange without exporting tangible goods. Therefore, it is called a 'smokeless' industry. Each and every sector should be developed and run considerably where the ethics should be applied by themselves (Cohen, cited by Sharma, 2005). Tourism is also one of the key industries in the world that can't deny for implementing the ethics of tourism.

The Global Code of Ethics for Tourism (GCET) is a comprehensive set of principles designed to guide key-players in tourism development. Addressed to governments, the

travel industry, communities and tourist alike; it aims to help maximize the sector's benefits while minimizing its potentially negative impact on the environment, cultural heritage and societies across the globe in tourism sector that is certainly important for individual as well whole people. Adopted in 1999 by the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization (WTO), its acknowledgement by the United Nations two years later expressly encouraged UNWTO to promote the effective follow-up of its provisions.(www.unwto.org/ethics/index.php.)

Namakura et al (1993) expressing his ideas, in earliest time guiding surely ranks among the world's oldest profession. Humans have been roaming the earth since they emerged, and the earlier historical accounts refer to those who lead the way- 'pathfinders,' 'bear leaders,' 'proxemos,' and 'cicerones,'- all antecedents of today's guides. The first travelers moved about to gather food and escape harsh climates, and so the first guides simply offered geographical direction. Eventually, enterprising men traveled for the trade of spices, gold, silver, and other valuables, and the accounts of their travels frequently refer to the need for safety escorts to guard against thieves. It is no wonder that the word *travel* is derived from the old French "*travaillier*, meaning "to 'labor' or 'tail'".

2.1.2 Tourism and Trekking in Nepal

Since the ancient time, Nepal is known as abode of God. As many visitors from India visited Nepal as pilgrims to worship at pilgrimage sites like Swayambhunath, Boudhanath, Pasupatinath, Muktinath, Barah Chhetra, Lumbini and many other sites of religious and cultural interest. In this context, Manjushree is said to have come either from India or China, yet he is regarded as the first tourist ever visiting Nepal.

Literature shows that until the 1950s, Nepal followed a policy of splendid isolation. However, after the 1950s Nepal was opened for the people of the world. Whereas, the best seller book 1935 '*Lost Horizon*' introduced a word, Shangri-La and gave a new vision to the world of imagination, Heaven lies somewhere in Himalaya that is Nepal (Bhandari, 2033). In the 'Gorkha' but also helped to highlight the country and people to the rest of the world as synonymous with honesty and loyalty. Conquest of Mount Everest by Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and 'Tenzing Norgay Sherpa' of Nepal on 29 May, 1953 heralded new history in Nepalese tourism which had just started

taking pace. Similarly, the famous book named “Nepal: The Kingdom in the Himalaya” written by ‘Toni Hagen’ in 1961 also contributed greatly to the development of tourism in Nepal.

History of trekking in Nepal starts in late 50’s when a retired British Gurkha officer, Lt. Col. Jimmy Roberts experienced an expedition. He was a member of the ‘Machhapuchhere expedition team’. When he was on the expedition, he saw Sherpas working as guides and porters carrying all the lodging materials and food. He was so impressed with the Nepali hospitality (Chhetri, 2000). He thought that the expedition type of organization is the only possible way to take people to the interiors of Nepal and to show them the most spectacular country of this world. Then he organized the first trekking expedition to Everest Base Camp for 8 people in around 1956. The trip became so successful and he was highly encouraged that he registered "Mountain Travel" in 1964 as a commercial agency. Then he trained Sherpa as “*Sardar*” or an organizer, coordinator, supervisor of every day operation in the field. He trained Sherpas as guides too, where, the Sherpa guides lead the way and sets up camp (They are the camp supervisors), Sherpa cook, developed a cooking system, camping system, service style, health and hygiene too. He developed the style which made Nepal so popular for trekking, so that he is popularly known as the Father of Trekking in Nepal (Ghimire, 2002).

Noland (2007) opines, the word "trek" has come directly from the South African word that means a journey by Ox Wagen. In broad, it has come to mean any long or arduous journey, it later was used to describe the first commercial hiking trips, through the mountains of Nepal. Although, if we glimpse the history of trekking, we have to back to the 18th century where summer mountain resorts were among the oldest resorts in Europe. In the 18th century, , the discovery of the mountains was one of the first incentives to tourism, what travelers were interested in at that time was striking natural phenomenon, Gorge, charms, torrents, caves, strange rocks et al.

Nepal is blessed with all the components to be called the most marvelous and impressive country for trekkers. No other country in this world can compete with trekking in Nepal. Only by walking in the ancient foot trails, one can get access to the interiors of Nepal and explore the remote valleys like Dolpa- a region behind the Himalayas. Here in Nepal lies the greatest concentration of the highest mountain

ranges-eight out of 14 highest peaks: Mount Everest (8848m-29035 ft), Kanchenjunga (8586m-28169 ft), Lhotse (8501m-27920 ft), Makalu (8462m-27765 ft), Chooyo (8201m-26906 ft), Dhaulagiri (8167m-26758ft), Manaslu I (8156m-26758 ft) and Annapurna I (8091m-26545ft) in Nepal.

Besides these physical blessings, Nepal is endowed with a diverse cultural heritage. Walking is the only way to see Nepal in its wholeness, to be in contact with the wild and dramatic landscapes and the fascinating people who live here. According to Noland (2007), “trekking is the gentle walk along mountain trails that provides an opportunity to explore the villages, villagers, valleys, mountains and its interior and maximum enjoyment in minimum discomfort”. Trekking is not a wilderness back packing experience, but a means of transportation to get from one mountain village to another village. Trekking in Nepal is like going from village to village that may last for a day or several days. It is not simply a business of walking from one stop to another heading towards a final destination but the more gradual experience of Nepal’s diversity in terms of geography, people, religion and cultures. Whereas, in Nepal, trekking is done in three different ways:

1. Fully Camping Trek;
2. Tea House/Lodge Trek,
3. Back Packing Trek. (Ghimire, 2002)

Whereas, in a trekking sector, trekking guides are playing a very significant role to tourists in a specific destination and trekking grade in Nepal is necessary to know which trek matches the most with ones physical capabilities in order to enjoy trekking in Nepal. Hereby, in terms of the nature of trekking, it can be categorized all treks in the following grade:

1. Grade A:

This is also called an easy grade. Obviously the easiest trips are designed to enjoy for each and every one, even for family groups with younger children offering wide range of easy trek for which the trekker have to be physically fit, only people need stamina of walking for 5-6 hours in a day. In this grade, trekkers have to pass up to 3000 meter of altitude, within 7 – 10 days of trekking camp. The one who leads a reasonably active life can pass these trekking trips easily.

2. Grade B

This trip is slightly tougher than the grade A type of the trekking. Here also the fresher can go in this trek but they need to be more enthusiastic with a bit more challenging situations. In this grade, children may not be suitable because trek will reach up to the elevation of 4000 meter of altitude, around 7 hours of walk blend with some longer and shorter walks. The trekking is no more than 14 days trip in this grade.

3. Grade C

Grade C trekking conditions are tough trekking which needs a lot of stamina for a long walk with a little knowledge and techniques about steeper up and down on the hill. Trek at this level can be made for the period of 7 – 15 days and the walk is not more the 7 hours per day. Sometimes tourists might get high altitude symptoms like headache, dizziness, breathlessness, disorientation but the experienced guide will minimize the chance of getting sickness by making the trekkers you prior preparation and proper acclimation.

4. Grade D

In this grade the trekking might be more adventurous. Hence the topmost trekkers have to be excellent level of high tolerance and fitness. Mountaineering experience is more suitable because you might have some rope climbing as well as heavy snow need to be crossed. So, mental and physical stamina is required around period 25 days of trekking with daily walking around 7 hours per day (<http://www.nepal trekking info.com>).

According to NTS (2012), that one in four visitors to Nepal go trekking should say something about the popularity of this activity in the Himalayan country. Most treks go through altitudes between 1,000 and 4,000 meters, while some popular parts trekking reach over 5,000 meters. It's not only the stunning landscapes on the trail that captivate the trekkers but also the people from different ethnic groups with whom they meet on the way provide a rare opportunity to experience Nepal's rich cultural diversity. And what better way than walking to see and experience it.

The most popular trekking routes have traditionally been the Everest, Annapurna and Langtang regions. But now the Kanchenjunga in the extreme east and Dolpa in northwest of Nepal are gaining ground as new popular destinations. More recently, the government has developed a number of heritage trails in different parts of the country where tourists combine a trek with a peak into the cultures of the local communities. Importantly, all trekkers are required to obtain the TIMS card before embarking on their trip to trek in the protected areas whereas, one must acquire the entry permit by paying entry fees to enter the particular National Park or Protected Area, and must acquire the Trekking Permit by government to the restricted areas (www.welcomenepal.com).

According to Chhetri (2000), for the purpose of natural religious, economical, cultural, the agencies which accommodate trekking activities are called trekking agencies whereas the Trekking Agencies are playing significant roles to facilitate trekkers in tourism. The first registered trekking agency was Annapurna Mountaineering and Trek Pvt. Ltd. (1970). For the development of trekking in Nepal, Colonel Jimmy Robert has also contributed to enhance and promote the fame of trekking in Nepal. His idea was revolutionary because he provided tents together with Sherpa, to guide and cook. This put Nepal an immediate success in a sector of trekking in tourism and nowadays, the formula is well established.

In a realm of trekking, trekking not only helps to draw the white money from the foreign country but also contributes to provide the direct as well as the indirect employment opportunities in the host community. Direct employment opportunities in trekking sectors could be government registered trekking agencies whereas, independent informal tour operators, trekking guides, expedition field manager, high altitude climbers, high altitude porters, high altitude cooks, porters, trek cook-guides(Manager assistance), lodges related employment from manager to domestic labour (Rogers and John,1998).

However, Kandampully et al (2004) have illustrated that it is often difficult to specify the boundary and content of many services. Whereas, services play the vital role in any sectors such as economy relating to wholesale, telecommunication, finance, health education, transportation and many other sectors, including all and leisure sectors. Furthermore, a key determinant of whether offering service is the degree of

intangibility. So, services tend to be more intangible than manufacture products. Guides roles are also rely on intangible services such as smile, attitudes, frankness and honesty. But we shouldn't forget that both tangible as well as intangible services are equally important for better quality service on tourism.

2.1.3 Women Empowerment

Moghadam (2005) has opined that, in the context of both socio-economic development and political changes, legal reforms have been pursued to improve the status of women in the family and in the society. In many third world countries, concept of the emancipation of women emerged in the context of national liberation, state building and self-conscious attempts to achieve the impact of modernity in the early part of the century in the third world.

However, what types of opportunities do women seek is really important in their society because their opportunities are connected with their birth, family up, and society which determines the types of opportunities and employment in their life (Rani, 1996)

In the early nineties, no one would have dreamed of a Nepalese woman guiding a trek, because Nepalese society was ruled by the orthodox Hindu religion where women were considered as the second-class citizens. Their role was to be a diligent wife, a loving mother, and an obedient daughter-in-law even they dictated that a woman should not cross out of her home threshold. Even though, nowadays many women have engaged in tourism sectors from different backgrounds and contributing as their level to move ahead ST in remote areas where there is a little hope for the future.

Although, it is not easy to break down the social barriers within a few years where; the concept of trekking guides is new concept for Nepalese society. It has been a great challenge to bring women into this industry, since society doesn't condone women working as guides, but after a long struggle they have proven themselves properly in this field. Women can also work as a guide if the opportunity is provided to them and demonstrated that women are mentally, physically and emotionally as strong as men (www.3sisitersadventuretrek.com).

The last decade of tourism development in the national and international arena has undeniably placed a much greater emphasis on women claiming that it generates significant employment opportunities for women. The UN World Tourism Organization dedicated World Tourism Day 2007, to women, “*Tourism Opens Doors for Women*” and followed it with its Global Report on Women in Tourism 2010 highlighting the role of tourism in empowering women politically and economically. The National Tourism Policy, 2002 recognizes enhancing women's participation in tourism as a priority sector; and also identifies rural and ecotourism as a means to poverty reduction, creating new skills, enhancing participation of women in tourism and thus, facilitating growth of a more just and fair social order.

Tourism industry itself is a major employer of women globally and an industry that has friendly opened the door for women. At the historic world women's conference at Beijing in September 1995, (on behalf of EQUATIONS) led a workshop on 'international tourism' was one of the landmarks for the whole women in the world and had focused to empower women for specially developing countries. In 2007, the UNWTO's theme for the World Tourism Day was “*Tourism Opens Doors for Women.*” However, there was also serious question about an equal opportunities for the poor nations, whether tourism can provide benefits to women (www.equitabletourism.org).

According to Pokhrel (1982), due to the social, economic and political conditions of women in a society, they had a state of virtual slavery in previous time but now they have entered the age of rights and equality in the political and economic spheres. And the participation of women in every sector is certainly praiseworthy.

Seth (2002) “Women and Development” has opined that traditionally the women earned her maximum respect as a mother, where she was compared to the earth which upholds everything, the dawn that brings hope and the night which gives comfort. In historical terms, especially in Hindu society, there was a greater closing of ranks and tightening of restrictions after frequent invasions from A.D.1,000 onwards.

However, in Mesopotamia, the Goddess ‘Nidaba’ was worshiped as mother Earth, the inexhaustible source of all life. She was later called the Goddess of “moisture”. In Sumerian, mother Earth was a female divinity, violin-shaped idols found among the

'Hurrians' and "Goddess of dreams, in Syria, Elyon's consort was the Earth Goddess and Astarte was the Goddess of procession and fertility. Here Arina was worshiped as sun God and Ishtar as the Goddess of dreams. In 'Hinduism', 'Buddhism' and 'Jainism, in philosophic, religious and anthropomorphic form, raised women to the highest status as beneficial goddesses. Likewise, in the epics, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, again we notice no structures against women. The Ramayana's three main women characters ; Sita, Kaikeyi and Mandodari are all strong women embodying the ideal of chastity who married men of their choice.

Valentine (2005) "Modernizing Women" says that access to remunerative work in the formal sector of the economy. As distinct from outwork, housework, or other types of informal –sector activities –is regarded by many feminists and researchers in the field of women- in-development (WID) and gender-and –development (GAD) as an important indicator of women's social position and legal status. Employed women tend to have greater control over decision making within the family. In this way, many feminists regard women's involvement in paid employment as a pathway to social and gender consciousness, authority and employment. Societal benefits of increased female employment include base diminishing fertility rates and a more skilled and competitive human resources base. And the investment in women's education and employment is increasingly understood as integral to building the national resource base.

Sangraula (2002) has specially focused in the issue of gender and law of Nepali women. Whereas, impact of defective value system, women's property rights, marital rights, rights to health and reproduction, right to civil and political participation, right to access for fair justice, violence against women and girls, migration and trafficking etc subject matters are explored by Nepalese perspective.

Parajuli (2059) opines different issues of female in a distinct way. Such as, the feminist revolution in different ways in Nepal, atheism in a relation to women, aspiration of female in their life, rights of women, why women are unsafe in their society? Women trafficking as a burning issue, question of women participation and fail or success in the democratic revolution of Nepal, women in foreign employment, women participation, equality and affirmative action are raised in her books.

Sinha (2006) "Women in changing society" opined that God created Adam and Eve as equal. But down the ages, women have been down-trodden and relegated to an inferior position in the social set up. This is true not only of developing countries like India but of developed countries as well. It is said, but true fact, that women, who constitute one- half of humanity, have always been treated as second-class citizens and denied even basic rights, in most cases. Men have always dominated women and considered them as inferior to them.

Women today are storming all the male bastions and proving themselves to be equally good, if not superior, in all walks of life. They are standing on the threshold of a new era. It should be realized that "every issue is women's issue"- from water to militarization, violence to economic planning, ecology to economic development. Their contribution and role in the family as well as in the socio-economic transformation of the country is pivotal and should not be underestimated. Women are making efforts around the world, to see that their rights are respected, their voices heeded, their opportunities widened. The "voices from the kitchen" is being heard in parliament and in international forums. The dreams of women transcend through all boundaries, as they vary from place to place.

With so many women going out to work, sexual harassment at the workplace is a new form of exploitation that is rearing its ugly head today. Harassment constitutes one of the basic violations of an individual's rights. "sexual harassment" is an ambiguous term. While a sly touch, a suggestive gesture, or a lustful leer may be taken as sexual harassment for one woman, it may not be so for another, who may, in fact, feel flattered at the attention showered on her.

In order to empower women, women empowerment principles had been conducted in collaboration between the UN for GE (United Nation) for GE (Gender equality) and the EM (empowerment of women) and the United Nations Global Compact. Whereas, the major principles are as follows: (1) leadership promotes gender equality, (2) Equal opportunity, inclusion and nomination, (3) Health, Safety and Freedom form violence (4) Education and Training (5) Enterprise Development, Supply chain and Marketing practices, (6) Community Leadership and Engagement, (7) Transparency, Measuring and Reporting (www.weprinciples.org).

The participation of females in the trekking as a guide has embraced several aspects in tourism sectors which are as a conceptual framework in this way.

2.2 Theoretical Overview

Many theories are related with women participation as a trekking guide among them the following two theoretical approaches has been applied:

Modernization Approach

Owing to the modernization, the exclusion groups of society such as Women, Dalit, Ethnic and disabled group etc have been involved into different industrial or non-industrial sectors. Certainly, tourism is one of them. So, modernization approach will be significant in the sector of women employment in tourism as a guide. Because of the effect of modernization, many women have been engaged into the trekking sector by breaking the stereotype of patriarchal society. In modern societies, the perception of female might be whether “nice” or “nasty” in this sector during the trekking period. So, through modernization approach the perception of female trekking guides is taken and the study is conducted.

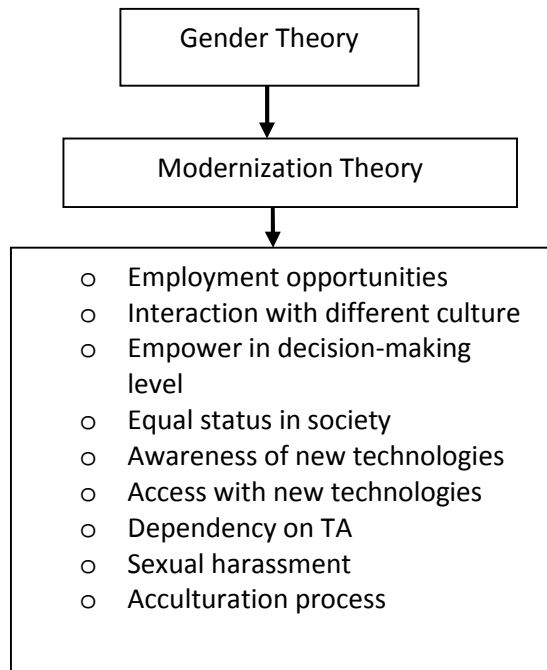
Women Empowerment Approach

Women empowerment approach focuses on the women participation and empowerment in different sectors such as political, social, cultural and economic of society offering guidance on how to empower women in workplace, marketplace and community. It's goal is to move women ahead through equality with as male counterparts in their society. In order to empower women effectively, trekking sector is being one of the important landmarks for them.

Many studies have been done in a tourism sectors from the academic or professional level in Nepal. However, in a sector of Female Trekking Guide, no one has conducted any research and certainly, it is one of the virgin areas for academic purpose also. But we should bear in mind that, this study is important to know about the perception of FTG and to explore the status of FTG in Pokhara.

Applying gender theory and modernization theory the involvement of female in trekking guide is shown in a theoretical framework as below:

Figure 2.3 Theoretical Framework



2.3 Review of Previous Studies

In a sector of women employment or empowerment, various dissertations have been written in different sectors such as tourism, CFM, women health, women right, involvement in factories etc. Among these sectors all somehow depicts the position and perception of women in these sectors. In spite of overwhelming participation of women in tourism, only certain efforts have been in this sector.

Pahari (2009) in her dissertation on the topic titled “Socio Economic Status of Women Participating in Tourism Industry” has opined that women involved in tourism industry were found socially and politically backward whereas, various motivational factors are playing the roles in women's involvement on tourism industry. Among the respondents, 60% were motivated for income generation, whereas, 17% involvement for their career development at their leisure. After participation in tourism, they engaged in social works (19%) and local politics (7.0%). Although, women involved in tourism industry were facing various problems, the

major problems faced by women were economic problems (32.9%), dual responsibilities (28.6%) and language (20.0%) and others problems like crime, insecurity, theft as well. Support from family is also important for their participation in job. Among the respondents 22.9% women were found to get full support from their family, whereas 47.1% of them were partially getting family support and 30.0% respondents were not getting any support from their families.

During their jobs, women have been facing many problems because of many causes such as 31.4% women realized difficulties to play roles of household work and business, job together and 22.9% were found running their business job along with their household activities. Raising the important issues of discrimination, the most of the respondents (81.0%) agreed that there is high gender discrimination in this field and the main sectors of discrimination were decision making power (24.6%), working hours (31.6%), fewer opportunities in various fields (17.5%), paid low salary (14.0%) and faced manifest or tacit sexual harassment from male tourists.

Importantly, the main cause of women's poor socio-economic condition is illiteracy. The other subsequent causes are overload to work, longer working hours, economic problems, lack of training related to tourism industry, low wage, getting fewer opportunities in various field and high and gender discrimination in comparison to male counterparts. Because of these reasons women are backward in every aspect of their life and found participating very less in social, local policies and in decision-making process.

The dissertations, from other sectors are also found relevant for women empowerment and participation which are written in different sectors; such as CFM, human right, health sector, factory employment, decision making in household *et al.* they are as follows.

Sabitri (2008) has stated that majority of the respondents were found to be working in lower position despite having higher qualification. The level of satisfaction and the perception of the family members towards their job also seemed to be in positive correlation to each other and also were being more pressurized than average Nepali women. The reason being that, they not only worked eight to ten hours a day (outside), but also spend hours in household chores and, 50% of respondents had

responsibility for their children to take care of. Therefore, it can be stated that entry into job market has done little to change the domestic roles of these employees.

Bhandari (2007) has opined that due to the reestablishment of democracy (2047 B.C.) many factories and industries have been established and involvement of women in economic activities has also been increasing over the year participating in different fields except agriculture which have a great economic support to their family. It is true to say that, these industries are providing employment opportunities to both men and women. However, because of the low level of education, skills and traditional social norms and values, most of the women are concentrated in low-skilled and low paid employment and have been suffering from gender- based discrimination especially in pay and promotion.

Different reasons have been identified for the workers to work in the industry. Around 5.3% are working to be self dependent, 21.7% are working to increase the earning capacity of the family and 26.1% of the women are dissatisfied with their job with compared to 30.4% satisfied. The major reasons for dissatisfaction are low salary (83.3%), low wages for hard work (12.5%) and no job security (4.2%) respectively.

The female workers in the industry are from different socio-cultural backgrounds and mostly from the poor background and majority of the females are working in order to support their families. Married working women tell that they have to work because the occupations of their husbands are less prestigious and semi-skilled. So, they have to work for the education of their children and to support their family.

After the findings, ignorance is the most important cause behind the lower status of women. Special emphasis should be given for female education. As well as, illiteracy and lack of education are the main reasons behind the lower status of women causing their involvement in low-paid and low-skilled works. Thus, in all aspects, women and girls need to be given high priority as a critical point of the society as which certainly give them a productive role in their family.

Dhamala (2010) expresses, the socio-economic condition of industrial women is changing day by day. Although, most of the rural areas represent different socio-cultural background. Generally, the women workers are engaged in many sectors of society and somewhere equally paid but the health and safety facilities are very poor

in those sectors. Further, they were facing many kinds of problems such as engage in night duty and lack of transportation facilities. But the important thing is that, more female workers should be encouraged to work in the industries in Nepal, this will not only bring confidence in the women workers but will also be help in the process of economic development. In order to ensure increased output, incentives should be provided to the workers where, the wage should not be based on sex but on the efficiency of the workers and should be fixed national level minimum wage.

Likewise, Baral (2005) has opined that the strength of household survey schedule, facts is analyzed through several special structure *viz* family backgrounds of the respondents, sex, age and marital status in involvement in agricultural sector. In matters of decision making in many families, women have far lower status in this regard whereas in some families women are seen in the brighter side of decision making. However, majority of women in the study area were unpaid family labors based on the agriculture.

Due to the prevailing patriarchal system of society, most of the economic transactions were made by males and most of the women did not have plans or ideas for using the money for the well being of their family. In order to bring positive changes in this situations, male members of the families should encourage females to take part in various social and nation development training, community development workshops, skill development training and also in the relevant agencies which help them to raise their life in natural pace of development.

Chapagai (2002) illustrates that, socio-economic status of women in the society affects different factors in Nepali society. Being far from the knowledge of politics, they have embraced non-economic household's chores which have been women's domain sector whereas their level of education is very low. In fact, socio-economic status of women is highly determined by community setting, culture household roles and responsibilities, encouragement and support from the family members, education awareness and training. On one hand women are not involved in decision making process on the other hand, women are socio-economically deprived in many respects in uneconomic activities.

In order to empower women's status they are provided with vocational training opportunities to enhance their skills and knowledge. This will help to generate income

opportunities and raise women essential for their self-esteem, empowerment and property to reduce existing inequalities between men and women in the family, community and society. As education is the vital factor observed for raising women's status, Nepalese parents seem to relax in sending daughter in education, especially in rural areas of the country compared to previous time. Not only for that, religion also influences the women's status and change must be brought about by women themselves to boost up their status in the society they belong to.

Essentially, women participation is the important factor to uplift women and co-operation of family members, government and other institution/agencies should bring effective programs for women participation to raise their decision making power and women must be given the opportunities to prove themselves independent and self-reliant.

Gurung (2009) "Gender position of factory women workers" has also focused the socio-economic and demographic factors of working women, and also to examine the relationship between the said factors and women's gendered position. The working women have more access to the household income and other matters of family participation and the structure of family also plays a role in determining gendered position of such working women.

Bhandari (2007) "impact of community forest on rural women" tries to assess the changes in women's participation in decision making process, forest productions and forest resources utilization. Women's involvement in FUG is increasing. In comparison to the initial period of CF handover, their awareness level has increased in the matters that concern them. Compared to previous CF program, forest protection done by consumer is increasing and the development of the feeling of ownership has brought about positive change.

It is certainly true that, tourism is one of the indispensable industries in the world. The word tour and travel was derived from the word "tornus" which denotes a circle or path around the certain point. However, the concept of tour is not a new phenomenon in the east. The concept of travel and tour was begun from elite and rich people whereas the intentions of travel were concerned with trade, commerce, religious and missionary. However, the organization and sale of travel as it is known worldwide

today was began since in July, 1841. It was started by "Thomas Cook", the pioneer travel agent, who is considered as father of modern tourism.

The word "trek" has come directly from the South African word that means a journey by ox wagon. In broad, it has come to mean any long or arduous journey it was later to used to describe the first commercial hiking trips, through the mountain of Nepal. Nepal is blessed with all the components to be called the most marvelous and impressive country for trekkers. And in trekking sector, trekking guides are playing a very significant role to tourists in specific destination. In a realm of trekking, it has not only helped to draw the white money from the foreign country but also contribute to provide the direct and indirect opportunities in the host community.

In previous time, no one would have dreamed of a woman guiding a trek due to the orthodox Hindu religion. Even though, some female have involved in trekking sectors but unfortunately they have many problems which is being further explored in this study. However, engaging in trekking guide, they have proven that woman can also work as a guide if opportunities are provided to them. In this way, many feminists regard women's involvement in paid employment as a pathway to social and gender consciousness, authority and employment.

In trekking sector, Pokhara is one of the important routes of trekking for trekkers. So, my study is also based on the Annapurna Trekking Area which is one of the popular trekking routes of the world.

The socio economic condition of women is changing day by day and women workers are also engaged in many sectors of society. But more female workers should be encouraged to work in the industries in Nepal. And this will not only bring confidence in women workers but will also be help in the process of economic development which is one of important aspect of my study.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Rationale of the Study

Every research has its own importance in their different sector. However, being tourism as leading industries in the world Nepal has also adopted the tourism in every sector of areas. Within the modernization many women have being directly engaging in trekking guide and the scope and the popularity of trekking also increasing not only in Nepal but all around the world. I have focused my study to the Annapurna Trekking Area and conducted my research in Pokhara area due to the important way and medium of Nepal for Trekking for the Inbound and Outbound tourists. In order to reduce unemployment of Nepal, the participation in tourism would be one of the indispensable way in modern ways. So, to explore about the perception of FTG, I have used the descriptive and exploratory method after taking the quantitative and qualitative data from the respondents.

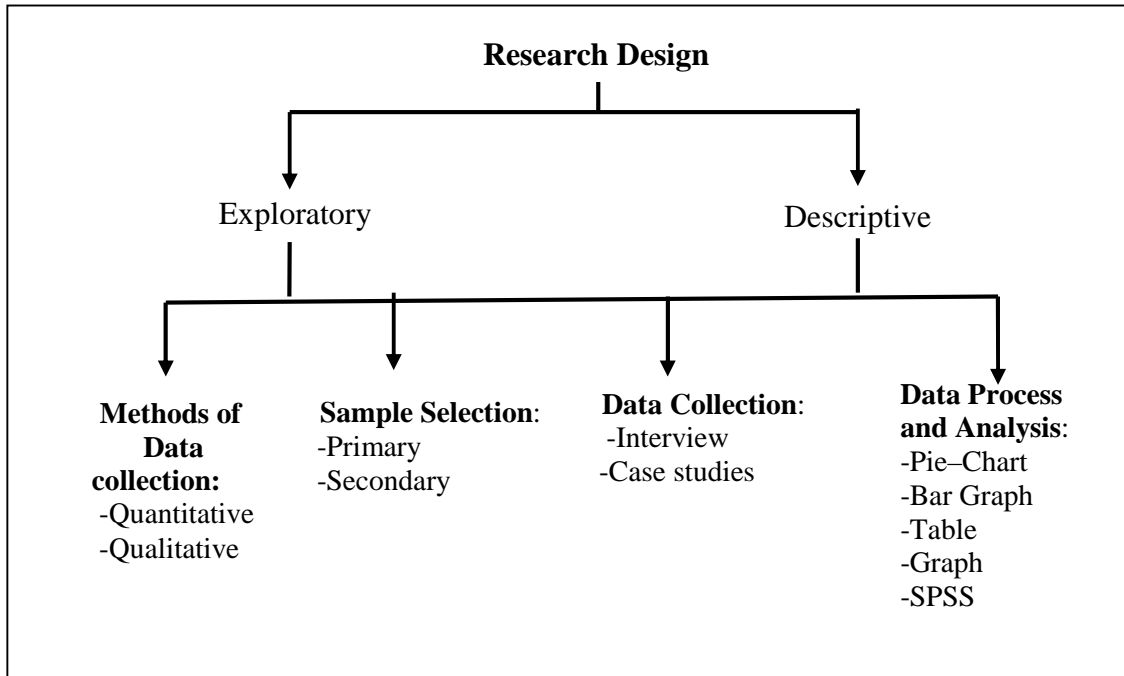
3.2 Research Design

A research design is concerned with turning a research question into the testing project. The best design depends on the research questions, although every design has its positive and negative sides. The research design has been considered a “blue print” for research, dealing with at least four problems: what questions to study, what data are relevant, what data to collect, and how to analyze the results. It is certainly important to design or make some framework before conducting research in particular areas. In order to conduct research design, it is important to know about the steps, nature and procedures of research.

This study is related to the perception of the female trekking guides on tourism. It also tries to find out the positive as well as negative views of them towards this profession. For this purpose, descriptive and exploratory research design have been followed whereas, owing to collect data the study is based on the qualitative as well as quantitative data and using the primary and secondary data in this process. Similarly, interviews and case studies have been taken based on the snow-ball sampling (non-

probability sampling methods) and after the collection of data, data is presented in table, bar, graph and others are presented in SPSS program.

Figure 3.1 Flow chart of Research Design



3.3 Universe and Sample

By universe, we here mean the population. By population we mean any set of people or events from whom the sample is selected and to whom the study results will be generalized.

Sampling means a group of people or events drawn from a population. A research study is carried out on a sample from population. The goal is to be able to find out true facts about the sample that will be able to true to the population. The sample is described thoroughly in terms of clinical and demographic characteristics in the methods and selections of a research so that others can draw conclusions, apply the results and compare one investigation with another. It is not the target population, but rather a group of individuals who are actually studied.

For the purpose of the study the data is taken in Pokhara and based on the Annapurna Trekking Route. Female trekking guides from different areas are taken who are fundamentally trained from government (NATHM), private sectors such as Three Sisters Training Center or without training. Till 2012, the registered number of female

participants was 681 in TSTC and 30 female had registered their name in NATHM. However, after years the number of female is shoring.

Because of the unavailability of universe (total amount of female trekking guides) the snow ball as a non-probability sampling method has been used in order to conduct the study. Where using the purposive non probability methods and 32 respondents which were around 5 % of total universe are taken in research because of the time and budget constraints.

3.4 Nature and Source of Data

The collected data and information are both qualitative and quantitative in nature and have been collected from both primary and secondary sources. During the study, both qualitative and quantitative data have been used. The primary source of data is used from the female trekking guides, trekkers, owners of trekking agencies and the secondary data is collected from NTS, Three Sisters Adventure Center, TURGAN, TAAN, NTB, REBAN, UNITRAP etc.

3.5 Date Collection Procedure

As a researcher, the procedure should be appropriate and well planned, only then the findings will be genuine and embrace the whole research aims. So, types of data, nature and procedure should be clear and pre-planned.

In my research, many techniques have been used to gather both data from the Pokhara where study was focused on the Annapurna Trekking Route of Nepal. Based on purposive sampling method, semi-structured interview and some case studies techniques are used in order to collect data precisely and accurately.

3.6 Data Processing and Analysis

The data collected has no meaning if such data are not analyzed. The huge masses of data have been generated during the study period. To handle it conveniently, the collected raw data are processed in a computer in the beginning by means of sorting, grouping, frequency distribution and tabulation presented in the forms of table, pie-chart and bar-diagrams et al. both qualitative and quantitative statistical tools

accordingly. In case of qualitative data, average, mean and percentage descriptive method of analysis have been applied.

Hereby, to know about the perception and motivational factors about FTG in trekking, the data has taken from both qualitative and quantitative methods and depicted in table, pie chart and other diagrams and the subjective answers of FTG have been explored effectively matching the objective of the study.

CHAPTER FOUR

GLIMPSE OF THE TOURISM

Nepal is a country of wonderland natural and cultural combinations. This diverse country has a huge potential for tourism chiefly for its challenging mountains and rivers, great variety of beautiful scenery, good varied climate, rich animal and diverse culture. Nepal is now one of the best tourist destinations in the world. Tourism industry, being a comparative advantage industry of Nepal, has important role in Nepal's economy development of tourism sector has contributed to increase employment, income generation and to improve the balance of payments of the country. Tourism is instrumental in the economy of Nepal in the process of economically backward regional which has insufficient resources for development of agriculture and industrial sector.

Aspirants from round the globe choose this gifted country for various purposes that include mountain climbing, trekking, bird watching, mountain flight, rock climbing, paragliding, mountain biking, jungle safari and cultural observations, and environmental as well anthropological research. The development of tourism in Nepal mirrors the constant growth. High rates growth is in evidence during recent years. Nepal has now placed high priority on the development in tourism through which development in other sectors of the economy is to be achieved. International tourism has had considered impact on Nepal which is not uncommon in view of the smallness of the country and the rapid growth of the tourism industry (Satyal, 2000)

Obviously it is true that, Nepal is one of the fascinating and important destinations for inbound tourists in the world. Due to its various attractions, tourists have been lured to visit Nepal despite some fluctuation in some years. Hereby, most of the tourists come to Nepal via two ways; by airplane or by bus but none of the tourists come to Nepal via sea due to the land locked nature of the country in the world. They spend their precious days in Nepal, participating in most tourism activities like pilgrimage, trekking / mountaineering, pleasure etc. The overall tourist's arrivals and the length of the stay in Nepal are given below.

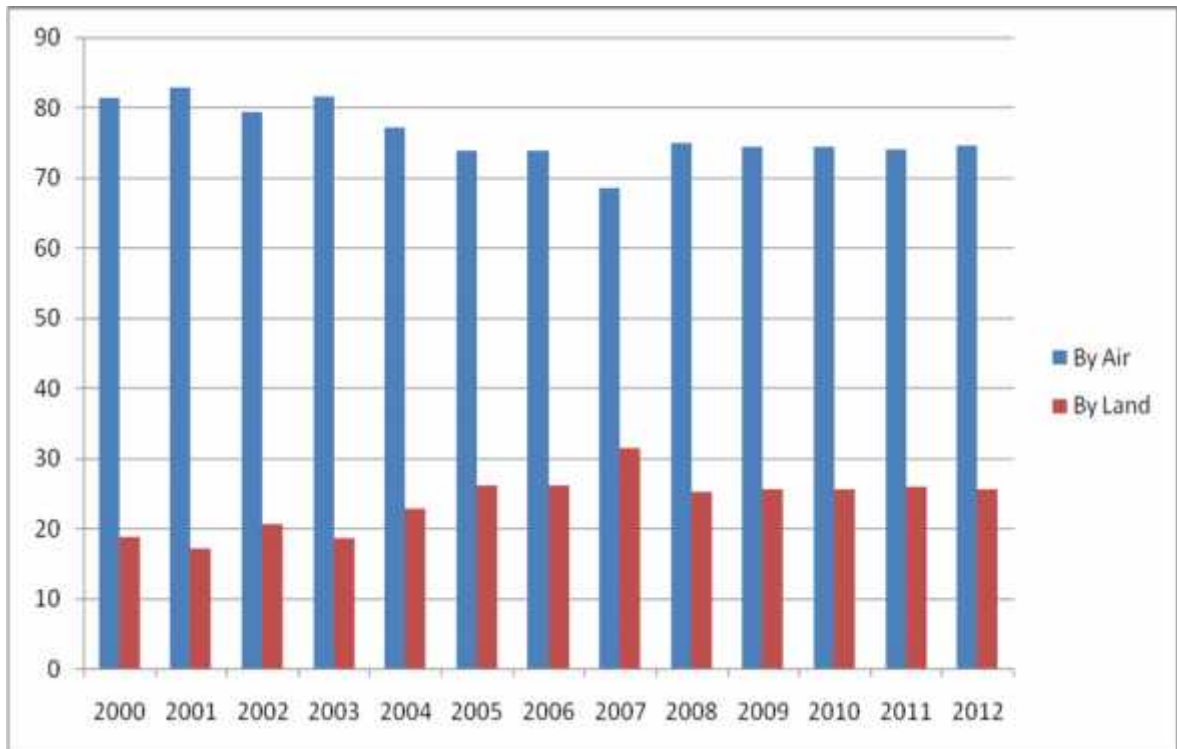
Table 4.1: Tourist Arrival and Average Length of Stay (1986 – 2012)

Year	Total		By Air		By Land		Average Length of Stay
	Number	Annual Growth Rate (%)	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
1986	223331	23.4	182745	81.8	40586	18.2	11
1987	248080	11.1	205611	82.9	92469	17.1	12
1988	265943	7.2	234945	88.3	30998	11.7	12
1989	239943	-9.8	207907	86.6	32038	13.4	12
1990	254885	6.2	226421	88.8	28464	11.2	12
1991	292995	15	267932	91.4	25063	8.6	9
1992	334353	14.1	300496	89.9	33857	10.1	10
1993	293567	-12.2	254140	86.6	39427	13.4	12
1994	326531	11.2	289381	88.6	37150	11.4	10
1995	393395	11.3	325035	89.4	38360	10.6	11
1996	393613	8.3	343246	87.2	50367	12.8	13
1997	421857	7.2	371145	88	50712	12	11
1998	463684	9.9	398008	85.8	65676	14.2	11
1999	491504	6	421243	85.7	70261	14.3	12
2000	463648	-5.7	376914	81.3	86732	18.7	12
2001	361237	-22.1	299514	82.9	61723	17.1	12
2002	275398	-23.7	218660	79.4	56808	20.6	8
2003	338132	22.7	275438	81.5	62694	18.5	9
2004	383926	13.9	297335	77.2	87962	22.8	14
2005	375398	-2.6	277346	73.9	98052	26.1	9
2006	383926	2.3	283819	73.9	100107	26.1	10
2007	526705	37.2	360713	68.5	165992	31.5	12
2008	500277	-5	374661	74.9	125616	25.1	12
2009	509956	1.9	379322	74.4	130634	25.6	11
2010	602867	18.2	448800	74.4	154067	25.6	12
2011	736215	22.1	545221	74.1	190994	25.9	13
2012	803092	9.1	598258	74.5	204834	25.5	12

Source: Nepal Tourism Statistics, 2013

Nepal is one of the fascinating destinations for the people all around the world for its natural and cultural beauty. It is a wonderland with a rich diversity of culture and tradition. It has breathtaking natural beauty, from the majestic Himalayas to its unique flora and fauna.

Figure 4.1 Tourists Arrival and Average Length of Stay



Every year, millions of international tourists visit Nepal for various purposes. Nepal is a country which receives tourists from all-around the world and the western tourists constitute the significant percentage of inbound tourist statistics of Nepal (Table 4.1). The table depicts the number of tourists from different countries via land or air for entering Nepal.

According to the table, the numbers of tourists is significantly increasing till 2012, where there was only 223331 numbers of tourists in 1886 which increased to 8,03,092 in 2012. However, the length of stay (statistically 11days in average) of tourists is not likely increased as compared to previous time.

During the period of two years (2000-2002), the number of tourists decreased constantly due to the political instability of Nepal (Maoist Insurgency-1996-2006). Nonetheless, as a whole, a number of tourists are increasing that is certainly beneficial for the tourism sectors as well as for the whole industry.

4.1 Tourist Arrivals by Purpose of Visit

Generally all the international visitors to Nepal are clubbed under the category of tourists. However, these visitors visit the country for various purposes ranging from pilgrimage to purely official purposes. All of them spend money while they are in Nepal and contribute to this Himalayan economy. Therefore, such range of visitors might be put under the category of tourists and composition of tourists has been depicted below.

Table 4.2 Tourist Arrivals in Nepal by Purpose of Visit, 2000-2012

Year	Holiday Pleasure	Trekking Mountaineering	Business	Official	Conv./ Conf	Others	Not Specified	Total
2000	255889 *(55.2)	118780 (25.6)	29454 (6.4)	20832 (4.5)	5599 (1.2)	17291 (3.7)	-	463646 (100)
2001	187022 (51.8)	100828 (27.9)	18528 (5.1)	18727 (5.2)	0 -	22326 (6.2)	-	361237 (100)
2002	110143 (40)	59279 (21.5)	16990 (6.2)	17783 (6.5)	0 -	58907 (21.4)	-	275468 (100)
2003	97904 (29)	65721 (19.4)	19387 (5.7)	21967 (6.5)	0 -	111758 (33.1)	-	338132 (100)
2004	167262 (43.4)	69442 (18)	13948 (3.6)	17088 (4.4)	0 -	71893 (18.7)	-	385297 (100)
2005	160259 (42.7)	61488 (16.4)	21992 (5.9)	16859 (4.5)	0 -	67179 (17.9)	-	375398 (100)
2006	145802 (27.7)	66931 (12.7)	21066 (4)	18063 (3.4)	0 -	72766 (13.8)	-	383926 (100)
2007	217815 (41.4)	101320 (19.2)	14487 (4.6)	21670 (4.1)	8,019 (1.5)	78644 (14.9)	22156 (4.2)	526705 (100)
2008	148180 (29.6)	104822 (21)	23039 (4.6)	43044 (8.6)	6938 (1.4)	99634 (19.9)	29529 (5.9)	500277 (100)
2009	140992 (27.6)	132929 (26.1)	22758 (4.5)	24518 (4.8)	9985 (2)	87134 (17.1)	40098 (7.9)	509956 (100)
2010	263938 (43.8)	70218 (11.6)	21377 (3.5)	26374 (4.4)	9627 (1.6)	52347 (8.70)	57651 (9.6)	602867 (100)
2011	425721 (57.8)	86260 (11.7)	17859 (2.4)	24054 (3.3)	10836 (1.5)	37311 (5.1)	70391 (9.6)	736215 (100)
2012	379627 (47.3)	105015 (13.1)	24785 (3.1)	30460 (3.8)	13646 (1.7)	48540 (6)	91165 (11.4)	803092 (100)

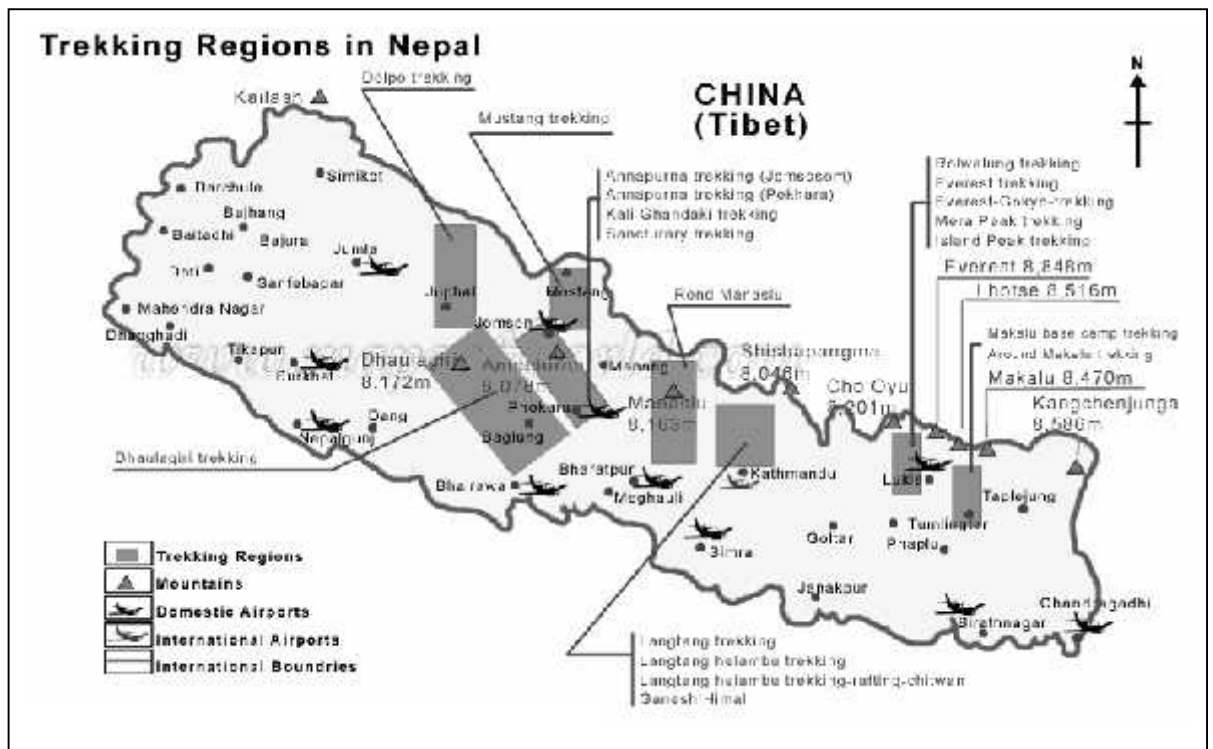
(*Figure in parenthesis represents percentage of the Total)

Source: Nepal Tourism Statistics, 2013

It becomes obvious from this table that initially classification of tourists were in the categories of pleasure, trekking and mountaineering, business, official and others. Pleasure trip has been the dominant part of the tourist arrival in Nepal. It is followed by trekking and mountaineering. The two together accounted for around more than 6 per cent of the total tourist arrival. It becomes obvious from above analysis that purposes of tourists other than pleasure and mountaineering and trekking have been increasing their shares but marginally.

However, share of business has not changed much in the Nepalese economy for the last almost three decades as its share has been varying around 5 per cent only. This also reflects the poor interest that the Nepalese economy has aroused among the business communities. The average share of official purpose visit has been around 4.5 per cent during the time of 2000. However, since 2001 the share has been above 5 per cent since 2004.

Figure 4.2 Map of Nepal Trekking Routes



Source: <http://www.nepal-trekking.net>

Nepal is an ultimate destination for trekking enthusiast, offering a myriad of possibilities from the short and easy to the demanding challenges of the snow peaks. Easy, moderate or rigorous-there is something for every plate. Nepal has aptly been

called “A trekkers’ paradise” as here terrain-mountain, hill and the Terai offer some of the most spectacular trekking routes in the world (Pathak, 2010).

The immense contrasts in altitude and climate found here support an equally spectacular mix of lifestyles and wildlife. Trekking in Nepal is as much a cultural experience as a Himalayan Adventure. In the shadows and foothills of the icy pinnacles of the Himalaya, one passes through picturesque and high altitude treks to simple and easy paced walks.

The popular trekking routes of Nepal are recognized by as: Annapurna trekking route, Everest trekking route (8848 m-Everest, Lhotse-8516m), Langtang trekking route, Makalu trekking route (8,470m), Dhaulagiri trekking route, Dolpa trekking route, Mustang trekking route et al. that has being able to lure the tourists all around the world and also supported economically to the livelihood of Nepali people and country as well.

4.2 Major Trekking Routes of Nepal

Trekking is an unmatched mode of soft adventure which cannot be equipped with any similar tourism activity elsewhere in the world. Hence, the prospects of its immediate revival are enormous. In order to facilitate trekking to the mountains, the government has opened all environment officers with the groups in the controlled areas and also waived trekking fees from the trekking routes except for the ones in the controlled zones (Pathak, 2010).

Nepal offers some of the most rewarding and wonderful treks in the world. Most of the trekking goes popular regions of Nepal, like Everest, Annapurna and Langtang. On beaten trails or virgin tracks, Nepal is a trekker’s paradise virtually. The clip-clop rhythm of foot travel is a unique way to explore so much and make meaningful contact with the country.

According to TAAN, the number of foreign trekkers this year is likely to increase by (15-20) percent although, a memorable post impact has been observed this year. Hereby, now trekking agencies said that the Annapurna and Everest areas flooded with trekkers this autumn, however, other trekking destinations have been largely ignored and trekkers are flocking to the two world renowned trekking routes-

Annapurna and Everest but other areas have been very nominal. The status of the major trekking routes is shown in table 4.3

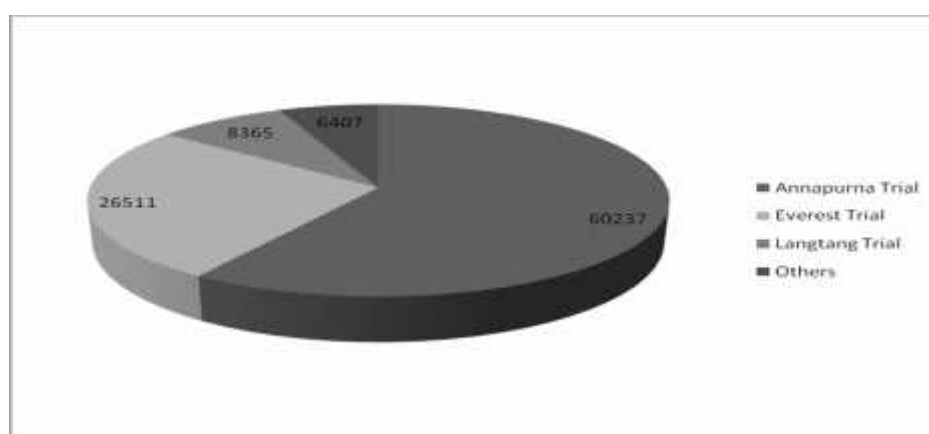
Table 4.3 Major Trekking Routes of Nepal

Numbers of Visitors					
Year	Annapurna Trial	Everest Trial	Langtang Trial	Others	Total
2000	76407	26683	10917	4407	118414
2001	65313	22029	9148	3648	100138
2003	38642	13982	4798	2222	59644
2004	42347	20051	3020	4024	69442
2005	36224	19522	2735	3007	61488
2006	37901	20693	4562	3775	66931
2007	60237	26511	8365	6407	101320

Source: Nepal Tourism Statistics 2007; cited by Pathak

The table depicts that, among all trekking routes, Annapurna trekking route is one of the important and popular trekking routes in Nepal, occupying more than 50 percent of the total trekking in Nepal, whereas, in 2000, Annapurna trail was trekked by 76,407 numbers of tourists followed by Everest (26683) and Langtang Trial (10917). However, after some fluctuation in some years the number of tourists was increased constantly after 2004 till 2007. The number of trekkers was reached 101320 in 2007, where majority of the trekkers (60237) went for Annapurna trail in Nepal.

Figure 4.3 Tourists in Major Trekking Routes of Nepal



The spending days for trekking is also not same in all regions being short distance (2 Days) to long distance (till 28 Days), whereas, the duration of these trekking routes are:-Annapurna Region (3-25) Days, Eastern Nepal, Mt Everest Region (2-25) Days, Western Nepal, Langtang Region (7-20) Days, Central Nepal, Kanchenjunga and Makalu (7-28) Days, Eastern Nepal.-Dolpo Jumla Region (7-28) Days, far Western Nepal, Upper Mustang and Damodor Kunda (10-20) Days, Around Manaslu (21) Days etc.

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4.3 Participating Numbers of Female

The participation level of female has increased in recent days in many adventures as well as other sectors as male counterparts which is certainly one of the beneficial aspects for them whereas in order to obtain that specific knowledge about that courses they have been trained by institution for different sectors which are depicted in the following table.

Table 4.4 Numbers of Participants in Tourism Courses

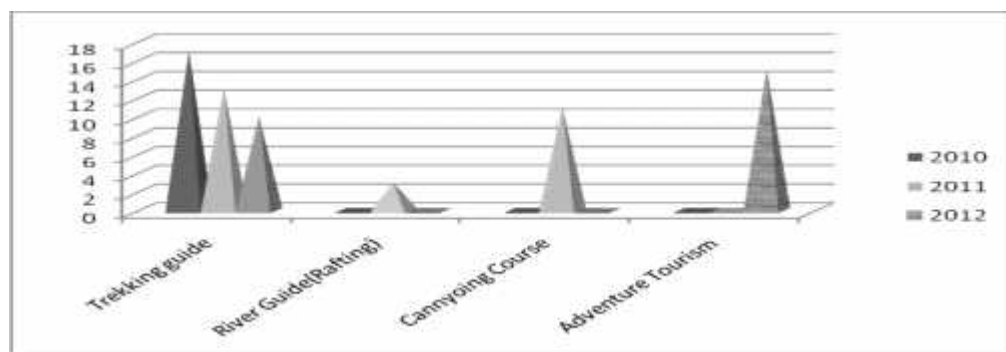
Training Course	2010			2011			2012		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Trekking guide	683	17	700	955	13	968	638	10	648
River Guide(Rafting)	56	0	56	29	3	32	34	0	34
Canyoning Course	0	0	0	0	11	11	0	0	0
Adventure Tourism	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	15	50
Total	739	17	756	984	27	1011	707	25	732

Source: Nepal Academy of Tourism and Hotel Management (NATHM)

The table exhibits that the number of trained people who obtained training from government level is increasing day by day. Hereby, within three years period we can also acknowledge the participation of female numbers which is certainly, praiseworthy. Though, the number of female is not as equal as to male counterparts. Marginally, they have been trained for other adventure activities. In 2010, in total 700 participants, the number of female participants was 17 compared to 683 male counterparts. Likewise, male participants also seem more than female in 2011. And 10 female and 638 male had registered in 2012.

There is a high fluctuation in a numbers of female in training courses. Compared to others courses (River Guide, Canyoning, Adventure Tourism), there is a high numbers of participants in trekking guide although, the proportion of female participants are marginally lower than male. In total 700 participants, only 17 women and 683 men registered on Trekking Guide training

Figure 4.4 Numbers of Participants in Training Courses



4.4 Female Trekking Guide Training

In Nepal, in order to train different adventure sector many females as males have been taken training by different government institutions as well as private sectors. And the participation of the female intended to train in this sector is increasing day by day.

The participation of female in every sector is one of the key indicators for women empowerment in modern days. Hereby, trekking guide is also being one of the remarkable and exemplary professions for everyone. Before the period of about 2 decades, Nepalese women had been living under their closed stereotype of the patriarchal society. However, tourism has created a space for a resistance to dominant male discourse and an arena for women empowerment and the transcendence of gender stereotypes (Stephen et al, 2010). Basically, in Pokhara in order to take training about female trekking guide, female can take training from government (NATHM) and the private sector (Three Sisters Adventure Training). A numbers of females who have been taken the training from Three Sisters Adventure Training is shown in the below table

Table 4.5 Numbers of Participants in TGT

Year	Month			Total
	January	February	August	
1999	9		11	20
2000		7	11	18
2001	17		16	33
2002		18		18
2003	20		24	44
2004		18	26	44
2005		21	26	47
2006	26		26	52
2007	26		46	72
2008	41		44	85
2009	34		45	79
2010		35		35
2011	36		56	92
2012	42			42

Source: www.threesistersadventuretrek.com

The table has depicted that, the training for trekking guide has been taken by the female two times (January/February and August) in a year. Where, only 20 females have registered in the training consisting 2 times in a year in 1999. Although, the number of participants increased twice time more than previous year and reached 42 in 2012 that is really praiseworthy. Enthusiastically, rating some fluctuation in some years, the training was taken by 92 females in 2011 that was the highest numbers of participants ever before.

With the increasing demand for female trekking guide in Pokhara, many female have involved in trekking guide training. During the training period, all the necessary lessons are taught in a training period. And it is important to concern that, female trekking guides provided by Trekking Agencies in Pokhara are especially for female trekkers.

Hereby, if certain groups intend to hire FTG in order to guide them in trekking areas at least one female trekker should be included. Otherwise, they can bring Male Trekking Guide for their trekking guide. However, the number of domestic tourists is comparatively lower than international tourists in trekking sectors with FTG. However, the numbers of domestic tourists is also increasing in recent days (Field Survey) where the role of FTG appears vital in this sector

Nepal is one of the fascinating and important destinations for inbound tourists, arriving around eight hundred thousand in year around the world via by air and by land. The length of the stay of tourists statistically, constitutes around 11 days per day (table 4.1). Despite some fluctuation of tourists during the time of Maoist insurgency the number of tourists is increasing from 2005. We can obviously opine that, the increasing number of tourists in Nepal is certainly beneficial for tourists as well as for whole country.

Nepal is the ultimate destination for the trekking enthusiast, offering a myriad of possibilities of trekking in to the various trekking routes of Nepal. The popular trekking routes of Nepal are recognized by as; Annapurna Trekking Route, Everest Trekking Route Lhotse, Langtang Trekking Route, Makalu Trekking Route, Mustang Trekking Route etc. They have been able to lure tourists all around the world which have directly and indirectly provided jobs and support to the livelihood of Nepali

people and county as well. In trekking areas, Annapurna and Everest have been flooded with trekkers during the peak season (autumn), but other trekking destinations have been largely ignored or nominal.

With the awareness of education and empowerment of women, many adventure activities have been involved by many females in Nepal. Getting the adequate training from different sectors, 40 females have taken the training of the trekking followed by 3 for adventure and 15 in adventure tourism till 2012.

The participation of female in every sector is one of the key indicators for women empowerment of modern days. Hereby, being a trekking guide is also being one of the remarkable and exemplary professions for everyone. In this way, the trend for taking female trekking guide is consistently shoring day by day. In order to know about the important skills for trekking guide, they have been taken a training form either NATHM (Government Agency of Nepal) and Three Sisters (Private Agency) in Pokhara and tourism has certainly created a space for women empowerment and the transcendence of gender stereotypes.

So, tourism industry has become one of the important sectors for Nepalese women who really want to do something in tourism sector. And sparking the fame of Nepal as a trekker's paradise they have contributed their ages in this profession. Because trekking Guides are such an essential person in the Trekking who can play an important role for not only guide them effectively but also exchange the culture of both country harmoniously.

CHAPTER FIVE

EXISTING SCENARIO OF FEMALE TREKKING GUIDES IN POKHARA

5.1 Religious composition of Respondents

Nepal was famous, as the world's only Hindu kingdom. However, it is an intricate and beautiful tapestry formed by the interweaving of Hinduism, Buddhism and other beliefs. Religious tolerance and harmony such as found in Nepal, is perhaps a unique example to the world.

Table 5.1 Religion of Respondents

Religion	Frequency	Percent
Hindu	22	68.8
Buddhist	9	28.1
Kirat	1	3.1
Total	32	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013

The table depicts that, among 32 respondents the majority of the people are Hindus occupying around 68.8 percent (22 members) of the total respondents followed by Buddhist (28.1%) and Kirat (3.1%) respectively. So, it is obviously true to say that, despite being a secular state, it seems a dominance of Hindu people in this profession.

5.2 Age Composition of Respondents

It is true to say that, distinct people have their different views and aspirations towards tourism sector in terms of different age. Because certain works are suitable for only certain age categories and age may plays a vital role for their better performance and better intimacy in their work. Hereby, the age composition of respondents is depicted below.

Table 5.2 Age Group of the Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percent
Under 20	1	3.1
20-30	21	65.6
30-40	9	28.1
Above 40	1	3.1
Total	32	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013

According to this table, the majority of age group which falls in 20-30 years category is the highest proportion in total, embracing 56.6% as a whole share. Similarly, the age group of 30-40 years has covered 28.1% and only 3.1 percentage of total female which have occurred 20-30 and 40-50 years each category. So, the participation level of people is different in terms of their various age categories. The majority of female seems in 20-30 years age category and their engagement on this profession has decreased with increment of age. Hence, to be tourist guide, one needs to have a good knowledge along with physical capabilities that might be the factors of low participation in their older days.

5.3 Educational Status of the Respondents

Education is one of the important factors for each and everyone in the world. And the role of education depends on the status of people in their society. In tourism sector, different people have different educational status and in a matter of female trekking guide, they have also different level of education that is given below in table 5.3.

Table 5.3 Education Status of the Respondents

Education	Frequency	Percent
Below S.L.C.	7	21.9
S.L.C. Passed	3	9.4
Intermediate or +2 Passed	8	25
Bachelors Degree	14	43.8
Total	32	100

Source: Field survey, 2013

The table depicts that, out of 32 respondents, the literacy level of them appears high. Where 14 respondents have a bachelor degree education, embracing the highest percent (43.8 %) in the total share, followed by 8 respondents who have taken the one quarter (25 %) of the total and only 9.4 percentage of female trekking guide have the SLC level qualification. Although, there is also more than 20 percent female who have below SLC. But no one is illiterate in this profession. So, we can obviously opine that, every level of people have likely chosen this profession despite their different educational status.

5.4 Caste/ Ethnic composition of the Respondents

Nepal has long since been known as multi-lingual and multi-ethnic country. However, the size of various caste/ethnic groups in the total population was hardly known. Based on words from Prithvi Narayan Shah (founder of the Shah dynasty) there are 4 varnas (main group) and 36 castes in Nepal.

So, Nepal is not only popular for its geographical characteristics but also for its cultural diversity because every ethnic groups have their own different and luring cultures which is certainly distinct than other countries in the world. The caste system is still intact today but the rules are not as rigid as they were in past because of the western education, contact with foreigners, media, and communication. The caste wise distribution of the respondents has been provided in the following table 5.4.

Table 5.4 Caste/ Ethnic Construction of Respondents

Caste/ Ethnicity	Frequency	Percent
Brahmin	4	12.5
Chhetri	1	3.1
Gurung	7	21.9
Magar	12	37.5
Rai	4	12.5
Tamang	2	6.2
Sharpa	1	3.1
Dalit	1	3.1
Total	32	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013

The table depicts that, the majority of respondents have come from the ethnic background. Compared to other castes, 12 female trekking guides have come from Magar community that was the highest proportion (37.5%) of the whole population. The second position has been taken by Gurung community (21.9 %) which has participated in this profession and other respondents have marginally come from other ethnic groups such as; 4 respondents (12.5%) from Rai and only 1 respondent (3.1%) is from Sherpa community.

However, other non-ethnic group such as Brahmin (12.5%) and Chhetri (3.1%) people have also been engaged in this profession. So, there is no single dominance of one

caste group upon this profession, and there are different varieties of people in this profession.

5.5 Source of Income

It is certainly true that, income plays a very significant role on the decision making level of people to choose any profession in their life. There is no single source of income to all Nepalese people in their life. So an attempt is made to explore the income source of FTG in this profession.

Table 5.5 family's Major Source of Income

Source of Income	Frequency	Percent
Agriculture	22	68.8
Business	3	9.4
Pension	5	15.6
Other	2	6.2
Total	32	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013

The table clearly shows that the major family source of income of female trekking guide is agriculture, hugging more than half percentage (68.8%), followed by 5 respondents (15.6%) preferred to say pension. Likewise, 9.4 % female trekking guide eased to say business for their family major income source and others (3.1%) in total share. Because of the dependency in agriculture, it has been one of the major family income sources in our society than others.

5.6 Training of Female Trekking Guides

Every person needs some skills and knowledge to do something in their life that might be further well equipped by various training they obtain in their lives. Training is a medium for empowering people to use their potentiality in their workplace. Because nobody are well equipped and qualified in every profession. So trainings in people's life is mandatory if they want to do something in their society.

The training for the trekkers is given formally from the trainers in tourism sector has not been so long time because Nepal opened formally after the 1950s. However, with the rising trend of trekkers in Nepal, many training have been taken by many

Nepalese people. However, the proportion of female trekking guides is marginally less than their male counterparts.

Table 5.6 FTG Training Taken from the different Institutions

Training Taken From the Institution		
Institutions	Frequency	Percent
NATHM	7	21.9
TSTC	23	71.9
Others	2	6.2
Total	32	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013

The table apparently depicts that, the highest female trekking guide training has been given by TSAT which is only one private Trekking Agency for providing trekking guide training, covering the 21.9 percent of Female as a whole share. Similarly, 7 female respondents (21.9%) obtained 3 months training of FTG from NATHM. And some respondents (6.2%) were planning to get training from the institution.

5.7 Popular Routes of Female Trekking Guides

Nepal is a popular country in the world not only for its cultural beauty but also for its astounding mountains and hills surrounding around the hill areas of Nepal. That's why Nepal is also known as the country of Himalaya. Around thousands of tourists intend to trek in this Himalayan country entering the boarder of Nepal via land or air. And many destinations especially for tourism purposes, government has given the permit to trek in these areas and as well as moving the eco and sustainable tourism equally in these remote areas of Nepal.

After taking the training of trekking guide, guides are sent to different trekking routes with tourists. Where, they use their knowledge about trekking practically getting the huge responsibility to trek tourists. Hereby, trekkers must acquire trekking information system (TIMS) card before the onset of their trek. Because TIMS card has been mandatory to control an illegal operations and ensure the safety and security of trekkers in the general trekking areas. Hereby, each visitor who goes to trekking through a trekking company must pay US \$ 10 and each free trekker must pay US \$ 20 per person per entry (www.welcomenepal.com).

Being the way to trek in to the famous trekking routes of Nepal such as Annapurna, Everest and others, Pokhara is being one of the important destinations for getting trekking. Where, many trekking agencies have supported to trek well and the numbers of trekking guides are employing more here than other regions. So, the engagements of female trekking guides in different routes are shown in table 5.7.

Table 5.7 Tracks Routes of FTG

Regions	Frequency	Percent
Annapurna	28	87.5
Everest	3	9.4
Langtang	1	3.1
Total	32	100

Source: Field study, 2013

In order to facilitate trekking to the mountains, the government has opened all restricted areas of the country for the visiting trekkers (Pathak, 2010). The most favorite and more preferable destination that female trekking guides engage is Annapurna Trekking Route where 25 respondents had already gone with tourists, occupying almost 87.5% in total share followed by 3 respondents (9.4%) had guided in Everest trail and 3.1% for Langtang. Among the various trekking routes of Nepal, Annapurna trekking route is one of the famous and preferable trails for tourists and most of the Female Trekking Guides have more experience about Annapurna trekking route than others.

Nepal was famous all over the world only as a Hindu Kingdom in previous decades. However, it is an intricate and beautiful tapestry formed by the interweaving of Hinduism, Buddhism and other beliefs, religious tolerance and harmony found in Nepal, is perhaps a unique example to the world. In a trekking sector, Hindu religion has embraced around 68.8% of total population than others; Buddhism (28.1%) and Kirat (3.1) which depicts the dominant of Hindu religion among Nepalese people in their profession.

Likewise, the majority of 20-30 years age group category has the highest age group in trekking sector because of the capabilities of physicality they need during the time of Trekking period. Age is also one of the indispensable factors to motivate them in

Trekking and the involvement in this sector is decreased slowly after the increment of their ages.

Likewise, despite the illiteracy level of female trekking guides, most respondents (43.8%) have a Bachelor degree education and there is no illiteracy among them which is really commendable aspect for women empowerment in trekking sector. Whereas taking the Trekking Guide profession permanently and temporary, many female have being studying in the different Colleges and Universities.

Nepal is the potpourri of different castes and ethnic groups around the different geographical regions. In Nepal, the economy is dominated by agriculture and it remains the major family source of income of the Female Trekking Guide. Compared to the previous time Nepalese women have engaged freely in many outside sectors. Where the participation of female in the Trekking sector seems more prevalence to ethnic groups than others castes in Nepal, hugging more than half percentage (68.8%) as a whole share.

In order to train for capable trekking guide, majority of the respondents (71.90%) have been trained from TSATC which is one of the popular and only one of the private institutions in Pokhara and some women take training from the government agencies which is provided by NATHM. The training period of Trekking Guide remains maximum 3 months where they learn about the essential skills and techniques for Trekking Guide which they need during the time of Trekking period with tourists. And some females prefer to take training from both institutions to gain more new knowledge about trekking.

Because of the popularity of the Annapurna trekking route in Nepal, 87.5% female have already gone with tourists followed by Everest (9.4%) and Langtang (3.1%) and they had a more experiences of Annapurna Trekking Routes than others. So, it depicts that Annapurna trekking route is one of the major popular Trekking routes of the world. The engagement of women from the different cultural and ethnic background has indicated that, Nepalese women are moving forward in the pace of development in tourism sectors which may lead strengthen the economy of Nepal like others business.

CHAPTER SIX

PERCEPTION OF THE FEMALE TREKKING GUIDES

6.1 Motivational Factors of Trekking

6.1.1 Major Attractions of Trekking

It is obviously true to say that, due to the luring factors of tourism, many people have been involved on tourism sector and the number of people engaged in this profession is increasing day by day. From the sociological point of view, why such a number of people prefer to choose this sector, if we analyze, there are many contributing factors for choosing this profession. In case of a trekking guide, there is not only one specific single factor for being a female trekking guide. The table 6.7 has depicted the multiple factors that lured them for taking this profession.

**Table 6.1 Motivation to Trekking
(Multiple Response Answers)**

Factors that Attracts to be Tourist Guide	Responses	
	N	Percent
Better income	10	17.2
Entertainment	17	29.3
Tour opportunities	13	22.4
Leisure Time use	6	10.3
Chances for women empowerment	12	20.7
Total	58	99.9

Source: Field Survey, 2013

The table has shown that there is not only one factor responsible to lure women to be trekking guides. But better income, entertainment, tour opportunities, utilizing leisure time and chance for women empowerment et al have played the indispensable role in this profession. In multiple response questions, among 32 female trekking guides, 17 respondents prefer to say entertainment as a factor of attraction for them in this profession which is followed by 13 respondents (22.4%) who have engaged in this profession for tour opportunities. Although, 12 respondents have participated in this profession for women empower themselves. That's why after the glimpse of this table, it is known there are various indispensable factors that attract many females to become trekking guides in Nepal.

It is true that, depending upon the elite climate and weather trekking in Nepal is only relied in certain seasons. Whereas, autumn season (mid September –November) is known as the most popular and preferable for entire year though we certain numbers of trekkers visit in other seasons. The satisfaction of respondents also depends upon the wages obtained in trekking period hereby, 17.2% respondents have strongly insisted to better income for motivational factors in trekking (table 6.7).

The wage of FTG is also different in terms of their different strata in their trekking period. The basic wages of guide is 1200 NS, 1000 NS for Assistant Guide and 850 NS for Assistant (beginner) in Annapurna Circuit although for Everest and Langtang and Upper Mustang circuit, the wage is more higher than Annapurna due to the difficulties during trekking period. Although, the basic wage of permanent FTG is 2000 each month and they get extra wages in terms of their extra trips. Whereas, the tips which basically get from tourists seem variant and is not fixed it depend upon the mood of tourist (Field Survey, 2014).

6.1.2 Major Attractions of Trekking

Trekking is an adventurous tourist activity in Nepal. Mostly, trekking activities in Nepal have been provided by trekking agencies than individuals. And extra activities which are provided by trekking agencies make their journey magnificent and unforgettable. Major attractions of trekking are shown in table 6.8

Table 6.2 Major Attractions of Trekking

Major Attractions of trekking	Responses	
	N	Percent
Bird watching	16	25.8
Cultural program	16	25.8
Dances	7	11.3
Songs	7	11.3
Local Environment	13	21
Local Foods	3	4.8
Total	62	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013

It is obviously true that, trekking is one of the adventure as well as interesting tourist activity in Nepal. However, in order to make their trekking more interesting, other

extra activities have been provided within the trekking period. According to this table, among 32 respondents, they have given multiple answers of questions towards the attraction of their trekking. Where, 16 respondents focus on bird watching and also 16 respondents insisted their cultural program apart from trekking. And only 3 respondents (4.8%) added on local foods on their trekking that is the lowest percentage of total. Likewise, the local environment seems one of the major attraction for trekking which 13 respondents emphasized on and 7 each female trekking guides have also likely insisted their trekking on songs and dances.

6.2 Perception of Female Trekking Guide

6.2.1 Satisfaction in the Profession

Tourism is being one of the important phenomena in modern days and most of the women from urban as well as remote areas have been involving in this sector. However, it is important to know about their level of satisfaction towards this occupation. So, the satisfaction level of the respondents is depicted in table 6.1.

Table 6.3 Level of Satisfaction among Respondents

Satisfaction towards Trekking		
Level of satisfaction	Frequency	Percent
Highly Satisfied	12	37.5
Partially Satisfied	11	34.4
Normally Satisfied	9	28.1
Total	32	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013

On asking about the satisfaction towards their profession, about 37.5% of respondents were found highly satisfied with this business. The number of respondents who are satisfied normally is significantly low rating, 28.1% of total share. Likewise, 34.4% female trekking guides are found partially satisfied towards their profession.

The satisfaction level of People could be varied in terms of the different factors they enshrine. And certainly, economy is one of the indispensable aspects of trekking in their life.

The status and the economic aspect of the FTG are also different in terms of their experience on this field. For the permanent TG, the basic monthly salary is Rs 2,000.

However, level of salary to all FTG has not equaled to all Trekking destinations. Where, the wage of Assistant (beginner), Assistant Guide and Guide for each day is Rs. 800, 850 and 1000 respectively. Furthermore, the wage is also different in different Trekking Routes because of difficulties during the trekking period.

Compared to Annapurna Trekking Route, Everest, Upper mustang and Langtang are known as the difficult trekking routes for trekkers. For Annapurna Trekking Route the basic wage of each FTG is Rs 1200 per day. However, in case of upper mustang, Langtang and Everest, wage is comparatively higher than Everest where they get minimum Rs 1400 per day. And one of the important aspects of trekking is certainly tips for guides which are provided by tourists unhesitatingly. Moreover, the tips for guides are depended on an intension of tourists.

6.2.2 Challenges of Female Trekking Guides

It is true to say that, despite some positive aspects of tourism, many trekking guides have to face the challenges during as well as while being guide, being as a female they they have many hindrances due to the patriarchal nature of the society. So, with in the periphery of the social sphere, their challenges are likely to go outside the society. Hereby, the challenges of female trekking guides are listed in table 6.2

Table 6.4 Major Challenges of FTG

Challenges	Frequency	Percent
Hard to work out because of being housewife	4	12.5
Society doesn't have positive attitude towards the female worker	10	31.2
hard to work outside as female	3	9.4
other	15	46.9
Total	32	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013

The table depicts that involvement in tourism sector is not as easy as we consider. The respondents who opined that the society doesn't have a positive attitude towards the female worker were 10%. Similarly, 4 respondents (12.5%) chose hard to work out because of being housewife and 9.4 percent insisted on the cause of gender (hard to work outside as female). However, 46.9% female trekking guides focused on other

issues of problems. So, the fact is that profession of female trekking guide is not as tiny job as we consider due to the problems of not only physical but also social.

6.2.3 Code of Ethics on Tourism

Tourism ethics apply moral concepts and issues to some of the most vexing tourism dilemmas of the day. The myriad of social, ecological and economic impacts that are derived from tourism are being responsible sector are being issues on tourism. The 12th meeting of the world committee on tourism ethics, held in Madrid, Spain, on the 4th and 5th of March 2013, commended the UNWTO private sector commitment to the global code of ethics for tourism initiative and praised the growing number of signatory business who pledged to uphold responsible conduct in the tourism sector.

It is also important to know about the tourism ethics in every aspect of life where being as female it is also important to know about it because female trekking guides could be equally responsible for implementing tourism ethics properly in tourism. The overall knowledge about the code of ethics for trekking and tour is depicted in table 6.3.

Table 6.5 Knowledge of Code of Ethics

Knowledge of code of ethics for trekking and tour		
Response	Frequency	Percent
Sufficient Knowledge	21	65.6
Little bit Knowledge	11	34.4
Total	32	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Ethic is a vital factor for each and every sector in the world. On tourism, its importance depicts not only for tourist, trekking agencies and stakeholders but also the trekking guides and host society. The table divulges that, out of total respondents, the response for knowing the code of ethics in trekking and tour is incredibly high. 21 respondents (65.6%) opined the acknowledgement about the tourism ethics whereas 34.4% respondents have known little bit about it. All the female trekking guides introduced themselves for knowing about ethics of tourism.

6.2.4 Sexual Harassment on Tourism

During the involvement of female in different sectors, they have to face many problems and sexual harassment is one of them. Sexual harassment refers to the state when it unlikely occurs in a workplace, or other social situation, involving the making of unwanted sexual advances or obscene remarks. So, the table 6.4 depicts the perception of female trekking guides towards the sexual harassment during the trekking period.

Table 6.6 : Cases of Sexual Harassment

Case of Sexual Harassment		
Cases	Frequency	Percent
Not at all	31	96.6
Sometime	1	3.1
Total	32	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013

The table has shown that, besides one, 31 respondents (96.9%) strongly suggest that they haven't faced any kind of sexual harassment in this profession, although, interestingly, one respondent explicitly opines to have faced some kind of harassments. They face during the trekking period by using the rough words with some females trekking guides by their own male trekking guides while they are in group, they have come across sexual harassment.

6.2.5 Difficulties in Trekking Sector

Trekking in Nepal is obviously one of the interesting and popular tourism activities in the world which has been luring people all around the world. However, it is not as easy for trekkers and Trekkers also to engage in this profession. Because they should have mentally and physically able to guide their clients effectively. The difficulties of FTG in trekking sector has depicted below.

Table 6.7: Difficulties in Trekking Sector

Difficulties	Frequency	Percent
Unable to Hold the flow of tourist	11	34.4
Higher Demands	4	12.5
Hard to make decision	16	50
Other	1	3.1
Total	32	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013

It is true that, to be trekking guide is one of the interesting as well as challenging professions. According to this table, 50% respondents opine their difficulties on trekking followed by 11 respondents which have embraced 31.4% said it is taxing because of the complexities to hold the flow of tourist. Likewise, the other reasons such as; higher demand seems another difficulty for 12.5% respondents on this profession and 3.1 percentage focused on other issues.

Case studies

Case study 1

My name is Usha Gurung, daughter of Krishna Bahadur Thapa. I want to recognize myself to be a female trekking guide whereas I have consistently spent my past 10 years in this sector. Because of my business related and army family background, I preferred this profession as beginner when nobody in my village wanted to involve in tourism sectors.

However, it would be easy to say that, most of the females have been participating in other outdoor activities than previous time but I was the first person who chose this. Apart from that, my family background, friends also are equally responsible for taking this sector. Because without the support from my family especially, from my parents I couldn't imagine where I am standing nowadays. If my family, especially my parents had not supported me, I would not have been here. I want to give enthusiastically credit of my profession.

Besides this thing, I had actually a great desire to do something in tourism. Even during my college period I used to make a lot of friends whereas, I never hesitated to speak with new persons. Firstly, I had also desired to visit new places of Nepal that I got a chance after my participation on tourism. Considering myself to be a female trekking guide I got a training of FTG from both government(NATHM) and private(Three Sisters Adventure Trekking) of one month where I knew about the basic skills and necessary requirements for being a female trekking guide.

Now, I have run my own trekking agency, "Revive Trekking Agency" and also many female trekking guides have been employed in my agency. So, I am fully satisfied with my profession and hopeful more female trekking guides are enthusiastically, happy with their works. But financially, running a trekking agency we have to engage in only seasonal year so I have supported financially to my family partially.

One thing is that that I want to explore, nowadays Nepalese society is changing day by day due to the education. So, our society or culture is not as rigid as we concern, I got support

from my family as well as society in the past when I was just a beginner in this sector and now I have obtained the same support from society. Hopefully, my work to this sector also do encourages to other females who want to do something in this sector. Thank you.

6.2.6 Negative aspects of Female Trekking Guides

Socially or economically men are always considered as superior to women, breadwinner, head of the family and the care taker. This is a major cause for the low participation of women in every sector. This is only one example from our society whereas there are several such discriminations and crimes happening in our society for several reasons. Not only in Nepal but throughout the world females are being dominated by males. The views towards gender equality in tourism sector are depicted below.

Table 6.8 Gender Inequality in Tourism Sector

Views towards Gender Inequality in Tourism Sector	Frequency	Percent
People themselves should be responsible in each and every sector for getting discrimination	12	37.5
Change came with the passage of time	1	3.1
Nepalese only develop the sense of inequality	1	3.1
Some have unequal behaviour	1	3.1
Somewhere still some sort of gender inequality is seen	1	3.1
Still gender inequality is seen in this sector	8	25
This sector doesn't have gender inequalities	8	25
Total	32	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Tourism has been identified as one of the fastest growing industries in the world, being one of the indispensable industries in the world. However, the participation of women in different sectors is not as easy compared to men due to the gender discrimination, and tourism sector also doesn't remain unscathed from this reason.

According to this table, 37.5 % respondents opined that people themselves should be responsible in each and every sector for getting discrimination, whereas, both views seems on favor on gender equality (25.0%) and inequality (25.0%) equally. Moreover, other issues on gender discrimination such as; Nepalese only develop the sense of inequality, some have unequal behavior on tourism and only somewhere still some

sort of gender inequality is seen in this sector are insisted by 3.1% respondents for each issues.

Case Study 2

I am Bina Thapa from Myagdi district. My parents are Dan Bahadur and Laxmi Thapa, permanent residents of Myagdi. But nowadays I have been living at Lakeside temporarily for 4 years. I want to recognize myself to be a female trekking guide. I am fully involved in this sector. I had come to Pokhara to study. Fortunately, I had taken the training of female trekking guide from both the governmental and private sectors. From that time, I have been engaged in this profession and have got an opportunity to guide thousands of tourists around the world.

Every sector has its good and bad aspects. But after taking the perception of female trekking guide, I have direct experiences despite its negative impacts in host society. It is certainly true that due to the seasonal job we don't fully engage in this profession during the entire year. So we have to stay jobless in other low seasons. Economically it is just satisfactory in good seasons; even we don't have time to meet our friends. It means we fully engage in this season. Hereby, I have supported my family partially during the trekking time and run ahead my study as well.

However, in my view during the trekking period it is not as easy as we consider for female trekking guides to guide tourists effectively. Marginally, somewhere certain gender discriminations also exist in any kind of job in our society which I am going to explore below.

In certain time, I have an experience of gender discrimination from even my male friends. Whereas, they laugh, gossip indirectly about the matter of female trekking guide and rise questions about our confidence while they are in a group. But nowadays, the perception of theirs and even our society has changed and the participation of female in tourism is also increasing gradually.

Another problem is that, sometimes either I have to extend or shorten our trekking days due to the condition of trekkers. However, now I have spent a lot of time for guiding tourists. So, nowadays I want to recognize myself as a trekking guide and also intend other sisters those who want to be a guide. Once again thanks for taking my opinion of the trekking sector.

6.2.7 Essential Qualities of Good Trekking Guide

To be a good trekking guide, there are some indispensable factors which play vital roles on tourism. Because trekking guide is not only to facilitate by showing path for tourists but also the cultural broker, being friends and everything during the trekking period. If there is not a suitable guide during the trekking period he/ she may ruin their entire trekking period (Kunwar, 2010). Hereby, factors which are needed to be a good guide opined by female trekking guides are given below.

Table 6.9: Determinants to Good Trekking Guide

Factors need to be good trekking guide	Responses	
	N	Percent
Education	20	32.8
Knowledge of multi-language	6	9.8
Good skill of interaction	8	13.1
Physically capable	6	9.8
Group dance	8	13.1
Leadership quality	12	19.7
Good knowledge of Trek route	1	1.6
Total	61	99.9

Source: Field Survey, 2013

According to this table, 32.8% female trekking guide preferred education to be the important factor to be a good guide, occupying the highest proportion as a whole share, followed by a good leadership factor has taken 19.7% of proportion in total . Likewise, 8 respondents (13.1%) have focused on good skills of communication to be a good guide that seems equivalent to other factors such as capacity of group leadership. Although, marginally, 1.6% respondents have also insisted on the importance of good knowledge in trekking route for being a good trekking guide.

6.2.8 Responsible Sectors to Implement Ethics on Tourism

Tourism, one of the important sectors of nation, is a leading industry for men and women as well. Therefore, we cannot forget the importance of ethics that is certainly the foremost need not only on tourism but also in each and every sector. Where, sometime we can forget the implementation of tourism ethics that is really foremost for every sector of human being. However, in order to implement tourism ethics, adequately, all sectors related to tourism equally including tourism stakeholders,

tourists, trekkers, trekking agencies and society should show important concern that are responsible to implement tourism ethics are depicted below table.

Table 6.10: Responsible Sectors for Tourism Ethics

Responsible Sectors	Responses		Percent of Cases
	N	Percent	
Tourist itself	12	24	37.5
Women Trekking Guide	8	16	25
Trekking Agencies	10	20	31.2
Society	7	14	21.9
Nepal Tourism Board	13	26	40.6
Total	50	100	156.2

Source: Field Survey, 2013

This table has indicated that all sectors are responsible to implement tourism ethics, whereas, Nepal Tourism Board (26.0%) seems one of the biggest responsible sector recommend by respondents to implement ethics of tourism, similarly, it is followed by tourist itself (24.0%). Moreover, the responsible factors indicated by respondent to implement ethics of tourism are seen women trekking guide (16.0%) and society (14.0%) respectively.

6.2.9 Education and the Perception of Female Trekking Guide

It is certainly true that, to be a trekking guide people should be physical capabilities because they have to walk a long with tourists carrying some bags in the hilly areas of Nepal. However, education is also one of the important factors to every people when they engage in anywhere in their life.

So, what are the views of female guides towards the importance of education in this sector? And there is an also strong relationship between women educational status and their views towards tourism. So the role of education on tourism in terms of different education level of women in this business is shown in table 6.11.

Table 6.11: Relationship between the Role of Education and their Literacy Level

Educational Status of the Respondents					
Role of Education	Below S.L.C.	S.L.C. Passed	Intermediate or +2 Passed	Bachelors Degree	Total
Easy to Communicate in English with Tourists	5 *(27.8)	0 0	4 (22.2)	9 (50)	18 (100)
Greater chances to take tourists to tour	0 0	0 0	1 (50)	1 (50)	2 (100)
Less chances to be cheated by agencies	0 0	2 (66.7)	1 (33.3)	0 0	3 (100)
Increase status of Guide	1 (25)	0 0	2 (50)	1 (25)	4 (100)
Increase leadership quality	1 (20)	1 (20)	0 0	3 (60)	5 (100)
Total	7 (21.9)	3 (9.4)	8 (25)	14 (43.8)	32 (100)

(*Figure in Parenthesis represents of Total population)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

As a researcher, it is not only important to know the basic view of people but most importantly to find out the relationship between its variables that play a vital role in every sector. The table explicitly depicts the strong relationship between education of female trekking guide and their views on education. In both categories (under SLC and Bachelor Level) education has been insisted by respondents due to the easy to communicate in education with tourists. Similarly, views are reflected on leadership quality. Owing to increase leadership, 60 % respondents holding bachelor degree and 20% for SLC and under SLC focused on the role of education.

In case of intermediate education 66.7% respondents focused for the role of education because of the less chance to cheated by agencies. Despite the different views of education of female trekking guides towards tourism, they all have focused on the importance of education on this profession. Besides the good aspects of trekking many challenges also occur during the trekking and after involving in this sector. In this way, the challenges faced by female trekking guides are also varied due to the

different status of them. Certainly, education is also one of the important factors in every sector of our society. So, the perception of women towards this profession in terms of different education status is depicted in table 6.12.

Case Study 3

My name is Sunita B.K.. I am from Baglung-3. I study in Prithvi Narayan Campus Pokhara. Actually, I'm a novice in this profession, spending just around one year. The motivational factors to choose this profession that lured me are: interesting, good income in season, tools for women empowerment and chance to visit new places. Another thing is that, the inspiration also obtained from my family. So, I'm really fortuitous in this field. Because people also know many things when they experience of new places with new people. There is one proverb in Nepali society: "People learn more from experiences than study". So, it is also a chance to visit new places and experience, it is good for health and a tools for empowering women. Because today's women don't want themselves to keep the four walls of their home only.

I am taking my study and this profession simultaneously. But I have only 2 experiences of trekking where I have been with my seniors. Because after taking a training of trekking guide from agencies don't send us alone with tourists because of our immature experience.

Nowadays, it would be easy to say that tourism is being one of the important key sectors for development where we also obtain some opportunities in our life and women also participate in any sector doing well from their sector. At last although, I am novice in this sector but I want to do something in this sector and foresee such a golden future of our country. Thanks, a lot.

6.2.10 Caste Composition of Respondents and their Educational Status

Nepal is a potpourri of multi-culture and multi-castes, embracing the all co-existing together. Based on word from Prithvi Narayan (founder of Shah dynasty) "there are four varnas (main groups) and thirty six castes in Nepal. Whereas, it is easy to say that, all castes of Nepal have not obtained education proportionately due to the centralized nature of the country. In this way, in every sector there are only limited accesses of lower educated person from minority of the groups and always remain in

the dominance of certain high-class educated persons in each and every sector of the society.

Although, due to the flexibility of society, the impact of modernization and the insight of the importance of education, the literacy level of Nepalese people has raised in recent years. And in tourism owing to the importance of education as well as practical knowledge in trekking people from distinct educational level have been participated. So, the table 6.12 depicts the caste wise division of the respondents and their educational status.

Table 6.12: Caste Distribution of Respondents by Educational attainment

Castes	Below S.L.C.	S.L.C. Passed	Intermediate Or +2 Passed	Bachelors Degree	Total
Brahmin	0 0	0 0	1 *(25)	3 (75)	4 (100)
Chhetri	0 0	0 0	0 0	1 (100)	1 (100)
Gurung	2 (28.6)	1 (14.3)	1 (14.3)	3 (42.9)	7 (100)
Magar	2 (16.7)	1 (8.3)	3 (25)	6 (50)	12 (100)
Rai	1 (25)	0 0	2 (50)	1 (25)	4 (100)
Tamang	1 (50)	0 0	1 (50)	0 0	2 (100)
Sharpa	1 (100)	0 0	0 0	0 0	1 (100)
Dalit	0 0	1 (100)	0 0	0 0	1 (100)
Total	7 (21.9)	3 (9.4)	8 (25)	14 (43.8)	32 (100)

(*Figure in Parenthesis represents Percentage of Total)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Education is one of the important factors in every sector but the education level is not equal to all castes of Nepalese people. The table has shown that, among the 32 respondents, Brahmin women have high educational level, whereas they have occupied majority (75%) of the proportion on a Bachelor's degree despite the low education status. and no one from the SLC level which is followed by Chhetri embracing only one of Bachelor level respondent.

Moreover, with the more participation of Magar community, they have also 50% respondents with a Bachelor's degree, 25% of intermediate and 16.7% and 8.3% from under SLC and SLC level respectively. In case of Dalit female trekking guides, she is the only one who has given her view and she has passed SLC level which seems similar to Sherpa. Likewise, other ethnic groups have a similar pattern on education, such as; out of 7 Gurung female guides 3 respondents have a Bachelor's degree, in intermediate and SLC pass have only 14.3% in that community and under SLC women have 28.6% in that cast that is similar to ethnic groups.

6.2.11 Relationship between Education and Challenges of the Trekking Guides

Education has not been accessed for each and every people in Nepal. And certainly, due to the distinct educational status of people, the problems of FTG are also not same in their profession. So, the challenges of respondents and their educational level are given below.

Table 6.13: Major Challenges of FTG by Educational Status

Challenges of FTG	Below S.L.C.	S.L.C. Passed	Intermediate Or +2 Passed	Bachelors Degree	Total
Hard to work out because of being Housewife	0 (0)	2 *(50)	1 (25)	1 (25)	4 (100)
Society doesn't have positive attitudes towards the female workers	1 (10)	1 (10)	2 (20)	6 (60)	10 (100)
Hard to work outside as female	1 (33.3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (66.7)	3 (100)
Others	5 (33.3)	0 (0)	5 (33.3)	5 (33.3)	15 (100)
Total	7 (21.9)	3 (9.4)	8 (25)	14 (43.8)	32 (100)

(*Figure in Parenthesis represents Percentage of Total)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Although, women have involved in many outdoor activities in the society, they have faced many problems in their works and the problems they have encountered don't seem always as simple and same for all women. Those respondents who have held a Bachelor degree education felt that there are many things as challenges that they have to change in this sector and they focused the negative view of society towards them. But holding the under SLC education, 10 percent only indicated the society for being challenge for their work. Owing to the responsibilities 50 percent SLC passed female preferred it for being one of the biggest challenges for women. Likewise, 66.7% Bachelor's degree respondents and 33.3% below SLC respondents have opined that the challenges in this profession appear due to the hard to work outside for female. The data elaborates that, in terms of the variation of ages, their perception on difficulties also appears differently.

Chapter six has basically focused on the perception of female trekking guide on tourism whereas, different views of respondents are explicitly explored in this chapter. On asking about the satisfaction towards their profession, despite the nature of seasonal profession, most of the respondents seem satisfied with this profession. And asking about the knowledge of code of ethics, majority of the female trekking guide (65.6) are known about the code of ethics whereas, 34.4% female have said little bit about it.

Likewise, out of 32 respondents, 96.9% female strongly reject the view of sexual harassment on this profession although, some female (3.1%) explicitly raise the issue of harassment on this sector. And 50% of total population consider, sometime it is difficult to trek well with tourists because they make decisions in some unintentional period, followed by unable to hold the flow of tourists (34.4%), higher demand (12.5%) and others (3.1%).

On asking about the gender inequality on tourism sector, different views are marked in this sector. Nowhere is gender inequality in society though women are capable, it is viewed by 37.5% female although, 25 percent each respondents have both negative and positive views towards this profession.

Being involved in this sector is not only the cause of paid jobs but other factors are also responsible for them. Likewise, entertainment, tour opportunities, utilizing leisure time and chance for women empowerment are all related to be the motivational factors for being tourists guides. And many certain extra activities are also being carried out by trekking agencies to provoke tourists.

To be a good trekking guide, there are some indispensable factors which play a crucial role on tourism. Hence, education is preferred by 32.8% female for being a better guide and followed by other factors nominally, such as good skill of interaction, knowledge of multi-language, good knowledge of trekking route et al. for responsible sector to implement tourism ethics, tourists, women trekking guides, agencies, society and NTB are indicated because without the support of all sectors, it is not possible to implement adequately the tourism ethics in trekking and tourism sector.

With the different views of respondents towards the role of education all respondents express their positive view of education. Whereas, under SLC level and a Bachelor's level females both have focused on the importance of education for easy to communicate easily in English and 60% Bachelor's female for increasing leadership quality.

Likewise, in terms of the distinct education, highly educated females who have already passed their many ages in this profession, explicitly opine that society doesn't have positive attitude towards the female workers whereas, who have above SLC level (intermediate level) education, focus on the cause of the hard to work because of being housewife.

The perceptions of female trekking guides are different in terms of different variables such as age, education, caste et al. Although, their perception towards this profession is certainly be one of the landmark for other female as well as stakeholders for better improvement in this sector.

CHAPTER SEVEN

SUMMARY, FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

7.1 Summary

In modern days, tourism has become a fundamental activity of human beings. A modern man can live in modest living but he cannot forsake his habit of travelling. With his interest of knowing something new, consequently tourism is developed astronomically throughout the world. However, tourism is not a new phenomenon for Hindus. In Sanskrit literature there are found different terms of tourism derived from the root "atan": *Deshatan*, *Tirthatan* and finally *paryatan*. Since ancient time Nepal is known as "abode of Gods". Such visitors from China and India visited Nepal as pilgrimage to worship at pilgrimage sites.

The word "trek" has come directly from the South African word that means a journey by ox wagon. In broad, it has come to mean any longer or arduous journey, it later was used to describe the first commercial hiking trips, through the mountains of Nepal. However, in the early 1950s Nepal opened its doors to the outsider's world and Nepal was being one of the most popular destinations for trekkers and mountaineers.

It is undoubtedly true that, Nepal has been one of the most important trekking destinations for trekkers due to its natural and cultural beauty. Because, it's not only the stunning landscapes on the trail that captivate the trekkers but also the people from different ethnic groups with whom they meet on the way.

In a realm of trekking, it not only helps to draw the white money from the foreign country but also contributes to produce direct or indirect employment opportunities in the host community. Tourism has also undeniably placed a greater emphasis on women employment opportunities by globally and industrially opening the door for women. However, in terms of social, economic and political conditions the participation of women in the outdoor activities is not as easy as we concern.

Nowadays, Nepalese women are being involved in many sectors. Certainly, tourism is one of the key industries for developing countries like Nepal. In the past time, it was true to say that there was dominance of male trekking guides in trekking where the participation of female trekking guide was a rare case. However, in these days the

participation of female trekking guides is mushrooming day by day. They have been employed not only in indoor activities but also in outdoor activities like trekking guides. Despite the physical and social restraints, the number of female trekking guides is increasing.

The objectives of this study are to explore the perception of female trekking guides and to find out the motivational factors for them.

Most of the female Trekking Guides are living temporarily in Pokhara and its vicinity. However, they come from the different regions of Nepal. I have used a purposive as a non-probability sampling to select 32 respondents in the study and unstructured interview method has been used to collect data. Hereby, primary data has been taken from the respondents by the field study and the secondary data has obtained from the different institutions related to tourism industry.

Modernization theory and women empowerment theories have been linked in this study to analyze the perception of the female trekking guide in this profession. The perception of female trekking guides have been categorized into further headings to study analytically such as; motivational factors, educational status, difficulties of Trekking, Code of ethics on tourism, positive and negative aspects of trekking et al.

The perception of female trekking guides towards Trekking profession is not same to all participants due to the different aspects of them such as education, age, duration of involvement, ethnic background etc. And the satisfaction level of there is also varied in terms of the duration of their involvement in this sector. And the better income, entertainment, tour opportunities, utilizing leisure time and chance for women empowerment are the main important luring factors of female trekking guides for attracting in this sector.

The importance of education is focused by both levels of respondents who have a higher or lower degree educational qualification. The table 6.11 depicts those 50 % bachelor holder women and 27.8 % under SLC female focused the role of education to communicate in English with tourists.

Despite the dominance of ethnic people in Trekking sector the Brahmin women have a higher education level, whereas they occupied 75% proportion of bachelor degree

education than other castes. However, regardless of some ethnic people, most of the respondents were educated in this profession

7.2 Findings of the Study

The major findings of the study can be enumerated as follows:

The number of the tourists in Nepal via air and land is increasing till 2012 (by air-5,98,258 and by land-2,04,834 in total arrival-204834) rating the 9.1 % annual growth rate of that year, and more than double visitors come Nepal by air than land.

- However, the average length of the stay has not increased, hereby the Average Length of Stay seems just 11 days in total.
- The major purpose of visit by tourists are certainly Holiday/ pleasure and trekking and Mountaineering that both together account for around more than 60% of the total tourist arrival.
- The Annapurna Trekking Route is a leading trekking route for tourists, embracing more than 60 percent in total followed by others such as Everest Langtang and other trekking routes.
- The majority of the female comes from the Hindu community because of the dominance of Hindu religion in this sector. Hereby, 68.8% female who are from the 20-30 years age group engage more than others in this profession.
- Regardless of the education in this profession, it seems preferable to all female who either have a higher or lower education level. Hereby, 43.8% of bachelor holder and 21.9% SLC level both have actively participated on tourism.
- For the trekking purpose, every people participate in this profession from the different castes of Nepal. Although, the majority appears from the ethnic people (81.6%), than other non-ethnic groups.
- Majority of the women are being trained by Three Sisters Adventure Training (71.9%) and from NATHM for two month period. However, in order to obtain more knowledge about trekking, trainings have been taken by both institutions for several times.
- Different problems are indicated as challenges that female have to face on tourism. Such as due to the negative attitude of society (32.2%), the problems of

being housewife (12.5%) and difficult to work outside as female is indicated by 6.4% female in the trekking sector.

- It is discovered that, all the females prefer to be familiar with the code of ethics, where 65.6% female opined the sufficient knowledge about the ethics of tourism and 34.4% had a little bit knowledge about it.
- Certainly, the different views of people are induced towards in this sector. Hereby, entertainment is chosen by 29.7% females in this sector. Followed by 22.4% for tour opportunities, and 20.70% have chosen this profession because of being the tool of women empowerment.
- Owing to lure more tourists, trekking agencies provide certain extra activities for tourists intended to entertain more during the trekking period. Bird watching and cultural programs are provided by 25.8% respondents in their trekking period. Likewise, 21.0% focused on local environment for their extra activities and certain dances (11.3%) are also provided for entertain more during the trekking period.
- In order to be a good trekking guide, education is preferred by 32.8% females and 19.7% focused on leadership quality. And as well as other responsible factors are important for good guide such as; knowledge of multi-lingual (9.8%), physical abilities (13.1%) and good knowledge about trekking period.
- Education is certainly one of the important factors for each and every sector of human beings. However, in terms of the various educational level of the people, the effect of education also depicts distinct in different people. Mostly, all categories of people insist the indispensable role of education. However, due to the easiness to communicate in English with tourist, education is given importance by 27.5% of under SLC respondents and 50% bachelor level female in trekking. Hereby, 60% females also show the importance of education due to the way to increase leadership quality followed by other reasons such as less chance to be cheated by agencies (66.7% SLC passed and 33.3% intermediate level) and greater chance to take tourists to tour is preferred by 50% bachelor and intermediate each female on tourism.
- The most importantly, the female who have a low education have not indicated their views effectively compared to other educated female guides. So, those women who have a greater involvement and higher education level, they have also

explicitly indicated the problems of theirs and responsible factors for creating challenges of them.

7.3 Conclusion

It is obviously true that, tourism is one of the important sectors for developing countries and creating direct and indirect employment opportunities for people. Due to the acceptance of the indispensable role of tourism, each and every country has adopted tourism in its developing agenda. The involvement on tourism is not only a phenomenon for the well developed country but also for the third world countries like Nepal. Whereas tourism is being one of the important revenue generating sector like other sectors and the participation of the people is also likely to mushrooming day by day despite the geographical barriers of Nepal.

Tourists from the different countries come to Nepal for different purposes whereas the pleasure and trekking/ mountaineering are the most important revenue generating activities for tourists. Many people have been survived directly and indirectly by employing on tourism and it is easy to say that sustainable tourism which is one of the important aspects of tourism in modern days is being popular and the foremost part of Nepalese people.

With the modernization, many Nepalese women are participating in various fields in Nepal. Besides their housework chores, trekking is also being one of the most preferable sectors for them in the recent time. Besides their active participation in this sector, they have been faced many problems due to the so called stereotype of society for some women.

So, as a sociological point of view it is also important to explore their views towards their profession because it is one of the important landmarks for other women who intend to do something in this sector.

Among the different Trekking Routes of Nepal, Annapurna Trekking Route is one of the important and leading Trekking Routes of Nepal. And most of the female had a more experience on ACAP area than others.

The perception of female trekking guides appears differently in terms of different variables in their profession such as; age, education, caste, family background and

duration of involvement et al. Actually, in case of some women they choose the profession of female trekking guides because of the entertainment, excitement and chance to visit new places which are the luring factors for this profession. However, majority of the women choose this job because of the intimacy and physical capabilities. In order to be a trekking guide one has to fit mentally as well all physically to walk a long journey with tourists carrying bags.

However, despite some positive aspects of trekking, many female have to face many challenges during the time of trekking or in their society. Because due to the patriarchy nature of Nepalese society, it is not as easy to all Nepalese women to engage in trekking. And society doesn't have positive attitude towards female workers, hard to work outside for female and even hard to work out because of being housewife are the main challenges of Female Trekking Guides.

Likewise, during the time of trekking period, they had also some uneasy experiences such as sexual harassment from their own male guides while they are in group. Besides this facts, sometime hard to control the trekkers and make decision if the trekking period is extend are some problems with in trekking period.

The code of ethics is important in every sector of the society. To implement the ethics on tourism, tourists themselves, women Trekking Guides, Trekking Agencies, society and NTB all are important on tourism.

Although most of females have above SLC level education, they all focus to the importance of education for various purposes. And after taking the training of female trekking guide from institution, they have a more chance to get trips with tourists compared to other jobs in society which is one of the factors to attract more women for participating in Trekking Guide. And many female guides have being engaging permanently and temporary to this business.

However, trekking is a temporary profession for guides in Nepal, majority of the women is satisfied with their profession. Tourism is such a medium which transcend the poor economic condition of Nepalese people through the participation in trekking sector and engagement of Female in this sector has really proved this aspect in Nepal. And it also indicates the fertile scenario of tourism in Nepal.

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APPENDIX – 1

**Research Tool (Interview – Schedule)
Semi Structured in Interview
"Perception and Motivation of Female Trekking Guides"
General Introduction**

Sample No: -----

Date: -----

Travel Agency :-----

Name of the Respondents: -----

Address:-----

Religion:-----

Marital Status: Single Married

Caste/ Ethnicity.....

Education:

District:.....

Literate	Illiterate
<input type="checkbox"/> Under SLC <input type="checkbox"/> SLC <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> Master	

- How long are you associated with this profession?
a. 0-1 years b. 2-5years c. 6-10 years
d. 11-15 years e. Over -15 years
- What are the sources of your family income?
a. Farmer b. Business c. pension
d. Government Job e. Others (please mention)
- What is your primary profession?
a. Farmer b. Business c. trekking guide Student
d. House –wife e. Other (If others please specify)-----
- What is your secondary profession after trekking guide?
a. Farmer b. Business c. House –wife
d. Student e. Other (If others please specify)-----
- Are you trained or not?
a. Yes b. No
I). If yes, from where did you obtain a training of trekking guide?
a. NATHM b. Three sisters c. Other private sectors
II) How long did you take the training of a trekking guide?

- What are the motivational factors that attract you to be a trekking guide? (Please, choose as many as you like)
a. Good income in season b. Interesting c. Chance of visiting
d. Utilizing leisure time e. Tools for women empowerment
f. Engage in outdoor activities. g. others (Please mention)
- Which route do you mostly go for trekking with tourists?
a. Annapurna b. Everest c. Langtang d. Others (Please mention)
- How have you been involved in this profession?
a. Links with TA b. Individually Involve c. Others (Please specify)
- How often do you go for trekking with tourists?
a. 1to 4 times in year b. 5 to 10 years in year c. More than 10 times in a year

10. What are your major activities at trekking?

- a. Trekking b. Bird Watching c. Exchange culture d. dances
 e. Songs f. Familiar with local culture g. Providing Local Food
 h. others.

11. In which extent are you satisfied in this profession? (Tick as you like)

a) Fully satisfied	b) Highly satisfied	c) partially satisfied	d) Not Satisfied

12. In which extent are you satisfied with trekking and its positive aspects.(Tick as you like)

a) Income

i) Fully satisfied	ii) Highly satisfied	iii) partially satisfied	iv) Not Satisfied

b) Utilized Leisure time

i) Fully satisfied	ii) Highly satisfied	iii) partially satisfied	iv) Not Satisfied

c) Interaction to tourists

i) Fully satisfied	ii) Highly satisfied	iii) partially satisfied	iv) Not Satisfied

13. What do you think is a problem while being the involved in trekking sector?

- a. Hard to work out because of being housewife.
 b. Society doesn't have positive attitude towards the female worker
 c. Hard to work outside as female
 d. Others (Please specify)

14. What positive aspects did you get to interact with tourists?

- a. Cultural exchange b. Way of Women empowerment
 c. Access to know new things d. Others (please mention)

15. Please, express your perception: some trekking guides are overlooking their own culture and adopting foreign.

.....

16. What do you think, to be good trekking guides, the main factors are:

- a. Education b. Multilingual ability c. Good communication skills
 d. Physical Ability e. Team Leadership f. Better known about Trekking Route
 g. Others

17 What is your perception about the role of education in trekking guide?

- a. Easy to Interact with Tourists b. Better Chance to take Tourists
 c. Low chance to cheat by from TA d. Increase the grading of guide
 e. To take better Leadership f. Others

18. Do you know about the "ethics" of tourism?

- a. Yes b. Little bit c. No

19. Who has the better role for implementing tourism ethics in trekking sector?

- a. Tourists b. Female Trekking Guide c. Trekking Agencies
 d. Society e. NTB f. Other

20. Have you got any sexual harassment at trekking sector?

- a. Yes b. Little bit c. No

i) If yes specify.....

21. Please express your perception about the types of problems you have been faced by tourists during the trekking period?

- a. Difficult to control tourists b. More demanding
b. Sexual harassment d. Difficult to make decision
e. Others

22. After involving in trekking profession how much is it being helpful economically to your family?

- a. More help b. Partially c. Not more

23. Please explore your perception, the perception of society towards the female trekking guide.

24. Please explore your perception, participating as a female trekking guide in women empowerment.

25. Please express your perception on gender inequality at trekking profession.

Thank you

APPENDIX - 2

Global Code of Ethics for Tourism

A fundamental frame of reference or responsible and sustainable tourism, the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism (GCET) is a comprehensive set of principles designed to guide key-players in tourism development. Addressed to governments, the travel industry, communities and tourism alike, it aims to help maximize the sector's benefits while minimizing its potentially negative impact on the environment, cultural heritage and societies across globe.

Adopted in 1999 by the General Assembly of the Tourism Organization, its acknowledgement by the United Nations two years later expressly encouraged UNWTO to promote the effective follow-up of its provisions. Although, not legally binding, the Code features a voluntary implementation mechanism through its recognition of the role of the world committee on tourism ethics (MCTE), to which stakeholders may refer matters concerning the application and interpretation of the document. The code's 10 principles amply cover the economic, social, cultural and environmental components of travel and tourism:

Article 1: Tourism's contribution to mutual understanding and respect between people and societies

Article 2: tourism as a vehicle for individual and collective fulfillment

Article 3: tourism, a factor of sustainable development

Article 4: tourism, a user of the cultural heritage of mankind and contributor to its enhancement

Article 5: tourism, a beneficial activity, for host countries and communities

Article 6: obligations of stakeholders in tourism development

Article 7: right to tourism

Article 8: liberty to tourism movement

Article 9: right to the workers and entrepreneurs in the tourism industry

Article 10: implementation of the principles of the global code of ethics for tourism



“UNWTO is guided by the belief that tourism can make a meaningful contribution to people's lives and our planet. This conviction is at the very heart of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, a roadmap for tourism development. I call on all to read, circulate and adopt the Code for the benefit of tourism, tour operators, host communities and their environments worldwide”

The pictures of the global ethics for tourism are given below



APPENDIX - 3 PHOTOS



Figure 1
Tourists on Ulleri Trail



Figure 2
Tourists on ABC Trek Route



Figure 3
Female Trekking Guides with Tourists



Figure: 4
Macchapuchhre View from Ghandruk



Figure: 5
Mt. Annapurna 1