

POTENTIALITIES AND CHALLENGES OF RURAL TOURISM IN MEGHAULI VDC OF CHITWAN DISTRICT



**A Thesis Submitted to
Central Department of Rural Development
In partial Fulfillment of the requirements for the
Degree of Master of Arts
In Rural Development**

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RECOMMENDATION LETTER

This is to certify that Mr. Ram Prasad Bastakoti has completed the thesis entitled **Potentialities and Challenges of Rural Tourism in Meghauri VDC of Chitwan** under my guidance. I forward this thesis for examination and approval as per the regular procedure in the Department.

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APPROVAL LETTER

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled **Potentialities and Challenges of Rural Tourism in Meghauri VDC of Chitwan** submitted to the Central Department of Rural Development, Tribhuvan University, is entirely my original work prepared under the guidance and supervision of my thesis supervisor Mr. Suman Kharel. I have made due acknowledgement to all ideas and information borrowed from different sources in the course of writing this thesis. The result of this thesis has not been presented or submitted anywhere for the award of any degree or for any other purpose. I assure that no part of the content of this thesis has been published in any form before.

Mr. Ram Prasad Bastakoti

Date : 2015/02/03

(2071/10/20)

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Mr. Ram Prasad Bastakoti

ABSTRACT

This study is made in Megghauli VDC of Chitwan district by keeping the view of the promotion of tourism. The general objectives of this study are to examine and explore the potentialities of tourism development in the Megghauli VDC. Similarly it also help to identify the challenges of tourism in Megghauli VDC. A research study of prospects and problems of tourism in Megghauli VDC conducted to determine the problems and prospects of tourism there. This study is based on both primary and secondary data which are obtained by field observation, interview with concern stakeholders like: tourist, local residents, hotel owners, shopkeepers, different personalities and so on.

The total number of population recorded in Megghauli is 16252. Number of male is 8219 and female is 8033. Economy is agro-based.

Basic infrastructures such as roads, communication, drinking water supply, health service and security measures are in existence. However they need to be upgraded. Based on the attractions available at Megghauli associated activities for the tourists are envisage being cultural program, picnicking, visiting Chitwan National Park and observing its Bio-diversity. Similarly other attractions are Megghauli village, the unique pattern of Tharu aborigine, Wildlife safari (riding on an elephant, The community forests and Machan towers, Jungle watch and bird watching, National museum and crocodile project, World elephant polo and Para jumping, Joint-venture (Confluence of two big rivers Rapti and Narayani rivers), Sunset and clear mountain views, Boating and rafting trips, Typical Nepali and Tharu Cultural Programms, Home stays Programme, An amalgam place for Religious sites and Eco park (Children Park, picnic spot, camping spot, Tharu aborigine museum, open zoo, lodges, crocodile project, gardorn sovenier center, Seminar hall etc. are under construction).

Megghauli VDC has many tourist destinations, unique natural beauties and various cultural specialties of its own and the sustainable and vision-full exploitation of these destinations offer a wide range of comparative advantages for which suitable and effective plan is needed.

Increase in business and increase in resident's income are most beneficial areas of tourism in Megghauli VDC. With the major attractive areas for tourists like Golaghat Chitwan National Park, Bikram, and others, Megghauli VDC demands visionful plan for adequately managed tourism and bring more positive benefit.

There is no exact official record available of the tourist visit in Megghauli. So, this is necessary for making future plan related with the tourism in the study area.

In the view of its potential for the tourism development, the local community is seen to be more interested and aware on the development of this area jointly as tourist destination.

There are no so good accommodation and catering facilities for tourists but recently home-stay programme is launched which is found very popular. Though again, most of the house owner told that if they got the financial as well as other support they are ready to serve tourists as their demand.

Tourism awareness campaign (with inclusion of topics such as tourism, its benefits, likely negative impacts, and measures to avoid such impacts) should be addressed to all community members, focusing on specific skill training programs. That could include lodge management, guiding, handicraft development etc. Similarly, programs such as literacy and enterprise development need to be organized.

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ABBREVIATIONS

CBS	-	Central Bureau of Statistics
CC	-	Chamber of Commerce
DDC	-	District Development Committee
FAO	-	Food and Agriculture Organization
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product
MVDC	-	Meghauli village Development Committee
MTB	-	Meghauli Tourism Board
HAC	-	Hotel Association of Chitwan
NTB	-	Nepal Tourism Board
UNESCO	-	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNO	-	United Nations Organization
VDC	-	Village Development Committee
WTO	-	World Tourism Organization
WTTC	-	World Travel and Tourism Council