

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Nepal, one of the most unique, exotic and remote destination in the tourism map of the world, is unquestionably a country teemed with countless natural wonders and exhilarating old historical monuments and heritage sites. It is rich in tourism attractions whether natural or cultural with its attractive, marketable landscapes and its unique biodiversity; all the tourism attractions of Nepal are world class. Tourists are attracted to Nepal by lush Terai jungles, the beautiful peaks of Himalayas, terraced farm lands, glistening rivers, wildlife activities and rich cultures and heritages. Such places offer big potentiality for development of tourism that, is considered as an easy source of income, requires relatively less investment and provides many jobs, and develops relation among people from distance.

Surrounded by India on three sides; on its south, east and west, while the north part of the country, borders with Tibet Autonomous Region People's Republic of China and located between 80°4' to 88°12' east longitude and 26°22' to 30°27' north latitude Nepal, represents a blend of ancient history, vibrant cultures and scenic grandeur. With an area of 1,47,181 sq.km, Nepal is a country of enormous physical and cultural diversity. Even across a distance of 150 km south-north the elevation rises from 59 meters, Musaharniya of Dhanusha above mean sea level to the peak of Mt.Everest at 8,848 meter, the highest point on the earth. Due to this tremendous altitudinal variation, the country embraces all climate types from tropical to arctic. Though the country occupies just 0.03 percent of the worlds and 0.3 percent of Asia's landmass, it is a beautiful

small Himalayan country having eight of the world's highest peaks over 8000 meter. Its natural and cultural tourism attractions have been well suited for international tourism.

Since antiquity, Nepal is known as "Abode of the Gods" as such many visitors from China and India visited Nepal as pilgrims to worship at pilgrimage places like Devghat, Manakamana, Lumbini, Pashupatinath, Muktinath, Barahachhetra, Swoyambhunath, Bouddhanath, Sworgadwari, Chhayachhetra, Goraksha Ratan Nath pith and many other sites of religious and cultural interests. Fortunately, Nepal has some of the most valued religious sites in the world. The area of tourism expand in Nepal mainly after the revolution when the gates of Nepal were opened to all the foreigners in 2007 B.S. Nepal further expanded the diplomatic relations with other world organizations such as UNESCO, FAO, WTO, etc, after getting the membership to the UNO in 1955 - Nepal became famous in the outside world.

This antediluvian land, with its unique cultural, religious, linguistic, topographical, and ethnic diversity, has all that a country dependent on tourism could possibly desire. It has something for everyone, whether it is an adventurer, the poet in search of peace and tranquility, or hardcore professionals like anthropologists, sociologists, and ornithologists, linguists and historians. The range in interest is so wide and diverse that one short visit to this country would just not be enough. With the unique socio-cultural treasures such as nature-friendly and people-friendly traditions and behaviors, Nepal is well known for magnet of tourism: it has immense potentiality for tourism development.

Ecologically divided into three main divisions running east to west: Himalayan region, the region which ranges between 4,877 meters to 8848

meters from sea level, which comprises 15% of the land area of the country; Middle Hills, covering 68% of the land of the country, located between the mountains and the Terai region, lies between the altitudes of 610 meters to 4877 meters above the sea level; and the southern low land region Terai which occupies 17% of the land area of the country is a flat tropical belt full of fertile soils and dense forests, Nepal, administratively, is divided into five development regions, fourteen zones and seventy five districts. Among 75 districts Chitwan is one of the persuasive destinations for many visitors. Chitwan, Kathmandu and Pokhara are called the 'three vertices of golden triangle' for tourism in Nepal.

Chitwan, having various attractive destinations for tourists lies between 27°21' to 27° 46' east longitudes and 83°55' to 84°48' north latitude in Central Development Region as one of the hypnotizing five districts of Narayani Zone. Ranging from 144 meters to 1947 meters above mean sea level. It has 36 Village Development Committee, and two Municipalities: Bharatpur and Ratnanagar, spread over an areas of 2238.39 km and in 2011 had a population of 579,984 people. Bharatpur is a commercial and service center of central south Nepal and merger destination for higher education, health care and transportation of the region.

The district takes its name from the Chitwan Valley, one of Nepal's Inner Terai valleys between the Mahabharat and Siwalik ranges, both considered foothills of the Himalayas.

Bharatpur, on the bank of Narayani River, is the main town with numerous shopping zones where people come from all over the district and neighbouring districts. Chitwan has a huge tourism potential which has its unique nature besides cultural heritages and religious\traditional

practices. The Narayani is the first class river of nepal, Rapti, Lothar, Kayarkhola, Rigdi and Riu with fresh water rivers run through this fertile valleys. Chitwan is really a wonderful area for different tourisms:

religious tourism,

rural tourism,

eco-tourism,

Sustainable tourism,

entertainment tourism,

business tourism,

health tourism and

educational tourism.

The main inhabitants of Chitwan are Tharu, Chhetri, Brahmins, Chepang, Praja, Magar, Gurung, Tamang, Damai, Kami, different lower caste represent as different beautiful flowers in a garden. The famed, Tharu people, whose lives are interwoven with the wonderful culture, and Magar people with different culture add the colorful distinct touch to the Chitwan experience.

The name *Chitwan* is a composite of the Sanskrit words चित्त, transliterated "citta" meaning *heart* and वन, transliterated "vana" meaning *jungle* or *forest*. Thus, the meaning of Chitwan is *Heart of the Jungle*.

Chitwan has a particularly rich flora and fauna. Nepal's first national park, the Chitwan National Park together with the adjacent Parsa Wildlife Reserve support a species diversity much higher than any other on the Indian subcontinent. Rare species include Bengal tiger, gharial and the world's second largest population of Asian Rhinoceros, but also leopards,

Mugger crocodile, Indian rock python and several species of deer. The protected areas are guarded by a battalion of the Nepal Army and patrolled by anti-poaching units.

The Rapti River flows east to south west in the south of Bharatpur and forms the northern border of the Chitwan National Park. The Narayani River flows north to south in the west of Bharatpur. It is the deepest and also one of the biggest rivers of Nepal. The Narayani bridge over the river connects Chitwan District with Nawalparasi District of Nepal. Small islands, like Nagarban in Narayani river are popular picnic spots.

BishHazari (20 Thousand) lake is in the southern corner of Bharatpur. The lake is very attractive for the bird lovers and serves as an important bird watching centre. The lake area houses lots of crocodiles and thus is equally attractive for the reptile lovers. The Lake lies nearby Chitwan National Park. Bishhazari lake lies just 5 km (3.1 miles) south of the city centre (Chaubishkothi) of Bharatpur.

Das Dhunga is a famous place in Chitwan. The people's leader MadanBhandari was killed there in an accident.

Narayangarh is the main shopping area of Bharatpur city, ward no.1,2,3,4 areas. It is the main transit point for all the vehicles traveling via east-west Mahendra Highway and also for the people traveling from Kathmandu, Gorkha, and Pokhara through Muglingroad. Recently, Narayangarh has become a retail and commercial capital of whole Chitwan district and Bharatpur Municipality. It is also the center for hospitality industry which includes hotels, lodges, restaurants and transportation hub for the district.

The climate of the district is warm and in hottest part of the district, though sometimes summer temperatures may rise as high as 37.9°C. The vegetation and forest type are wooded land and the riverine forest. Monkeys, common leopard, wild cat, wild dog, jackal, lizards, crocodiles, snakes, deer, wild boar, rabbits are some of the wild animals found in Chitwan.

Diverse cultural, historical, religious and natural features of Chitwan excite the imagination and calls up visions of the exotic. Trekking way such as Upadanggadhi, Siraichuli, Chisapanigadhi (Puranogadhi), rafting in Narayani and Rapti have most potential for tourism development. The district has nourished some of the world's most ancient cultures and religions: Hindu, Buddhism, Christianity, muslim and different nature related culture of different ethnic groups. Devghat, Bageshwori, Ganesthan, Shivghat, Triveni, Godddak, Pandapnagar, Someswarkalika, Bikrambaba, Chitrasari, Jutpanikalika, Upardanggadhi, etc are some of the renowned destinations for religious tourists. Royal Chitwan National Park, Kankali community forest, SatraharTaal, Bishazartaal, Sattaishhazartaal, Aththaishhazartaal, Kasarataal, Nanda-Bhaujutaal, etc are some of the beautiful ecological magnets for tourists. For its superlative natural and cultural characteristics DDC, hotel association of Chitwan and different tourism related organizations jointly launching the discovery and exposition programme, establishing Tourism Information Centre in Bharatpur and Sauraha, in collaboration with local people to conserve historical, cultural and natural treasures in the district.

Megghauli, out of 36 VDC of chitwan, one of the most emerging VDC of Chitwan in tourism industry. It is 30 km far from Bharatpur, headquarter of Chitwan, in west. Megghauli is surrounded by Shukranagar VDC and Divyanagar VDC in the East, junction of Narayani and Raptiriver in West, Divyanagar VDC and Chitwan National Park in North and Chitwan

National Park in the South. It surrounds Megghauli airport which lies in ward no. 5 of Megghauli VDC. Megghauli is famous for cultural, religious, historical, and touristic poitn of view.

Megghauli having various attractive destinations for tourists lies between 27°4' North latitude and 84°19' East longitude. Its average length of north-south is 6 km and east- west breadth is 3.5 km. This VDC is divided in to 9 wards. It occupies 9% of the total area of Chitwan district. Ward no. 5 having 3249 population is the most populated area whereas ward no. 6 having 716 populations is the least populated area. It has 2021 hector land, most of land is suitable for agricultural. The most beautiful, attractive destination 'Chitwan national park' is attempting to become a special eco-park. It offers a wildness of rich ecosystem that includes mammals, birds, reptiles, and water animals of several kinds. Owing to its rich adornment of nature the park is supported naturally. The Park was listed in UNESCO world heritage site in 1997 A.D.. The Park that includes in its area of Narayani, Rapti and Reu rivers. There are around 600 plants species, 50 mammals, 526 birds, and 49 amphibians, reptiles. Asian one-horned rhinoceros, nocturnal Bengal tigers live in the dense forest of the Park. Sharing home with these are other animals like Rhesus monkey, grey languor, deer, leopards, white stocking gaur, wild boar, jackal, fox and wild cats. Among reptiles are different kinds of snakes including Python, while the river areas breed amphibians like the endangered snouted ghariyal popularly known as gangetic crocodile and marsh crocodiles.

The forest is alive during summer with the arrival of migrant birds paradise flycatcher, Indian pitta and parakeets while winter birds include water fowl, brahming ducks, pintails, bar-headed geese, cormorants and

migratory birds from Siberia. Other birds' varieties are wood peckers, hornbills peacocks, peahens, floricans and red headed trogons.

Megghauli is known as one of the richest village in Nepal in terms of wild life and birds which surrounds 25 km border of Chitwan National Park, it is widely known to average tourist destination, Megghauli, in spite of a small and a rural village, is an interesting place of tourist attraction. The location of river and lakes and the existence of jungle have added the beauty of this village. Besides, village people have made their own attempt to develop this village in their own way. It does not mean to change it into urban area, rather it is trying to protect the natural beauty and for the betterment of rural life and for its village people and these for the extension of places of tourist attraction.

Community forest by the site of Megghauli airport is one of the attempts of the village people who are always thinking for the betterment of this area in terms of tourism and ecology. The community forest is spread in about 60 acres of land. It is being tended and improved in such a way that it can be an interesting and refreshing place to the visitors or tourists specially who come to enjoy National Park.

Megghauli Tourism development Committee has already started to launch its own programme for the betterment of this locality and tourism as well. 'Eco-park' inside the Radha Krishna Community Forest megghauli is under construction which is thought to be spreaded within eight acres of land and has aimed at providing extra facilities to the tourists. Especially it is a rest place, which can be used for a picnic spot all the year round.

The Major Attractions of Megghauli :

1. Chitwan National Park and its Bio-diversity.

2. Meghauli village, the unique pattern of Tharu aborigine.
3. Wildlife safari (riding on an elephant).
4. The community forests and Machan towers.
5. Jungle watch and bird watching.
6. National museum and crocodile project.
7. World elephant polo and Para jumping.
8. Joint-venture (Confluence of two big rivers Rapati and Narayani rivers).
9. Sunset and clear mountain views.
10. Boating and rafting trips.
11. Typical Nepali and Tharu Cultural Programms.
12. Home stays Programme.
13. An amalgam place for Religious sites.
14. 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).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

At present, as a growth industry at a world level, tourism represents as one of the largest industries to boost foreign investment and financial reserve. It is considered as an easy source of income that requires relatively less investment and provides many jobs. However, it is essential to develop infrastructures. Though it may cause adverse result to environment, social, cultural harmony if there is no plan and is visionless development for it, it has proved not only a major force in world trade but also a vital force in the country's economic, cultural and social

development when considered it as volatile industry that flourish only in peace.

Tourism is termed as a 'peace industry' as it prospers only in peace environment and also contributes to extend the international affability among countries. Political fluctuation, banda-hadtal are the major obstacles of the tourism development in Nepal.

Nepal, being one of the poorest countries of the world, facing various problems such as rapidly rising population, fewer possibility for developing other industries, limited scope for increasing agricultural production, growing unemployment, social discrimination, poverty and so on, yet she is very rich in natural beauty, cultural attractions such as language, dance, fair and festivals. In this context, tourism has been regarded as a means of achieving socio-cultural, economic and political development. Hills and valleys with Devghat, Upardanggadhi, Bikrambaba, Siraichuli etc and other attractions provide a lot of excitement to tourists. Diverse flora and fauna, wild animals, and varieties of birds expose large potentiality for tourism in Chitwan. People with different languages and cultures, believes and faith living in harmony respecting each other's uniqueness is another attraction for tourists. Keeping in view the above facts, District Development Committee of Chitwan has been trying to pay proper attention for tourism development. Chitwan has many tourist destinations, unique natural beauties and various cultural specialties of its own and the sustainable and visionful exploitation of these destinations offer a wide range of comparative advantages for which suitable and effective plan is needed.

In spite of above mentioned potentialities, emerging issues of sustainability; rural tourism has lots of challenges for its exploration and

development. In the context of Nepal, being new concept, there has not brought sufficient studies on rural tourism. For the proper development of rural tourism prospects and challenges of it should be clearly identified but it has not been made yet which is the major problem. Recently many areas (villages) are identified for rural tourism in Nepal. Megghauli VDC of Chitwan is one among them which has lots of prospects as well as challenges too. But none of the studies have been made before about the potentialities and challenges of rural tourism in the study area.

1.3 Objective of the Study

The major objective of this study is to expose the hidden treasures of the study area by conducting a case study. The specific objectives are as follows:

1. To explore the potentialities of tourism development in the study area.
2. To identify the problems of tourism development in the study area.

1.4 Significance of the Study

At present, tourism is considered as an important sector of Nepalese economy that helps to correct adverse trade balance as an invisible export industry. Tourism receipt has helped to cover a significant proportion of foreign exchange gap as well as merchandise trade deficit in Nepal. It not only arguments foreign exchange earnings, the scare resources of the country but also creates employment opportunities, direct and indirect and induced employment, through backward and forward linkages with other sectors of the economy such as agriculture, industry, other service sectors etc. The money spent by foreign tourists in the country tends to

percolate through many levels stipulating domestic flow of income through several streams. Tourism being a labor-intensive activity, it generates employment opportunities to the vast number of unemployed and under-employed people of the country.

The significance of tourism in Nepal is not only confined to the economic aspects but has importance from environmental and cultural aspects too. It is said that it is the advantage of tourism that has made Nepalese people realize the importance of environment conservation and have pride over the cultural heritages. Both naturally and culturally prosperous country, Nepal, demands the economic exploitation of resources to realize full potential of tourism development in Nepal.

Despite various efforts made for its development, tourism has not been able to develop as desired because most efforts seem based on the various studies, that, though highlight the various aspects of tourism have not seemed to address the current problems of tourism in a comprehensive manner. The main purpose of the study is to bring fore problems in the tourism and expose the prospects of tourism in Chitwan as the result in the whole country. The study provides very basic information and guidelines to the local people, planners, tourists and other related agencies as well as researchers about the sustainable development of tourism in Meghauri VDC, Chitwan. This study also play a significant role for the planners and future researchers to pursue their course of action.

1.5 Limitation of the Study

The present study covers only Meghauri VDC which located in Chitwan. This study focus mainly upon the possibility and problems of tourism development in the study area. The study be specific like that of case

studies. So, the conclusions drawn from this study be more indicative rather than conclusive.

The problem of getting accurate data is acute in Nepal. There are problems with the households who are mostly illiterate. Hotel owners are not only reluctant to show records and make available financial statements, but are also reluctant to answer questions. Many of the respondents may not have systematic records. Authentic data on tourist arrival in Megghauli will be available with DDC of Chitwan, Megghali VDC, Tourism Board, but tragedy is that they do not have tourist statistics of Megghauli. Tourist not only from foreign lands but domestic (here domestic tourists means persons come from outside Megghauli VDC for different purpose), will have secured their place in the study.

1.6 Organization of the Study

The study has been organized into six chapters. The first chapter described the major issues to be investigated along with the background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study and significance of the study. The second chapter is devoted to literature review.

The third chapter, research methodology, includes the selection of the study area, data collection tools and techniques, and data analysis.

The fourth chapter, setting of the study area, deals with the general introduction of the study area.

The chapter five contains the analysis and interpretation of the primary data. It presents the result of the survey of tourists, residents, hotels and lodges, and shopkeepers. Lastly, the conclusions are presented in the chapter six. It also contains the recommendations based on findings of the study.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

Tourism, in general, denotes the movements of people from one place to another whether it may be within own country or second countries for different purposes. Moreover, tourism is a socio-economic phenomenon comprising many activities and experiences of hosts and guests who are away from their permanent home. Tourism is a study of man away from his usual habitat.

The word 'Tourism' is derived from the French word 'Tourisme' which originated in the nineteenth century and cited for the first time in Oxford English Dictionary in 1811, meaning "the business activity connected with providing accommodation, services and entertainment for people who are visiting a place for pleasure". The world Tourism Organization explains the meaning of tourist as if a person who stays at a place of country other than his own place of stay for a minimum of one night for leisure, recreation, holiday, medical treatment, study and business, family mission or meeting.

In the past, the term tourism has often been applied only to pleasure travel. This definition is too limited. Hotels, transportation, food services and shops are interested in sales to all travelers, no matter their purpose. Furthermore, if tourism involves travelling and a temporary visit to a place away from home, this change of place should be voluntary. The treatment of tourism exclusively as a form of leisure is too limiting (Przeclawski, 1993). Tourism could simply be regarded as the process of the change of place in space by an individual or a group of people, a temporary change of the place of sojourn (Przeclawski, 1993). It has also various economic, psychological, social, cultural and other attributes.

Hermann Von Schullard (1910), the Australian Economist gave the first definition of tourism. He defined tourism as the ‘sum total of operations, mainly of economic nature, which directed to the entry, stay and movement of foreigners inside and outside a certain country, city or region.’

Various scholars and organizations have defined the words ‘tourist,’ ‘tourism,’ and word associated to them such as travelers, visitors, excursionists, hosts, destinations in various ways. According to Lickorich and Kershaw (1958), tourism embraces all movements of people outside their community for all purposes except migration or regular daily work. The most frequent reason for this is for holiday, but it will also include, for example, attendance at conferences and movement on sporadic or infrequent business purposes.

According to Swiss professors, Hunziker and Krafts, “Tourism is the totality of the relationship and phenomenon arising from the travel and stay of strangers, provided the stay doesn’t imply the establishment of a permanent residence and isn’t connected with a remunerated activity.”

Concerning the international tourism ECLN (1937) provides: the term ‘tourist’ shall in principle be implemented to mean any person travelling for a period of 24 hours or more in country other than that in which he usually resides. Likewise, the Tourism Society in Britain attempted to clarify the concept and defined tourism in 1976 as: “Tourism is the temporary short term movements of people to destinations outside the places where they normally live and work, and their activities during the stay at these destinations, include movement for all purposes, as well as day visits or excursions” (Bhatia, 1994).

Tourism, although it has its roots in the ancient past, is the modern phenomenon, as far as its development is concerned. It is only after Second World War, that development of modern tourism started and picked up momentum, which marks the beginning of modern era in tourism.

Tourism is now a world-wide phenomenon commanding the attention of public policy makers and private sectors. Tourism has emerged as the fastest growing industry in the world and it is said to be the third largest industry after oil and automobile. It is said one of the every nine person in the world's engaged in tourism and travel industry for livelihood (Sharma, 2000). Compared to other industries that have experienced many more fluctuations and frequent sharp declines, tourism has seldom fallen into a serious long term down-torn, making it one of the world's most dependable revenue generators.

Tourism is the important tool for rural poverty reduction, uplifting living standards and socio-economic tool for conservation and national development, of course, if it understands in its depth and wide. Modern world is specializing in every aspect, but tourism is the sector where every entrepreneur becomes tourism experts without having its depth and wide knowledge. It is like a medical shop holder, pharmacist or a dispenser who is treating a heart patient. Since a dispenser is not qualified to treat any diseased patient, how could a tourism entrepreneur become a national tourism development seeker, it's a time to think. A master-mechanist of Toyota Motor Car, having 35 years of experience in repairing, will confused to repair Mercedes, Skoda or Lada vehicles and will never be able to develop new model in the vehicles, whereas an automobile engineer, as a technician, always understand the mechanism of vehicles and would able to gear of its development. Similarly, tourism

is a technical subject. Until and unless the concerns recognized its technicality, tourism in Nepal will never be success in real terms, but has to struggle for half a million and that is for unrecoverable natural and socio-cultural calamities (Tuladhar, 2008).

The role of tourism in the development of country can become clear from the remark made by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC, 1991):

‘Tourism may now be the world’s largest industry, expected to employ 130 million people, or one in fourteen workers world-wide in 1992. The travel and tourism industry are expected to maintain their high rate of employment growth, 5.2 percent, far exceeding the world employment growth rate of 2.45 percent. The annual gross output of the travel and tourism industry was expected to total US \$3 trillion for the first time in 1992’.

There are good reasons for focusing on tourism in less develop countries, in particular. Their governments are anxious to promote economic growth and tourism, especially international tourism, is one mean to this end (Harrison, 1992). Some of the less developed countries have come to rely upon tourism’ contribution to foreign exchange, employment, and the gross domestic product.

Tourism is a startling phenomenon, but is a unique industry. It is concerned with people as a consumer and commodities and it is in the sense that the host people and tourist themselves must attempt to calculate the social, cultural and human cost of mass travel. Tourism can be very humiliating for host country. People are taught to sell their smiles, their traditions, their values and their dignity (Uprety, 2000).

Tourism does not itself lend to a single form. Accordingly, tourism, as a phenomenon, is presented under several forms such as the following (Hawkins, 1985):

1. According to the number of people travelling:
 - a) Individual tourism
 - b) Group tourism.
2. According to the purpose served by travel:
 - a) Recreational tourism
 - b) Cultural tourism
 - c) Health tourism
 - d) Sport tourism
 - e) Conference tourism
3. According to the means of transport:
 - a) Land tourism
 - b) Sea and river tourism
 - c) Air tourism
4. According to geographical locality:
 - a) National/domestic tourism
 - b) Regional tourism
 - c) International tourism
5. According to age: youth, adult, family.
6. According to sex: masculine, feminine.
7. According to price and social class: deluxe tourism, middle class tourism, or social tourism.

The main purpose of the tourism must be the long term betterment of all involved. This means not only greater individual success but overall betterment through greater team action. Tourism involves so many individuals and organizations that it must be planned with greater unity of purpose. Unless planning can predict a better future it will be ineffective (Gunn, 1994).

Different people inside and outside the country have conducted many studies in tourism. There is growing interest in tourism. More and more studies about the tourism are coming into focus. Tourism research in developing countries date back more than 50 years into the 1930s (Chon and Oppermann, 1995). The number of publications dealing with the study of tourism in developing societies has not come without controversy and much of the literature on the subjects reflects this (Poudel, 2000).

In modern time different new trends in tourism have been emerged. Some of them can be mentioned below:

Village Tourism

It denotes tourist visiting villages and staying in or near villages. Successful cases have shown that the village should have special features to attract visitors. This is also associated with tourist behavior in that they stay in a village and explore the surroundings (McIntyre, 1993).

The special feature of this kind of tourism is that the visitors become part of the village for the period of their stay. Such visitors normally do not expect the kind of accommodation and food that they are accustomed too. In other words, they really rely on locally available accommodation and food.

Evidence from Sirubari shows that this form of tourism has high potential for bringing resources to the village which eventually becomes an important tool for poverty alleviation. However, since cultures are subject to influence by visitors, there is the possibility that village tourism destinations are affected by the influence of visitors. Therefore, special care is needed to minimize the social and cultural impact of tourism.

Eco- tourism

Eco-tourism is relatively a new concept. It relates to environmental tourism. More specifically, it is the tour of natural heritage and associated communities and their practices. Eco tourism is just not casual travel but involves knowledge and leaving (Dr. B.D. Pande). Tourism to natural areas that helps environmental understanding, appreciation and conservation and sustains the culture and well-being of local communities (M.Young, 1985).

The term eco-tourism means “ecological or environment friendly tourism,” that must have five major components: travel, environment, economy, culture, people and development or change. Therefore, eco-tourism can be put as sustainable probably this is what Stanley MC Cool and Stom (1984) had in mind when they defined eco-tourism as limits of acceptable change in their complied articles, highlighted the principle, scope, activities, commandments, methods, trends, impacts, environmental degradation, opportunities of eco-tourism (Dhakai and Dahal, 1996).Nepal having various natural wonders is actually the best destination for tourist in the world.

The term 'ecotourism' is defined as traveling to relatively undisturbed or uncontaminated natural areas with specific objectives such as studying, admiring and enjoying the scenery with its flora and fauna, as well as any

existing cultural manifestations (both past and present) found in these areas (Lascurain, 1986).

The concept of ecotourism is also rooted in the environmental concerns raised by industrial development in Europe during the Sixties. The unprecedented industrial development essentially raised awareness regarding environmental conservation and conservation organizations that came into being demanded that governments set aside a landmass not just for tourism purposes but also for preservation of ecosystem integrity. The while conservation movement during the second half of the Sixties was an example of such campaign and this period mark the birth of ecotourism. However, actual tourism began in Costa Rica in the early Eighties. A Costa Rican tour operator while registering his business first coined the word 'ecotourism', which soon become a popular word and frequently appeared in the literatures in Costa Rica (Kunwar, 1997). But the 'ecotourism' phenomenon became more prominent and came into wide use after Hector Ceballos Lascurain published an article in 1987 with definition of ecotourism. He described ecotourism as nature based travel to relatively undisturbed areas with focus on education. The 1989 Hague Declaration then formally recognized it on tourism that advocated rational management of tourism to contribute to the protection and preservation of the natural and cultural environment. Since then ecotourism has increasing become a popular word for academics, professional and businessman (Gyawali, 2003:11).

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The "father of eco-tourism" concept is simple, more global and wide. Therefore his concept and definition are used. According to him the meaning of eco-tourism in a single world is "Respect". Respect is the root of everything worthwhile and good. Respect to nature, local people culture, history, community, aspirations and tourist themselves (Adhikari, 2005).

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

Eco-tourism is also seen as an interfacing of conservation concerns and tourism interests, setting free the synergy required to jointly preserve the quality of the environment while protecting nature and promoting tourism. It is a timely strategy that is vital to the maintenance of healthy ecosystems along with economic gains by benefiting both nature and destination areas (Farrell and Runyan, 1991).

"It promotes a code of ethics in relation to other species that grants rights of continued existence to those species. It promotes non-destructive aesthetic, spiritual values. And it actually does something for wildlife in so far as it provides humans with an economic and moral incentive to set

aside and maintain space (habitat) for wildlife and it discourages harassment" (Gauthier, 1993).

Eco-tourism principally concerns experiencing the natural or cultural environment without threaten it (Chauhan, 2004). While it started as description of a kind of natural tourism that would raise consciousness to conservation issues, later it also included concern for host community. At present in Nepal it is referred to as the practice of nature tourist that minimizes the negative impacts of tourism on environment and socio-cultural aspects. It looks for a balance between 'natural conservation', 'sustainable socio-economic development', and 'nature-tourism' eco-tourism also implies a managed approach to tourism development (Nepal, 2003).

The eco-tourism society (1997) defines ecotourism as a responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the welfare of the people (www.ecotourism.org).

Responsible Tourism

Responsible tourism is a new practice in tourism that minimizes negative economic, environmental and social impacts of tourism to local community and environment. It helps to generate economic benefit for local people and enhances the wellbeing of local people. Responsible tourism also improves working conditions of workers and involves local people in decisions that affect their lives.

Nepal is the world's richest country in terms of biodiversity, pristine landscapes and vast cultural heritages. They hold huge potential for both nature and culture based tourism.

However, the ongoing degradation of biodiversity and unexpected decline of cultural practices pose a serious threat to our tourism. Thus there is important to give necessary view to the implementation of responsible tourism practices.

Cultural Tourism

The concept of cultural tourism emerged in 1970s. This form of tourism was recognized by UNESCO in 1976. Cultural tourism is regarded as a "force for cultural preservation". Smith defines cultural tourism as "the absorption by tourists of features resembling the vanishing lifestyle of past societies observed through such phenomena as house styles, crafts, farming equipment, dress, utensils and other instruments and equipment that reflects the lifestyle of any particular community during a particular time". Further, Zins identified handicrafts, language, traditions, art and music, paintings and sculpture, history, work and technology, architecture, religion, educational, system, dress and leisure activities as elements of cultural tourism (Kunwar, 1997).

In short cultural tourism involves visit to ancient, monuments, places of historical or religious importance. It enriches knowledge about different people and their culture. As cultural tourism also involves education for visitors and promotes sensitivity towards cultural environment, provides direct benefits to host communities and helps in preservation of culture, it is closely linked with ecotourism.

Nepal has different cultures and many more attractive pilgrimage places. Chitwan, one of the 75 districts is not less important for pilgrimage places. Historical places, local dance, music, ceremonies, arts and crafts, dress, customs and value system produce the culture of Chitwan. Devghat, Bageshwori, Triveni, Goddak, Pandavnagar, Bikrambaba etc

are some of the historically and religiously important places and LathiNach, ShakhiaNach, FarasahiyaNach, BarkaNach and different ethnic groups culture and customs attract tourists.

Though tourism is important in the country like Nepal for development of the country, there should be given eyes to the impacts of it in various sectors.

Sustainable Tourism

Although tourism has the potential to become an agent of development and change, due to the way it uses resources, it should not be considered an environmentally harmless industry as such. Therefore, only with careful planning it has the potential to operate and contributes in a sustainable manner (Butler, cited in State of the Environment, 2004)

According to WTO "sustainable tourism development meets the needs of present generation tourists and host regions while protecting and enhancing opportunities for the future". It is expected to lead to management of all resources in such a way that economic, social and aesthetic needs are fulfilled while maintaining cultural integrity, essential ecological processes, biological diversity and life support systems

(www.world.tourism.org).

Community Based Tourism

More recently, community based tourism has been recognized as another form of tourism. "Community based tourism occurs when decisions about tourism activity and development are driven by the host community. It usually involves some form of cultural exchange where tourists meet with local communities and witness aspects of their lifestyle. Many such remote ethnic communities may be vulnerable to outside influences and

decisions about the way tourists are hosted must be owned by the community for successful and sustainable tourism" (SNV, 2003).

Community based tourism can generate a sense of pride in the local population and make funds available for maintaining or upgrading cultural assets e.g. archeological ruins, historic sites, traditional, crafts production.

Religious or Pilgrimage Tourism

Pilgrimage is the significant form of tourism for the holy places can have very positive effects on communities nationally and internationally. Pilgrimage is an institutionalized Journey to the holy places. At that site usually marched by a temple or other structure, they pray and perform rituals, praying and worshipping to the god walking around the shrine or mounting a flight of stairs on their Knees' (Blamey 2000).

In Buddhism, lord Buddha advices for pilgrimage without which there is no release from grief and unless world's end to be reached. So, let a man be a world knower wise, world-ender. Let him led the holly life will, knowing world's end, as one who is quenched, he length not for this world or another. The grove of Lumbini is so great that the Buddha himself advised his followers to make pilgrimage. Lord Buddha explained the significance of Lumbini in the words: Lumbini should be (visited) seen by person of devotion, and which would cause awareness and apprehension of the nature of impermanence.

Economic Impact

The impact of tourism on the host country's economy is quite massive. Tourism has proved itself a very useful means of earning foreign currency having positive effect on the balance of payment. Tourism has been considered as industry that requires less investment compared to

others and produces more than others. It helps mobilizing funds for regional development. Most scholars have accepted the good impact of tourism in the economy of host country and its people.

Socio- cultural Impact

Tourism is understood as a unique vehicle for cultural exchange. Apart from goodwill and friendship, tourism also enhances a chance for socio-cultural exchange as well as scientific and technological interaction among the people from different corner of the world. It has two sides. It has also some negative aspects. Westernization and degradation of native culture has also been concerned. Social crimes such as gambling, theft and drug addiction may increase.

Not only can these if we don't give appropriate attention international terrorism run their mission from the host country. Development of inferiority complex among local people can be taken as bad side needed to give attention.

Environmental Impact

The fragile and sensitive ecological and environmental features are being polluted that will cause irreparable loss to the attractions in Nepal. Degradation of the landscape and destruction of natural beauties are some negative impacts of tourism. But tourism also helps to bring eco-consciousness among local people. There are some examples of garbage tourism in mountain areas in Nepal. Awareness about the conservation of nature and wildlife develops through tourism that helps to sustain eco-system.

Though there is no universally accepted definition of tourism, most of the scholars, agencies and state holders accept tourism is an activity tourists do and receives in the time of away from their home for limited period.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

The research has been basically designed to investigate the tourism activities and development programs associated with tourism in Megghauli VDC. A description cum exploratory research design has been applied to analyze the present situation about the problems and prospects of tourism in Megghauli VDC area.

In this study the inflow of tourism in Megghauli and socio-economic changes noticed in the study area has been described. The growth of infrastructures to foster the tourism has been explored by field survey. The study is based on both qualitative and quantitative information.

3.2 Nature and Source of Data

Both quantitative and qualitative nature of data have been used to accomplish the objectives.

3.2.1 Primary Data

This study has been mainly based on primary data. According to the nature of the study, the primary data were obtained through the field study.

3.2.2 Secondary Data

Secondary data were collected from tourist concern agencies and organizations like Nepal Tourism Board, District Development Committee of Chitwan, Chitwan Tourism Board, Megghauli VDC office,

Megghauli Tourism Board, CBS, Internet, various published and unpublished written books, journals, articles, reports etc.

3.3 Rationale for the Selection of the Study Site

This study had been carried out in the Megghauli VDC located in Chitwan district, Nepal. Megghauli is a fascinating touristic area of its own kind in the country. The socio-culture of the area is plural in cast composition. The major in habitats of the study area are Tharu, Brahmins, Chhetri, Gurung, Magar who represent general public with a mixture of both identical and opposing beliefs. This socio-cultural and economic feature selected for the study is experiencing features of tourism. Megghauli is rich not only in cultural diversity but also in natural diversity. Golaghat, Some parts of Chitwan National Park (CNP), Bufferzone of CNP represent some of the important areas for ecotourism. Historical and religious places are also some of the important places for tourists.

3.4 Universe and Sampling Procedure

The Megghauli VDC area including the shops, hotels and some cottage industries around it was the universe of the study. Six Hotels and restaurants situated in Megghauli VDC were taken and interviewed, dividing hotels into 3 levels and selecting two of each.

Six shops, taking 2 from each ward: ward no. 2, 5 and 8 were selected through judgmental sampling. The total of 50 tourists including both internal and external tourists (internal tourists were assumed from outside the Megghauli VDC) was selected randomly. Similarly 40 households, 10 from each ward: ward no. 1, 2, 5 and 8 were selected through judgmental sampling methods.

3.5 Techniques and Tools of Data Collection

For the primary data, structured and semi structured questionnaire were used in the field. Interview, field observation and key informant interview were used for primary data collection.

3.5.1 Questionnaire Survey

Structured questionnaire was prepared to generate the realistic and actual data from tourists, household, hotels and shops. The respondents were requested to fill up the questionnaire. In case of the respondents who couldn't fill up the questionnaire, questions were asked verbally to them and answers were filled up by researcher himself.

3.5.2 Key Informant on Interview

Key informant interviews had been conducted during the fieldwork in order to comprehend the interest and initiatives of the local inhabitants in proper development of the area, and their perception on the process of tourism development. The key informants were interviewed using mainly unstructured schedule but relating subject of the study. Key informants comprised of the governmental officials mostly related to tourism , secretary of Meghauri VDC, head of security branches, local leaders of different political parties, persons of civil society, different local organizations like: youth club, mothers' group, sports club, cultural societies and the in charge of the certain areas like meghauri tourism board, meghauri tourism development committee, chitwan tourism board etc.

3.5.3 Observation

During the study, the attributes of the local place was observed. This method had been applied to collect the clear and reliable information. The semi-participant observation had been applied to get information about tourists, hotel owners and shopkeepers.

3.5.4 Interview

In order to understand the situation of the area, a set of open-ended question schedule had been prepared for key informants and used to extract information from the samples. Tourists' activities in the area, local people, tourism's impact upon local people, culture, environment and current tourism situation, facilities, the historical and cultural importance of the places etc. were collected through this method.

3.6 Data Presentation and Analysis

The data obtained from the study has been processed and analyzed in accordance with the outline of the research problem. The data collected from the field has been manipulated and deposited in certain order. Because of the diverse nature of data obtained from the field study, data have been analyzed and presented in different topics and chapters. Coding, decoding, Tabulation and some arithmetical and simple statistical tools like table, graph and diagrams have been be applied in course of data presentation and analysis. Descriptive method has been used for the analysis of qualitative data.

CHAPTER IV

SETTING OF THE STUDY AREA

4.1 General Introduction of the study area

Chitwan is one of the five districts of Narayani zone in central development region of Nepal. According to 2068 census, Chitwan district is populated by 579984 person with an average density of 261.489 person per square kilometer which is higher than national average density (180 per square kilometer). Chitwan district has 36 VDCs and two municipalities. Bharatpur, and Ratnanagar. The study area Meghauri is one of the most tourism emerging VDC not only of Chitwan but also of Nepal. Established in 2018, it covers 2218 km² areas. Agriculture and Forest University is about 16 km eastward from the VDC. The VDC has 9 wards. All of them are rural wards. District Police Office, District Traffic Office and Nepal Army Gang are providing security from Meghauri. Having over 16252 population and 2598 over households, VDC is the basket of different ethnics and tribes, cast and religious people.

Fresh water flowing rivers: Narayani and Rapati run alongside the VDC to meet each other. The important and famous religious place Bikranbaba, Kasara crocodile breeding center are situated in the bank of Rapati river. Golaghat most famous touristic place of that area having both historical and cultural attractions lies between Narayani and Rapati river in angular form. Chitwan National Park, joint venture of Narayani and Rapati, community forest are attractive areas for ecotourism. Many Shivalayas, RamjanakiMandir, GaneshMandir, KalikaMandir, many Gumba,Church and mosque are no less enchanting destination for tourists. SakhyaNaach of Tharu which is based on the story of Lord Krishna Laathi Nach are

fine source of entertainment and for cultural observation. Recently, homestay services are also started in nine households with 25 beds to add more attraction for tourist.

4.1.1 Location

Megghauli having various attractive destinations for tourists lies between 27°4' North latitude and 84°19' East longitude. Its average length of north-south is 6 km and east- west breadth is 3.5 km. Megghauli, out of 36 VDC of chitwan, one of the most emerging VDC of Chitwan in tourism industry. It is 30 km far from Bharatpur, headquarter of Chitwan, in west. Megghauli is surrounded by Shukranagar VDC and Divyanagar VDC in the East, junction of Narayani and Rapti river in West, Divyanagar VDC and Chitwan National Park in North and Chitwan National Park in the South. It surrounds Megghauli airport which lies in ward no. 5 of MegghauliVDC. Megghauli is famous for cultural, religious, historical, and touristic poitin of view.

This VDC is divided in to 9 wards. It occupies 9% of the total area of Chitwan district. Ward no. 5 having 3249 population is the most populated area whereas ward no. 6 having 716 populations is the least populated area. It has 2021 hector land, most of land is suitable for agricultural. The most beautiful, attractive destination 'Chitwan national park' is attempting to become a special eco-park. It offers a wildness of rich ecosystem that includes mammals, birds, reptiles, and water animals of several kinds. Owing to its rich adornment of nature the park is supported naturally. The Park was listed in UNESCO world heritage site in 1997 A.D.. The Park that includes in its area of Narayani, Rapti and Reu rivers. It lies 175 metre above sea level.

4.1.2 Topography

Most of the area of the Megghauli lie in plain area. The slope of the area decreases from north to south 175 m above the sea level.

Out of the total area of VDC 51.2 percent area is covered by three types of forests: 34 community forests with 2449.13 hector, 13 private with 13 hector and governmental forest with 1351.87 hectores.

Two major rivers: Narayani and Rapati flow either sides of the VDC with fresh water. Devghat, Bageshwori, Ganesthan, Shivghat, Triveni, Godddak, Pandapnagar, Someswarkalika, Bikrambaba, Chitrasari, Jutpanikalika, Upardanggadhi, etc are some of the renowned destinations for religious tourists. Royal Chitwan National Park, Kankali community forest, SatrahazarTaal, Bishazartaal, Sattaishhazartaal, Aththaishhazartaal, Kasarataal, Nanda-Bhaujutaal, etc are some of the beautiful ecological magnets for tourists around the VDC.

Politically Megghauli is divided into 9 Wards. Almost wards are in rural area. Ward no. 5 is the centre of business and other activities of the whole VDC.

The historical place Bikrambaba lies alongside of rapati river. Golaghat lies between Narayani river and Rapati river in angular form. Many Shivalayas, RamjanakiMandir, GaneshMandir, KalikaMandir, many Gumba, Church and mosque are are importantplaces for religious tourism. The endangered Nach culture is another attraction of Megghauli.

4.1.3 Climate

The study area falls within the sub-tropical climate zone. As more than 50 percent of the area is covered with forest there is neither very hot in

summer not very cold in winter. The temperature of the area ranges minimum 8.38°C to maximum 41°C. Because of world climate change temperature is rising in summer and decreasing in winter. It experiences monsoon rainfall generally from Jeshtha to Asoj. The average rainfall in the area is 142.17 mm.

4.1.4 Natural Vegetation and Fauna

The natural vegetation of the study area lies within the sub-tropical. There are around 600 plants species. Sal (*Shorea robusta*), Saj (*Ternstroemia alata*), Seemal (*Bombax malabarica*), Jamun (*Eugenia jambolana*), Koiralo (*Bauhinia variegata*), Sisau (*Sissoo*), Nim (*Azadirachta indica*), Bamboo Beal (*Aegle marmelos*), etc are main tree species of the study area. There are around 50 mammals, 526 birds, and 49 amphibians, reptiles. Asian one-horned rhinoceros, nocturnal Bengal tigers live in the dense forest of the Park. Sharing home with these are other animals like Rhesus monkey, grey langur, deer, leopards, white stocking gaur, wild boar, jackal, fox and wild cats. Among reptiles are different kinds of snakes including Python, while the river areas breed amphibians like the endangered snouted ghariyal popularly known as gangetic crocodile and marsh crocodiles.

The forest is alive during summer with the arrival of migrant birds paradise flycatcher, Indian pitta and parakeets while winter birds include water fowl, brahming ducks, pintails, bar-headed geese, cormorants and migratory birds from Siberia. Other birds' varieties are wood peckers, hornbills peacocks, peahens, floricans and red headed trogons.

4.2 Socio-Economic Condition

4.2.1 Population

After re-settlement programme in 2018 BS, the population is increasing in trend. According to the census 2038 BS, out of total population 9374 female were 4621 and male were 4753 in number respectively. In 2048, the population reached 12281 then in 2058, the population was increased by 2418 and reached 14699. In 2068, the total population of the VDC increased to 16252. Out of which females are 8033 and males are 8219. In it. Sex Ratio is 1.06. (CBS:2068).

According to the census 2011, the total population in Meghauli VDC is divided into 9 wards and population is unevenly distributed in each wards, ward wise population distribution is given in Table No. 4.1.

Table No. 4.1 Ward-wise Population Distribution in Meghauli

Ward No.	Household	Male	Female	Total
1	333	953	940	1893
2	319	949	982	1931
3	286	921	849	1770
4	280	812	854	1666
5	572	1653	1596	3249
6	123	357	359	716
7	177	525	476	1001
8	456	1309	1295	2604
9	252	740	682	1422
Total	2798	8219	8033	16252

Source: CBS, 2011.

As the above Table No. 4.1 shows the highest population in ward no.5. The highly other populated wards are 8 and 2. Ward no.6 has the lowest population size among the other wards.

4.2.2 Education

The study area has 4 primary schools, 1 lower secondary school, 1 secondary school and 2 Higher secondary school from the government side while from private sectors, 1 primary, 5 secondary school , running their classes in different subjects. 70 percent of the total population are literate. Out of which female literacy rate is 60 percent and male literacy rate is 80 percent.

4.2.3 Electricity and Transportation

To say, with wards all wards 1 to 9 have electricity facility while the total Tole are not getting this facility.

Megghauli VDC includes 5.5 km pitch road and the rest travel and muddy. Recently a plan to make pitch road around the 9 wards or whole VDC has been approved by Megghauli VDC

4.2.4 Ethnic composition

Megghauli is a place with the inhabitats of more than 40 caste and ethnic groups. By single ethnic group, Tharus are in larger number than others. Chhetries and Brahmins are other groups in large number. Table no. 4.2 exposes the caste and ethnic composition of Megghauli VDC.

Table No. 4.2 Caste and Ethnic composition of Meghauli

S.N	Caste	Number	Percentage
1	Brahmins/Chhetri	9363	63.7
2	Tharu	3806	25.9
3	Gurung	381	2.6
4	Newar	302	2.1
5	Tamang	251	1.7
6	Magar	197	1.3
7	Darai	98	0.7
8	Bhojpuri	73	0.5
9	Bote	50	0.3
10	Kumal	26	0.2
11	Hindi	20	0.1
12	Majahi	10	0.1
13	Others	122	0.8
	Total	16252	100

Source: Census, 2011

CHAPTER V

PROSPECTS AND PROBLEMS OF TOURISM IN MEGHAULI

5.1 Background

Meghauli is a land of scenic beauties and diversities. The attractions of Meghauli are varied. Lakes, Temples, Gumba, Nach culture, Tharu culture and the Religious place Bikram Baba are the major attractions for tourists. Important lakes are SatraharTaal, Bishazartaal, Sattaishhazartaal, Aththaishhazartaal, Kasarataal, Nanda-Bhaujtaal, etc. Similarly important temples are Shivalayas, RamjanakiMandir, GaneshMandir, KalikaMandir, many Gumba, Church and mosque are some of the attractions for tourists. Different Nach, festivals are also the things for attraction. Meghauli also offers some of the most unusual and delightful wild safari and short trekking route like from Kasara to Bishhazartaal provides a unique experience to the tourists. Tharu, Chhetrias, Brahmins, Magar are the different communities. The villages and farmlands are the sightseeing attractions for tourists.

Meghauli is VDC leading towards development. According to the record of the latest census 2068 BS, Brahmins and Chhetri together is the highly populated tribe and Tharu is second one of the VDC. Gurung, Newar, Tamang, Magar, Darai, Bhojpuri, Bote, Kumal etc are other tribes and casts of this VDC. However, there is sweet harmonious relation among them. People of the area are co-operative, honest and helpful as well as fully devoted to respect to their guests. Meghauli covers typical and traditional settlements. Almost all the places are famous for Tharu settlement areas. Khatrauli, Parsadhaap are mainly settled by Mongolian ethnics like Gurung, Magars; Brahmins, Chhetri and other casts and ethnics are settling scattered in VDC areas.

Visitors enjoy their traditional customs, costumes, jewelry, lifestyle and culture. Most of the people are engaged in agriculture. Rice, maize, wheat are main food crops of this areas where as horticulture, poultry farming etc are under immediate income generating works.

A part of the people are engaged in business specially hotel, lodge and shops. According to the Megghauli VDC record large hotels are 5 and other hotels are 237 but according to the record of Chitwan Hotel Association, there are more than 350 hotels in Megghauli. Electric powers, Health Center, Postal services, Security are other facilities of this area. In the VDC area, there are 8 community schools, 5 institutional schools. There is not any government campus but some of institutional campuses are providing the quality education in that area.

This chapter is devoted to a case study of prospects and problems of tourism in Megghauli VDC. Data collected from field is presented and analyzed in different topics below.

5.2 The Tourist Survey

First, this part presents the results of the survey of tourists. Of the 50 tourists surveyed, 32 percent were female, while the remaining 68 percents were male. These tourists were selected randomly who were in Megghauli VDC between 2014 January 15 to February 29. Among these surveyed 50 tourists; 19 were International and the rest were internal. Table no.5.1 presents tourist arrival in Megghauli from out of Nepal.

Table No. 5.1 International Tourist Arrival In Meghauli (No. 19)

Countries	Number	Percent
India	13	68.42
China	2	10.52
USA	2	10.53
UK	2	10.53
Total	19	100.00

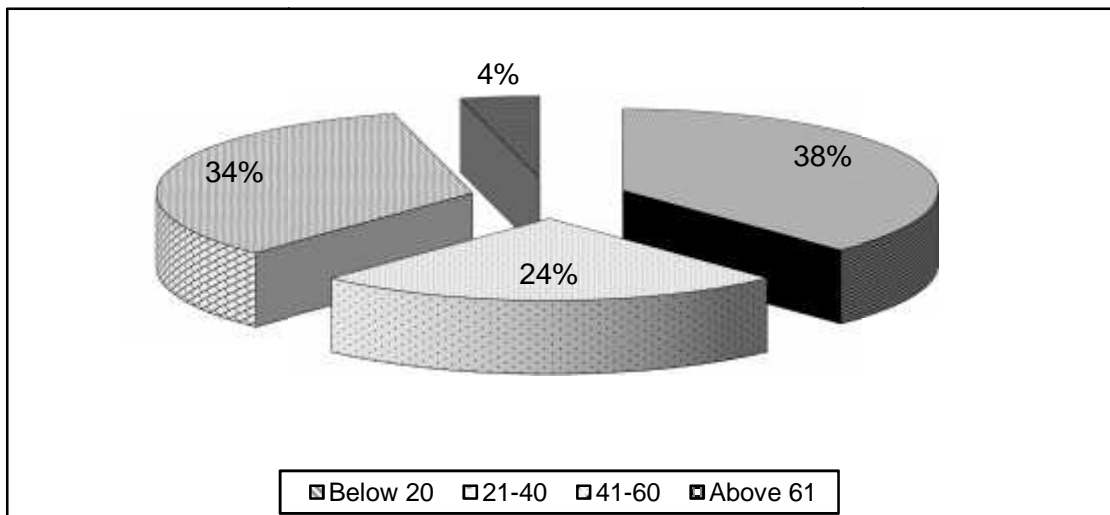
Source: Field Survey, 2014.

Table No. 5.1 shows Meghauli attracts International tourists. The respondents selected for the study consisted 68.42 from India, 10.52 from China and the rest 21.06 percent from other different countries: UK and the USA. The largest size of tourist is from India.

Meghauli attracts tourist of different ages. The respondents selected for the study were of different ages.

Of the total, 38 percent of tourists were below 20 years of age while 24 percent were within the age group of 21 and 40 years. Similarly, 34 percent of respondents were between 41 to 60 years of age and 4 percent were above 60 years. The Figure no. 5.1 shows the tourist distributed according to age.

Figure No. 5.1 Tourists of Different Ages (No. 50)



Source: Field Survey, 2014.

The Figure no. 5.1 shows, tourist below 20 years of ages comprises the large number of tourist. The second large number of tourist, 34% is of age group 41 to 60.

The sample contained tourists of different occupations. Table no. 5.2 presents the tourists from different occupations.

Table No. 5.2 Tourists of Different Occupations(no.50)

Occupation	Number	Percent
Business	8	16
Education	19	38
Service	6	12
Agriculture	14	28
Social work	3	6
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2014.

As the table no. 5.2 presents, above 38 percent of respondents were engaged in education while 12 percent of respondents were service holders. Similarly, 16 percent of tourists were businessmen and the remaining 34 percent were involved in different occupations including farming, social work, etc. Similarly, service holders consisted of teachers, lawyers, technicians, engineers, physicians, nurses, and government officials. Thus the sample is representative of different countries, ages and occupations.

Tourists visit Megghauli for different purposes. Table no. 5.3 exposes the different purposes of tourists visiting Megghauli.

Table no. 5.3 Purpose of Tourists' Visit in Megghauli (no.50)

Purpose of Visit	Number	Percent
Sightseeing	5	10
Peace and Relaxation	9	18
Visiting Tribal Villages	16	32
Boating	2	4
Pilgrimage	4	8
Research	2	4
Business	7	14
Education	2	4
Health	3	6
Total	50	100%

Source: Field Survey 2014.

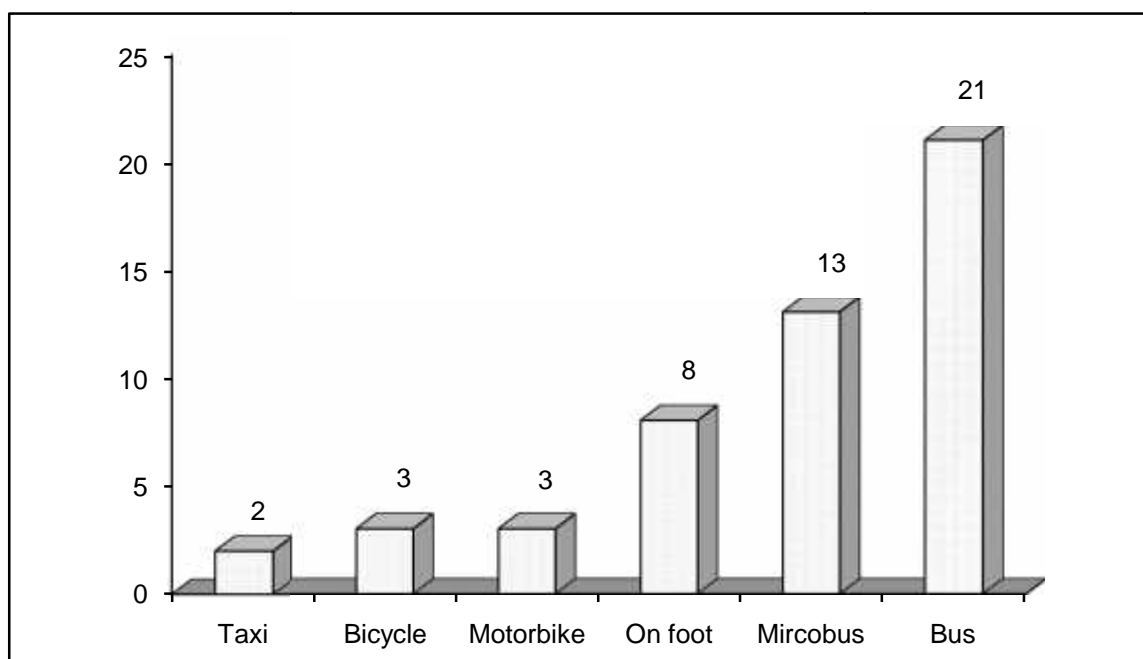
The main purpose of visiting Megghauli by the tourists is visiting tribal villages, followed by peace and relaxation, business, sightseeing,

pilgrimage, health and others. These different tourist attractions justify prospects of tourism development in Megghauli VDC.

Concerning the repetition of visit by tourists, 78 percent were visiting Megghauli for the first time, it means that 22 percent of them were visiting Megghauli again. Of them, 12 percent were visiting for the second time, 6 percent for the third time, and the rest 4 percent for more than three times. When asked if they would like to visit Megghauli again, 96 percent replied positively and 4 percent replied in negative way.

Although the Megghauli VDC is not touched by any national level Highway, there is the facility of roadways and airways services. There are various mode of transportation available in Megghauli, such as microbus, bicycle, taxi, car, motorcycle, bus etc. The tourists' preference of various means of transportation can be seen from figure 5.2.

Figure No. 5.2 Means of Transportation Used by Tourists Visiting Megghauli (No.50)



Source : Field Survey, 2014.

The majority of tourists visit Megghauli by bus (21 out of 50). The other means of transportation are bicycle, on foot, motorbike, microbus, taxi. Hence the buses are the most popular means of transport used by tourists visiting Megghauli. Large number of tourists, 13 out of 50, used microbus services for transportation. There is no government operated transport system and the transportation system operated by the private sector is very poor. Almost the roads to the tourist areas are graveled and muddy. VDC and DDC have made plan to pitch the area in coming fiscal year.

On an average, a tourist visiting Megghauli spends Rs. 1052 Nepalese currency on lodging, and Rs.2644 on fooding per day. The distribution of expenditure is shown in table 5.4.

**Table No. 5.4 Expenditure Pattern of Tourists Visiting Megghauli
(per day)**

N. Rs.	Lodging		Fooding	
	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Below 800	5	26.32	1	5.26
800-1600	14	73.68	2	10.53
1600-2600	-	-	9	47.37
2600-above	-	-	7	36.84
Total	19	100.00	19	100.00

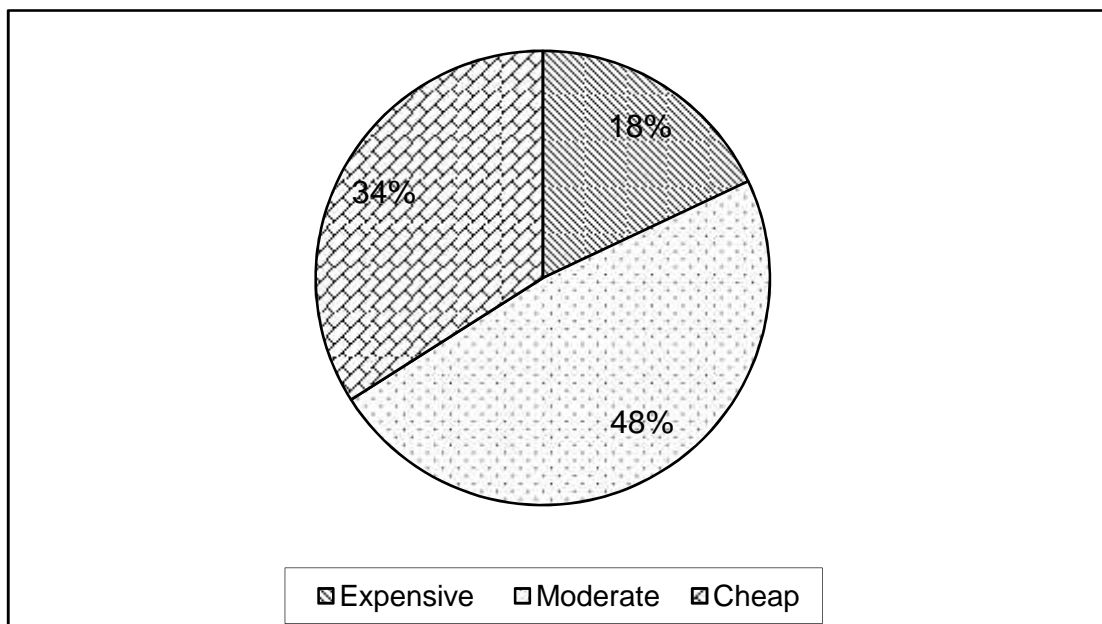
Source: Field Survey, 2014.

Above table shows that 26.32 percent of international tourists visiting Megghauli spend less than Rs. 800 on lodging. Similarly, 5.26 percent spend less than Rs. 800 on fooding. On an average, tourists spend Rs. 1500 on purchase of local items and other activities. It indicates that there are presently not many activities for the tourists and hence not much scope for tourists to spend money in Megghauli. Thus, there is need of

creating more activities and opening new avenues for more spending by tourists.

The present prices charged for lodging and fooding in Megghauli seem to be moderate as viewed by the majority of tourists. Some 18 percent respondents felt that the prices are on the higher side while 34 percent feel that the prices are cheap. And for remaining it is moderate. Figure no. 5.3 shows the price viewed by the tourists.

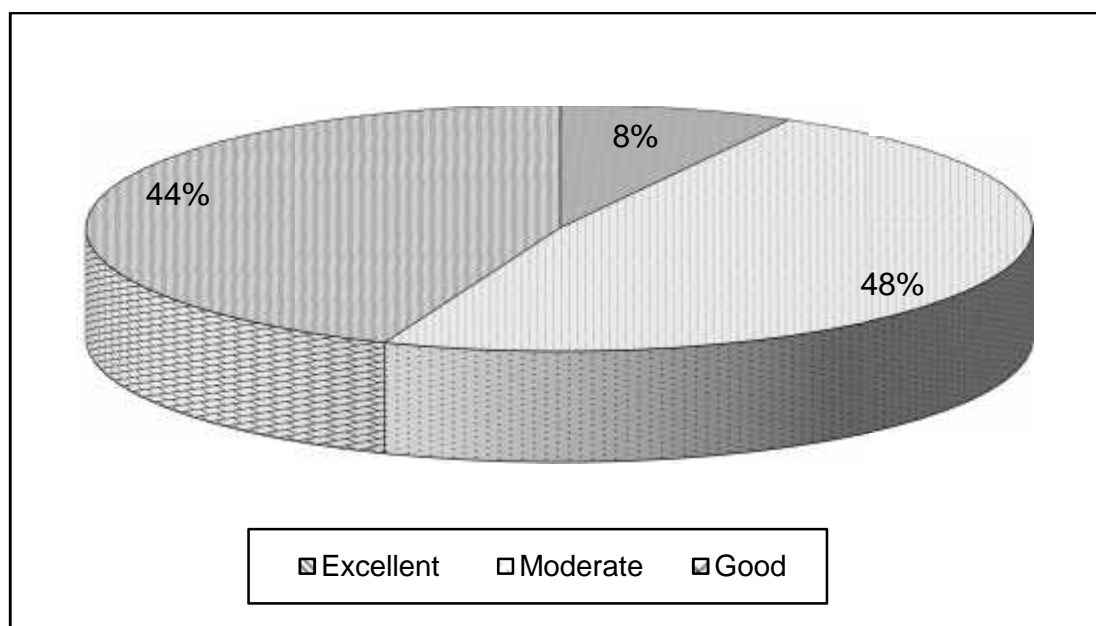
Figure No. 5.3 Evaluation of Price by Tourists (No. 50)



Source : Field Survey, 2014.

Regarding the standards of lodging and fooding, the majority of tourists felt that the standard was good , 8 percent felt that it was excellent, and 18 percent felt that it was moderate. Figure no. 5.4 presents the figure of tourists response on the standard of lodging and fooding.

**Figure No. 5.4 Evaluation of Lodging and Fooding by Tourists
(No. 50)**



Source : Field Survey, 2014.

In an attempt to determine the prospect of tourism in Meghauli, respondents were asked whether favorable prospects for tourism exist in Meghauli. The results are indicated in table no. 5.5

Table No. 5.5 Prospects of Tourism in Meghauli from tourist's Eyes

Prospect	Number	Percent
Very Favorable	15	30
Favorable	22	44
Unfavorable	3	6
Don't Know	10	20
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2014.

The majority of tourists, 44 percent, felt that favorable prospects exist for tourism development in Meghauli. There are 30 percent tourists who feel

that tourism prospects in Meghauli is very favorable. Unfavorable prospects are seen by only 6 percent of respondents.

To promote tourism, the development of tourism infrastructure is must. The study of tourists' opinions on tourism infrastructure in Meghauli is hence considered very important. The tourists were asked to evaluate the different infrastructure facilities on a five points scale. 1 is for most excellent facility and 5 is for very bad facility.

Table No. 5.5 Evaluation of Tourism Infrastructure by the Tourists in Meghauli. (No.50)

Items	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Cleanliness	16	10	9	11	4	50
Road	5	14	15	10	6	50
Behavior	27	7	9	3	4	50
Electricity	7	10	15	15	3	50
Water	7	19	16	5	3	50
Sanitation	9	17	15	6	3	50
Drainage	6	15	13	11	5	50
Security	10	17	15	4	4	50
Tourist guide	3	5	12	12	18	50
Hotel Facilities	8	10	19	3	10	50

Source: Field Survey, 2014.

According to tourists, the facilities that are considered poor in order of their importance are: Tourist guide, road, drainage, electricity, water, hotel facilities, sanitation, and so on. The facilities that are considered good, in order of their importance, are behaviors of people, cleanliness and security.

This kind of results is not surprising in a place where there is no proper tourism program. Some infrastructural facilities are good while others are poor.

5.3 The Survey of Hotels

Hotel industry plays a dominant role in tourism development. This section presents the results of the survey of local hotels and lodges. According to the record of Megghauli VDC there are 242 hotels and lodges in Megghauli. The results are based on the structured interview to 6 hotels which were selected by random sampling.

Out of the 6 hotels and lodges, 4 are in operation in the respondents' own premises while two are on rented premises. These 6 hotels and restaurants are owned and operated in the private sector. Those hotels and lodges which are operating in rented premises are on an average paying a rent of Rs.40, 000 per month.

The level of income generated by the hotels and restaurants varies widely across hotels. Table 5.7 shows the income distribution of hotels and lodges in Megghauli.

Table No. 5.7 Income Distribution of Hotels in Meghauli

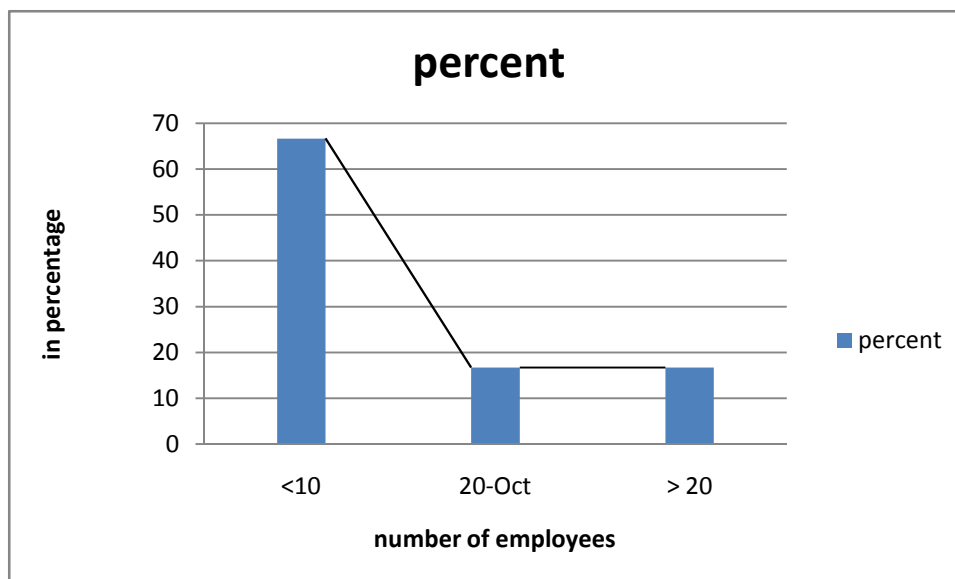
Annual Income N. Rs.	Number of Hotels	Percentage
Below-80,000	4	66.66
80,000-2,00,000	1	16.67
2,00,000-Above	1	16.67
Total	6	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2014.

The majority of the hotels, 66.66 percent, have an annual average income of Rs. 80000 or less. Similarly, 16.67 percent of hotels have an annual average income between Rs. 80000 to Rs. 200000. In general, the yearly average income of the hotels is Rs.93, 000.

A number of people have been employed by the hotels and lodges in Meghauli. Figure 5.6 shows the persons employed by these hotels.

Figure No.5.5 Employment Provided by the Hotels in Meghauli



Source: Field Survey, 2014.

Above figure shows that 66.66 percent of hotels have employed 9 persons less whereas 16.67 percent have employed 10 to 20 persons. Some 16.67 percent of hotels in Megghauli offer employment more than 20 persons. As a result, the monthly salary of all the workers in these hotels is also small as presented in table No. 5.8.

Table No. 5.8 Monthly Salary of Workers in Hotels in Megghauli

Salary	No. of workers	Percentage
Below-3,000	35	62.5
3,000-6,000	12	21.4
6,000-Above	9	16.1
Total	56	100

Source: Field Survey, 2014.

The monthly salary of the majority of workers in the hotels and restaurants, 62.5 percent, is 3,000 or less. 12 percent of the workers have a monthly salary of Rs. 3,000 to 6,000 while 16.1 percent have a monthly salary more than 6,000. The average monthly salary of all the workers has become Rs. 5196. The hotels lack trained and professional manpower.

The initial average capital outlay of the hotels and restaurants has been worked out to be Rs.2,00,000 per establishment. Most of these hotels have increased their investment. Presently, the average capital outlay has been worked out to be Rs. 7, 00,000 per establishment. Thus, the capital outlay of the hotels has increased by 3.5 times. Most of these hotels are financed by without any loan from financial institutions while 33.3 percent are financed by loan from financial institutions.

The business condition of Megghauli's hotels seem to be good. Almost all hotels indicated that they are operating at a profit. The main reason for

choosing Megghauli for their business is that many tourists visit Megghauli (50 percent). About 33.3 percent of respondents believe that they see better prospect in the tourism industry. Only 16.67 percent think that they are in the current business because of their home town.

The number of tourists in hotels and restaurants varies widely from one season to another. Normally, the average number of tourists in the hotels and restaurants is 10 persons. But during the season, the average goes up to 19 persons while during the off season the average falls to 6 persons. The duration of stay by most of the tourists in Megghauli is one night. This duration of stay has been noticed to be quite short. It is due to the lack of activities for the tourists in Megghauli.

The room charges of the hotels, on an average, have been Rs.400 for the single bed room while the same is Rs.600 for the double bed room. In Megghauli, there are 130 rooms and 86 beds in total. Thus, per establishment average number of rooms is 6 while the average number of bed is 32. About 44 percent of the tourists are of the opinion that hotels are sufficient in Megghauli while the rest 56 percent think that they are not sufficient. Tourists, on an average, spend Rs.500 per night for lodging.

The procurement of daily necessities by the hotels is done mainly from the local market in Megghauli. Only about 16.67 percent are procured from outside Megghauli. It means procurement from the local market is maximum.

As mentioned earlier, the development of tourism infrastructure is very important for tourism development. The hotels were therefore asked to evaluate the different infrastructure facilities on a five point scale as shows the table no. 5.9, 1 is for most excellent facility and 5 is for very bad facility.

Table No. 5.9 Evaluation of Tourism Infrastructure by Hotels in Megghauli (No.6)

Items	1	2	3	4	5
Communication facilities	2	1	2	1	-
Cleanliness of place	2	1	2	1	-
Road condition	-	1	3	1	1
Behavior	4	1	1	-	-
Electricity	1	1	3	-	1
Water	2	2	1	-	1
Sanitation	2	1	2	1	-
Drainage	1	1	1	2	1
Security	1	2	2	1	-
Tourist Guide	1	1	2	2	-
Hotel facilities	3	1	2	-	-

Source: Field Survey, 2014.

The infrastructure facilities that are bad or poor in order of their importance as perceived by the hotels are Road condition, Drainage, Security, Tourist Guide. However, there is not much problem with other facilities such as communication, sanitation, cleanliness and others.

5.4 The Survey of Residents

This section presents the result of the survey of local residents. The results are based on 50 randomly selected households selecting 10 from each ward no. 1, 2, 5, 7 and 8. The average size of households in Megghauli has been 4.8 percent. On average, male constitute 49.9%. Tourism in Megghauli seems to have had a good impact on local residents. The development of tourism in Megghauli has brought many changes in the lives of local residents. About 54% of local residents have benefited

from tourism in Megghauli, while 26% of local residents have not. The rest 20 percents seems to be confused whether they were benefited from tourism or not.

The local residents have got an opportunity to learn many new things, good as well as bad. There is need to maximize the good effects of tourism, and minimize the bad effects. Anyway changes in their life style are taking place with the growth of tourism in Megghauli.

The local residents have benefited from tourism in many ways. The discussion with the local residents revealed that their land value has increased tremendously, kept doubling every two to three years. They could get employment in the local hotels. Among others, the following are the benefits of tourism to the local residents: increase in the price of land; employment in the hotels; increase in rental values of lands and buildings; supply of goods and services to the tourist; increase in opportunity to do business; increase in infrastructure facility such as water, electricity, roads, etc.; children receiving gifts from tourists; learning new things from the tourist including new languages.

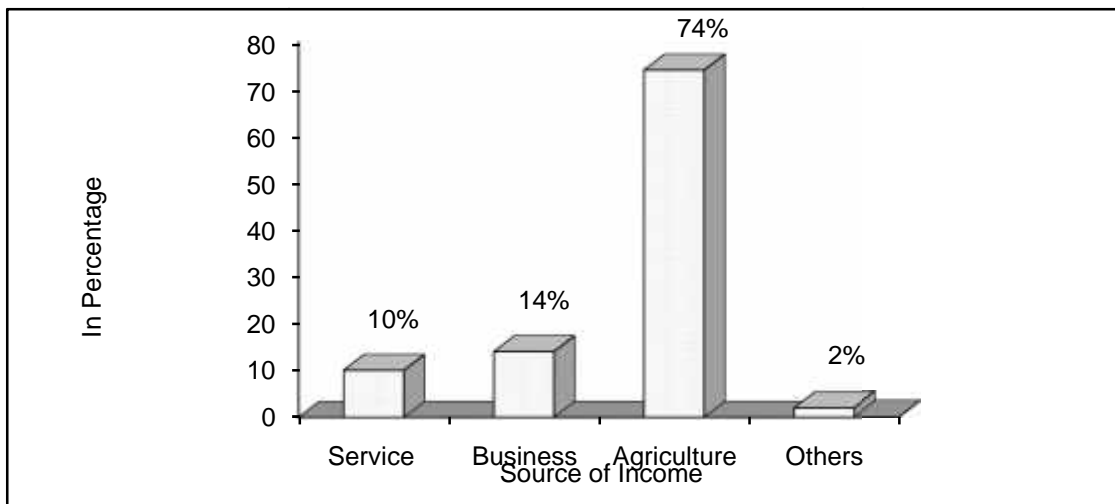
With the increase in the number of tourist visiting Megghauli, investment in infrastructure activities like water, electricity and roads have also increase, though the increase is not in direct proportion. The increase in this facilities has benefited not only the tourism sector but other sectors of the economy as well. In the same way, tourist facilities such as hotels, restaurants, roads, etc., are also shared by both domestic tourist and the international tourists.

Despite of the above benefits, there are also negative impacts of tourism on the local resident. The major complaints against tourism are that it leads to an increase in the prices of all commodities, increased

westernization, solid waste management problems, and sanitation problems. Children generally swarm around the tourist either with the intention of begging or watching their activities. Local residents, specially the children and teen agers, generally learn quickly bad habits such as smoking and drinking alcohol. With the increase in the tourist activities, life is becoming more and more unsafe. Traditional culture begins erode slowly and steadily, and residents have become more materialistic than ever before.

Agriculture is still a major source of income to local resident. About 74 percents of respondents earn their livelihood from agriculture. Similarly, 14 percents of respondents have business while the rest 10 percents have service as the main source of income that figure no. 5.6 shows. About 2 percent are engaged in other occupations.

Figure No. 5.6 Major Source of Income of Local Residents.



Source: The Field Survey, 2014.

The above figure 5.6 explores the occupation adopted by the people of Megghauli. The average income of a household from agriculture is 42,000 per annum or less while average income from services 75,000 per annum.

The average income from business is 1,00,000 or more per annum. Thus agriculture is becoming less attractive slowly among the residents.

Tourism has an important role to play in the economic upliftment of local people. They get opportunities to sale their goods and services locally to the hotels and tourists at reasonable prices. They are thus able to save time that could be utilized for some other productive works to increase their income. This trend is likely to continue in future too and hence it seems that the further development of tourism is likely to raise economic well-being of the people.

The local residents are of the opinion that the promotion of tourism has promoted a number of industries as well. First and foremost, the hotel industry, followed by poultry, livestock farming, fish farming, rice mills, oil mills, curds and so on.

During the survey, one of the questions asked of the respondents related to the kind of change they noticed with the increase in the number of tourists visiting Megghauli. The general impact of tourism in Megghauli can be seen from table no. 5.10.

Table No.5.10 General Impact of Tourism as Viewed by Local Residents

Statement	Total Respo- ndence	Yes		No	
		No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Megghauli has gone more dirty	50	35	70	15	30
Deforestation	50	30	60	20	40
Adverse effects on the life of the people	50	15	30	35	70
Price rise	50	43	86	7	14
Local people have become more selfish	50	10	20	40	80
Creation of the opportunities for the local people	50	48	96	2	4
Enlargement of market and increase in production	50	49	98	1	2

Source: The Field Survey, 2014.

As the table no. 5.10 shows most of the respondents, 98%, accept that tourism has enlarged market and increased production. Similarly, 48 people or 96% have accepted creation of the opportunities for the local people. 35 respondents or 70% have seen adverse effect in Megghauli like it has gone more dirty while 20 percent take tourism as selfish maker.

Tourism promotion is linked to environmental problems. Increase in environmental problems means decline in the tourism industry. Infrastructure activities are in a very poor state in Megghauli. The majority of local residents do not have good toilet facilities. There is also a problem of solid waste collection and disposal in Megghauli. Presently

there is no system of any kind for solid waste collection and disposal. But the villagers manage it in traditional ways. Disposal of solid waste on the road is a very common practice. Almost all the respondents feel that there is a need for improvement in garbage pickup and control.

5.5 Survey of Experts

Though there is no doubt about tourism is a industry that can enhance the economic condition of the people. There is need to develop it. But there are some obstacles for the development of tourism. Table no 5.11 shows the obstacles as viewed by 10 experts in Megghauli VDC.

Table No. 5.11 Obstacles for the Development of Tourism in Megghauli as Viewed by Experts (No.10)

Obstacles	Respondents	
	Number	Percent
Lack of rule and regulation	2	20
Difficulty in transportation	1	10
Inadequacy of accommodation	2	20
Lack of education for common people	1	10
Lack of information about new areas	4	40
Dirty untidy condition	0	0
Total	10	100%

Source: The Field Survey, 2014

As table no. 5.11 shows, the most of the experts view the lack of information about new areas as major obstacles of tourism in Megghauli. Lack of rule and regulation and inadequacy of accommodation are other obstacles for the development of tourism in Megghauli. Apart from these

lack of education for common people and difficulty in transportation etc. are other obstacles of the development of the tourism.

5.6 Impact of Tourism in the Study Area

5.6.1 Economic Impact

Tourism has become a main employment source as well as foreign exchange of currency in Nepal. The flow of money generated by tourist's expenditure multiplies as it passes through various section of the economy. In this way there is no doubt that tourism industry by which a number of young men in Meghauri are becoming financially sound. Employment ranges from the manpower working for the hotels, lodges, shops to those engaged directly or indirectly in the tourist sector. By the tourism labour price has been increased so many labours are interested in the field rather than agriculture. So there is shortage of labour in agricultural field. Most of the local residents are also benefited with the development of tourism industry in Meghauri. They got opportunity to sell their products to the hotels and tourist. They are also getting a reasonable price.

So far, tourism in Meghauri has changed the economic status as well as living standard of people. It has also benefited neighboring villages. Tourism in Meghauri can be emphasized so much that it is the only feasible industry, which may bring economic well being of the local people. In this connection, it is necessary to co-ordinate the activity of local people with the tourism activities.

Finally, tourism in Meghauri has left positive impact in the economy. With the growth of tourism in Meghauri the land value has been increased. A number of industries have flourished especially hotel

industry, poultry farming, vegetable farming, dairy production, pig farming, traditional cultural show, home- stay programme etc. These industries are helping to eliminate poverty of the local people. Tourism in Megghauli plays vital role for employment opportunities for local people and market for local products.

5.6.2 Social Impact

Tourism has its impact on social condition of Megghauli. It has also shown the positive as well as negative social impact in the society. But negative impact seems to be negligible than the positive ones. Poor people of Megghauli have no relation with direct income from tourism but they are indirectly benefited due to their domestic and agricultural production, contribution of labours and fuel wood suppliers in the hotels and restaurants.

The development of tourism industry in Megghauli has brought a number of changes on the life style of local people because they are getting job and engagement on their own business. The residents have opportunities to learn many things from the tourists such as how to behave with people, importance of education and about the physical and natural environment.

5.6.3 Cultural Impact

Tourism in Megghauli has also made cultural impact. The life styles of people have been changed. By the development of tourism in Megghauli, it has created impact on local people both negatively and positively. It has initiated for a new business instead of their traditional occupation of farming. Similarly by the growth of tourism in Megghauli, it has provided the opportunity to learn cross culture and moral values. But, tourism industry has also brought some negative impacts in Megghauli, such as

prostitution, gambling, drinking, smoking, etc. the new generation is being influenced seriously.

5.6.4 Environmental Impact

The environmental impact is thus, the outcomes of men's activities including industrial and developmental works. The two rivers Rapati and Narayani are being polluted. Air pollution is also increasing.

Tourism development in Meghauli is destroying the natural ecosystem such as air pollution, destruction of forest, river pollution, so on. Increasing construction in Meghauli causes great damage to the environment. The increase in the number of cemented house in Meghauli shows that the natural environment is being lost day by day.

But today, society is being conscious on the matter of ecology, ecosystem and environment. Plantation, conservation and preservation of natural resources have been the slogans of environmentalists. A number of NGOs have flourished, as their mission, to make the public environmentally conscious.

5.7 Potentialities of Tourism

Potentialities of tourism development in any area are influenced by different geographical, cultural, religious elements. The components of prospects of tourism development include: accessibility and location, space, scenery, climate, settlement features and culture of the area.

Meghauli has its own scope for tourism development. Meghauli is colored with diversity in both social and natural. People over recent years have migrated from hilly region or from other parts of Nepal to establish

hotels in Megghauli. More than 30 percent of the total numbers of hotels are run by owners outside Chitwan.

When a tourist decides to make his destination to the Megghauli, he/she is likely to spend a minimum of 2 days. The destination offers village tour, Tharu culture, Wildlife safari (elephant riding), Nach culture, boating, peaceful environment, religious and cultural places, beautiful lakes, jungle watch and bird watching, sunset view etc.

The other fundamental attractions of tourism in Megghauli are natural beauties, pleasant weather, colorful different communities and their life styles with different languages, fairs, Naches. People friendly behaviors of locals and their festivals, ceremonies are other parts of tourist's attractions.

Megghauli has bright potentialities for tourism development of which are listed below:

5.7.1 Scenic Attraction

Megghauli is a great natural cantonment with outstanding scenic beauty and graceful charm. Megghauli is situated in the joint venture (confluence) of two big rivers Rapti and Narayani which are covered by green lands. Golaghat, Bish hazaar lake, Sattri hazaar lake, Bikram Baba, Chitwan National Park etc areas are attractive and important for the tourism. Megghauli as a basket, full of variety of cultural practices, languages and casts and ethnics, presents attractive destination for different tourist: cultural, religious, educational and research, historical, sociological, anthropological, etc.

5.7.2 Pleasant climate

Climate is basic primary elements for the development of tourism in any tourist destination. Meghauli has very pleasant and healthier climate throughout the year due to the different three types of forests: Government, private and community. As it lies in sub-tropical region there is neither very hot nor very cold. In these days, because of global environmental conditions, afternoons of the summer are being little bit hotter and winter is being little bit colder. Most of the months in a year have bright sunshine and cloudless sky, which attracts tourists. Tourists want fine weather and warm sunshine. A good weather is important because it plays an important role making holiday pleasant.

5.7.3 Religious sites

Religious attractions also play an important role to develop tourism of the place. Especially pilgrimage tourism develops in such places. Meghauli is filled with different religious places as there live diverse religious people. Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist and different tribes and ethnics who respect nature present the unique destination for different religions. Om KalikaBhagabatiMandir, Radha Krishna Mandir, SatyaSai Kendra, Ganesh Mandir, Shiv Mandir, GhanibagiyaMahadevMandir, Church, Masjid, NamachhuBaudhaGumba are some of the sacred religious places in Meghauli.

There are Ganesh Mandir, DhanesworMahadev, Radha-Krishna Mandir, Ram-JanakiMandir, SaraswatiMandir, KritanBhawan (Praying building), YagyaMandap, Dharmasala library and heart pleasing park. Though people come here every month, especially in the time of ChaiteDashain, BadaDashain it is more crowded.

Situated in 175 meter high from mean sea-level, the Bikram baba temple is related with aborigin Tharus' cultural integration as well as the friendship among the people of these area. Rakchhabandhan's time the mandir is crowed though people come there in every season.

Full of primitive art and architecture different temples' area occupies BhairavMandir, PatesworeeMandir, BalaSundariMandir, , BaiznachMandir, ecological garden, Pravat Art Centre, Yogshila Centre, Gaushala and Bhandar. Every year in the day of Chaite Dashain there held a fair, Bikrambaba Mela. There is held another fair once a year at first day of Magh or MagheSankranti. There is crowd of tourist from different countries as well as domestic areas.

5.7.4 Cultural Attractions

Chitwan is rich in cultural attractions. Meghauri is a home of more than 20 different casts and ethnics. Culture basically traditional culture, is a great motivation factor of attraction to tourists in Meghauri. Tharu culture, Nach culture are some of the distinct cultures found in Meghauri from other places of Nepal. In most part of Meghauri different typical culture, Nach culture can be observed. Different dances such as BhumeNach, LathiNach, SakhyapaiyaNach, SeringeNach, SorathiNach are the attractions of the Meghauri. Different fairs such as Bikrambaba Mela PhirfireMela, DhungeMela are held once a year. Meghauri mahotsav is also organized in each of two years.

5.7.5 Tourism Infrastructure in Meghauri

Tourism infrastructure plays an important role for the rapid development of tourism. It includes transportation, accommodation, water, security, medical facilities, auto repair, communication, bank, tourists, sports etc.

These are the basic requirements for tourism promotion. Trained manpower is also required for the expansion of tourism. Thus tourism cannot be promoted unless there is maximum infrastructure development. Development of tourism infrastructure in Megghauli is a recent phenomenon. Megghauli VDC, Chitwan DDC, Chitwan tourism board, Megghauli tourism board and other stakeholder organizations are keeping the development of infrastructure of Megghauli in primary part.

There are 6 water user Organizations in Megghauli with about 4705 private tap and 97 public tap. 1 health center is providing its health services to the people. There are 7 private Ilaka Police Office, Traffic Office and Nepal Army Gun are providing security to Megghauli.

20 Cooperative institutions, 5 banks, 11 Saving and Credit Cooperative institutions, 5 Agriculture Cooperative institutions running their financial programs. 3 multipurpose cooperatives, 2 Dugdha cooperatives, 1 mahuri cooperative, 1 health cooperative are also helping to enhance the financial well being or facilities. Likewise 5 life insurance and 2 non-life insurance companies are there in Megghauli. There are 7 non-government Organizations, registered in Megghauli VDC, and other community clubs running their programs in their areas. 5 high quality hotels and other 237 hotels welcoming tourists with their capacity. Recently District Development Committee in the collaboration with hotels, has established Tourism Information Centre in Hotel Taal Barahi in Megghauli.

5.8 Problems of Tourism in the Study Area

Tourism is also like a coin which has two sides. No doubt it proves itself as important for the development of underdeveloped countries like Nepal, but it also possesses problems. So far, there are many problems associated with tourism development in Megghauli. Tourism can't enjoy as

they expect due to the lack of modern facilities. If modern and recreational facilities are provided in Megghauli and if modern accommodation facilities are developed in Megghauli crowd of tourist may be increased. The major problems associated with the tourism in Megghauli as shown by present study are given below.

5.8.1 Transportation

Transportation facilities is assumed to be the milestone when considering tourism infrastructure development. But transportation facilities in Megghauli are not good. Most of the road of Megghauli is graveled and muddy. whatever the pitched, they are also in ruined. Air services from Kathmandu to Megghauli are not regular nowadays. Buses from Narayangarh are crowd. Tourist cannot get proper bus services to tourist's areas of Megghauli. Tourist are facing a problem in going to Megghauli. There are only gravel roads around the tourist areas.

5.8.2 Communication

Communication is equally important to develop the tourism business. Today is the day when modern communication can pass the message around the world within a minute. But the network is bad. There is no facility to book rooms or inquiry about the facilities of the hotels and about tourism areas by tourists from distance. There is no sufficient facility of communication.

5.8.3 Trained Manpower

Train manpower plays vital role for successful tourism development in any tourist destination. There is a lack of trained guide and sociologist and anthropologist who can explain in detail about the society and culture of Megghauli. Some of the tourist broker and local people have lack of

discipline and manners which had a bad impression upon tourist and it also creates serious problems to deal with their guests. So the guide facility in every hotel should be improved by related training. Hotel managers should be educated and trained as well as there must be comprehensive training curriculum course for guide with good knowledge in history, culture and ecology.

5.8.4 Electricity

There was no electricity facility in Megghauli some years ago. People spend a lot of kerosene before some year of the tourist areas. Now all the area have electricity facility. But again, Hotels and lodges use generator due to the irregularity of electricity and facing problems.

5.8.5 Drinking Water

There is not so much difficulties in drinking water supply in Megghauli. Most of the family are using underground water through pumpset, hand set, tubewell etc. Though again, VDC and DDC are trying to provide drinking water in a easy way.

5.8.6 Sanitation

Solid waste management and dumping site belonging is most important problem in Megghauli VDC. The VDC collects wastes only of the some urban emerging areas out of it. Villagers are managing the solid waste disposal is a regular part of daily life in traditional way. Environment cannot be clear unless it is managed properly and systematically.

5.8.7 Ecological Problems

Clearing forest and agricultural lands to make multi-storied buildings and hotels causes ecological problems, which destroys valuable flora and fauna. The increase of unmanaged urbanization within Meghauri is a barrier to the promotion of tourism and it leads to the deterioration of the eco-system.

5.8.8 Social Problems

Incoming of tourists invites social problems in the society. They kiss each other in public places, which is against our culture. Moreover prostitution, drug-addiction get free entrance in Meghauri. These bring unnecessary emotions and social evils in the Nepalese society.

5.8.9 Information Centre and Publicity

Most of the tourists visiting Nepal do not know about Meghauri. So tourism information centre should be opened in Kathmandu or other important tourism areas of the Nepal. The information centre should be well equipped and facilitated with information technology, information services and documents. DDC of Chitwan has opened tourism information centre in Bharatpur but the tragedy is that it is primitive. There is no good program for the publicity of the tourism areas.

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

6.1 Summary

Today tourism has become an important means for the development of whether it be the developed country or the developing country. Tourism is not only important for economically well being but also for the interaction between or among different society and culture. It provides foreign currency to improve country's balance of payment and helps in creating employment opportunities and in helping of agricultural development and the raising of living standards of the people. It also share the ideas and culture of different nations. It can also develop concept of brotherhood of all people of the world.

There is no doubt the fact that Nepal, with its great natural and cultural potentials, is an attractive tourist destination in the world. In the present changed context with peace in country, Nepalese tourism is gaining momentum for the benefit of common people. As major attractions of Nepalese tourism are its culture, nature and people, many of destinations are still demanding to be discovered or recognized.

Meghauli is one of the important emerging tourist destinations with enchanting natural and cultural heritage. The tourism impact on Meghauli are both positive and negative but positive is more than negative. Though, social and cultural effect also can be noticed in Meghauli, economical effect is greater. People have got direct employment in hotels, lodges and shops and indirect employment as well.

It is important to introduce different virgin spots for tourism to increase the length of stay of tourism. The inflow of tourists is increasing in

Megghauli because of the diverse cultural and natural heritages. The unique tharu culture, , favorable climate, beautiful natural scenery and different historical and religious sites are the attractive places for tourists.

Tourism in Nepal has reached that stage where it needs its diversification. The new sources of attractions are to be explored so as to attract more and more tourists. In this connection this study attempts to find out the problems and prospects of tourism in Megghauli. The lack of good policy making, underdevelopment condition and lack of information about new places are the major obstacles of the tourism development in Nepal.

6.2 Findings

1. The impact of tourism in Megghauli is more positive than negative that seems negligible compared to positive one.
2. Tourist visit Megghauli basically for the sake of cultural, religious, natural beauties.
3. Majority of tourists visit Megghauli are from India rather than other countries.
4. The major attractive areas for tourists in Megghauli are unique tharu village, Golaghat, Bikrambaba, Kasara-crocodile breeding center, and others.
5. Development of tourists' infrastructure in Megghauli is a recent phenomenon. Near about 7 hotels and lodges are with advanced necessary facilities for tourists.
6. The great majority of villagers are of the opinion that the development of tourism would help the promotion of village and cottage industry.

7. There are several problems in the selected tourist' area, these problems are associated with transportation, communication, recreational facilities, accommodation facilities, trained personal and so on.
8. Well planning is necessary for adequately managed tourism and bring more positive benefit.

6.3 Conclusion

Tourism being the important source of income and the socio-cultural interactions among different cultures presents itself a blessing, if managed properly, for the development of countries like Nepal.

Tourism focuses on local cultures, natural beauties and people's behavior as well as the facility and sanitation. It includes the activities related directly and indirectly to the person away from his home. Megghauli with both natural and cultural attractions, lies between two rivers Narayani and Rapti in Chitwan, proves itself a unique destination for tourists.

Full of historical, cultural, religious, social, economic, natural, geographical, ecological attractions Megghauli enchants tourists to visit at least once in a year to everyone.

Because of the increase in tourism, the hotel's number is also increasing. Most of the residents approve that tourism has better effect on them than bad.

Though there are many temples, lakes, Gumba and cultural attractions such as Nach, Fairs, it seems it has a lack of system. Tourism infrastructure development has still been in poor condition.

Poorly planned tourism can invade local culture and natural beauties thus the development of responsible tourism as well as the properly plan for tourism is needed.

6.4 Recommendations

It is well-accepted that the tourism is the backbone of the economy as well as foreign relation or cultural relation for with other cultures for the countries like Nepal. So far, tourism in Megghauli plays the vital role for the socio-economic development as well as the source of earning for the people. In order to promote future tourism development in Megghauli, the following recommendation should be taken up.

1. It is important to build awareness and respect for the conservation of environment and cultural sites.
2. There should be a separate department in VDC and DDC to publish the tourist information to guide and help tourists.
3. There is a need of visionful master plan for the proper development of tourism.
4. There is a need of minimization of bad effects as far as possible.
5. Standards of the hotels should be increased.
6. Tourist oriented programs should be launched.
7. The rivers are being polluted it is sure in future if there is no proper plan to conserve them they may cast odor like Bagmati and Bishnumati in Kathmandu. Thus river sanitation program should be launched.

8. Megghauli has many attractive places but is on the shadow of tourism development thus wide publicity should be made to make Megghauli popular among the tourists.
9. The guide facility should be improved by hiring trained people or experts in the field.
10. There is no systematic recording process thus recording system of tourists should be improved.
11. Most of the foreign tourists come in Megghauli from India, thus there should be focused programs for them to increase the number even further.

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ANNEX I

A. Questionnaire for Tourists:

Name:

Education:

Nationality:

Occupation:

Age:

Sex:

1. By which means of transportation you come to Meghauli?

a) Local Bus

b) Travel Coach

c) Car

d) Motor Cycle

2. Is it your first visit?

Yes

No

4. If no, how many times did you visit here?

Second

Third

Fourth

More than fourth

5. What is your purpose of visit to Meghauli?

a) Sightseeing

b) Peace and Relaxation

c) Visiting Tribal Village

d) Boating

e) Pilgrimage

f) Research

g) Business

h) Education

i) Health

6. How many days do you think to stay here? -----
7. How much are you spending per day over following?
- a) Fooding----- b) Lodging-----
- c) Travelling----- d) Recreation-----
8. What is your opinion of lodging and fooding of Meghauli?
- a) Expensive----- b) Moderate-----
- c) Cheap-----
9. What makes you more satisfied in your visit to Meghauli?
- a) Sight-seeing b) Peaceful Environment
- c) Village and villager's life d) culture
10. What do you expect in Meghauli for further improvements in tourism activities ?
- a) Lodging b) Fooding
- c) Guide d) Sight-seeing
11. Do you think to come back again?
- Yes No
12. What do you think about the prospect of tourism in Meghauli ?
- a) Very favorable b) Favorable c) Unfavorable d) Don't Know

13. How do you Evaluate the tourism infrastructure in Meghauli ?

Content	Very good (1)	Good	Moderate	Don't know	Bad
a. Cleanliness					
b. Road					
c. Hospitality					
d. Electricity					
e. Water					
f. Drainage					
g. Transportation					
h. Security					
i. Tourist Guide					
j. Hotel facilities					

B. Questionnaire for Lodge/ Hotel Owners:

Name of Hotel/ Lodge

Name of Hotel owners

Per Address

Established

1. It the present hotel/ lodge your own house or you have taken in on rent?

My own on rent

2. What is your level of income per annum?

a) Less than Rs. 80,000 b) Rs. 80,000 to 2,00,000

c) Rs. 2,00,000 Above

3. How many employees have been employed by you?

----- Persons

4. On an average, how many tourists visit your hotel/lodge in a month?

a) Normally----- per month b) Peak season----- per month

c) Off season----- per month

5. What is your initial capital outlay? Rs. -----

6. What is your initial now? Rs. -----

7. On an average, for how many days tourists generally stay in your hotel/lodge?

Less ----- or More-----than 5 nights

8. How many rooms and beds are there in your hotel/lodge?

Rooms----- Beds-----

9. What are the facilities available for tourist in your hotel/lodge?
- a) fooding b) Lodging
- c) Fooding and lodging d) Tourist guide
10. How much do you charge for the room?
- Rs.-----for single bedroom
- Rs.-----for double bedroom
11. How much a tourist normally spends per night? Rs-----
12. Do you think hotel/lodges are sufficient in Megghauli?
- Yes----- No-----
13. Is your business in profit at present?
- Yes----- No-----
14. Why did you choose Megghauli for your business?
- a) Because many tourists visit this place.
- b) It is my home place.
- c) It is convenient.
- d) I see better prospect in tourism industry.
15. What are the main problems of tourism? -----

C. Questionnaire for Residents:

Location: Ward No. Area:

Name: Sex;

Family size:

1. What is your occupation?

a) Business b) Service

c) Student d) Others

2. Are you satisfied with your income from this occupation?

Yes No

3. What are your income sources?

a) Agriculture Rs.----- per annum

b) Service Rs-----per annum

c) Business Rs-----per annum

d) Others Rs-----per annum

4. What are the peak season and off-season of tourists visit?

5. What types of tourists come here mostly?

a) Domestic b) International

6. From which country tourists mostly come here? -----

7. What are your major complaints against tourism in this area?

8. What sorts of role does the tourism play for the economic development?

Positive

Negative

don't know

9. For what purpose do the tourists come in this area?

a) Trade b) Observation

c) Culture d) Enjoyment

10. What are interacted things for the tourists in Megghauli?

a) Physical settings b) Natural beauty c) Others

11. In your view, what kinds of role play tourism on the development of the society?

a) Modernization b) Protection and development folk culture

c) For job d) Others

12. What are the problem tourism development in this area?

a) Transportation b) Drinking Water and Sanitation

c) Electricity d) Hotels

e) Communication

13. What do you think the impact of tourism?

a) Megghauli has some more dirty? Yes No

- b) Increase in deforestation? Yes No
- c) Adverse effects on the life of the people? Yes No
- d) Price rise? Yes No
- e) Local people have become more selfish? Yes No
- f) Creation of the opportunities for the local people? Yes No
- g) Enlargement of market and increase in production?

 Yes No