

**PROSPECTS AND PROBLEMS OF RELIGIOUS
TOURISM IN NEPAL**

**A study of Trivenighat, Panauti Municipality
Kavrepalanchowk District, Nepal**

**A Thesis Submitted to
The Central Department of Rural Development
Tribhuvan University
In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of the
Master of Arts
In
Rural Development**

**Submitted by
BHAGAWATI THAPA
Central Department of Rural Development
Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu
TU, Registration No.: 6-1-36-126-2005
Exam Symbol No.: 02613
January, 2018**

RECOMMENDATION LETTER

This thesis entitle **“Prospects and Problems of Religious Tourism in Nepal, A study of Trivenighat, Panauti, Kavrepalanchowk District, Nepal”** has been prepared by Ms. Bhagawati Thapa under my supervision in partial fulfillment of the degree of master of Arts in Rural Development I hereby forward this thesis to the evaluation committee for final evaluation and approval.

.....

Mr. Suman Kharel
Thesis Supervisor
Central Department of Rural Development
Tribhuvan University

Date: 2074-9-17

2018-01-01

APPROVAL LETTER

This is to certify that this thesis paper submitted by Mrs. Bhagawati Thapa entitled as **PROSPECTS AND PROBLEMS OF RELIGIOUS TOURISM IN NEPAL:A STUDY OF TRIVENIGHAT, PANAUTI, KAVREPALANCHOWK DISTRICT, NEPAL** has been approved by the department in the prescribed format of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. This thesis is forwarded for the evaluation.

Thesis Evaluation Committee

.....

Prof. Dr. Pushpa Kamal Subedi

Head of Department

.....

Mr. Prajwal Man Pradhan

External Examiner

.....

Mr. Suman Kharel

Thesis Supervisor

Date: 2074-09-24

2018-01-08

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis entitle “**Prospects and Problems of Religious Tourism in Nepal, A study of Trivenighat, Panauti, Kavrepalanchowk District, Nepal**” submitted to the Centre Department of Rural Development, Tribhuvan University, is entirely my original work prepared under the guidance and supervision of my supervisor. I have made due acknowledgment to all ideas and information borrowed from different source in the preparing this thesis. The result of this thesis have not been presented or submitted anywhere else for the award of any degree or for any other purposes. I assure that no part of this thesis has been published in any from in any from before.

Bhagawati Thapa

T.U. Reg.No: 6-1-38-126-2005

Date: 2074-9-17

2018-01-01

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Central Department of Rural Development at Tribhuvan University for the allowing me to carry this thesis in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development. I am extremely grateful and indebted to my supervisor **Mr. Suman Kharel** sir, for providing me an opportunity to conduct this study under his supervision. I must be expressing my deepest respect for his perennial support of encouragement to accomplish this study. I would also like to express sincere to the head of Department Prof. Dr. Prem Sharma. Also to all respected teacher and Liberian sir of Centre Department of Rural Development and also thankful to the Liberians of T.U, NTB, all respondents of the study area.

I am also very much thankful to Panauti Tourism Development Centre (PTDC), Community Home stay Panauti, and other responded organizations and individual person who suggest and inspiration me during the preparation this thesis. I have expressed my sincere gratitude to my family member's and my friends who always support and encourage me to do best.

Bhagawati Thapa

ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in Panauti one of the most famous ancient historical and religious place in Nepal which located in Kavre district. The objectives of study are to assess the major religious places in Panauti area and prospects of religious tourism in Panauti, to identify the problems and importance of religious tourism for development in local area. For conducting the study data was obtained from the field using household survey, interview with tourists and related person of study area. 30 local people were selected out of 50. Tourists' respondents were selected 20 and 10 Home stay were selected from the study area. Primary information has been collected during the field survey, household survey, besides key interview as well as secondary data has been used. Other data was also collected from different sources such as, published and unpublished books, thesis, journals, articles and library.

This study has shown majority of Newar community in the study area they are mostly engaged in traditional agricultural sector. Panauti is also one of the famous settlement of Newar community like; Kathmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur. Hiking is also one major attraction for tourist. All religious sites are need good renovate. Religious tourism needs more marketing. Religious tourism can be good source of income in local area. Domestic tourists are rare in visit list. Religious tourism needs marketing to promote in every area. Only seasonal tourists are not enough for tourism development. Religiously Panauti area can be very potential and respectful religious destiny for tourists but need to promote everywhere. Khopasi and other nearest place in Panauti have also many religious tourism destinations.

Panauti Tourism Development center has trying to make local people active participation in tourism so board and some other organization help to established Community Homestay, Library and museum etc. in tourism area. Tourists has easily can get vehicles to reach this tourism area. An internet facility is good. Tourists can easily found the tourism places. Panauti Tourism Development Centre and other local tourism related organizations are also working for increase religious tourism in study area but the effort is not so effective. Local people help and co-ordination with Panauti Tourism Development Centre (PTDC) is important to make sustainable tourism development.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECELERATION

RECOMMENDATION LETTER

APPROVAL SHEET

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ABSTRACT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIGURES

ABBREVIATIONS/ ACRONYMS

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION 1-6

1.1	Background of the study	1
1.2	Statement of Problem	4
1.3	Research Questions	5
1.4	Objectives of the Study	5
1.5	Significance of the Study	5
1.6	Limitation of the Study	6
1.7	Organization of the Study	6

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW 7-28

2.1	Theoretical Review	7
2.1.1	Concept of Tourism and Religious tourism	7
2.1.2	Religious Tourism in Nepal	11
2.1.3	Problems and Prospects of Religious Tourism in Nepal	14
2.1.4	Some Tourism policy and Programs in Nepal	16
2.2	Empirical Review of the study	21

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY 29-30

3.1	Research Design	29
3.2	Rational for selection of study area	29
3.3	Nature and Sources of Data	29
3.4	Universe and Sampling	30

3.5	Data Collection Techniques and Tool	30
3.5.1	Household Survey and Questionnaire	30
3.5.2	Observation	30
3.5.3	Key Information Interview	30
3.6	Method of Data Analysis	30
CHAPTER FOUR: PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA		31-50
4.1	General Background of the Study Area	31
4.2	General Information of Local Respondents	33
4.2.1	Age Structure	33
4.2.2	Occupation	33
4.2.3	Education	34
4.3	Prospects of Religious Tourism in Panauti	34
4.3.1	Purpose of visit of Tourists in Panauti	35
4.3.2	Transportation tourists used for in Panauti	36
4.3.3	Major tourism attraction in Panauti	36
4.3.4	Sources of Information	38
4.3.5	Season of tourists arrive	39
4.3.6	Arrival of Tourists by Age group	39
4.3.7	Local people in Panauti	40
4.3.8	Tourists satisfaction by visit	40
4.3.9	Tourists interest for revisit	41
4.4.10	Some Religiously and culturally attractions in Panauti	41
4.4	Problems of Religious Tourism in Study Area	44
4.4.1	Problems faced by tourists	45
4.4.2	Tourism side effects in Local Area	45
4.4.3	Length of stay of Tourists	46
4.4.4	Tourists have been in Panauti before	47
4.4.5	Length of Stay of tourist in Homestay	47
4.4.6	Arrival of Tourists by Nationality	47
4.4.7	Problems faced by Homestay	48
4.4.8	Perception of Homestay owner about business	49
4.5	Importance of Religious Tourism in Panauti	49
4.5.1	Tourism helps daily life of people	50

4.5.2 Local people involved in tourism business	50
---	----

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS	52-56
--	--------------

5.1 Summary of Study	52
----------------------	----

5.2 Conclusion	54
----------------	----

5.3 Suggestion	55
----------------	----

REFERENCES	57-58
-------------------	--------------

ANNEXES

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1	: Tourists Arrival by Purpose of Religious/Pilgrimage visit, 1992- 2015	22
Table 4.2.1	: Age structure	33
Table 4.2.2	: Occupation Distribution of Local Respondents	33
Table 4.2.3	: Education level of the Local Respondents	34
Table 4.3.3	: Major attraction in Panaut	37
Table 4.3.5	: Season of tourists arrive	39
Table 4.3.6	: Arrival of Tourist by age	39
Table 4.3.8	: Tourists satisfaction by visit	40
Table 4.4.3	: Length of stay of Tourist	40
Table 4.4.4	: Tourists have been before in Panauti	47
Table 4.4.5	: Length of stay of tourists in homestay	47
Table 4.4.8	: Perception of Homestay owner	49
Table 4.5.1	: Tourism helps people direct/ indirect	50
Table 4.5.2	: Local people involved in tourism business	51

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 4.3.1	: Purpose of Visit of Tourist	35
Figure 4.3.2	: Transportation tourists used to visit in Panauti	36
Figure 4.3.4	: Sources of Information	38
Figure 4.3.7	: Local people in Panauti	40
Figure 4.3.9	: Tourists interest for revisit	41
Figure 4.4.1	: Problems faced by tourist	45
Figure 4.4.2	: Side effects of Tourism	46
Figure 4.4.6	: Arrival of tourists by Nationality	48
Figure 4.4.7	: Problems Homestay faced by tourists	48

ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

CBS	Centre Bureau of Statistical
DNC	Destination Nepal Campaign
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HAN	Hotel Association Nepal
HHs	Households
HRH	His Royal Highness
ICIMOD	The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
ILO	International Labor Organization
IUOTO	International Union of Travel Organization
NATHM	Nepal Academy of Tourism and Hotel Management
NGO	Non-government Organization
NPHC	National Population and Housing Census
NTB	Nepal Tourism Board
OECD	The Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development
PATA	Pacific Asia Travel Association
RNAC	Royal Nepal Airlines Corporation
T&M	Tourism and More
TMVs	Tourism Model Villages
TRPAP	Tourism for Rural Poverty Alleviation Program
TTM	Travel and Tourism Management
TU	Tribhuvan University
UNDP	United Nation Development Program
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNWTO	United Nation World Tourism Organization
US	United State
VDC	Village Development Commit
WTTC	World Travel and Tourism Council