

POTENTIALITY AND CHALLENGES OF ECO-TOURISM

(A Case Study of Jagdispur Reservoir Area, Kapilvastu, Nepal)

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Recommendation Letter

This thesis entitled “**Potentiality and Challenges of Ecotourism: A Case Study of Jagdishpur Reservoir Area, Kapilvastu, Nepal**” has been prepared by **Mr. Santosh Aryal** under my guidance and supervision. I hereby forward this thesis to the evaluation committee for final evaluation and approval.

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Approval Letter

The thesis entitled “**Potentiality and Challenges of Ecotourism: A Case Study of Jagdishpur Reservoir Area, Kapilvastu, Nepal**” submitted by **Mr. Santosh Aryal** in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master’s Degree (M.A.) in Rural Development has been approved by the evaluation committee.

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Declaration

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled **“Potentiality and Challenges of Ecotourism: A Case Study of Jagdishpur Reservoir Area, Kapilvastu, Nepal”** submitted to the Central Department of Rural Development, Tribhuvan University, is entirely my original work prepared under the guidance and supervision of my supervisor. I have made due acknowledgements to all ideas and information borrowed from different sources in the course of 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 content of this thesis has been published in any form before.

Santosh Aryal

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Acknowledgement

The present study entitled **“Potentiality and Challenges of Ecotourism: A Case Study of Jagdishpur Reservoir Area, Kapilvastu, Nepal”** is an attempt to give an overall picture of tourism in Jagdishpur reservoir area. This study is dedicated to all the people around Jagdishpur reservoir without their help this study could not have been completed.

It is a matter of great pleasure and privilege for me to express my profound regard and gratitude to my supervisor Prof. Dr. Chandra Lal Shrestha, Head of Department, Central Department of Rural Development, Tribhuvan University, for his valuable guidance with exceptional promptness. His wise counsel and guidance provided me the inspiration to go ahead with work.

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Santosh Aryal

Abstract

Ecotourism is very burning issue and one of the fastest growing sectors in current world tourism industry. Especially in many developing countries like Nepal are trying to use ecotourism as a tool to achieve sustainable development. The paper mainly considers hidden potentiality of ecotourism in Kapilvastu where tourism is one of the fastest expanding industries which has been leaving various positive as well as negative impacts in different areas. The paper also attempt to give critical analysis of ecotourism impacts and challenges and point out some recommendations for better practice of ecotourism. The study tries to answer the following question: Is ecotourism opportunity or challenge in Nepal? How is ecotourism practiced in the country? Can ecotourism be a beneficial tool for sustainable development of the country? How can ecotourism be very effective means of development and conservation?

The study has employed both primary and secondary sources for data collection. Under the primary source, the study has been based on questionnaire, interview and direct observation of the project site and affected areas. Likewise, different reports and official publications regarding tourism have been taken into consideration for the statistical data.

This study has dug out some important components, characteristics and status of tourism in Jagdishpur Reservoir area which is helpful to understand potentiality and challenges of ecotourism, the research objectives. This study has showed that Jagdishpur is very rich in terms of religious places, historical monuments and reservoir is popular for bird viewing and boating. So, the most preferred attraction of this site is bird viewing, boating, historical monuments like Asoka pillar, local Tharu culture and other religious places. Similarly main challenges for ecotourism development in Jagdishpur are poor infrastructure facilities, conservation level of local assets, accommodation and awareness level of local people. The exposer level of tourism in Jagdishpur is also a challenge. Most of the visitor (70% of them) found to be recommended by their friends or relatives. Whereas, 20% of

them got information from print media and audio visual media provided information to only 10% of total visitor.

To sum up, besides various challenges and problems in the fields of ecotourism, it can be a great opportunity for Jagdishpur if all tourism resources are handled and utilized responsibly and it can be phenomenal instrument to achieve real sustainable development of the study area by promoting different aspects and sectors – economy, environment, culture, and conservation procedure.

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Abbreviations/Acronyms

ACAP	=	Annapurna Conservation Area Project
ADB	=	Asian Development Bank
AT	=	Alternative Tourism
CBS	=	Central Bureau of Statistics
DDC	=	District Development Committee
GDP	=	Gross Development Product
IBA	=	Important Bird Area
IYE	=	International Year of Ecotourism
KCAP	=	Kanchanjunga Conservation Area Project
KEEP	=	Kanchanjunga Environment and Ecotourism Project
KMTNC	=	King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation
LDCS	=	Least Developed Countries
MCAP	=	Manaslu Conservation Area Project
MOPE	=	Ministry of Population and Environment
NACCRT	=	North American Coordinating Centre for Responsible Tourism
NGO	=	Non-Government Organization
NPC	=	National Planning Commission
NTB	=	Nepal Tourism Board
PPP	=	Public Private Partnership
TED	=	Tourist Education Programme
TEEN	=	Tourism European Ecumenical Network
TIES	=	The International Ecotourism Society
TRPAP	=	Tourism for Rural Poverty Alleviation Project
UMCDP	=	Upper Mustang Conservation and Development Project
UN	=	United Nation

UNDP = United Nation Development Programme

VDC = Village Development Committee

WTO = World Tourism Organization

WWF = World Wide Fund for Nature