

ROLE OF ECO-TOURISM FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN NEPAL:

A Case Study of Godawari VDC of Lalitpur District

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Declaration

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled **ROLE OF ECO-TOURISM FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN NEPAL** A Case Study of Godawari VDC of Lalitpur District 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 results 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 the content of this thesis has been published in any form before.

.....

Renuka Silwal

Date: 8th Dec, 2016

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

The thesis entitled **ROLE OF ECO-TOURISM FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN NEPAL** A Case Study of Godawari VDC of Lalitpur District has been prepared by **Renuka Silwal** under my guidance and supervision. I hereby forward this thesis to the evaluation committee for final evaluation and approval.

(Prof. Dr. Prem Sharma)

Thesis Supervisor

Date: 8th Dec, 2016

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APPROVAL LETTER

The thesis entitled **ROLE OF ECO-TOURISM FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN NEPAL** A Case Study of Godawari VDC of Lalitpur District submitted by **Renuka Silwal** in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master's Degree (MA) in Rural Development has been approved by the evaluation committee.

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It is hoped that this report tried to portray accurately the ecotourism scenario, the potential impacts of ecotourism in the study area and shall be instrumental in the promotion and development of sustainable ecotourism programs in the study area in the future.

Ms. Renuka Silwal
8 Dec, 2016

ABSTRACT

This Study entitled **ROLE OF ECO-TOURISM FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN NEPAL** A Case Study of Godawari VDC of Lalitpur District was conducted with the objectives of exploring the socio-cultural aspects of tourism, assessing the facilities available for tourists and describing the positive and negative impacts of ecotourism in Godawari VDC of Lalitpur district. This study is mainly based in the primary information and the data were collected using the techniques of household survey, interview and key informant interview with the help of questionnaire and interview.

In Godawari VDC, there are 1825 households and total population is 7558 out of which male and female population are 3715 and 3843 respectively. (Population and Housing census, 2011).

In order to make the study meaningful as well as advanced, within the limited time period a larger sample size was not feasible so the sample taken can be considered to be good representative of the universe of study. There were 1825 households (HHs) in the VDC. Of the total households, 30 HHs were selected on the basis of random sampling method and 10 shops of the foot trails were selected by lottery method. So, the total number of sample taken of the local HHs was 40. During the study it was found that Tamang (42.5%) were the main ethnic group in the study area. Agriculture (42.5%) was the main occupation, the average family size of the sample HHs were 5.42 persons per family, average literacy rate 70.51%, 45% of the sample HHs have knowledge about ecotourism, 38.89% think experiencing remote, un-crowded and unspoiled nature is ecotourism. 72.22% HHs thinks environment plays a decisive role in the promotion of ecotourism. 90% sample HHs believe employment opportunities is being created by ecotourism. 41.67% of sample HHs are engaged in hotel business such as hotel owner, cook, waiter, dish washer, etc. 55% HHs believed that the monthly income is NRs. 10,000-20,000. 47.5% of the sample HHs agreed that income generation and employment opportunities are the positive impacts of ecotourism. 32.5% of the sample HHs believed that high pricing is the negative impacts of ecotourism. 40 sample HHs believed that 52.5% tourism planning in the area is done by Government. 87.5% HHs agreed that about the local participation in the tourism activities in the study area. 77.5% of the sample HHs believed that tourist's

satisfaction level was satisfactory and 35% of the sample HHs think foot trails should be improved in the study area.

In the same way, 5 tourists were chosen at once in different time interval, 3 times so the total number of sample tourists was 15. During the study it was found that Out of the sample tourists, 33.33% of them were above 45 years of age. 26.67% of them were from China, 66.37% of the sample tourists were male and 46.67% of them were engaged in service/jobs. 73.33% of the sample tourists were making their first visit to the study area and 40% of the sample tourists were staying for more than 4 days, trekking was the main purpose of visit of 40% sample tourists, 46.67% of the sample tourists think taking only photographs and leaving only footprints is ecotourism, 40% of the sample tourists think trekking is the main attraction of the study area. 86.67% tourists did not buy the products made from timber and wildlife. 40% of the sample tourists agreed about the lack of proper information, sign and symbols in the foot trails is the major problems of this area, 33.34% of the sample tourists suggested to increase the information, sign and symbols in the trekking zone and foot trails.

From the study we can conclude that all the households who are engaged in ecotourism are getting benefit. Their access to health, education and economy has increased. By the use of the income, there has been investment in the income generating activities resulting in the regular flow of money in the HHs and motivation for entrepreneurship development at local level has helped positively in reduction of poverty and in holistic development of rural areas. All HHs were very positive towards enhancing tourism activities. They suggested that focus should be in made in making proper plans and policies regarding ecotourism and there should be active participation of local people.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title Page	i
Declaration	ii
Letter of Recommendation	iii
Approval Sheet	iv
Acknowledgements	v
Abstract	vii
Table of Contents	viii
References	xii
Acronyms	xv
List of Tables	xvi
List of Figures	xvii
Annex	xvii
CHAPTER – ONE: INTRODUCTION	1-6
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	4
1.3 Objectives of the Study	5
1.4 Significance of the Study	5
1.5 Limitations of the Study	6
1.6 Organization of the Study	7
CHAPTER- TWO: REVIEW OF LITERATURE	8
CHAPTER- THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	
3.1 Research Design	18
3.2 Rationale of the Selection of Study Area	18
3.3 Nature and Sources of Data	18
3.3.1 Primary Data	19
3.3.2 Secondary Data	19
3.4 Universe and Sampling	19

3.5	Techniques and Tools of Data Collection	20
3.5.1	Households Survey	20
3.5.2	Interview	20
3.5.3	Key Informant Interview	20
3.6	Data Processing and Analysis	20
3.6.1.	Data Processing	20
3.6.2	Data Analysis	20

CHAPTER- FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1	Study Area	22
4.1.1	Godawari VDC of Lalitpur District	23
4.1.2	Geographical Setting of the Study Area	24
4.1.3	Climate	24
4.2	Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Households	25
4.2.1	Ethnicity/Cast	25
4.2.3	Household Size of the Respondents	26
4.2.4	Occupational Status of the Sample HHs	27
4.3	Distribution of HHs on the basis of the knowledge about Ecotourism	28
4.3.1	Distribution of sample HHs on the basis of the understanding and meaning of Ecotourism	29
4.3.2	Distribution of sample HHs on the basis of understanding the relationship between environment and Ecotourism	30
4.4	Distribution of sample HHs on the basis of views about employment created by Ecotourism	31
4.4.1	Distribution of sample HHs on the basis of types of employment generated by the tourism activities	32
4.5	Distribution of sample HHs on the basis of income per month	33
4.6	Distribution of sample HHs on the basis of impacts of Ecotourism	33
4.6.1	Positive Effects of Ecotourism	34
4.6.2	Negative Effects of Ecotourism	34
4.7	Distribution of sample HHs to know about the tourism planning in study area	35
4.8	Distribution of sample HHs on the basis of local participation in tourism activities in the study area	36
4.8.1	Level of participation of local people in the tourism activities in the study area	37
4.9	Distribution of sample HHs on the basis of opinion about the satisfaction of tourists after visiting the study area	38
4.10	Distribution of sample HHs on the basis of opinion regarding the	

improvement of Ecotourism	39
4.11 Distribution of sample tourists on the basis of their age, gender, country and occupation	40
4.11.1 Distribution of tourists according to their age	41
4.11.2 Distribution of tourists according to their country	42
4.11.3 Distribution of tourists according to their gender	42
4.11.4 Distribution of tourists according to their occupation	43
4.12 Distribution of the sample tourists on the basis of number of visit to the study area	44
4.13 Distribution of the sample tourists on the basis of the total number of days of their stay	45
4.14 Distribution of the sample tourists on the basis of purpose of their visit	46
4.15 Distribution of the sample tourists according to understanding of the term Ecotourism	47
4.16 Distribution of the sample tourists on the basis of their view about the main attraction of the study area	48
4.17 Distribution of the tourists according to the products bought made form wildlife and timber	49
4.18 Distribution of the sample tourists according to their view about the facilities in the study area	50
4.19 Distribution of the sample tourists on the basis of the problems of the study area	51
4.20 Distribution of the sample tourists on the basis of the suggestion given to improve the study area	52
CHAPTER-FIVE: MAJOR FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION	
5.1 Major Findings	53
5.2 Conclusion	56
5.3 Recommendation	57
5.4 Others	59

List of Tables

Table No.	Title	Page No.
4.1	Ethnicity/Caste composition of sample HHs	25
4.2	Sex and Literacy Composition of the respondent HHs	26
4.3	Distribution by the HHs size of the respondents	27
4.4	Distribution of sample HHs on the basis of occupation	27
4.6	Distribution of sample HHs on the basis of idea about ecotourism	28
4.7	Distribution of sample HHs on the basis of definition of ecotourism	29
4.8	Monthly income of sample HHS	33
4.9	Positive impacts of ecotourism	34
4.10	Negative impacts of ecotourism	35
4.11	Tourism planning in the study area	36
4.12	Level of participation of local people	38
4.13	Suggestions for improving ecotourism in study area	40
4.14	Age group of the sample tourists	41
4.15	Country of the sample tourists	42
4.16	Occupation of the sample tourists	44
4.17	No. of visits of tourists in the study area	44
4.18	Distribution of sample tourists according to their purpose of visit	46
4.19	Distribution of sample tourists according to the meaning of ecotourism	47
4.20	Main attraction of the study area according to the tourists	48
4.21	Tourists buying products made from wildlife and timber	49
4.22	View of tourists regarding facilities of the study area	50
4.23	Problems of the study area	51
4.24	Suggestions to improve the study area	52

List of Figures

Fig No.	Title	Page No.
4.1	Role of environment in promoting ecotourism	30
4.2	Tourism activities creating employment opportunities	31
4.3	Local participation in tourism activities	37
4.4	Level of satisfaction of tourists	39
4.5	Gender of the tourists	43
4.6	No. of days spent by tourists in the study area	45

Acronyms

ACAP	:	Annapurna Conservation Area Project
ASTA	:	American Society of Travel Agents
CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistics
CTEVT	:	Centre for Technical Education and Vocational
DDC	:	District Development Committee.
Fy	:	Fiscal Year
GDO	:	Gross Domestic Product
IC	:	Indian Currency
ILO	:	International Labor Organization
IUOTO	:	International Union of Official Travel Organization.
NTNC	:	Nepal Trust for Nature Conservation
MOCTCA	:	Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation
NGO	:	Non-Governmental Organization
NPC	:	Nepal Planning Commission
NTB	:	Nepal Tourism Board Organization
PATA	:	The Pacific Area Travel Association.
NAC	:	Nepal Airlines Corporation
SNV/N	:	Netherlands Assistance Organization/Nepal Training
TRPAP	:	Tourism for Rural Poverty Alleviation Program.
UNDP	:	United Nation Development Program.
UNESCO	:	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNO	:	United Nations Organization
VDC	:	Village Development Committee
WHO	:	World Health Organization