

# **THE PROSPECTS OF ECOTOURISM IN SAURAHA**

**A Research Paper on Ecotourism of Sauraha in Chitwan District**

**Nepal**

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Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of the Master of Arts (MA)**

In

**Rural Development**

**By**

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## RECOMENDATION LETTER

It is my pleasure that I recommend the approval of the thesis paper entitled as PROSPECTS OF ECOTOURISM IN SAURAHA: A THESIS PAPER ON ECOTOURISM OF SAURAHA IN CHITWAN DISTRICT, NEPAL completed by Mrs. Samjhana Acharya under my supervision for the partial fulfilment of the requirements for Master of Arts in Rural Development, Tribhuvan University. Therefore, this thesis is recommended for its evaluation.

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## **APPROVAL SHEET**

This is to certify that this thesis paper submitted by Mrs. Samjhana Acharya entitled as PROSPECTS OF ECOTOURISM IN SAURAHA CHITWAN has been approved by this department in the prescribed format of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. This Thesis is forwarded for the evaluation.

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I hereby declare that the thesis entitled "**The Prospects of Ecotourism in Sauraha Livelihood: A Thesis Paper on Ecotourism of Sauraha in Chitwan District, Nepal**" submitted to the Central Department of Rural Development, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University, is utterly and only my original work prepared under the guidance and supervision of my supervisor. I have made due acknowledgement 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.

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## ABSTRACT

This is a study about prospects of ecotourism in Sauraha for the purpose of final semester thesis writing proposed by the Department of Rural Development, Tribhuvan University. The main aim of the thesis writing is to carry out the potentialities and prospects of ecotourism in Sauraha including the assessment of the economic impact and evaluation of the environment impact of eco-tourism in the study area.

This research work was done through the field survey in the study area where 60 households; 20 hotel owners and 15 tourists were interviewed. This research accepted explanatory and descriptive type of research design. Both qualitative and quantitative data were collected through different tools of survey. Different books; prospectus; brochures; reports etc. were consulted to collect important data for the study.

While in the research it has been found that Sauraha is a very potential place for ecotourism destination because of its attachment to the Chitwan National Park; Rapti River and nearby wetlands. It was also found in the research that some activities can be established in Sauraha such as managing parks and fairs; promoting home stays; creating public view tower; promoting agro farming; establishing zoo and improving museum etc. to promote ecotourism in the region. This place can be linked with Siraichuli; Upperdangadi; Devghat; Jalbire; Lothar and other many more places. The research also shows that the socio economic status of the place is also positively affected by the tourism. It is also significant to note that the people in Sauraha are very aware about proper conservation and utilization of the natural resources.

Sauraha seems to be finely managed while doing bird's eye view, however when we go through the micro level of analysis the situation is not like that. People in the area are still to be made aware, the infrastructures such as road condition etc. are to be improved very well. The multilateral relationship among local people, entrepreneurs, concerned authorities etc. are to be serenely established what helps the tourism to meet its real destination in the days to come.

This research doesn't include each and every aspect of ecotourism in Sauraha and it may not be utterly valid or reliable in the areas of study; however the strategic, logical and experiential matters have been skillfully and wittily applied to minimize the faults. This research will work best for those who want to know Sauraha as an ecotourism destination; or for those who want to study in the same or similar or related topics.

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## LIST OF ACCRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AD	:	Anno Domini
BS	:	Bikram Sambat
CATS	:	Conservation Assured Tigre Standard
CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistic
CNP	:	Chitwan National Park
DNPWC	:	Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation
e.g.	:	exempli gratia
EBook	:	Electronic Book
GDP	:	Gross Domestic Product
i.e.	:	id est (that is)
IBA	:	Important Bird and Biodiversity Area
KMs	:	Kilometers
MS	:	Microsoft
n.d	:	no date
NPHC	:	National Population and Housing Census
NTNC	:	National Trust for Nature Conservation
PM	:	Prime Minister
RSS	:	Rastriya Samachar Samiti
SPSS	:	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
Sq. km.	:	Squire kilometer
T.U	:	Tribhuvan University
TV	:	Tele vision
UNESCO	:	United Nations Educational and Cultural Organization
VAT	:	Value Added Tax
VDC	:	Village Development Committee
WIT	:	Wetland of international Importance
WWF	:	World Wide Fund

# CHAPTER ONE

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Meaning and Background of the Study:

The term ecotourism comprises of two different lexicons i.e. eco and tourism, where eco refers ecological properties and tourism refers to the commercial organization and operation of holidays and visits to places of interests. This way, etymologically, ecotourism refers to the area of tourism directed towards the unspoiled natural environments and intended to support conservation efforts. Ecotourism is, thus, directed towards exotic ecological environments, intended to support conservation efforts and observe wildlife.

The International Ecotourism Society describes ecotourism as: "Responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the welfare of local people". (Society, What is Ecotourism?, 2015)

The Merriam Webster Learner's Dictionary defines ecotourism as "The practice of traveling to beautiful natural places for pleasure in a way that does not damage the environment there"

"Ecotourism is a form of tourism involving visiting fragile, pristine, and relatively undisturbed natural areas, intended as a low-impact and often small scale alternative to standard commercial (mass) tourism. Its purpose may be to educate the traveler, to provide funds for ecological conservation, to directly benefit the economic development and political empowerment of local communities, or to foster respect for different cultures and for human rights" (Ecotourism)

Nepal is a wonderful place where ecotourism is exponentially flourishing. It is a popular tourist destination and the ideal location for ecotourism. The beautifully stretched green carpet of flora and fauna; white glowing panorama of mountains; and the great civilization prepared by human creation i.e. cultural heritages which are the matter of great concern when it comes to the matter of the prospects of ecotourism. The main areas of ecotourism in Nepal are the historical cities, wildlife viewing, wilderness camps, hiking, trekking and

white-water rafting. “Where there is greenery, there is peace and happiness” (Expedition). This slogan is the most suitable one when it comes to the matter of ecotourism in the Sauraha region. Sauraha is a village in Chitwan District of Nepal located near by the Rapti River and the Chitwan National Park. It is located 160 KMs by road from Kathmandu, 155 KMs by road from Pokhara and 160 KMs by road from the Indian border at Sunauli (Tourism). It is one of the major gateway to Chitwan National Park and jungle safaris. This village is famous for THARU culture and their present-day-way of life. The Rapti River in the south adds extra attraction to the village where tourists can entertain canoeing experiences. The other areas of ecotourism includes jeep safari, view tower, tower night stay, elephant ride, Tharu cultural dance, Tharu village visit, elephant bath, twenty thousand lake visit, trekking to Siraichuli and Uperdangadi (the first headquarter of Chitwan district).

To conclude the above statements, ecotourism is a very important aspect of tourism sector which is rapidly increasing in the present day time. Nepal seems to be prosperous when it comes to the matter of ecotourism protects. Sauraha is such a place for ecotourism which is no doubt a very rare place all over Nepal that needs to be conserved and promoted in the days to come. Thus, my research tends to introduce the concerns of Sauraha in detail.

## **1.2 Statements of the Problem:**

Tourism is a good source of economy in the context of Nepal which is exponentially increasing industry. Nepal is prosperous in ecotourism from northern territory to southern territory and from east region to west regions. The white Himalaya and the greenery of the dense forest are the key attraction that have made Nepal an ecotourism destination to everyone who enjoys ecological aspects on the great planet. Ecotourism based economy of Nepal in the rural areas is a major revenue of the GDP that can play a vital role in the livelihood of the local people. Ecotourism also provides employment opportunities to the people in a big share providing the role of different human resource that directly influence the economic status of rural people assisting in income to raise the family.

The destination for ecotourism in the country are variedly situated in uncultivated, uninhabited, inhospitable regions or areas where indigenous and marginalized people are dwelling. Thus, ecotourism may be the best next option of chances to people engaged in

various entrepreneurship since it is the most reliable sources of alternative income creation from natural resources.

Sauraha is located in the northern territory of the Chitwan National Park which is homeland to Bengal tigers, rhinoceroses, wild elephants, bears, leopards, crocodiles, various types of deer, monkeys, and hundreds of species of birds and butterflies. This particular village is separated from the national park by the Rapti River, which is safe to swim and canoe. During the dry season one can wander the sand dunes of the shrunken river. It is possible to walk for miles along the mud roads west, north and east of the village. (Tourism)

Ecotourism in the concerned area of study can play a significant role in the development of the locality if the major problems are carried out and addressed accordingly. The extent may vary, however, the significance of the ecotourism to the developmental matters can't be underestimated. The increment in the rate of visit to the place can increase the standard of livelihood of the local Tharu people and the others living in the place which may eventually contribute to the entire economy of the country.

Several researches and studies have been found to be conducted in this field by different research institutions and scholars, however the studies have not been updated and they also seem to be insufficient to manifest the situation of ecotourism in a crystal clear mapping. They are not concerned about the public awareness in the local area. These research papers are unable to address the impacts of ecotourism in different setting i.e. environment, society, economy etc. in micro level. The studies are also considered to be failure to map the other prospects that can contribute to the livelihood of the rural people.

Thus, our main concern under the contribution of ecotourism in Sauraha is entirely limited to study in the following concerns.

- The present state of the ecotourism dealing with the situation whether or not the visitors increasing in numbers and whether or not the environment conserved properly etc.
- Impacts of ecotourism in different setting of the study area.
- The prospects of new genre (field) creation in ecotourism.



### **1.3 Objective of the Study:**

The general objective of study is to carry out effectiveness of the eco-tourism to sustain the ecological and socio-cultural aspects of the designed location. Thus, the study is not limited to the only one aspect of the eco-tourism sector in the study area. To make the study more precise and significant, I have taken into the consideration of the following specific objectives:

- To identify the prospects of eco-tourism in study area.
- To assess the economic impact of eco-tourism in study area.
- To analyses the environment impact of eco-tourism in the study area.

### **1.4 Rationale of the Study:**

Ecotourism is an important property of every nation in the world that helps collect revenue in both national and local levels which is becoming popular as an alternative to mass tourism. The concept of ecotourism came into existence from the inside of the cocoon to address the problem created by environmental damage associated with mass tourism.

Ecotourism can play an important role in the ecological and economic development of a nation. It is necessary to explore the way, which can help to integrate ecotourism with poverty reduction and natural resources management.

“Ecotourism is a growing segment of the global tourism industry that is making significant positive contributions to the environmental, social, cultural and economic well-being of destinations and local communities around the world. Offering market-linked long-term solutions, ecotourism provides effective economic incentives for conserving and enhancing bio-cultural diversity and helps protect the natural and cultural heritage of our beautiful planet. By increasing capacity building opportunities, ecotourism is also an effective vehicle for empowering local communities around the world to fight against poverty and to achieve sustainable development. Ecotourism is a growing segment of the global tourism industry that is making significant positive contributions to the environmental, social, cultural and economic well-being of destinations and local communities around the world. Offering market-linked long-term solutions, ecotourism provides effective economic

incentives for conserving and enhancing bio-cultural diversity and helps protect the natural and cultural heritage of our beautiful planet. By increasing capacity building opportunities, ecotourism is also an effective vehicle for empowering local communities around the world to fight against poverty and to achieve sustainable development.” (Society, Why is ecotourism important?)

To conserve the ecological aspects of the region, different organizations are working individually and in collaboration. WWF, the global conservation organization, has been playing a pivotal role in the region to conserve natural resources and ecological processes. With special focus on species, forests, climate change and freshwater, WWF works towards conserving nature through a combination of actions on the ground, national and international advocacy work to establish appropriate policies, and international campaigns to highlight and demonstrate solutions to crucial environmental problems. ‘Hario Ban Program’ launched by this organization is considered to be the most significant program to maintain the ecological properties.

Sauraha is a very famous place for ecological aspects. It is uniquely evolved where one can find the beauty of biological aspects i.e. flora and fauna, physical aspects i.e. the river and sandbank and socio cultural aspects i.e. the Tharu culture. The sun set view from Sauraha is the most noticeable tourism event in this place. The other activities and site seeing at Sauraha includes Elephant Riding, Bath with Elephant, Bish Hajar Taal Trip, Jungle Walk, Bird Watching, Elephant’s Breeding Centre, Tharu Village Tour, Tharu Museum Visit, Jeep Drive/Safari, Pilgrimage Trip to Chitwan, Canoeing Rapti river, Tharu Cultural Dance, Crocodile Hatching Farm, Chitwan City Tour, Night Walk in the Jungle, Ox Cart Riding, Camel Riding, Horse Cart Riding, Cycling in Chitwan, Trekking Upperdangadi, Siraichuli Sunrise View, Observation Tour, Vikram Baba Pilgrimage Trip, Devghat Dham Pilgrimage Trip, Maulakalika Mandir Pilgrimage, Camp Fire, Tharu Home Stay, Darai Home Stay, Elephant Games and Shows etc.

The ecotourism in this particular area play the most crucial role for the conservational and developmental issue of natural resources and the livelihood of the indigenous people. Thus, my study in the focused area will play a significant role in making decision to raise public awareness program if necessary; knowing the positive and negative impacts of ecotourism in the livelihood of the local people and the natural resources; identifying the new criteria

of tourism prospect that will help for the prosperity of ecotourism riches. Besides these, I believe that this research will assist the other individuals who want to do further research in the same study area.

### **1.5 Limitation of the Study:**

The purpose of the study is to find the situation of ecotourism; observe the motivation of people towards it; describe the contribution and outcomes of the ecotourism in the locality; identify the effects and side effects of ecotourism in the community; and carry out new prospects in ecotourism. But, no research is believed to be the most perfect one. Everything has its own advantages and disadvantages. My work may be restricted to address the whole issues of ecotourism because of the limited agenda I wanted to deal with. The other limitations may include:

- The collection of information for the work was mainly restricted to Sauraha that lies in Ratnanagar Municipality, in Chitwan district of Nepal. Thus, the generalization of the ideas extracted from the work may not be assured to be appropriate in every national or international ground, however, the work can have inferential information for the areas similar to Sauraha and surroundings.
- This is very specific work dealing with limited subject matters of the ecotourism in Sauraha, Ratnanagar municipality.
- The sampling for the work, and the information collected from different households and interviewees may not enough and appropriate to make the work valid, reliable and accurate.
- Though the strategy to minimize the deficiency or failure in research work was adopted, there is no any hard and fast tool that ensures the highest degree of truth in this work.
- The other limitation in my particular case is that the study area was in Bachhchhauri VDC just before 3 months and later while in the study time it was officially included in Ratnanagar municipality. There was not proper data with the municipality of Sauraha. Thus, my work was done considering Sauraha an area of Bachhchhauri VDC which may be a bit out dated to the date.

## **1.6 Organization of the Study:**

The study in total has been organized in five chapters. The first chapter is divided into six sections i.e. meaning and background of the study; statement of the problem; objectives of the study; rationale of the study; limitations of the study and organization of the study.

In the second chapter, the work includes the reviews of literature consulted to find major information and the contemporary data. Review of literature has been done under three sections i.e. conceptual, empirical review including the legal provision made by the government.

The third chapter describes the methodology to collect the trustworthy data and information from primary source of information. The way of collection of secondary data has also been included in the section.

The fourth chapter includes the data presentation and analysis. This section includes all the data and information that were collected during household survey, hotel survey, interview with tourists and key informants interview.

The fifth chapter includes the findings, conclusion and recommendation. The major findings obtained from the data has been prescribed in the finding section; conclusion concludes the research and recommendation includes some major subject matters that need to be conserved, reformed and developed.

The next section includes the references of the work cited to collect data and information to give the complete shape to the work.

Finally, the annexes includes the questionnaires made to interview the households; hotel owners, key informants, and the tourists. This section also includes the picture collected during the study and the pictures relevant to the study.

## CHAPTER TWO

### 2. Review of the Literature:

#### 2.1 Conceptual and Empirical Review:

“Ecotourism as the fastest growing sector in the International Tourism. The problem of Eco labelling to market tourism products. The absence of co-coordinated effort and guidelines to support standardization of facilities. Ecotourism practices ultimately lead to sustainability of the environment. It is the future of modern day tourism. As tourism is emerging only, it can be monitored to attain its natural growth by having various discussions with the stakeholders all over the world.” (Varghese)

The International Ecotourism Society defines ecotourism as “Responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local people.” (Society, What is Ecotourism?) The society further adds its principles as “Ecotourism is about uniting conservation, communities, and sustainable travel. This means that those who implement and participate in ecotourism activities should follow the following ecotourism principles:

- Minimize impact.
- Build environmental and cultural awareness and respect.
- Provide positive experiences for both visitors and hosts.
- Provide direct financial benefits for conservation.
- Provide financial benefits and empowerment for local people.
- Raise sensitivity to host countries' political, environmental, and social climate.”

“Eco-tourism 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 destinations where the flora, fauna, and cultural heritage are the primary attractions. Responsible ecotourism includes programs 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 recycling, energy efficiency, water re-use, and the creation of economic opportunities for local communities are an integral part of ecotourism.” (Srinivas)

“Tourism that is designed to contribute to the protection of the environment or at least minimize damage to it, often involving travel to areas of natural interest in developing countries or participation in environmental projects” (Dictionary.com)

As mentioned in the book ‘Rural Tourism in Nepal’, Suman Kharel states ecotourism as “The entire picture of ecotourism is the ecological tourism. All the activities connected to tourism that are run in the ecological region without disturbing ecological resources are the activities that belong under the belief and expectation of ecotourism. The ecotourism has the assumption that it helps in protecting the environment or ecological properties from adverse effect of people activities.” (Kharel, 2070 BS) He further pinpoints the characteristics of ecotourism as:

- “Positive attitude, morality, behavior and participation towards environment.
- The long term use of tourism resources.
- More emphasis on tourism attraction than tourism income.
- The concept to interrelate all human activities and aspects of environment.
- The experiential evaluation of tourism resources.
- The concept of establishing co-operative and friendly relationship between environment and human activities.
- The assumption or belief that environment has the major role in tourism management and, thus, the concept of conservation and promotion of the natural resources.”

“Chitwan National Park (CNP) was officially established as the first National Park of the country. The total area of CNP is around 932 sq km. The CNP lies in Nepal’s Southern

border with India, with typical sub-tropical vegetation and oriental fauna. The main entrance gate to the Park and most important tourism trade area within the buffer zone of the CNP is Sauraha. It is one of the ten entry points of the CNP. This important tourism area lies in the Northern border of the CNP along the North bank of Rapti River. According to CNP data from fiscal year 2067/68, altogether 146,622 tourists visited the park among which 111,118 entered through Sauraha. This accounts for 76% of the total. There are around 90 small and big hotels and lodges. These accommodation establishments provide food and accommodation services and also organize cultural and other recreational activities for the tourists. Elephant riding, elephant bath, canoeing, boating, jeep safari, jungle walk, camping are some of the popular recreational activities. There are 43 private elephants and 6 government elephants, which provide services to tourists. There is also an elephant breeding center in Sauraha, where tourists can see how elephants are reared.” (Dongol, 2012)

“Sauraha is adjacent to Nepal’s first national park, namely the Chitwan National Park established in 1973. Sauraha has grown over time from a small Tharu Village into a little tourism town with different types of tourism establishments. The comparative advantage of this destination is to visit the Park and to see “protected Royal Bengal Tiger and the Asian One-Horned Rhino,” both endangered species.” (Banskota, 2012)

“Tourism is not only a social phenomenon and a source of economic development, but it also has a high impact on the environment. Sauraha, Chitwan is no exception to the rule, as the number of tourists visiting is growing every year. Consequently Chitwan National Park hotels need to pay attention to its environmental impact” (Ecolodge).

Tej Prasad sigdel, a teaching assistant at Department of Geography Education, T. U. explains the role of tourism in Sauraha as “Tourism has played a main role in employment generation in Sauraha. Peoples in Sauraha area have been turned and attracted towards tourist trade which has increasingly assisted people to uplift the standard of life and strengthen economically. The local people have been benefited from the development of tourism infrastructure such as transportation, communications and electric facilities”. He further adds “Tourism has contributed a lot a raising the awareness among the communities, preserving traditional culture, values, norms and heritage. But it is also facing a problem of sanitation, improper solid waste management, unmanaged dumping

site and poaching wild life. Tourism development in Sauraha should be assessed both the local traditions and culture.”

He explains the purpose of tourist arrivals at Sauraha as “The highest number of visitors came to Sauraha with the purpose of visiting the National Park and boating and elephant riding. Out of 50 respondents interviewed, 32 percent reported national park visiting, 20 percent boating and elephant riding, 16 percent wildlife and remaining other said that major purpose of visiting Sauraha is peaceful environment, recreation, sightseeing and other purposes such as study and research.” (Sigdel T. P.) He further states that “The majority of tourists (58%) visited Sauraha for three to four days, 34% tourist visited for one to two days and five days to one week stay are very few (only 8 %), whereas no tourists are found more than week staying in Sauraha.”

Dongol states that “Sauraha has sufficient number of accommodation establishments and restaurants for tourists. Majority of the establishments have offered facilities like attached bathroom and running hot water, cable TV, internet, laundry, guides etc. The occupancy rate of overall establishments is around 89% during peak season and 40% during slack season. It was observed that occupancy rate increased with the increase in size of the establishments during both peak and slack seasons. The reason for higher occupancy rate in large establishments may be their stronger network with travel agencies in Kathmandu than that of the smaller establishments.

The tariff rate of rooms has increased with the increase in size of accommodation establishments. Only 49% of the establishments have reported to have reduced tariff rate during slack season. Small establishments having lower operating cost reduce tariff in slack season to cover up their variable costs. On an average, small establishments offer 18% discount in rooms, medium establishment offer 10% and the large ones 5%.

Out of total staffs employed in the accommodation establishments, 53% are from local area. Most are employed on low level jobs. In average, small establishments have employed 7 staffs, medium establishments 17 and the large 26. The average number of males employed is 10.96 per establishment, while that of the females is 1.72. Only 0.49 staffs in average per establishment are employed temporary during peak season.



Large establishments pay higher salary than smaller establishments. The average salary of males is higher than that of the females. Most of the females are employed in low-level jobs such as cleaning and housekeeping. So, relatively they are paid less. The average salary of temporary staffs, who are hired on a daily basis, is Rs 669 per month. About 52% of the salary amount is retained within Sauraha.

Only 11% of the food expense and 10% of non-food expense is spent in Sauraha. Of the total expense on food, 3% goes to cereals, 6% to meat, 11% beverage, 19% vegetable and oil and 3% to other miscellaneous items. Rice, local chicken, local fish, eggs, milk, mineral water and vegetables are the main purchases made in Sauraha.”

As he stated under the topic of Restaurants “The average monthly sales of a restaurant in Sauraha is Rs 24,700 in peak season and Rs. 6933 in slack season. Drinks and snacks are the most popular items among visitors. In average, each small restaurant has employed 5 staffs and each large restaurant has 12 staffs. Of the total number of staffs employed in restaurants, 59% are from Sauraha. Only one temporary staff was found to have been hired by a restaurant during peak season.

The average employment of males in restaurants is higher than of females. And the ratio of temporary staffs is also lower compared to that of permanent staffs. The average salary of male staffs is higher than that of the females, and the salary of temporary staffs is far lower than that of the permanent staffs. Besides the regular salary, the staffs also get 10% service charge along with meals, accommodation, uniforms and basic health service. During peak season, in small restaurants, the real income of both male and female staffs is 2.6 times higher than their actual salary. In large restaurants, the earning of males is 4 times higher than their regular income, while that of the females is 2.8 times higher. During slack season, the amount remains 1.4 times for males and 1.5 times for females. In large establishments, the real income is 1.8 and 1.9 times higher than actual income for males and females, respectively.

The restaurants purchase only 9% of the total food items from the local area. Rice, milk, chicken, fish, eggs and mineral water are purchased in the local market. In non-food expenses, 19% of the total amount is spent locally. Moreover, Sauraha retains 60% of the

total amount expended in salary by the restaurants. But of the total annual expense of the restaurants, only 15% was is retained in Sauraha”

He has also mentioned the share of the tourists’; their stay length; expenditure on accommodation, food etc. their satisfaction and so on according the countries they belong to as “Out of total tourists surveyed, 32% were Asian and 68% were westerners. The average length of stay of 16-30 years group was 3 days while average length of stay of the older group was 9 days. It was found that younger tourists spent less money on accommodation and food than older tourists while older tourists spent less money on recreational activities than younger tourists. Expenses according to the length of stay indicated that tourists who stayed less than a week spent more on accommodation and food than those who stayed more than a week.

European tourists spent higher amount of money on food, accommodation and recreational activities. The expense of North Americans on accommodation was slightly less than Chinese but they spent more than Chinese on food. Asians, except the Chinese, spent least amount on accommodation, food and recreational activities.

The nature of facility appears to be a major concern of the tourists to Sauraha. About 68% of them reported that the rate of food is reasonable, 20% said it was high, and 12% considered it low. Similarly, the accommodation cost is reasonable for 72% tourists, and only 12% take it to be high. Typically, all Europeans consider the accommodation rate low.

Majority of the tourists (53%) agree that the local map of Sauraha is helpful but not adequate. Others (41%) consider it helpful and adequate, and only 6% take it neither helpful nor adequate. All tourists feel positive about the hospitality provided by the local people and security of tourists in the local area. Around 72% of them feel there is no littering and ecohazards in the local area. Interestingly, 88% of them are not willing to contribute to the management of garbage, and 92% are unwilling to pay extra fee for park entry.”

Thus, reviewing many literatures (the previous works ones), it can be said that most of the studies conducted in different agendas seems to be insufficient to provide the exact

information on the contribution of ecotourism in Sauraha. Some researchers are highly limited in purposes of tourism in the region. Others are also not concerned to address the state of the public awareness in the local area. Though a few research paper are trying to address the impacts of ecotourism, they are only concerned about the impact on socio cultural aspects. These research papers are unable to address the impacts of ecotourism in different setting i.e. environment and economy in micro level. The studies are also considered to be failure to show the other prospects that can contribute to the livelihood of the locals.

This research work further reviews the literature under two categories: the conceptual review and review of empirical study.

For this sake, different books, journals, other related research works, reports, articles, books, eBooks, journals, magazines, periodicals, web sides, published and unpublished documents related to the subject was reviewed.

## **2.2 Review of Tourism Policies:**

### **2.2.1 Tourism Policy 2065 (BS)**

“In line with a policy of preserving the country’s natural and cultural heritage, and of developing these as sources of economic advantage, additional tourist spots shall be identified and then developed. The role of the National Tourism Board in promoting tourism shall be made increasingly effective, while additional (types of) tourism shall be encouraged, such as eco-tourism, religious and cultural tourism, rural tourism, health tourism and education tourism.” (Unit, 2008 )

“Forest encroachment shall strictly controlled. Scientific management of forest areas shall be undertaken with an emphasis on harnessing maximum benefits for deprived communities, regions, gender, ethnic groups and classes. An herb-development programme shall be linked to an economic programme to lift the status of the poor, women and marginalized regions and communities. After a registration process, necessary legal arrangements shall be made to protect the country’s unique biodiversity.” (Unit, 2008 )

The main charming of Tourism Policy 2065 (BS) is that the policy has introduced the following concepts.

- “Leading role of Private Sector in Tourism
- More focus on partnership approach: Public Private-People.
- Emphasis on Rural Tourism, Community based Tourism and Home-stays.
- Formation of Tourism Coordination Committee, Crisis Management Committee.
- Activation of Tourism Council ( Apex body chaired by the PM)” (Bhandari)

Tourism policy 2065 clarifies that, to achieve the target of Nepal tourism year 2011 it is necessary to increase the length of stay day of tourists. For this we have to find out the new touristic place and process should complete through the participation of private sectors. Broadly, the Tourism Policies 2065 came up with objectives:

- To promote tourism industries for their development as a major basis of national economy as a result of the creation of self-employment through diversification and expansion of tourism by means of integration of ecotourism and rural tourism with poverty alleviation for the improvement of living standards of general public.
- To develop Nepal as an attractive and major tourist destination by exploring, conserving, developing and promoting tangible as well as intangible, natural, cultural, biological, and human made heritages.
- To develop, expand and promote tourism by means of easy, safe, reliable and regular air and land transportation
- To sustainably use natural resources and means and protect the environment while using natural resources and means in the course of development and construction of tourism infrastructures.

To achieve the above stated objectives, the following explicit policies are set.

- Regional plan and annual program are promoted making future planning along with regional development concept for the development and spreading of tourism industry.

- Rural tourism will be promoted as a subsectors of tourism industries. An appropriate structure will be designed to include women, Madhesi and indigenous people in an inclusive and cooperative way.
- Internal tourism will be promoted as a sub sector of a tourism Industries.
- Tourism industries will be divided on the basis of their facilities and service. Tourism industries will be classified as large, middle and small industries on the basis of facilities they provide.
- Investment in large tourism industries will be prioritized to the national and international investors through public private partnership (PPP) and the investment in middle and small tourism industries will be prioritized to the national investors. For the development of tourism infrastructure program, the legal system will be in BOOT model for the construction, ownership, mobilization and handover.
- Air service which plays a great role in the development of infrastructure of tourism will be made secured, regular and fix.
- Private sector will be promoted and the role of the government will remain as a developer of large infrastructures and facilitator, mobilizer, coordinator and catalyst in tourism service and development of goods development.
- For quantitative and qualitative development of tourism services; development and management of human resources; formation and implementation of master plan; collection and use of data etc. program will be run in collaboration with private sector.
- The conservation of environment will be prioritized for the sake of tourism infrastructure development, construction and implementation.
- The modern information technology will be used for the marketing of tourism industry.
- The appropriate facility and security will be managed for the tourists.

- Various conveniences and subsidies will be provided to establish tourism industries as a primary industry.
- The serene relationship between entrepreneurs and workers will be established.
- The legal, official and procedural structure related to the tourism will be reformed to develop, expand and promotion of tourism.
- Programs for developing, constructing, and expanding infrastructures of various activities related to tourism industries will be launched in collaboration with ministry and its concerned authorities.
- A High Commission of Tourism Industry and Tourism Development Coordination Committee will be formed under the chairmanship of prime minister for the effective implementation of tourism policy coordinating with ministry and concerned authority. (Kharel, 2070 (BS))

### **2.2.2 Tourism Vision 2020-Vision and Goals**

**Vision:** "Tourism is valued as the major contributor to a sustainable Nepal economy, having developed as an attractive, safe, exciting and unique destination through conservation and promotion, leading to equitable distribution of tourism benefits and greater harmony in society".

#### **Goals:**

- Increase annual international arrivals to Nepal to 2 million by 2020.
- Expand economic opportunities and increase employment in tourism sector to 1 million by 2020.

#### **Tourism Vision 2020 –Objectives**

- To improve livelihoods of the people across the country by developing integrated tourism infrastructure, increasing tourism activities and products, generating employment in the rural areas enhancing inclusiveness of women and other deprived communities, and spreading the benefits of tourism to the grassroots level,

- To develop tourism as a broad-based sector by bringing tourism into the mainstream of Nepal's socioeconomic development, supported by a coherent and enabling institutional environment,
- To expand and extend tourism products and services in new and potential areas of Nepal by enhancing community capacity to participate in tourism activities,
- To publicize, promote and enhance the image of Nepal in international tourism source markets,
- To enhance the flight safety and aviation security, extend air connectivity, and improve capacity and facilities of national and international airports and
- To attract new investment in creating new tourism facilities, products and services.

**Tourism Vision 2020 –Strategies:**

- Improving Livelihoods and Spreading Benefits at the grassroots levels
- Economic Mainstreaming
- Expanded Product Offering
- Destination Marketing
- Aviation
- Attract New Investment (Bhandari)

**2.2.3 The Ecotourism Policy: as Tourism Policy 2065**

- The long term utilization of cultural and natural resources will be made effective.
- The priority will be given for the tourism infrastructure and activities for the conservation of environment.
- Ecotourism will be prioritized.
- The rule for the limitation of pollution etc. will be formed, implemented and regulated in the sector of boating, kayaking, canoeing, rafting and other sorts of traveling in the water.

- People's participation will be promoted to attract tourists in the conservation areas, wildlife reserves and national parks. People are motivated for the management, conservation, promotion and regulation of the concerned regions.
- The entrepreneurs, shopkeepers, and other business persons who are involved eco-friendly economy will be rewarded.
- The present existing bio diversity and wildlife observation will be developed, expanded and promoted in the form of tourism output.
- The plan to make interested in village tourism will be launched for the high-income-tourists who are attracted to the national park and wildlife.
- The efforts made by governmental, non-governmental and private organizations will be made effective in the sector of making Trekking rout, base camp and pollution less Himalaya.
- The guideline for the management of pollution and conservation of environment in the concerned regions will be formed and implemented for the sustainable environmental sanitation in Mountain peaks used in tourism activities; trekking regions and routs; and the rivers used in water adventures.
- The important live treasures and archaeological places will be conserved, developed and utilized for the purpose of tourism.
- The indigenous people, women, Madhesi, Janajati, Dalit and back warded communities will be promoted for the conservation of abstract socio cultural treasures and local tourism places.
- Effort will be done to make the local authority and people's participation identify, conserve, and develop the religious, cultural and folk heritage.
- In coordination with local authority, heritage management and promotion activities will be done. For the sake, a district level heritage coordination committee will be established.
- A certain percent of royalty or tax collected through heritage usage will be invested for the sake of the conservation of the heritage. (Tourism Policy - 2065 BS)

“The policy of the government of Nepal is to include pristine areas, representing principal geographic divisions and biotic regions, within the network of parks and protected areas.



Accordingly there are a total of 9 National Parks (Makalu-Barun:2,330 sq km; Sagarmatha:1,148 sq km; Langtang:1,710 sq km; Shivapuri:144 sq km; Chitwan:932 sq km; Shephoksundo: 3,555 sq km; Rara:106 sq km; Khaptad:225 sq km and Bardia:968 sq km), including 9 buffer zones around each National Park: 3836sq km, 3 Wildlife Reserves (Koshi Tappu:176 sq km; Parsa:499 sq km; and Shuklaphanta:305 sq km), 1 Hunting Reserve (Dhorpatan:1325 sq km) and 3 Conservation Areas (Kanchanjunga:2,035 sq km; Manaslu:1,663 sq km and Annapurna:7,629 sq km), covering a total of 28585.67 sq km (19.42 percent) of the country's total land (DNPWC 1998).

The protected areas are the legacy of the country to attract the tourists from different parts of the world. Major protected areas to attract the tourists are Chitwan National Park (77,266 visitors), Annapurna Conservation Area (66,320 visitors) and Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) National Park (21,327 visitors) in the fiscal year 1998/99. These three protected areas accommodate 86 percent (164,958) of the total tourists (191,617) visiting protected areas. These figures indicate that the highest concentration of eco-tourists is recorded in Chitwan National Park, this is because of the spectacular recreational facilities of natural interest are available in and around the Park areas and easy accessibility from Kathmandu, the Capital City of Nepal.” (Bhusal, 2007)

Those policies made by the government in 2065 has opened a lot of doors for the development, promotion, conservation. The objectives set by the government as stated in the policy are developed from the root of Nepal's need and possibilities. The policy are set in different sections under the main section of tourism policy. The ecotourism policy is set in 15 major points in which all sectors including natural resource, cultural resources, ethnicity, indigenous people etc. are addressed. The vision 2020 has set the goal to increase international arrivals to Nepal to 2 million by 2020 and expand economic opportunities and increase employment in tourism sector to 1 million by 2020. The vision 2020 has set 5 objectives and sex strategies to meet the goal set.

While observing in a surface, the policy made by the government seems to be attractive and powerful, however in deep it has skipped a lot of concerns that really needed to be mentioned. It has been stated that the cultural heritages and ecological zones will be promoted, whoever the matter of identification of backward and ruined heritages like upperdang gadi in Chitwan, sinduli gadi etc are ignored. The policy does not seem to be effective in micro level since it has skipped specific and detailed explanation of important areas.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **3. Research Methodology**

#### **3.1 Introduction:**

Research methods and tools are considered to be the most important aspect of any research design since they play vital role in the significance of the research establishing the accuracy, validity, are reliability.

The basic objectives of this research is to describe the contribution of ecotourism to uplift the livelihood of the local people; analyze the effects of ecotourism in conservation of natural resources; and identify the chances of new field of tourism field in Sauraha and its surrounding to promote and sustain the ecosystem of tourism. These objectives are considered to be important since they give minimal level information, which is used to make the maximum level tourism development plan. For obtaining these objectives, my research project was conducted concerning the following issues in depth.

#### **3.2 Research Design:**

This research was designed to envelop the ecotourism of Sauraha, Chitwan which is rich in biodiversity, and cultural norms and values. This research accepted explanatory and descriptive type of research design. This study is a micro level analysis of ecotourism in Sauraha, Chitwan in which primary and secondary sources of information are used.

#### **3.3 Nature of Source of Data:**

This study includes both primary and secondary sources of information. Both qualitative and quantitative data were collected for the study. The primary data were collected through field survey. Secondary data were obtained from different offices of the area, books, eBooks, research papers, journals, magazines, periodicals, web sides.

#### **3.4 Universe and Sampling:**

Sauraha is a ward in Bachhchhauri VDC (now Ratnanagar municipality), however the area covered by tourism industry has been extended in other wards viz. Malpur and Odara. Bachhchhauri VDC is occupied by 2321 households where these three wards share 774 households. Among the total population, I have taken only 7.75% of the households which

comes to be 60 households. These households were taken randomly for the study purpose. There are 106 hotels in the areas where I have taken 18.86% of the total hotels which becomes 20 hotels. The hotels selected for the study were also selected randomly. I had also asked 15 tourists accidentally.

Primary data for the present study, were collected through the some assessment tools like questionnaire, structured and unstructured interviews.

### **3.5 Data Collection Techniques and Tools:**

The study was done under the certain tools and techniques. For this sake, the following techniques and tools were applied.

#### **3.5.1 Household Survey and Questionnaire:**

Household survey was made effective with the help of structural and unstructured questionnaire that the interviewee are supposed to fill. The senior household member was asked the questionnaire in the nation and the standardized Nepali language so as to make it comprehensive and accurate to all. The internal tourists were asked different sort of questionnaire related to the research work and tourists from other countries were asked the same questions translated in English. The assertive and polite language was used to establish a serene interactional relationship. The jargons and any difficult linguistic terminologies were completely avoided.

#### **3.5.2 Key Informant Interview:**

Some local key person were targeted to interview to find out other related and necessary information. Such key persons include the former, an officer of tourist police (Mr. Lokendra Adkari) Sauraha, an admin officer of King Mahendra Trust ( Mr. Ram Kumar Aryal), Sauraha, general secretary of Regional Hotel Association Chitwan ( Mr. Ram Mani Khanal), Sauraha and others. An open ended interview was conducted focused on the research topic. The content of the interview was similar and in some extent different regarding the organizational profession of the individuals.

### **3.6 Analyzing the Data:**

All the data has been presented and analyzed to fulfil the objectives. For the clarity in illustration of the research work, tables, charts and figures are used as for data presentation. The research work includes some statistical tools like percentage, average, ratio etc. to analyze the data. The data has been presented using computer software SPSS, MS Word (Table and Smart Art) and MS Excel. For, qualitative data, descriptive method was also used. The personal experience, field observation and information from informants, data from secondary sources have also been used while defining and specifying data.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### 4. Data Presentation, Analysis and Interpretation

#### 4.1 Introduction

The study covers the period from 2062 to 2072. The information was collected from the primary and secondary sources. The information on the population size, no of tourists arrivals in Nepal and Chitwan, Chitwan purpose of visits, seasonal distributional of tourists arrivals by different countries, age and sex composition, means of transportation used by tourists, length of stay, tourists expenditure pattern, investment pattern of hotels, land occupied by hotels, income variations of hotels and secondary data were collected from CNP, DNPWC, CBS 2011 etc. are analyzed in this chapter.

#### 4.2 Area and population

The study was done in Sauraha, a famous place for ecotourism which lies in Bachhchhauri VDC (now Ratnanagar Municipality) that is in the south east territory of Chitwan. This area is very famous for its ecological riches because of the Chitwan National Park, a protected area of one horned rhinos and Bengal tigers. The national park has gained many national and international awards i.e. World Heritage Site (1984 AD); Wetland of International Importance (WIT-2003 AD), Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA-2005 AD); Zero Poaching Year (2014 AD), Conservation Assured Tiger Standard (CATS-2015 AD) etc. Most of the people living in the area are indigenous Tharus, however, the area is rich in cultural diversity and ethnic groups.

The total households in Chitwan district is 132345 and total population is 579984 where male shares 279087 and female shares 300897. Bachhchhauri VDC shares 2321 households and 10905 population where male shares 5387 and female shares 5518. Among the total households and population in Bachhchhauri VDC, Sauraha shares 774 households and 3635 total population.

The literacy rate of Bachhchhauri VDC according to the National Population and Housing Census (Census, 2011) seems to be as given in the table:

*Table 1 Population of the Area*

Sex ↓	Population Where →	Can read and write	Can read only	Can't read and write	Literacy not stated	Literacy rete
	Both sexes	7775	71	2366	2	76.12
	Male	4199	34	777	1	83.80
	Female	3576	37	1589	1	68.73

*Source: National Population and Housing Census (NPHC 2011)*

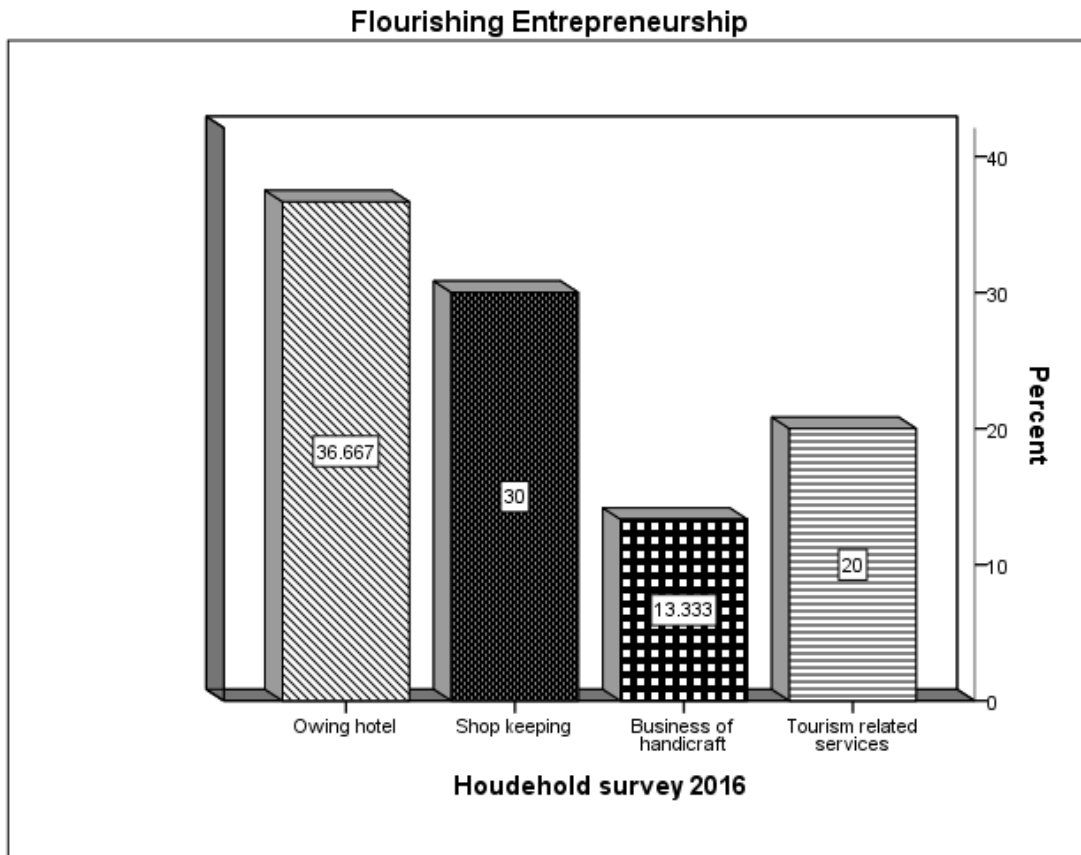
Although the literacy rate seems to be 76.12 where male rate is 83.80 and female rate is 68.73 and male has higher literacy rate, my research work has different scenario of literacy rate where I found almost all informants literate and it is a must to note that whole Chitwan was declared as fully literate district as 97.5 per cent of the citizens under the age category of 15-60 were found to be literate (RSS) on September 9, 2014 (International Literary Day and National Literary Day)

The major occupations of the villagers were found to have been farming, business, employment and services etc. some of the villagers are also involved in government and non-government offices as staffs like teacher and all.

### **4.3 Flourishing Entrepreneurship**

Sauraha is renowned for its rich entrepreneurship in different sectors like farming, owing hotels, shop keeping, business of handicrafts, tourism related services etc. Some of the major such fields are shown in the bar diagram. As given in the bar diagram, highest percentile 36.7 seems to be occupied by owing hotel and the lowest percentile 13.3 seems to be covered by business of handicraft. Shop keeping and tourism related services which share 30 and 20 percent respectively are also found to be flowering in Sauraha. The data below shows the clear picture of the situation of the entrepreneurship mentioned.

Figure 1 Flourishing Entrepreneurship



The data shows that owning hotel is the most attractively flourishing in Saurah which shares the 36.7% of householders' view and second growing entrepreneurship is shop keeping i.e. shops of handicrafts; shops of wineries; shops of books, t-shirts, souvenirs etc. that shares 30% of householders' view and other such growing area of entrepreneurship are business of handicraft; tourism related services and all.

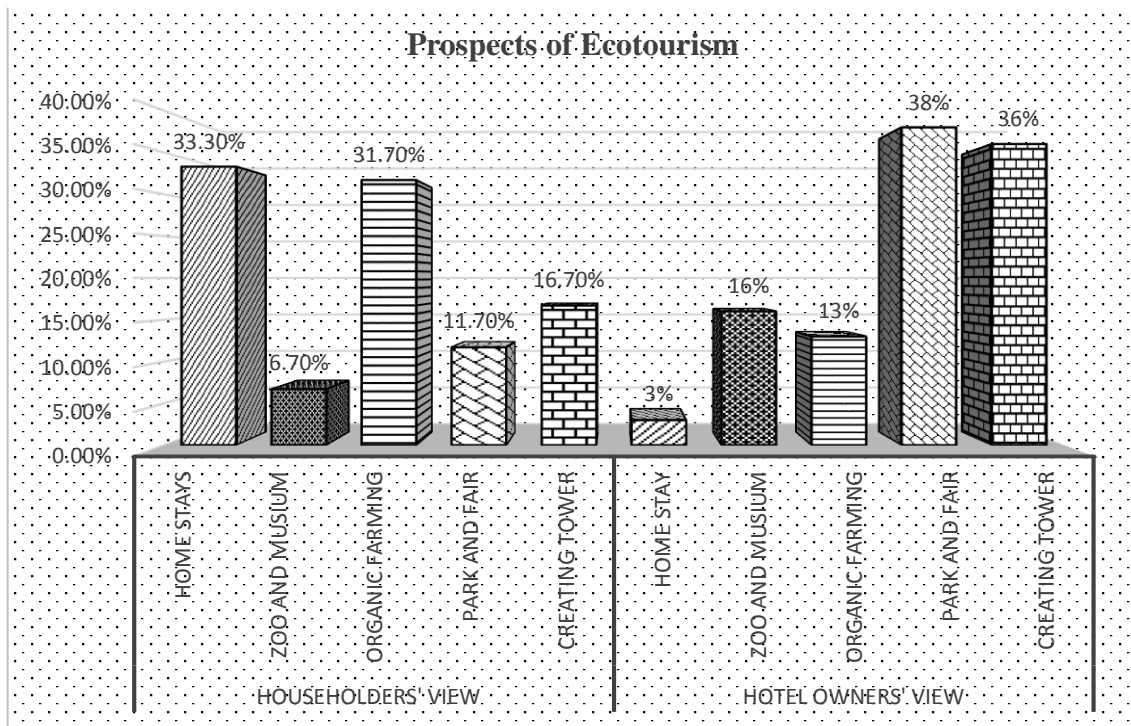
#### 4.4 New Prospects of Tourism Development

Sauraha has great potentialities in the sector of ecotourism because of the prosperous National Park attached to it. In my research work, the different opinions have been found while asking to the householders and hotel owners which have been presented in the two different bar diagrams as follows.

Regarding the householders view the largest possibilities seems to be in homestays and organic farming which shares 33.3 and 31.7 percent respectively whereas hotel owners view that park and fair, and creating view tower are the things having highest potentialities

that share 40 and 35 percent respectively. The most important thing is that home stay is the highly valued prospects in the eyes of householders whereas it has no value in hotel owners eyes.

Figure 2 Prospects of Ecotourism



Field Survey Report, 2016

I had also asked about this to Mr. Ram Kumar Aryal, an administration officer of National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) who said that home stays, organic farming, making Fun Park, establishing zoo and promoting museum, plantation of grass for elephants in the area of old Padampur are some of the things that can be done to promote ecotourism.

#### 4.5 Prospects in Tourism Destination Extension

Sauraha is a small in area in Bachhchhauuli VDC. This village is very rich in its diversity i.e. ecological and cultural diversity. Now, this area is very tiny which can be extended to the other nearby ecological zones. When it was asked that whether this area can be linked to the other zones to both householders and hotel owners, the result was 100% yes. Then, I asked further questions about the major places suitable to be linked to this area, the answers can be concluded as in the table.



*Table 2 Prospects of Tourism Destination*

Preferred Places	Householder's View	Hotel owner's View
Siraichuli & Uppergandgadi	40%	45%
Jalbire	10%	10%
Devghat	18.3%	15%
Lothar	31.7%	30%

*Field Survey 2016*

As given in the table, there is consistency in the view of householders and hotel owners. Both of them seem to prefer Siraichili and Upperdanggadi most and, then, Lothar, Devghat, and Jalbire come in the second, third and fourth preference.

#### **4.6 Program Launched to Promote the Ecotourism**

When in the field visit to Sauraha, I came to know that there are a lot of programs being done to promote the ecological properties and tourism. Major programs include some sort of skill development program to the people living nearby the national park and buffer zone areas; Alternative Energy Promotion Program; Human Wildlife Conflict Management; Earthworm Manure and Organic Farming; Bamboo Farming; Aid for Tharu Cultural Musium and Research Centre; Solar Wiring in the Borderline of National Park, Community Forest and Villages; Wildlife Research and Monitoring; Wetland Conservation Program; Mikania Control and Management Research; Species Conservation and Breeding Support (Gharial Conservation and Breeding Support, Vulture Conservation and Breeding Support, Elephant Breeding Support); Grassland Management; Conservation for the Summer migratory Birds; Tiger Observation; Forest Path and Wood Bridge Management; Poaching Control; Orphan Wildlife Management; Dangerous Wildlife Control and Management etc.

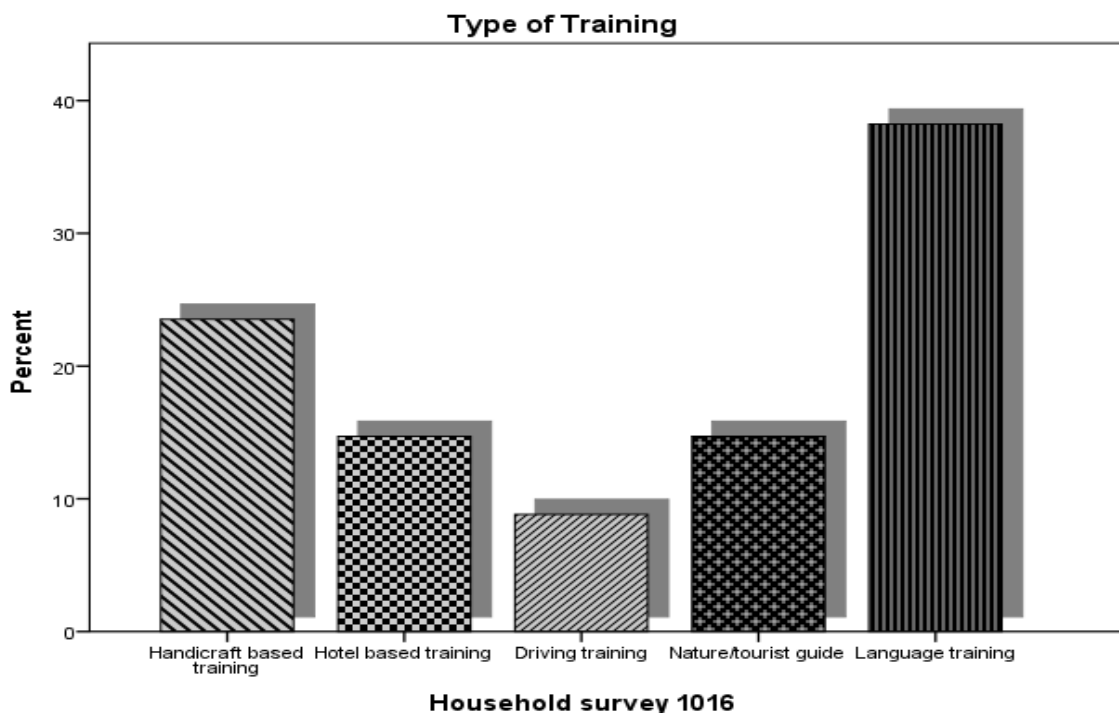
#### **4.7 Skill Development Program**

The people in Sauraha are found to be highly aware of the sensitivity of national park and other ecological properties. Though people in this area are found to gain skill in different areas, still the numbers of unskilled people are not minimal rather more higher.

The training for skill development being launched in this region are electric wiring; wool weaving; mushroom farming; improved livestock farming, nature guide; handicraft

training; candle making program; group tailoring program; improved stove making program etc. This research has studied about the skill development trainings under handicraft based training; hotel based training; driving training; nature/tourist guide training; language training.

Figure 3 Training Types



As presented in the bar diagram, people are found to be taking language training higher than any other training which seems to cover 38.2% percent. Second preference among the other options of training seems to be handicraft based training that shares 23.5% percent. Both hotel based training and nature/ tourist guide training are equally preferred and driving training seems to be the least preferred one.

Chitwan National Park had given some of the trainings in 2068 for the people living nearby the park to promote their skills for the sake of their livelihood. Such trainings are tailoring; computer; cook; handicraft; house wiring; mushroom farming; painting and nature guide.

Table 3 Training Provided by CNP

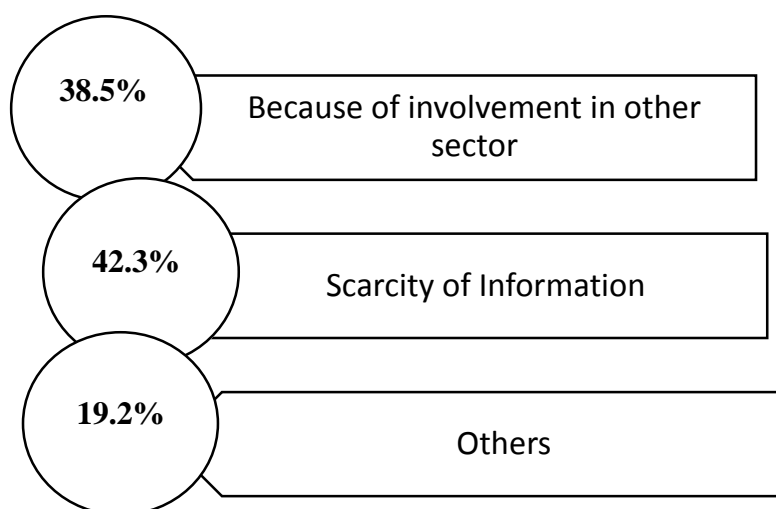
Training	Tailoring	Computer	Cook	Handicraft
Number	184	105	22	30
Training	House wiring	Mushroom Farming	Painting	Nature guide
Number	81	9	10	46

Source: Annual Report, Chitwan National Park (2067/68)

This table shows that tailoring was taken by the highest number of population i.e. 184 people, whereas mushroom farming was taken by the smallest number of population i.e. 9 people. Second liked training was computer which was taken by 105 people and the fourth wanted skill developing training was house wiring that was participated by 81 people.

The houses in which no one had taken trainings were also asked about the reason why they were unable to take the trainings where they responded in the three different alternative as follows.

*Figure 4 Reason for Missing Trainings*



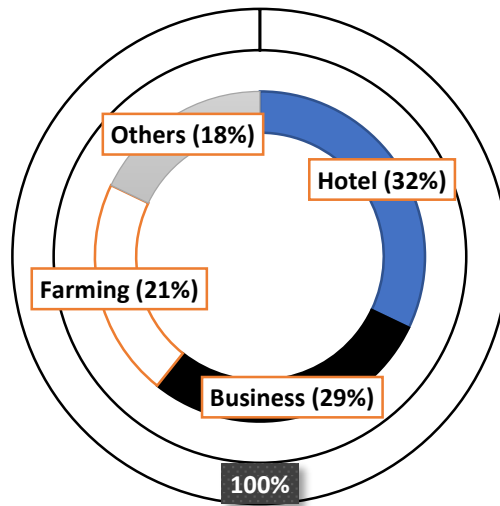
*Source: Field Survey 2016*

It is seen that most of the household are lacking the training program due to the reason that they are involved in other sectors. The other reason of missing the training is that there is no proper advertisement of the training program that are being launched frequently. Unwillingness; lack of access; job scarcity etc. are the other reason that make people avoid the trainings.

#### **4.8 Main Economic Backbone.**

People in Sauraha are involved in different sort of income generation activities. Agriculture; hotel and business; employment; leasing and renting; services etc. are the main area of income generation. Mentioned here in the doughnut is the sectors of economic development as viewed by the residents.

Figure 5 Economic Backbone



*Field Survey 2016*

The picture shows that hotel and business is the main backbone of the locality that shares 38% as said by the villagers. The second largest share is of agriculture which has 35% sharing among the others. Employment seems to be sharing minimal percentage when it comes to the matter of total sharing of the variables.

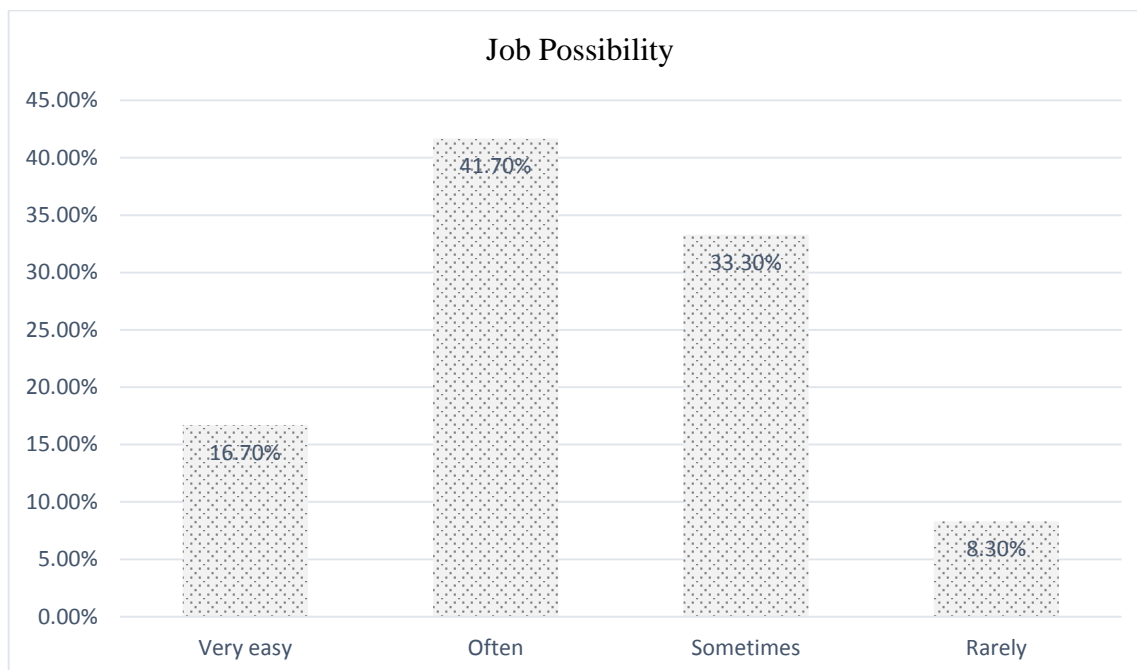
Though these sectors are playing vital role in boosting economy in the countryside, the Chitwan National Park (CNP) has uncountable and limitless assistance to promote the economic status of the villagers. This national park is investing 30% to 50% of its total revenue to the development of the community attached to its periphery. The investment of the national park is not minimal since it has 24, 65, 28, 680.23 revenue collection in 2071/72. CPN uses funds for making people skilled, assisting them in biogas and all.

**4.9 Job Possibilities and Employment**

Sauraha is the third most visited destination in Nepal because of its rich diversity in tourism related riches. And this tourism has made it prosperous compared to the other nearby areas. There is high possibility to find job if someone is skilled in certain sectors.

The people's view has been mentioned below regarding the job possibility in Sauraha in the bar chart.

*Figure 6 Job Possibility*



*Household survey, 2016*

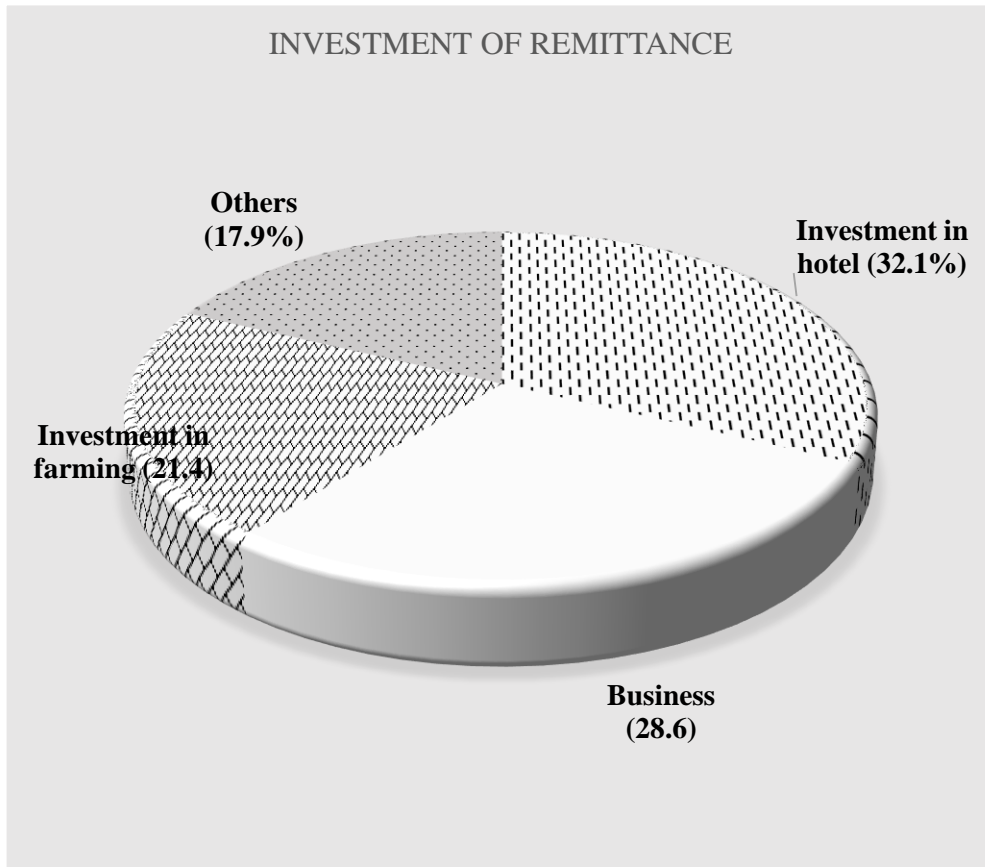
This bar diagram shows that getting job is not very easy in Sauraha and it is not so difficult as well. If a person is skilled in hotel related jobs; can work as a guide; can have skill in handicraft making; getting job is usually possible in Sauraha.

So far as the matter of employment is concerned in this village, 85% households said that at least one member of their family is employed in Sauraha as an employee or employer or self-employed. And the rest of the households are untouched when it comes to the matter of employment.

People in Sauraha are also found to be employed in foreign countries. However the rate of the households involved in foreign employment which is 46.7% is lesser than the households doing something in the motherland which is 53.3%

In my research work, I had also questioned to the households of foreign employment what the money from the other country is used for, the response of the households is as given in the Pie chart.

Figure 7 Investment of Remittance



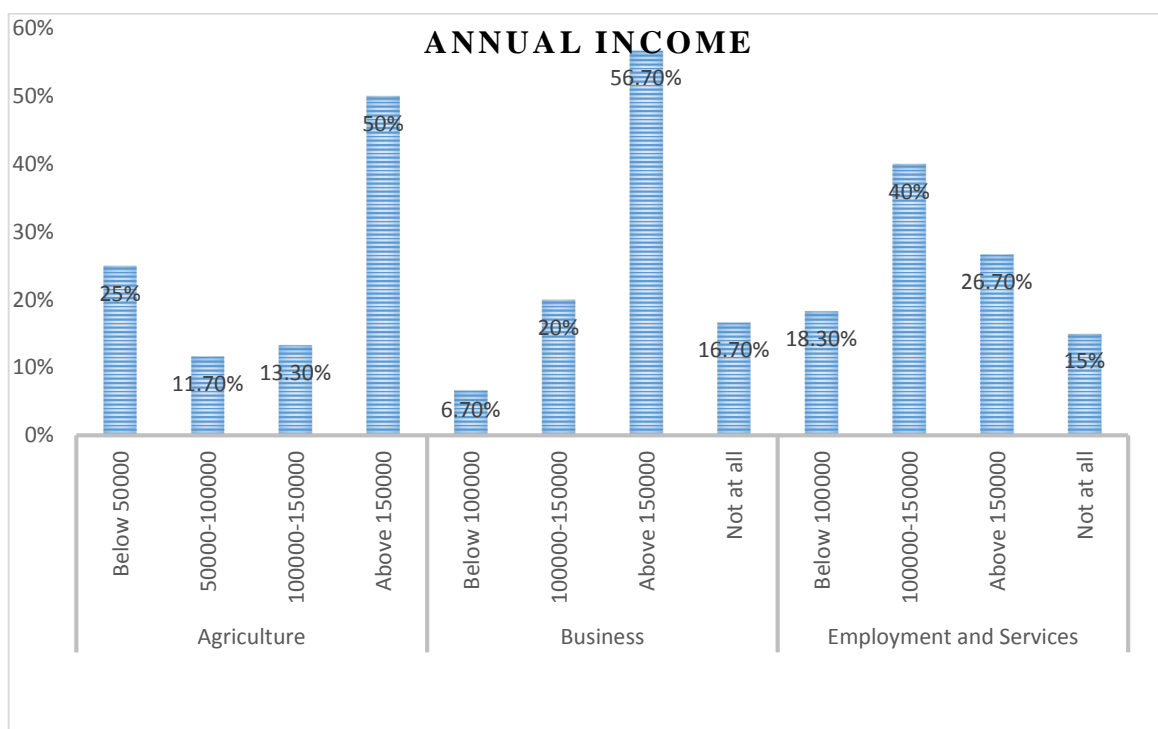
Household survey, 2016

The pie chart shows that the remittance from the other country is being used as an investment in different areas of income generation. The largest percentage seems to be investment in hotels (32%), however, investment in business (29%) is not much lesser than it. Investment in farming and investment in other sectors shares 21% and 19% respectively.

#### 4.10 Annual Income of the households

People in Sauraha are involved in different sectors to generate income for the livelihood. People are found to be involved in agriculture, business, employment, services and other sector for income to sustain life. The data presented in the table shows the income rate in different sectors.

Figure 8 Annual Income of Households



Source: Household survey, 2016

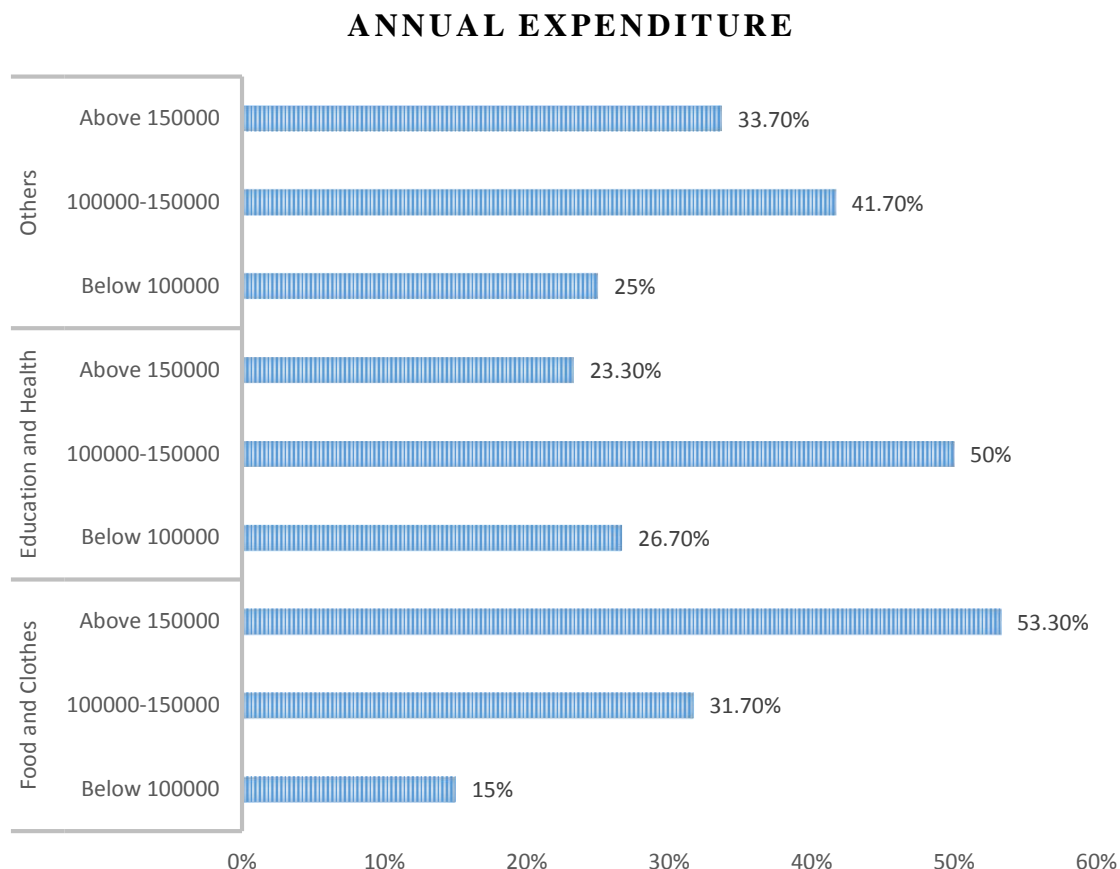
The data shows that 50% of household involved in agriculture has above 150000 annual income and 11.7% household has 50000 to 100000 annual income from agriculture. Households earning between 100000 to 150000 share 13.3% of the total households. 25% of the total households are found to be earning below 50000 from agriculture annually since some households possess very few land to farm. From business, 56.7% households earn above 150000 and 16.7% of households are not involved in business to generate income. 20% of households earn between 100000-150000 from small business like shop keeping. The smallest percentage of households is found of those that earn below 100000 which is only 6.5%. The next sector of generating income is employment and services in which the largest no of households are found to earning between 100000-150000 which is 40%. The least percentage is of those households who are not involved in employment and services. The households earning below 100000 and above 150000 share 18.5% and 26.7% respectively.

#### 4.11 Annual Expenditure of Households

Sauraha is an expensive place when compared it to other places in Chitwan. Everything either the things related to food or other goods cost a lot in there. Thus, though it is a little

village, living in here is expensive for day to day survival. This is the reason behind the higher expenditure of the villagers in Sauraha. The data presented below describes about the annual expenditure of Sauraha as mentioned by the local people.

*Figure 9 Annual Expenditure of Households*



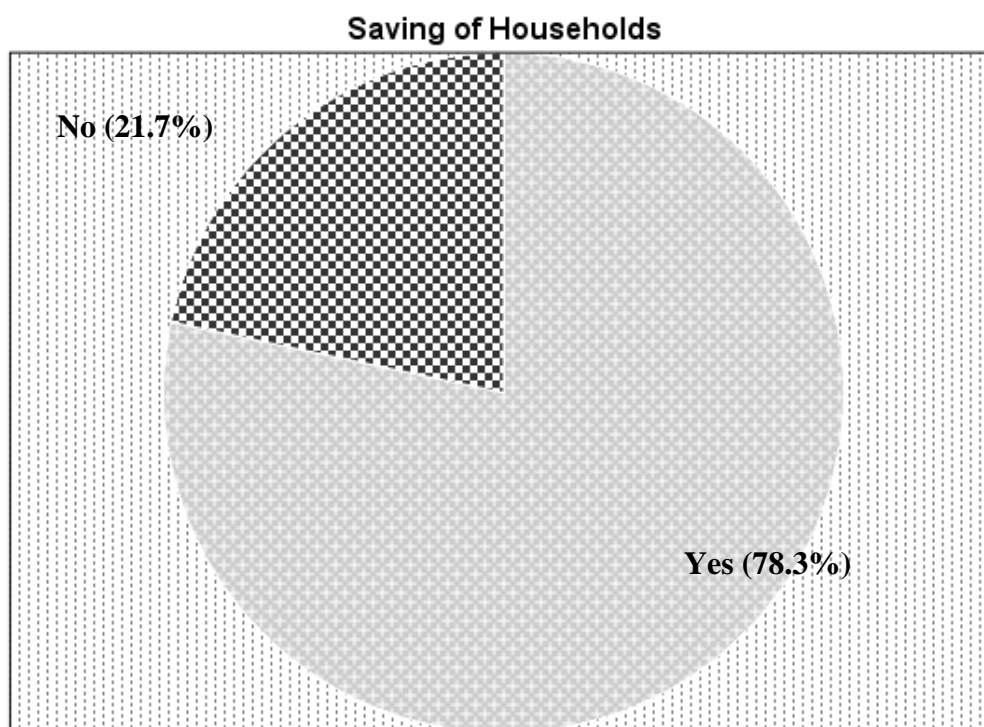
*Source: Household survey, 2016*

The data mentioned above shows that 53.3% of households has above 150000 expenditure annually in food and clothes and only 15% households has below 100000 expenditure. The percentage of the households having expenditure between 100000 and 150000 seems to be 31.7 in food and clothes. The next part of expenditure is health and education in which 50% of households has expenditure between 100000 to 150000 annually. The households having expenditure above 150000 share 23.3% and the households having expenditure below 100000 share 26.7%. The expenditure sources that are not covered by the above mentioned two areas are mentioned under the topic others. In others, most of the households (41.7%) has expenditure in between 100000-150000. The households having expenditure above 150000 and below 100000 seem to be 33.7% and 25% respectively.



So far as the matter of saving in regards to income and expenditure is concerned, most of the households have been found to have saving. The households having saving are 78.3% and the households having no saving are 21.7% as mentioned in the pie chart.

*Figure 10 Saving of Households*



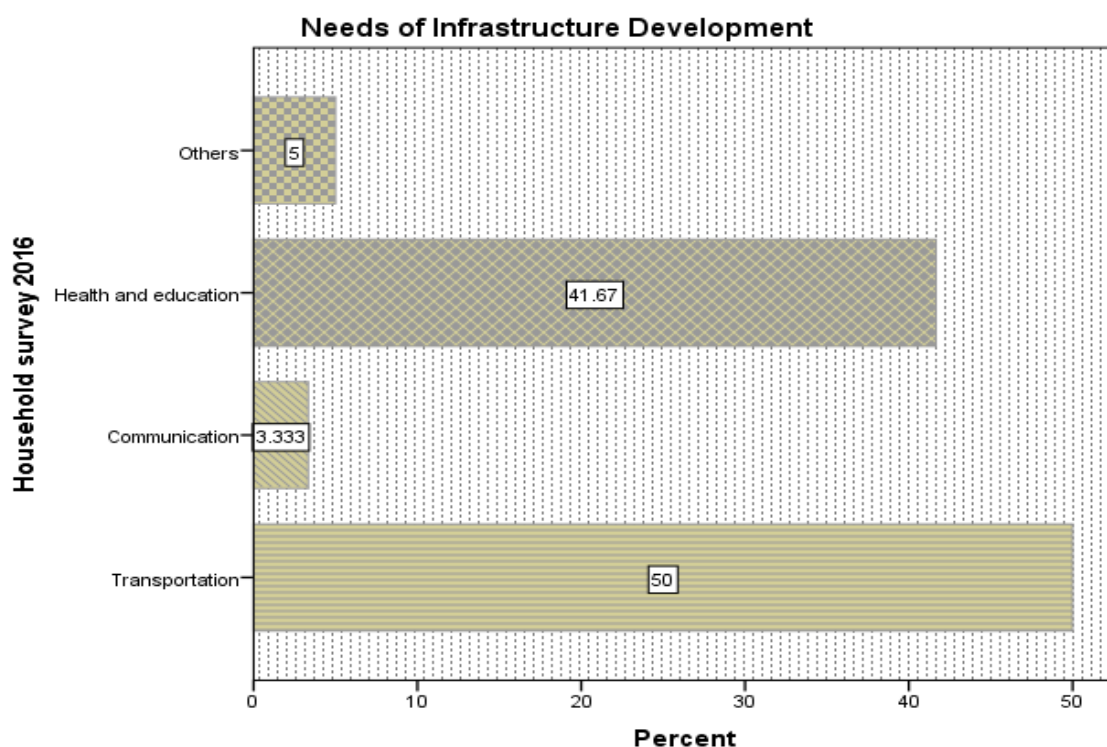
Source: *Household survey, 2016*

The pie chart tells that the households that have saving are almost 8 times larger than the households having no saving in number.

#### **4.12 Infrastructure Development**

Sauraha is one of the most visiting places in Nepal as a tourism destination. Thus most of the people who have not gone there may think that it would be beautiful and full of necessary Infrastructure development, however the situation is not like that. The situation of infrastructure development as viewed by the people living in the place is shown in the bar chart below.

Figure 11 Needs of Infrastructure Development



The bar chart manifests that the condition of the transportation is so poor since most of the households (50%) think that there is a dire need for the development of road condition and the quality and frequency of the means of transportation. The situation of health and education also seems to be worse as viewed by the local people since 41.67% of households have been found to be unsatisfied to the present situation of health and education. The situation of communication seems to be very good and there are almost no other issues that seem to be in need of development.

So far as the matter of infrastructure is concerned, the survey done in the hotel is slightly different from the survey done in householders. The data given below sum up the survey in hotels.

Table 4 Quality of Infrastructure

Aspects/Quality	Very good	Good	Poor
Transportation	0%	26%	74%
Communication	40%	58%	2%
Health & Education	5%	56%	39%
Others	13%	46%	41%

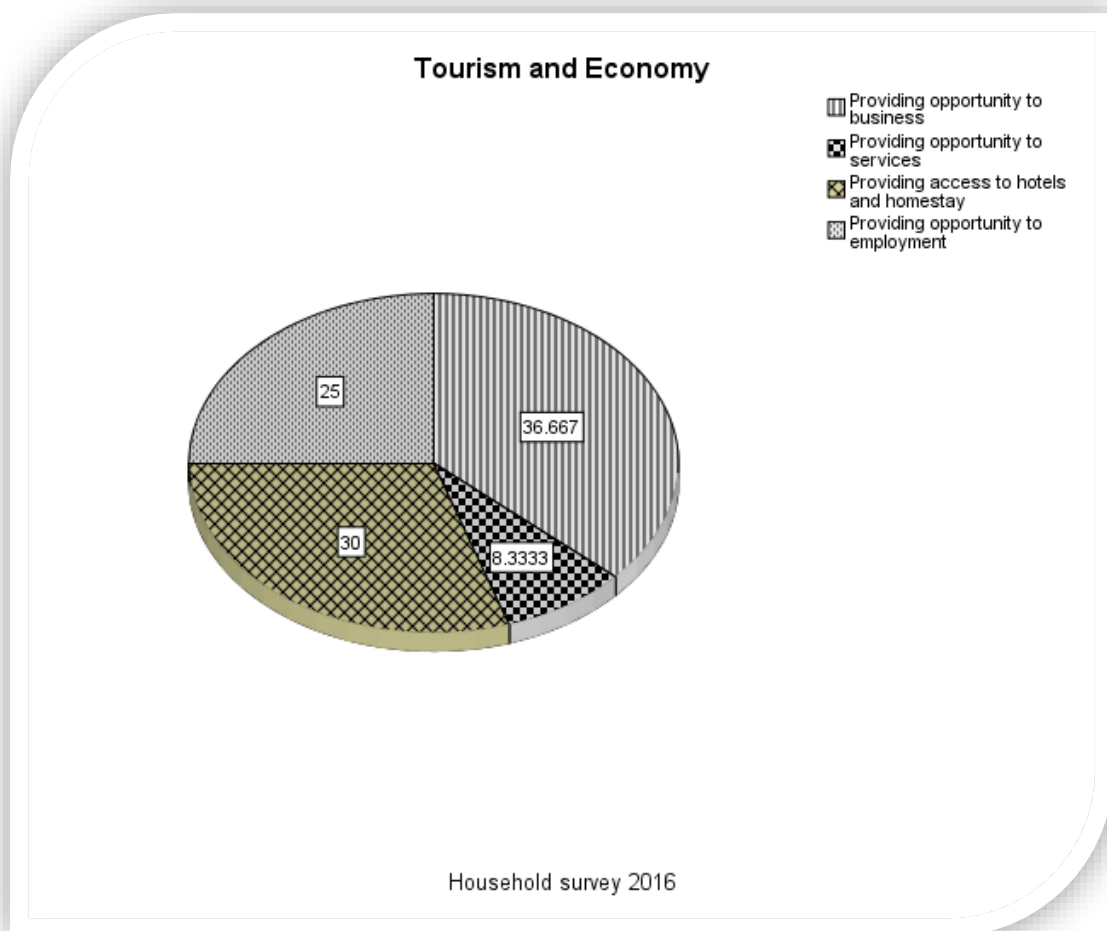
Source: Household Survey, 2016

This data explains that the condition of road is very poor and communication is satisfactory. The condition of health and education is also satisfactory. Others includes the condition of drinking water; electricity which is also not bad.

### 4.13 Tourism and Economic Impact

Tourism has very positive and strong impact in the local area when it comes to the matter of Sauraha. I could not get anyone who responded that tourism has negative impact in Sauraha. Every household in the study area told “yes” when they were asked to respond whether tourism improves economic condition. The households were also requested to respond why they view that tourism improves economic situation with multiple choices where they made choice as given in the pie chart.

Figure 12 Tourism and Economic

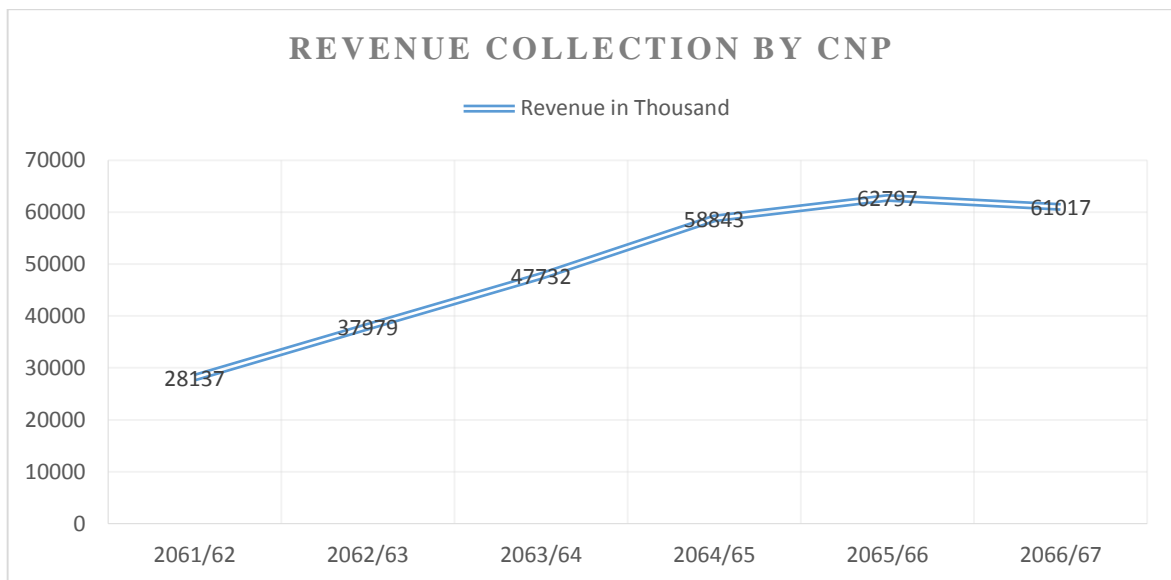


The pie chart shows that tourism assists to promote economic condition by providing various opportunities i.e. opportunity to business; opportunity to services; opportunity to run hotels and homestays; and opportunity to employment. The largest percentage of

householders is found to be agreed that providing opportunity to business is the main logical fact which is supported by 36.7% of households. Providing access to hotels and homestays is the next fact that has got 30% of householders' opinion. The opinion supporting the idea that tourism helps to improve economic situation by providing opportunity to employment has come under the preference of 30% of households and service related matter is in the least preference.

Economic impact in Sauraha can be further explained on the basis of the revenue collection of the CNP since this park is the main reason of tourism and is supporting its 30% to 50% of the revenue collection for uplifting the villagers. The trend of revenue collection by the national park is shown in the line chart below.

*Figure 13 Revenue Collection of CNP*



*Source: Annual Report 2066/67, CNP*

This line chart shows the increasing trend of revenue collection of the CNP in different years from 2061/62 BS to 2066/67 BS. The table below further explains about the revenue collection of the park from 2067/68 BS to 2071/72 BS.

*Table 5 Yearly Revenue Collection by CNP*

Year	Revenue of the Year	Revenue shared by Entrance		Cumulative Revenue
		Shared Amount	Shared %	
2067/68	83145936.30	49165060	59%	1015603898
2068/69	99896148	64738359	64.81%	1115500046
2069/70	211521671.67	177060380	85%	1327121717
2070/71	246871201.36 + 600631.94(Vat)	203748834	82.5%	1573992918
2071/72	246528680.23 +10445379(Vat)	210362667.56	85.33%	1830966977

*Source: Annual Report 2067/68 to 71/72, CNP*

The data vividly explains that the park is collecting revenue in a rapidly increasing trend which has the significant meaning in the community development.

#### **4.14 Understanding between Native and Non-native Culture.**

Tourism area is largely populated by native and non-native individuals and the situation is same as mentioned in Sauraha. I did not get any issue related to misunderstanding between the foreigners and native people. To understand the situation of understanding between non- native and native culture, the households were asked to respond what they think where they could choose three options about i.e. completely; partially; and not at all. The response of the households has been given below in the form table.

*Table 6 Understanding between Native and Non-native People*

<b>Understanding between Native and Non-native Culture</b>		
Completely (83.3%)	Partially (16.7%)	Not at all (0%)

*Source: Household survey, 2016*

The table explains 83.5% of households opines that there is complete understanding between native and non- native people and 16.7% of households opines there is partial understanding between the two. The households having the opinion that there is no any mutual understanding come under 0%.

#### 4.15 Public Awareness about Natural Resources

Tourism industry needs aware people in the local area. Not only this, tourism makes people aware as well. So far as the matter of Sauraha as an ecotourism destination is concerned, people in Sauraha were found to be very aware about the conservation of natural resources. The awareness of people was measured when they were asked to respond if they think nature must be conserved or not, and the response of the people was 100% positive. The households were further asked about the most effective way of nature conservation where they could select one option among three possible options. The view of the households in this regard is given below in table.

*Table 7 Ways to Conserve the Nature*

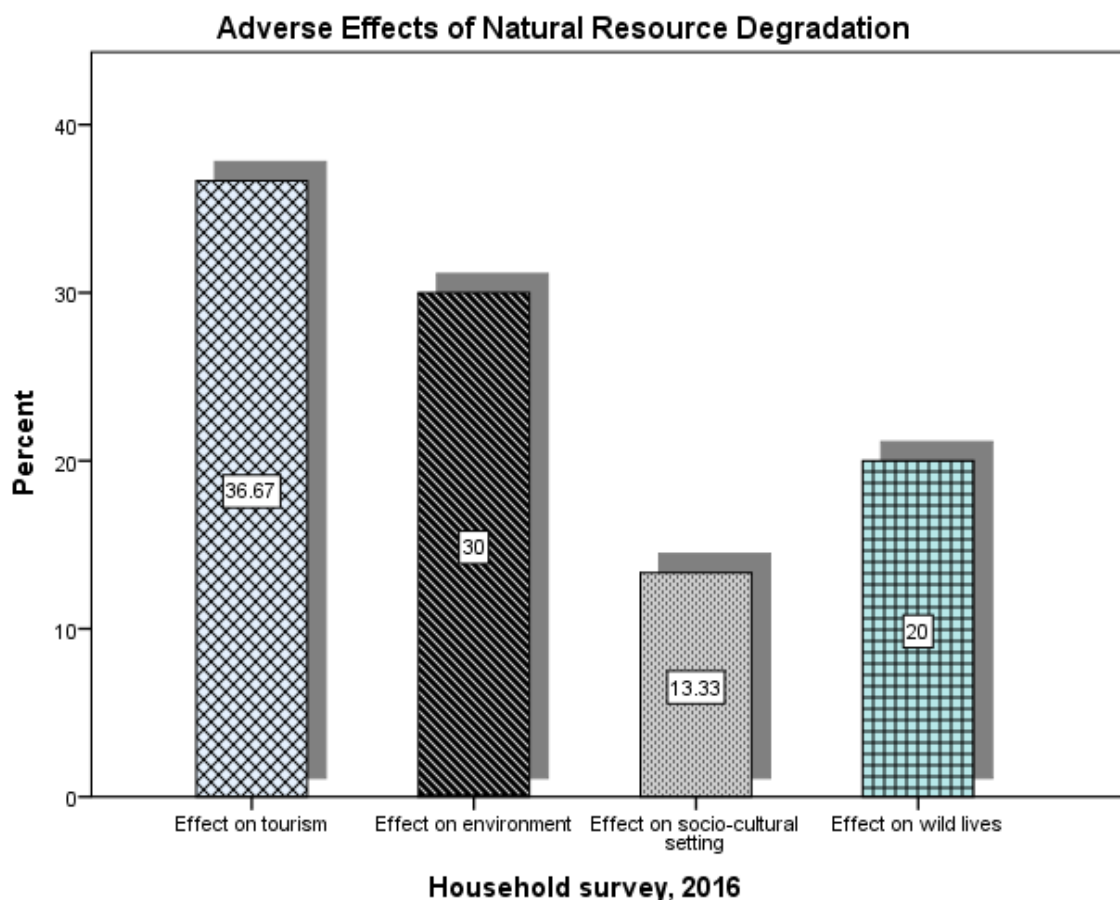
Measures	Frequency	Percent
Raising awareness	40	66.7
Controlling Poaching	4	6.7
Conserving Forest	16	26.7
Total	60	100.0

*Source: Household survey, 2016*

The table reveals that raising public awareness is the crucial fact to conserve the natural resources. 66.7% of households view public raising public awareness can help to conserve the nature. 26.7% of households view that conserving forest can help conserve natural resources and percentage of the households supporting the view that controlling poaching can preserve the natural resources come under only 6.7%

In the research work, the households were also asked to express their opinion about the adverse effects of natural resource degradation in four different and possible options where they responded as in the bar diagram.

Figure 14 Adverse Effects of Natural Resources Degradation

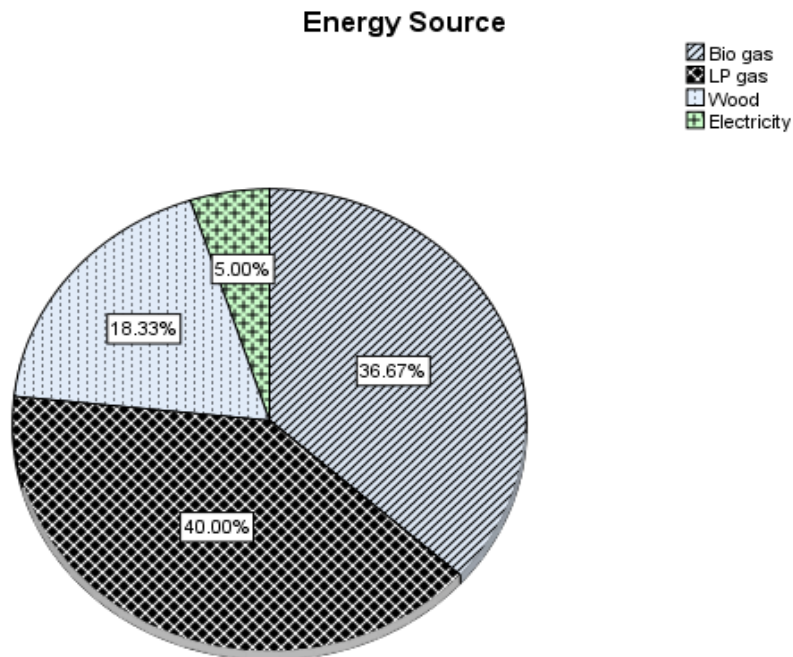


The diagram shows that 36.67% of households said that the adverse effect of natural resource degradation directly effects on tourism. The households who responded this degradation can have side-effects on environment share the 30% of the total households. In the same way, household viewing the negative impact on wild lives and socio-cultural setting share 20% and 13.3% respectively.

#### 4.16 Energy Source and Wastage Management

Sauraha is a small village where people uses different sorts of energy sources like biogas, wood and L.P gas. Most of the households were found to be using L.P gas and bio gas, however the time I researched was at crisis of blockade in boarder between India and Nepal, thus, households were also found to be using wood in large extend. The data presented in the pie chart below describes about the energy source of households as found in the research work.

Figure 15 Energy Sources



Household Survey, 2016

This chart describes that 40% of households uses L.P. gas as energy resources and 36.67% of households uses biogas. In the same way, 18.3% of households uses woods and households using electricity as energy are in 5% only. So far as the energy is concerned to hotel owners, all of them were found to be using L.P gas.

The households who uses woods as energy resource were also questioned where they collect the wood from. 81.8% of them told that they collect it from the nearby community forest and 18.2% of the households buy it from the community forest office. The surprising fact is that no one goes to the national park to collect fire wood.

Wastage management in Sauraha is different from other places because most of the cities situated nearby a river are found to be throwing the wastage in the river, but the situation is different in Sauraha since no one is found to be throwing wastage in river. They are highly aware about natural resources. 63.7% of households were found to be reusing the organic wastage to make biogas and 36.3% of households were found to be making compost manure reusing the organic wastage. And, 90% of households were found who send the



inorganic wastage in municipality vehicle and only 10% of households manage it by the process incineration. And so far as wastage management in hotels is concerned, all of the hotel owners were found to send it with municipality vehicle.

#### 4.17 Situation of Tourism

Tourism is flourishing year by year when it comes to the matter of Sauraha. To measure this concept, the households were asked to respond in three different options i.e. increased, same and decreased where all of the households reacted that the situation is highly increased.

The data below clearly describes the situation of tourism industry in Sauraha since it described the number of tourist who entered the CNP in different years.

*Figure 16 Tourists Arrival Status*

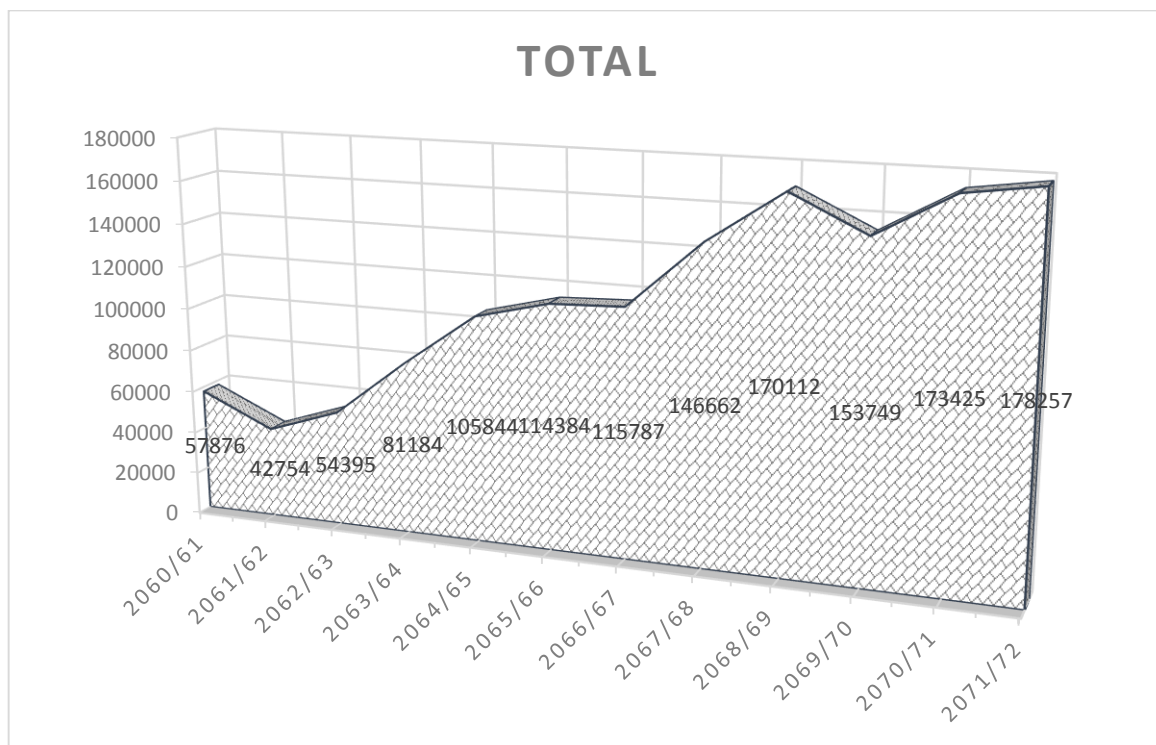
Year	Foreigner	SAARC	Nepalese	Total	Difference	Status
2060/61	-	-	-	57876	-	-
2061/62	-	-	-	42754	15122	Decreased
2062/63	-	-	-	54395	11641	Increased
2063/64	-	-	-	81184	26789	Increased
2064/65	-	-	-	105844	24660	Increased
2065/66	-	-	-	114384	8540	Increased
2066/67	-	-	-	115787	1403	Increased
2067/68	90722 (62%)	16005 (11%)	39935 (27%)	146662	30875	Increased
2068/69	112856 (67%)	17508 (10%)	39748 (23%)	170112	23450	Increased
2069/70	108714 (71%)	13753 (9%)	31282 (20%)	153749	16363	Decreased
2070/71	123282 (71)	16917(10%)	33226 (19%)	173425	19676	Increased
2071/72	127639(71.6%)	14619(8.24%)	35929(20.16%)	178257	1832	Increased

*Source: Annual Report, CNP (2067/68 to 71/72)*

The data describes that the rate of visitors are increasing rapidly year by year. In 2060/61, only 57876 visitors had visited the CNP where the tourist arrival became 178257 in 2071/72. The number of tourist arrival seems to be decreasing in two different years. In 2061/62, the tourist arrival was calculated to have been 42754 which is 15122 less in number than in 2061/62. In the same way, the tourist arrival was 153749 in number in 2069/70 which is 16363 less in number than in the previous year. All the other year can be viewed as prosperous year when it comes to the matter of tourism increment.

The rate of increment of tourist arrival in different year have been shown in the area chart below.

Figure 17 Tourists Arrival Trend



Source: figure no. 16

Though, the data shows that tourist arrival has been increasing year by year, this year seems to be very critical when the concern is linked with tourist arrival. As information given by the hotel owners, this year they have almost no visitors due to the reason of earthquake and blockade at the border between India and Nepal. It can be also useful to mention that the tourist arrival has been increased in Sauraha in 2073, however the exact data has not been published by CNP or any other concerned and authorized organizations like tourist police and all.

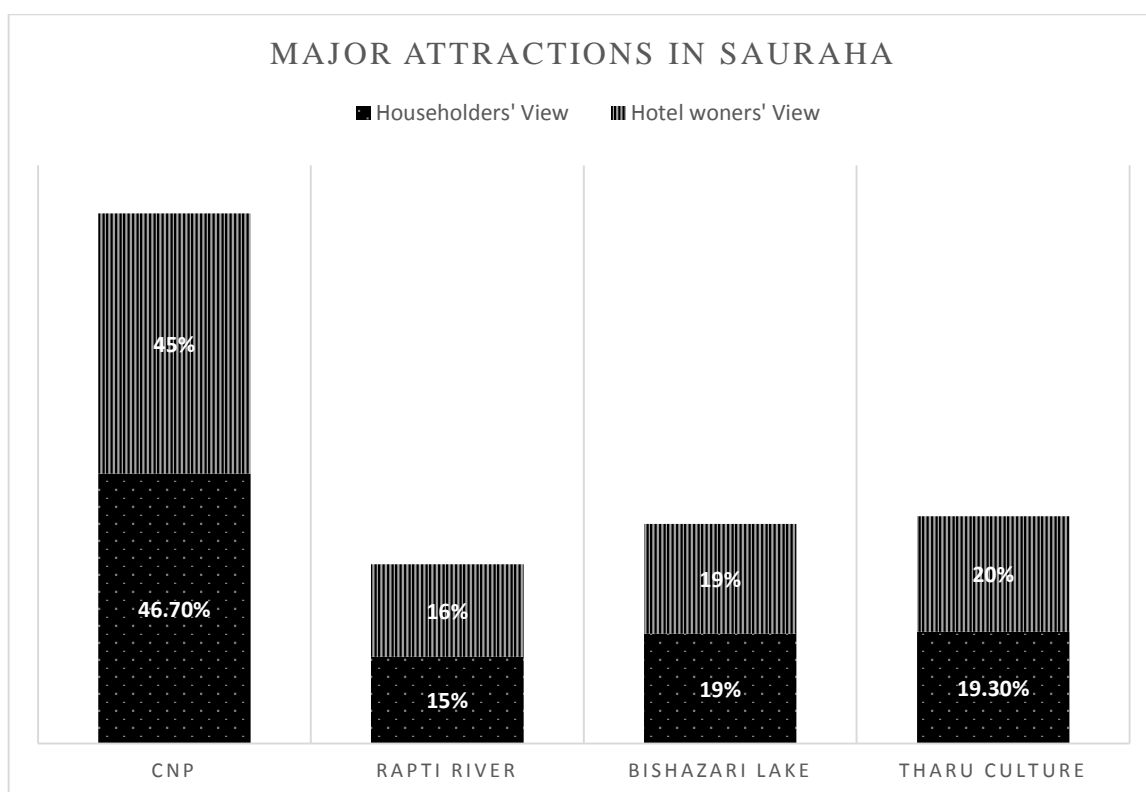
#### 4.18 Major Attraction in Sauraha

Since Sauraha is a village of Tharu culture which is attached to the Chitwan National Park in the south, separating the village from CNP by the Rapti River, this is an attraction of innumerable attractions. The main attraction of Sauraha is Chitwan Nation Park due to some endangered animals like one horned rhino; royal Bengal tiger, golden lizard, birds and all. The next attraction is the Tharu culture which is unique to the whole world. Other

attractions include Rapti river and its sand bank; Bagmara Community Forest, Twenty Thousand Lake etc.

So are as the matter of public view is concerned in regard to the major attractions of Sauraha, the stacked column below shows the householders' and hotel owners' choices found in the research work done recently.

*Figure 18 Major Attractions*



*Source: Field Survey, 2016*

This stacked column tells that there is consistency between the householders' and hotel owners' view about major attractions. Most of the householders and hotel owners choose the CNP as the most attractive place to visit and both of them choose the Rapti River as the least attractive place. And, both the Tharu culture and Bishazari Lake were found to be in range of 20% preference when it comes to the matter of both householders' and hotel owners' prespective.

The major attraction of Sauraha can be discussed in details when the matter comes to the prospects of ecotourism in Sauraha under the following topics.

#### 4.18.1 The Chitwan National Park

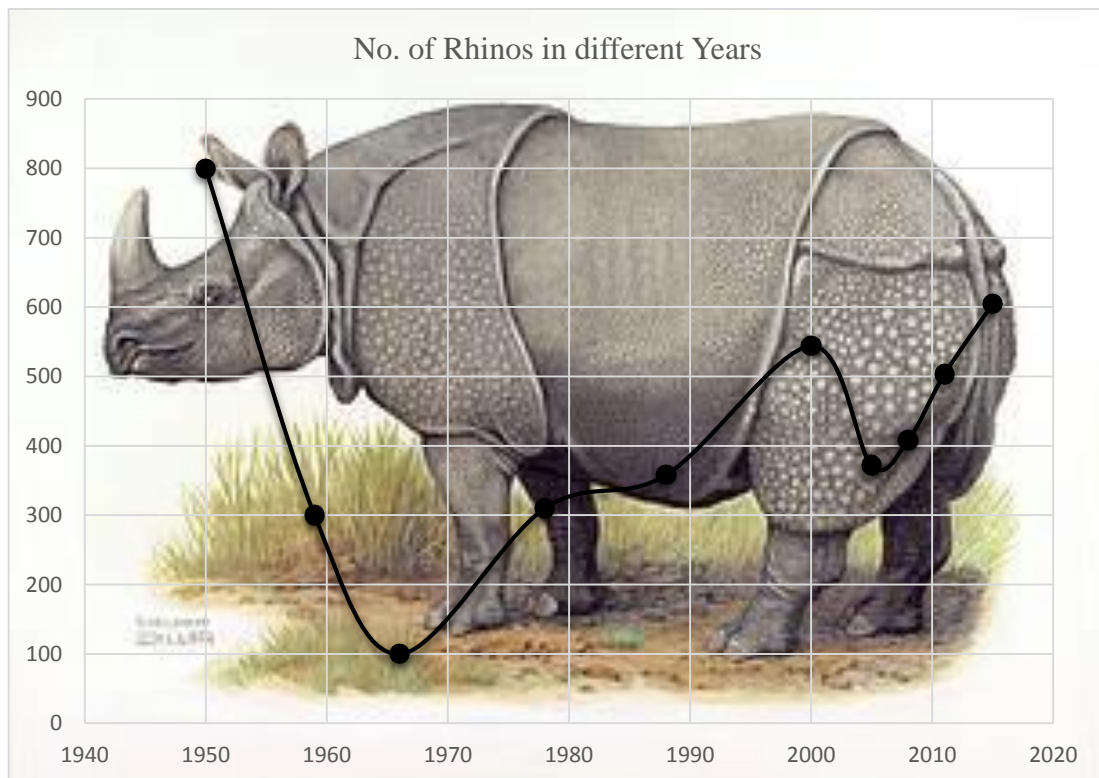
The Chitwan National Park (CNP) is a world heritage property listed by UNESCO, and it also contains a Ramsar Site – Beeshazari Tal in its buffer zone. It is a rich natural area in the Terai, the subtropical southern part of Nepal. A total of 68 species of mammals, 544 species of birds, 56 species of herpetofauna and 126 species of fish have been recorded in the park. (Park, Annual report , 2071/72)

Chitwan National Park is the main attraction of Sauraha because this park is widely famous all over the world. It is the home of many endangered species like rhino; tiger, birds, crocodile, golden lizard, and so on. The park is especially renowned for its protection of One Horned Rhinoceros, Royal Bengal Tiger and Gharial Crocodile.

##### 4.18.1.1 One Horned Rhino

Chitwan national park was established to protect the critically endangered one horned rhinos. This species is the main attraction of CNP. The data below in the scatter chart shows the numbers of rhinos in different year.

Figure 19 Status of Rhinos in CNP



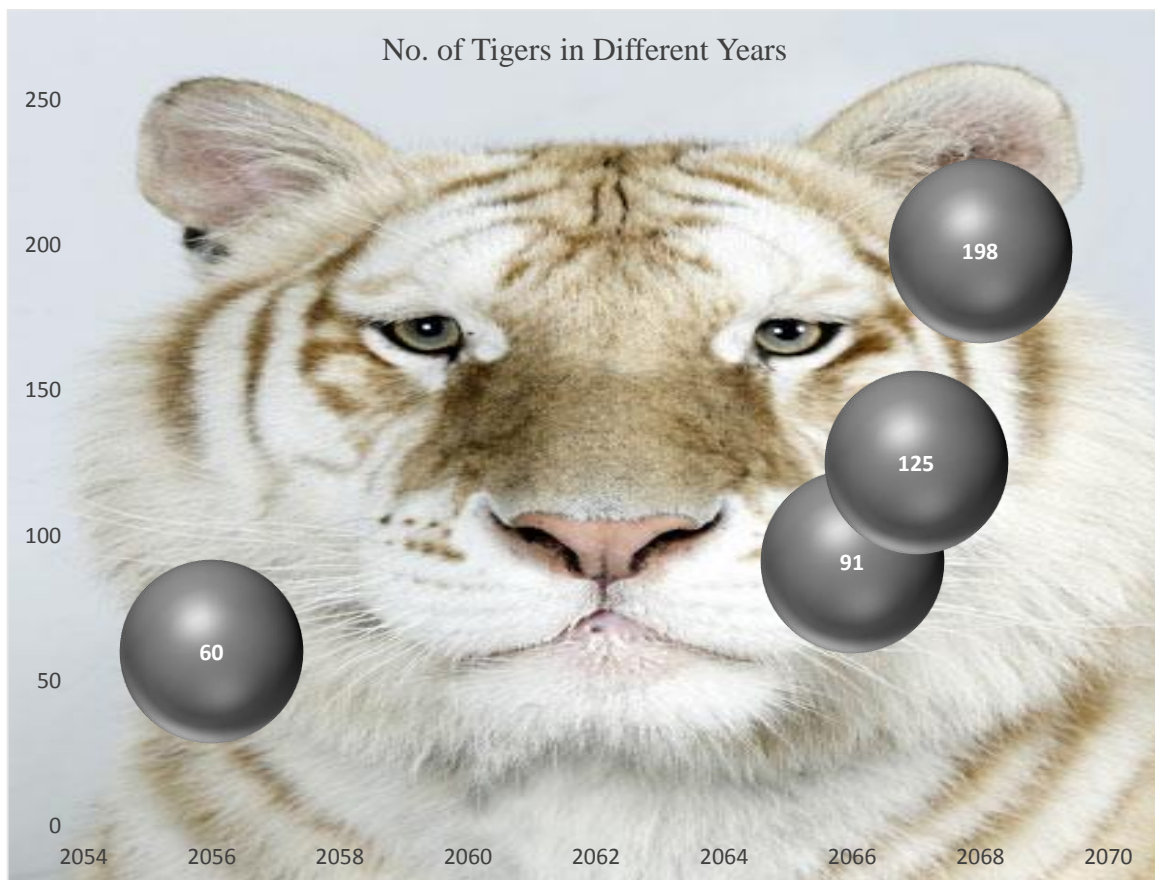
Source: Annual Report 2071/72, CNP

This scatter chart shows that the number of one horned rhino in CNP which was 800 in 1950. The number gradually decreased up to mid-1960s when the number was only 100. From mid-1960s, the number started to increase and reached above 500 in 2000. The number was found to be decreased in 2005 when it became below 400. The number commence to increase again from 2008 when it became slightly above 400, then, the number is getting increased rapidly and it is above 600 up to 2015 AD

#### 4.18.1.2 Bengal Tiger

The Bengal tiger is also an attraction of CNP because it is the natural habitat of this species and there are about 198 Bengal tiger in the park which is the highest number when compared to other habitats. This national park is the first park in the world that has been awarded the title of CATS (Conservation Assured Tiger Standard) for 2015 AD to 2018 AD. The bubble chart below shows the number tigers in CNP in different years.

*Figure 20 Status of Bengal Tiger in CNP*



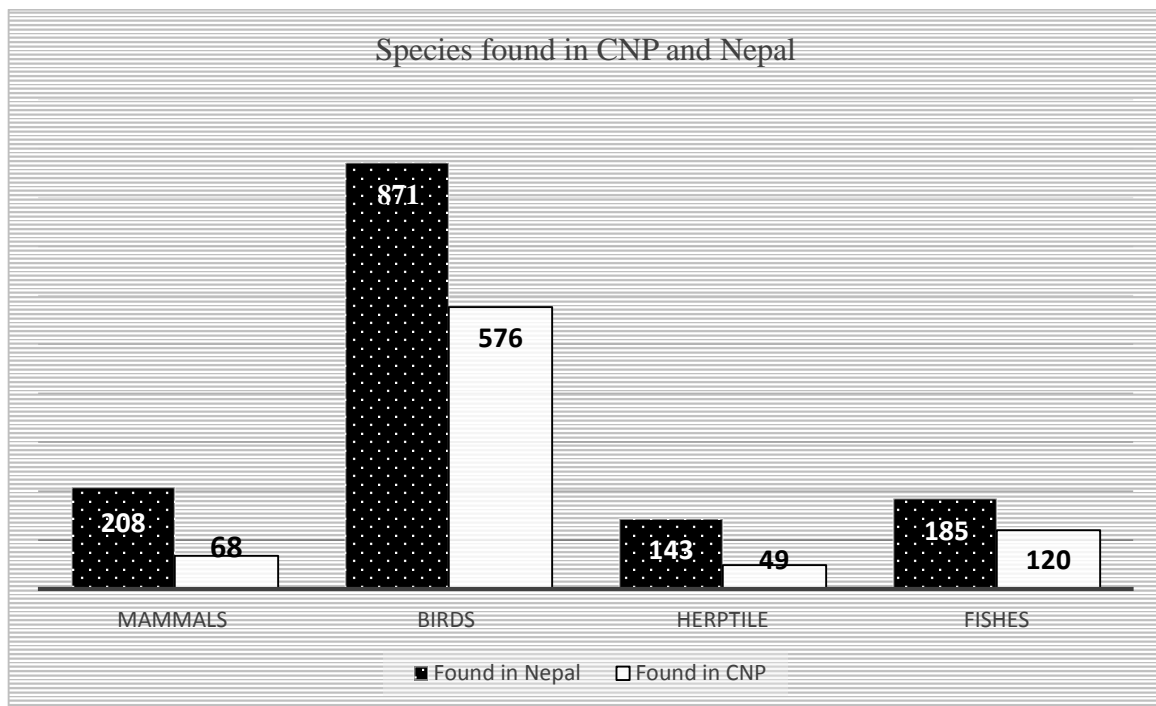
*Source: Annual Report 2071/72, CNP*

This bubble chart explains that the no. of tigers is increasing. The number of the tigers was only 60 when counted in 2056. In 2066, the number increased up to 91, then each year it increased rapidly. The number became 125 in 2067 and 198 in 2068.

#### 4.18.1.3 Other Species

CNP is wildly famous for verities of species like mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fishes. In 2002 AD, 40-50 wild elephants were counted in the park. The number of bear in the park was found to be 200-250 in 1994 AD. The number of GAURI GAI was calculated to be 296 in 2007 AD. CNP is also famous for both terrestrial and wetland tortoise where 9 species of tortoise are found. This park is also famous for the critically endangered Gharial crocodile. The number of this species was calculated to be 65 in 2008 AD which increased and became 81 in 2011 AD which is 21% increment in number. Birds are the other major attraction of the park. There are 576 species of birds in the park where 120 species are found in the wetland; 80 species are travelling birds which are found in the winter season; 6 species of travelling birds are found in summer season; 6 species are vagrant; and 28 species are aboriginal in the park and its wetland areas. The chart below shows the status of species in CNP in comparison to the status of Nepal.

Figure 21 Status of Other Species in CNP and Other Parts of Nepal



Source: Annual Report 2071/72, CNP

This clustered column chart shows that CNP shares above 60% of species when it is compared to the whole Nepal. CNP shares 33% of mammals that are found in Nepal. And, herptiles, fishes, and birds share 64%, 65% and 66% respectively.

#### **4.18.2 Rapti River**

Rapti River is the next important attraction when it comes to the matter of ecotourism. Visitors can sail on canoe along the Rapti River inside the Chitwan National Park and take a close view of crocodiles and other wild animals. This river is natural the habitat of rare wetland species of birds, reptiles, fishes etc. Most appropriately to say, Rapti River is the protected area for Ghariyal Crocodiles, however it is the habitat for Marsha Mugger crocodile as well.

The sand bank of the river is in Sauraha is one of the most attractive place in Sauraha from where one can glare the panoramic view of the green carpet and the twinkling stars deep in the river. The sun set view from the bank is really a heart touching natural phenomenon.

This river is the water way from Sauraha to the Jagatpur, another destination of tourists in Chitwan situated beside the CNP which is 18 km down streams from Sauraha. (Tourism, Canoeing at Rapti River). One can reach to Meghauri where the Rapti River meets the Narayani River. This way we can conclude that this river separates the CNP from community.

#### **4.18.3 Lakes and Wetlands**

Chitwan is famous for lakes and wet lands and most of these lakes and wet lands are in the CNP and its buffer zone areas. These lakes and wetlands are the natural habitat of birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes etc. The important lakes are Nanda-Bhauju Lake, Gaduwa Lake and Bishazari Lake. Among the all Bishazari lake is very famous which lies in the buffer zone area of CNP and there is jeep safari from Sauraha to this place. In August 2003, it has been designated as a Ramsar site because of its ecological prosperity.

The forested wetland provides excellent habitat as a waterhole and wildlife corridor for critically endangered and vulnerable species including Bengal tiger, sloth bear, smooth-

coated otter, one-horned rhinoceros, white-rumped vulture, Pallas's fish-eagle, lesser adjutant stork, ferruginous duck, gharial and marsh crocodile. (Wikipedia)

#### **4.18.4 Tharu Culture**

The Tharu Culture in Sauraha is also one of the major attraction. The Tharu Culture Program organized at Sauraha plays a crucial role to entertain the tourists visiting Sauraha and to introduce the Tharu Culture and tradition to the tourists. Most of the tourists visiting at Chitwan have experience the Tharu culture program.

Tourists get full entertainment by the Tharu dances. Dances like Danda Nach (Stick Dance) and Ago Nach (Fire Dance) Mayur Nach (Peacock Dance) are some the popular highlights of the culture show. The program start at 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm every evening or on Demand and lasts for 45 minutes. The cultural program has helped spread awareness about the Tharu culture throughout the world. (Tourism, Tharu Culture Dance/ Program)

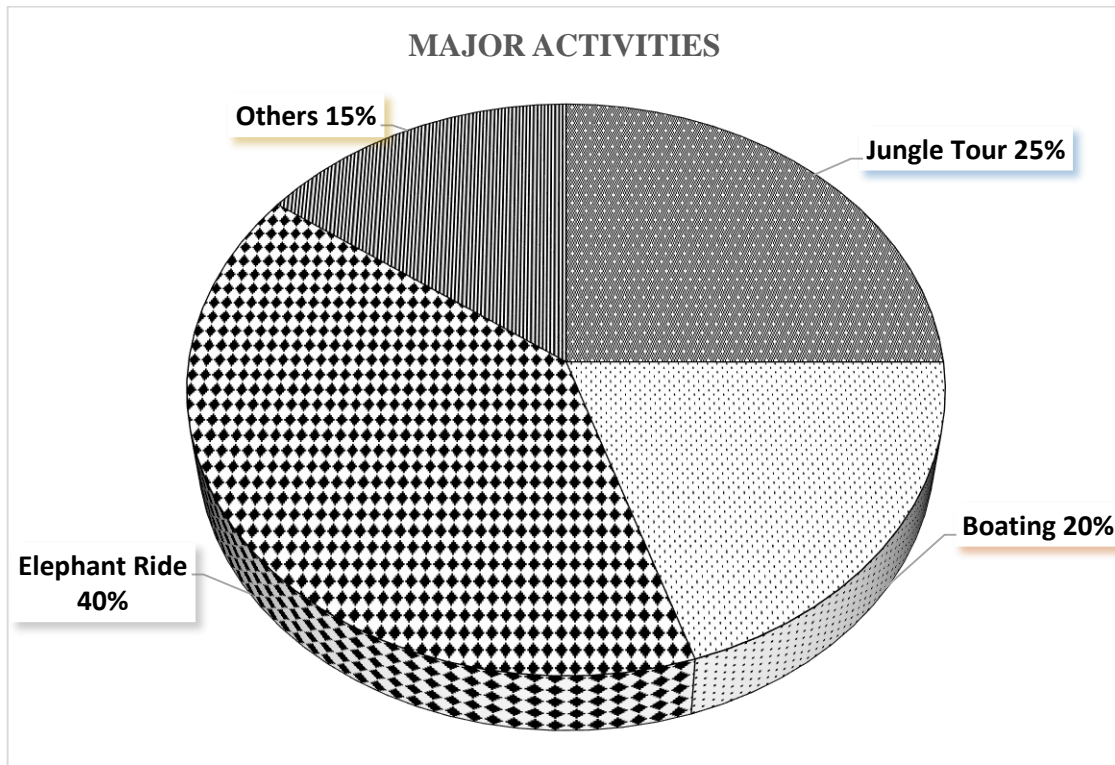
#### **4.19 Major Activities**

Sauraha is suitable for a lot of activities to launch for the development of ecotourism. Some of the activities that are being done in the Sauraha region include elephant ride; jeep safari; canoe ride; bird watching; village tour; cultural night; jungle walk; Jungle drive; elephant bath; Chitwan city tour; ox cart riding; night walk in the jungle etc.

In the research work, the major activities that are made from hotels to the visitors were also studies on the basis of the preference of the tourists under three main categories which is shown in the pie chart below.



Figure 22 Major Activities in Sauraha



Source: Field Survey 2016

The pie chart shows that most of the tourists want to do Elephants Ride in Sauraha. Jungle Tour and Boating are also preferred to do from some of the hotels. Cart riding, elephant bath, Chitwan city tour etc. share 15% from some of the hotels.

#### 4.20 Hotels in Sauraha

The well managed beautiful hotels in Sauraha are also the attractions of Sauraha. There are 106 registered hotels in Sauraha excluding the restaurants and cafés. These hotels are giving services thousands of visitors yearly. The hotels in Sauraha were found to be crisis during the period of earth quake and blockade at the border between India and Nepal. However, at present, the number of visitors are satisfactorily increasing. Hotels in Sauraha are discussed under the following topics.

##### 4.20.1 Owned and Rented Hotels

While in the research work, I found that most of the hotels in Sauraha are owned and some are rented as well. To state in ratio, the ratio of owned hotels and rented ones is 3:1 i.e. 75% of hotels are owned and the rest are rented.

#### 4.20.2 Land Covered by Hotels

Majority of hotels were found to possess above 60 Dhur in Sauraha. Some hotels were also found to possess below 20 Dhur. The land covered by the hotels are shown in the table below.

*Table 8 Land Covered by Hotel in Sauraha*

Land Amount	Percentage
Below 20 Dhur	5%
20-40 Dhur	16%
40-60 Dhur	24%
Above 60 Dhur	55%

*Source: Hotel Survey 2016*

The initially invested capital of the hotels in Sauraha ranges from less than 5 lakhs to above 10 lakha. 25% of hotels were found to have less than 5 lakh initial investment where 30% of hotels were calculated to have above 10 lakhs initial investment. The hotel having 5-10 lakhs initial investment were found to be 45%

#### 4.20.3 Hotels and Employees

Most of the hotels are hiring manager; accountant; cook; driver; helper; guide; gardener; waiter/waitress; and room boy. Most of the employers are local villagers and very few employees were found to be out of the local areas. To state in in ratio, the ratio of local employees and out of the area can be expressed as the ratio of 4:1. The mean number of employees and their average income from the hotel has been shown in the table.

*Table 9 No of Employees in Hotels in Sauraha*

S.N	Employees' Post	No.	Income	S.N	Employees' Post	No.	Income
1	Manager	1	20000	6	Guide	1	8000
2	Accountant	1	12000	7	Gardener	1	8000
3	Cook	2	16000	8	Waiter/Waitress	2	8000
4	Driver	1	8000	9	Room Boy	3	8000
5	Helper	2	8000				

*Source: Hotel Survey, 2016*

Most of the employees were found to be untrained while joining the job. 30% of the employees were trained and 70% of the employees were untrained as said by the hotel owners and the main problem as mentioned by the hotel owners is that there is a trend to quit the job after getting trained. So far as the matter of bonuses is concerned, almost all of the hotel don't provide it to the employees, however almost all of the hotels provide lodging and food to the employees.

#### 4.20.4 Annual Income of the Hotels

To talk about the annual income of the hotels, it was found that this depends on the facility and quality of the hotels. Nevertheless, as in the research work, 50% of hotels were found to have annual income between 5 lakhs to 10 lakhs and 30% of hotels were found to have annual income above 10 lakhs. Hotels having annual income below 5 lakhs were calculated 20%.

#### 4.20.5 Tourists' Expenditure in Hotels

Under this topic, I have studied tourists' expenditure on the basis of five categories' i.e. Nepalese; Asians (e.g., Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, Filipino etc.); Europeans; and Others (e.g., American, Australian, and African etc.). Majority of the tourists stay two nights in hotels which seems to be 55%. 35% of tourists were calculated to stay only one night and only 10% of tourists prefer to stay more than two nights in hotels. The data of their expenditure has been shown in the table below.

*Table 10 Tourists Expenditure in Hotels*

Category	Food		Accommodation	
	Range	Percentage	Range	Percentage
Nepalese	Below 1000	30%	Below 1000	25%
	1000-2000	35%	1000-2000	60%
	Above 2000	35%	Above 2000	15%
India	Below 1000	35%	Below 1000	40%
	1000-2000	30%	1000-2000	50%
	Above 2000	35%	Above 2000	10%
Asian	Below 1000	20%	Below 1000	10%
	1000-2000	70%	1000-2000	75%

	Above 2000	10%	Above 2000	15%
European	Below 1000	10%	Below 1000	5%
	1000-2000	70%	1000-2000	25%
	Above 2000	20%	Above 2000	70%
Others	Below 1000	5%	Below 1000	5%
	1000-2000	70%	1000-2000	20%
	Above 2000	25%	Above 2000	75%

*Source: Hotel Survey, 2016*

The data shows that Nepalese and Indian are more concerned to invest in food than accommodation where European and others are highly concerned to invest in accommodation than in food. The Asian are in mid-range in both food and accommodation.

#### **4.21 Problems Faced by Villagers, Hotel owners and Tourists in Sauraha**

Though, Sauraha is a beautiful and nice place for the visitors to visit, the place is not such a nice if the matter is concerned to the problems in whole Sauraha. The main problem is that there is a problem of flood of Rapti River which is frequently causing disaster in the local area. The dam in Rapti River has been built from Lothar to Janakpur, but this is not sufficient to protect Sauraha region.

The other problem is that there is no any government elephant that provide jungle safari to the CNP. As said by the admin officer Mr. Ram Kumar Aryal, “Tourists come to Sauraha to visit the national park from very far, they get embarrassed when they know that there is no way to visit the park.” The reason is that private elephants and service providers are not allowed to enter the park and there is no any government elephants to provide the service in the park. The pasture land depletion is one main cause that makes difficult to possess elephants to the CNP.

The government policy for the tourism in Nepal is not tourism friendly. There is multiple tax system for the tourists that is making tourism more costly. The policy is seems to be directed to achieve short term benefit rather than long term benefits. According to the general secretary of Hotel Association, Sauraha, Mr. Ram Mani Khanal, “The government

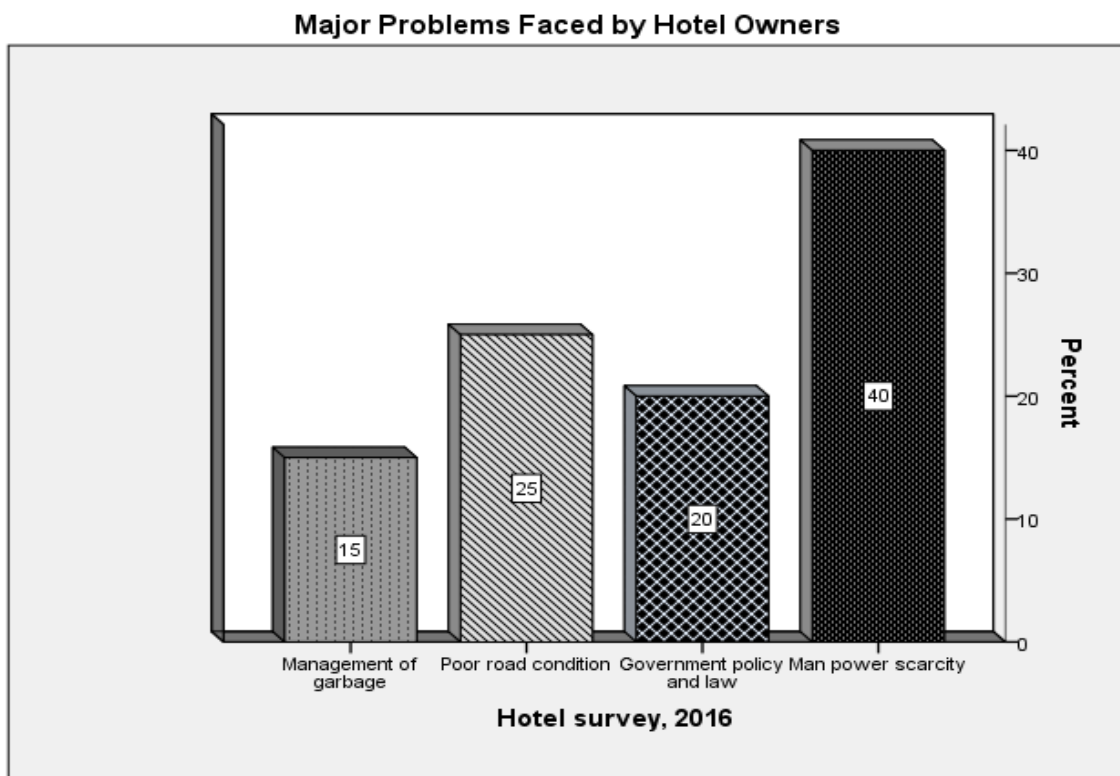
has the plan to take Rs. 500 instead of 100 and call 100 tourists instead of 500". This makes the tourists stay short.

The other problem is in visa system. Most of tourists face this problem because of the working manner of government officials. If a tourist apply for a visa, the processing time elongate up to months because of the working efficiency and energy of the government staffs.

Road condition and transportation situation is also problematic in Sauraha. Pitch roads are badly damaged that makes traveler difficult to access there. At rainy season, there is a condition that road collects water in shallow areas and most of the part becomes muddy. Monopoly in transportation fair is also the problem in Sauraha.

According to the data collected in the field survey of hotel owners in Sauraha, most of the hotel owners view that man power scarcity is the main problem faced by the hotels. They said that there is a trend to get trained in hotel and leave the job. The hotel owner's view under some problematic issue has been prescribed in the chart below.

*Figure 23 Major Problems Faced by Hotels in Sauraha*



The column chart shows that 40% of hotel owners responded that the main problem is man power scarcity. 25% of hotel owners view poor road condition as a problematic issue and 20% hotel owners view government policy and law as crucial problem. The hotel owners who view management of garbage as a main problem are in 15%.

#### **4.22 Tourists in Sauraha**

Sauraha is the third most visiting tourism place in Nepal. In the study, 53.3% of tourists were recorded that their primary destination as Sauraha and 46.7% of tourists were recorded that it was not their primary destination. The main source of information about Sauraha is internet and social Medias. 60% of tourists told that internet is the main source to know the place. The other source includes friends and relatives, and others (e.g. brochures, prospectus, pamphlets etc.) which share 26.7% and 13.3% of tourists respectively. Travel coach is the most preferred means of transportation of foreign tourists and Nepalese tourists were found to travel in their own vehicle. Local bus and airplane come in third the fourth order of preference. 80% of the total tourists visit Sauraha for sightseeing and recreation; 13.3% visit for cultural interaction and 6.7% of tourists visit there for study and research. So far as the matter of cost in Sauraha is concerned, 40% of the tourist told that it is moderate; 33.3% told expensive and 26.7% told that Sauraha is cheap. Handicrafts are the most preferred items of the tourists, however the satisfaction of tourists from local products seems to be partial and 20% of the tourists were found to be unsatisfied with the local products. To talk about the cooperation of local people, 66.7% of tourists said that it is very good; 33.3% of tourists told it is satisfactory and no tourist was found to say 'not so good'. Most of the tourist (53.3%) told that additional recreational activities can be launched to promote the Sauraha region while others (46.7%) told that management of the proper road and transportation is the key to development the area.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### 5. Finding, Conclusion and Recommendations

#### 5.1 Finding and Discussion

The study entitled as prospects of ecotourism in Sauraha is a thorough study of various aspects that are related to the potentialities of ecotourism in Sauraha and its surrounding regions. The study focuses on the new prospects; economic impacts; ecological impact; impact on socio-cultural setting etc. of ecotourism in as deep as it is possible to carry out. The householders; hotel owners; key informants; tourists are the main source of the study where books; reports; brochures; prospectus etc. are the additional source of information.

In the study it was found that owing hotel which was favored by 36.7% of households is the most beautifully blooming entrepreneurship of people living in Sauraha. Not only this, Sauraha is the best place for shop keeping; tourism related services and business of handicrafts and other goods.

The other possibilities that can be generated to uplift the livelihood of the villagers in Sauraha include development of home stays; development of zoo and museum; organic farming; making park and conducting fairs; crating view tours etc. However, development of homestays and organic farming are the most preferred ones by the householders; and making park and conducting fairs; and creating view tower are the most preferred new prospects liked by most of the hotel owners. This explains that hotel owners are not preferring to promote homestays which are being the most effective economic backbones in rural areas these days.

Sauraha which is on the lap of green carpet of nature (CNP) is very potential for ecotourism destination because of the widely renounced flora and fauna. Though, this is a tiny area, it has been found that this can be linked with other peripheral ecological zones and develop as a hub of ecotourism in the central Chitwan. Siraichuli and Upperdang gadi, both both hills are situated at the northern territory of Chitwan are the most suitable areas to link with Sauraha. 40% of households and 45% of hotel owners viewed these areas as the most suitable nearby places to develop as ecotourism. However, the dark side is that

the government is going to develop Saktikhor as an industrial area which seems to be hinder to the view we discussed.

So far as it is concerned with the matter of skill development training for the local households, it has been found national park and other concerned institutions/organizations are investing in it. CNP is investing its 30-50% of revenue to uplift the villagers which includes providing trainings for their sustainable livelihood. 56.7% of the households are found to be benefitted with such training programs among them 38.2% of the households are taking language training. The reason of the rest households who are compelled to miss trainings is due to the lack of information and the other reason is involvement in other sector.

The main economic backbone of the Sauraha is hotels and other money market, for example shop keeping. Agriculture is also very important part of economy in Sauraha. There are 106 registered hotels providing food, accommodation and activities facilities to the visitors and over hundreds of shops providing supplement to the region. 75% of the hotels are owned where only 25% of the hotels are rented. And, the majority of the hotels are well decorated in above 60 dhur of land with initial investment between 5-10 lakhs. 50% of hotels in Sauraha earn in-between 5-10 lakhs. Most of the employee working in the hotels are locals and salary range vary from 8000 to 20000 from manager to room boy or gardener. Food and accommodation is provided by almost all hotels where other benefits like bonuses are not provided to the employees. The main problem of the hotels in Sauraha is that there is scarcity of main power. Staffs are trained in hotels and they leave the hotel when they get well trained. This is the reason behind the salary that the hotels pay to the employees. Nepalese tourists are found to invest high in food where European tourists pay high in accommodation in hotels. Sauraha is also suitable place for crops farming, for example, paddy and mustard. Shop keeping is also fast growing maney market in Sauraha and most of the shops are gift shops and wine shops.

Getting job in Sauraha doesn't seem to be difficult if an individual is skilled and trained in hotel based jobs or handicraft based jobs, and if licensed for guiding the tourists. And, 85% of the households have been recorded to be employed or self-employed. 46.7% of households are found to be employed in foreign countries and most of the families are interested to invest in hotels when they have saving.



When it comes to the matter of annual income, 50% of the households are found to have annual income above 150000 from agriculture and 56.7% of the households have annual income above 150000 from business. 40% of households have 100000-150000 annual income from employment and services. To talk about expenditure, 53% of households have above 150000 annual expenditure in food and clothes; 50% of households have annual expenditure 100000-150000 in education and health. While comparing income and expenditure in a whole, 78.3% of the households are found to have saving.

Even though getting Sauraha from the Mahendra highway is not a long distance, and even though the road leading to Sauraha from Sauraha Chowk, Ratnanagar municipality, is well pitched, the roads that spread in Sauraha are not satisfactory. Particularly in rainy season they are hard to travel through.

People in Sauraha were found to be well aware about various matters of ecotourism like conservation of natural resources; adverse effect of natural resource degradation; cultural sensitivity and all.

The CNP is investing a lot of revenue to provide biogas in Sauraha and other areas connecting to national park, nevertheless, people are found to be using LP gas in large extend, the reason behind is insufficient energy production after some years of establishment. 36.7% of households are using biogas where 40% of households are using LP gas. People using wood and electricity are very low in number and above 80% of people using woods as secondary energy resource collect woods from community forest. No one goes to the national park to collect drift woods.

People in Sauraha are using organic waste product in making biogas and making compost manure whereas almost all hotels send it with municipality vehicle. Households and hotel owners both send inorganic wastage with municipality vehicle.

Chitwan National Park; Rapti River; Bishajari Tal; Tharu Culture are the major attractions of the tourism destination, Sauraha. Chitwan National Park is the very first national park of Nepal which was established to protect the famous one horned rhinos. The park was enlisted in World Heritage Site in 1984 AD. This national park is also famous for Bengal tigers where 198 tigers as counted in 2068 BS. This national park is the first park in the

world that has been awarded the title of CATS (Conservation Assured Tiger Standard) for 2015 AD to 2018 AD. This park is also rich in very famous Sal trees. Bishajari Lake is famous for the residence of hundreds of birds; amphibians and water animals as an important wetland in the world. Sauraha as an ecotourism zone in Nepal has a lot of potentialities because of the above mentioned different aspects.

Major activities that are being done by hotels and other related organizations for the sake of tourists are elephant ride; boating; jungle walk; bird watching; canoe trip; elephant bath; jeep safari; cycling; Tharu village visit and the rest. Elephant ride and boating are the most famous and liked activities in Sauraha that most of the visitors do in Sauraha. Visiting Bishajari Lake from Sauraha is also well reputed in Sauraha.

Hotels were facing crisis during the time of earthquake and blockade at the border between India and Nepal. At that time almost all of the hotels were empty and some of the wine shops were closed. However the situation today is different. This year the rate of tourist arrival in Sauraha has been increased. Most of the tourist want to visit Sauraha in Kartik month and there is least arrival in Bhadra or any other month in rainy season.

Most of the tourists (46.7%) travel to Sauraha in travel coach, nevertheless Nepalese tourists are found to travel in local buses and in their own vehicles. Internet is the main source of information of most of the foreign tourists. Sightseeing and recreation is the prime cause of majority of tourists and below 7% of tourists arrive in Sauraha for study purpose. Most of the tourists want to spend two nights in Sauraha and their average expenditure is 1000-2000 per person per night. Most of the tourists are found to be satisfied with their trip to Sauraha. Almost all of the Nepalese tourists consider Sauraha as their primary destination and almost all of the foreign, except those for study, consider Sauraha as their additional destination.

As we describe the scenario of Sauraha in the above paragraphs, Sauraha which is on the lap of CNP is very prosperous in its magnificent natural ornaments. These ornaments have induced the place as a place of heaven. The rich flora and fauna in CPN; the wetlands; the river; the sand bank; the sun set; the Tharus; each and every thing that Sauraha possesses are really brilliant that make the place an utopia in a whole. Thus, there is no doubt to say

that the place itself is a prospect of prospects and there are countless potentialities in this veiled natural beauty when it comes to the ecotourism destination.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

Sauraha is a potential place for tourism destination because of the riches surrounding the place from every side of the location. Since there are prospects of prospects, the prospects of ecotourism in Sauraha cannot be explained in words and more and more prospects are still hidden inside a veil. This study finds that there are resources and resources from natural resources to cultural resources; from biotic to abiotic resources; from water to land and from land to forest; what is not there is a question itself. This proves that Sauraha is a very potential place to develop it as an ecotourism destination.

What are in Sauraha today are the things done to make it Sauraha of today; however there are a lot of other prospects and potentialities to link it with that help indeed to make it Sauraha in future. The whole river side of the village and the national park can be a better place for the ecotourism destination in the days to come. The hills of north can be joined with the plain in the south; jalbere to maulakalika; devghat to Lothar; all the possible areas can be joined together and Saurah can be made an ecotourism hub in central Chitwan. The villegers can be trained for agro farming and other sectors like preparing raw materials; making handicrafts; running home stays and so on. The area of old Padampur can be planted with elephant grass that really helps National Park to possess more elephants which would help the visitors to roam in the park side.

This study don't merely focus on the prospects of ecotourism, nevertheless the study reveals the socio economic status of the villagers and their cultural sensitivity. Measuring public awareness is the other beauty of this study what further help us understand how elegant would be the place in the days after 10 years.

## **5.3 Recommendations**

Tourism is a vital part of revenue collection that assists the economic contribution in Nepal. The CNP creates above 85% of total revenue from entry fee only and channelize 30% to 50 % share of total revenue for the local development and conservation area through buffer zone. More than 85% (88.92% in 2071/72) of tourists enter the CNP from

Sauraha which can be regarded as the main gate of the CNP. When it comes to the further sustainable development of environmental and economic aspects by ecotourism promotion in Sauraha, the following recommendations are suggested:

- a. Strong bilateral or multilateral cooperation and coordination among the local stakeholders, DDC, Municipality etc. is a must to promote this ecological place.
- b. CNP has been established as one of the main ecotourism destination. To mitigate the increasing pressure of tourists in it, the other tourism destinations like Siraichuli, Uppedangadi, Lothar, Jalbire, Janakpur, Devghat; Maulakalika and all can be identified, linked and promoted.
- c. To promote the area as an ecotourism destination, establishing zoo; creating park and conducting fair; making public view tower can also be done.
- d. Proper management of wetlands; cultural site; religious site; trekking places; should properly be developed.
- e. The publicity of trainings and educational facilities should be maintained and if possible more trainings and educational opportunities for the back warded local people are in need of facilitation.
- f. Local people are highly ware about the natural resources, nevertheless more awareness program may create a strong platform for the sustainable development of natural resources and the livelihood of the locals.
- g. Though the tourist police office appears in Sauaha for the assistance of tourists and their security, tourist security should be provided in the dangerous zones like National Park; Rapti River etc.
- h. It would be better if it could be possible to establish star hotels in Sauraha for providing high quality food and accommodation.
- i. Pollution in Sauraha; its peripheral areas; the CNP and the Rapti River may create fatal adversity. Thus pollution should be controlled by introducing and implementing strict laws.
- j. The governmental policy of urbanization seems to be fatal in Sauraha which may create a lot of problems in the days to come. Thus, the government should be aware of ecotourism destination promotion. Sauraha was a village and it would be better if it is village rather a populated city.
- k. The area of old padampur has not been well managed. There is a need to plantation of elephant grass and other plants that could really help the place to be a better place for ecological resources.

1. Roads in Sauraha are not in proper condition. Thus, all the roads are to be built for the easiness of access in each and every place linked by the roads.

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## Annex I

### Household Survey

Respondent Name:

Age:

Sex:

Cast:

Occupation:

Education:

Number of Family Member:

1. What are the most flowering entrepreneurship in this area?

a. Owing hotel	b. Shop keeping
c. Business of handicrafts	d. Tourism related services.

2. What can be the most suitable new prospects of tourism development in the region?

a. Development of home stays	b. Development of zoo and museum
c. Organic farming	d. Park and fair
e. Creating view towers	

3. Can Sauraha be linked with other peripheral eco-zones?

a. Yes	b. No
--------	-------

4. If yes, what can be the best peripheral zone to which Sauraha can be linked for the development of ecotourism?

a. Siraichuli and Upperdangadi	b. Jalbire
c. Devghat	d. Lothar

5. What are the program being done to promote the ecotourism in this area? Please list them.

a. ....	b. ....
c. ....	d. ....

6. Do you get any training to develop skills

a. Yes	b. No
--------	-------

7. If yes, what sort of training have you or your family member taken?

a. Handicraft based training	b. Hotel based training
c. Driving training	d. Nature/ tourist guide
e. Language training	



8. If no, why?

a. Because of involvement in other sector
b. Scarcity of information
c. Others

9. What is the main economic back bone of this area?

a. Agriculture	b. Hotels and business
c. Employment	d. Leasing and renting

10. How possible is getting job?

a. Very easy	b. Often
c. Sometimes	d. Rarely

11. Is any member in your family employed?

a. Yes	b. No
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12. Has any family member gone out of country for income generation?

a. Yes	b. No
--------	-------

13. If yes, what do you do the money from the other country?

a. Investment in hotel	b. Business
c. Investment in farming	d. Others

14. How much is your annual income?

Sector	Agriculture	Business	Employment and Services	Other
A M O U N T	Below 50000	Below 100000	Below 100000	Below 100000
	50000-100000	100000-150000	100000-150000	100000-150000
	100000-150000	Above 150000	Above 150000	Above 150000
	Above 1500000	Not at all	Not at all	Not at all

15. Expenditure of your family

Source	Food and Clothes	Education and health	Others
A M O U N T	Below 100000	.Below 100000	.Below 100000
	100000-150000	b.100000-150000	100000-150000
	Above 150000	.Above 150000	.Above 150000

16. Do you have any saving?

a. Yes	b. No
--------	-------

17. What infrastructure development is a must in this area?

a. Transportation	b. Communication
c. Health and Education	d. Others

18. Do you think tourism will improve economic condition in your area?

a. Yes	b. No
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19. If yes, how do you think tourism will improve economic conditions in your area?

a. Providing opportunity to business
b. Providing opportunities to services
c. Providing access to hotels and homestays
d. Providing employment

20. Do you think tourism will enhance understanding between native and nonnative culture?

a. Completely	b. Partially	c. Not at all
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21. Do you think that the nature must be conserved to make this community sustain for a long?

a. Yes	b. No
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22. How would you think we can conserve the nature?

a. Raising public awareness
b. Controlling poaching
c. Conserving forest

23. What do you think are the adverse effects of natural resource degradation?

a. Effect on tourism
b. Effect on environment
c. Effect on socio-cultural setting
d. Effect on wild lives

24. What do you cook with?

a. Bio gas	b. L.P gas
c. Wood	d. Electricity

25. If you cook with wood, where do you bring them from?

a. From National Park
b. Community forest
c. Buying from wood seller
d. Buying from community forest office

26. How do you manage the garbage/wastage produced in your house?

Organic	Inorganic
a. Bio gas	a. Disposal in the jungle or river
b. Dumping and making manure	b. Dumping
c. Disposal in the jungle or river	c. Incineration
d. Sending with municipality vehicle	d. Sending with municipality vehicle

27. How do you compare the situation of tourism industry of ten years ago and now?

a. Increased	b. Same	c. Decreased
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28. What are the major wildlife attractions in the national park?

a. One horned rhino	b. Bengal tiger
c. Birds	d. Other animals

## Annex II

### Questionnaire for Hotel Owner

Name of Respondent:

Age:

Sex:

Name of the Hotel:

Year of Establishment:

1. What are the major attractions of Sauraha?

a. Chitwan National Park	b. Rapti River
c. Bishajari Tal	d. Tharu Culture

2. What are the new prospects of ecotourism in this area?

a. Home Stay	b. Zoo and Museum
c. Organic Farming	d. Park and Fair
e. Creating View Tower	

3. Can tourism be expand to the other nearby regions?

a. Yes	b. No
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4. If yes, what are the regions that are suitable to link with it?

a. Siraichuli and Upperdangadi	b. Jalbire
c. Devghat	d. Lothar

5. What are the major activities that most of the tourists want to do through your hotel?

a. Jungle walk	b. Boating
c. Elephant Ride	d. Others

6. Is this hotel you have owned or you have rented?

a. Owned	b. Rented
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7. How much area is covered by this hotel?

a. Below 20 Dhur	b. 20-40 Dhur
c. 40-60 Dhur	d. Above 60 Dhur

8. What is your initial investment capital in it?

a. Less than 5 Lakhs	b. 5-10 Lakhs
c. Above 10 Lakhs	

9. How many employees are there in your hotel?

Employee	No.	Employee	No.
a. Manager		b. Accountant	
c. Cook		d. Driver	
e. Helper		f. Guide	
g. Gardener		h. Waiter	
i. Room Boy			

10. How many employees are local or out of area?

a. Local		b. Out of Area	
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11. How much salary do you pay them respectively per month?

Employee	Salary Amount	Employee	Salary Amount
a. Manager		b. Accountant	
c. Cook		d. Driver	
e. Helper		f. Guide	
g. Gardener		h. Waiter	
i. Room Boy			

12. Do you provide food and lodging to your employees?

a. Yes	b. No
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13. Do you provide bonuses to your employees?

a. Yes	b. No
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14. Are the employees trained or untrained?

a. Trained	b. Untrained
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15. Expenditure of tourist

Nationality	Food	Accommodation
Nepalese	Below 1000	Below 1000
	1000-2000	1000-2000
	Above 2000	Above 2000
Indian	Below 1000	Below 1000
	1000-2000	1000-2000
	Above 2000	Above 2000
Asian	Below 1000	Below 1000
	1000-2000	1000-2000
	Above 2000	Above 2000
European	Below 1000	Below 1000
		1000-2000

	1000-2000 Above 2000	Above 2000
Others	Below 1000 1000-2000 Above 2000	Below 1000 1000-2000 Above 2000

16. How is your annual income from this hotel?

a. Below 5 Lakhs	b. 5-10 Lakhs	c. Above 10 Lakhs
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17. How many days do the tourists stay in your hotel?

a. Only One Night	b. Two Nights	c. Above Two Nights
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18. What major problems are you facing to run your hotel?

a. Management of Garbage	
b. Poor Road Condition	
c. Government Policy and Law	
d. Man Power Scarcity	

19. Are you facing crisis in tourists' arrival at present?

a. Yes	b. No
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20. If yes, what are the reason for this crisis? List them

a. ....
b. ....
c. ....

21. What is your opinion on the local situation mention below?

Aspects/Quality	Very good	Good	Poor
a. Road condition			
b. Neatness			
c. Communication			
d. Community interaction			

22. What do you cook with?

a. Bio Gas	b. L.P Gas	c. Wood
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23. If you cook with wood, where do you bring them from?

a. National Park
b. Community Forest
c. Buying from Wood seller
d. Buying from Community Forest Office

24. How do you manage the garbage?

a. Dumping
b. Sending in Municipality Vehicle
c. Incineration

### Annex III

#### Questionnaire for Tourist

Name: Age:

Sex:

Nationality: Occupation:

a. Business	b. Service	c. Student	d. Others
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1. How did you get information about Sauraha?

a. Internet and Social Media	b. Friends and Relatives	c. Others
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2. Which means of transportation have you used to arrive Sauraha?

a. Aero plane	b. Travel Coach
c. Local Bus	d. Own Vehicle

3. What are your purposes for visiting to Sauraha?

a. Sight Seeing and Recreation
b. Cultural Interactions
c. Study and Research

4. How many times have you visited in Sauraha?

a. Very First
b. Second Times
c. Third Times

5. Do you think to come back again in Sauraha?

a. Sure	b. Maybe	c. No
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6. How many days are you going to stay here in Sauraha?

a. One Day	b. Two Days	c. Above Two Days
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7. How much money do you spend for one night lodging?

a. Below 2000	b. 2000-3000	c. Above 3000
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8. What do you think of the cost of lodging and fooding here?

a. Expensive	b. Moderate	c. Cheap
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9. What local product do you prefer much?

a. Handicrafts	b. Others
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10. Are you satisfied to the local product?

a. Completely	b. Partially	c. Not at all
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11. Is Sauraha your primary destination of this trip?

a. Yes	b. No
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12. How did you find the cooperation of the local people towards tourists?

a. Very Good	b. Satisfactory	c. Not good at All
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13. What is your favorite season to travel in Sauraha?

a. Summer	b. Winter
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14. What can be done for the development of this area?

a. Management of proper road and transportation
b. Additional recreational activities
c. Others

## **Annex IV**

### **Questions to Key Informants**

Name:

Designation:

Organization:

1. What are the potentialities of ecotourism in Sauraha?

.....  
.....

2. What new genre of ecotourism can be established in Sauraha?

.....  
.....

3. Does tourism improve the quality of livelihood? Why?

.....  
.....

4. What are the things being done to promote Sauraha as an ecotourism destination?

.....  
.....

5. Does tourism help to conserve the natural resources or it has adverse effects? Why?

.....  
.....

6. What are the major problems of tourism in Sauraha?

.....  
.....

7. Does tourism affect cultural sensitivity or help to enhance cultural understanding?

.....  
.....

8. Are people aware about nature conservation?

.....  
.....

## Annex V

### Pictures

Picture no. 1.



A photograph with Mr. Ram Kumar Aryal, an Admin officer at National Trust for Nature Conservation while taking interview in his own office at the office of National Trust for Nature Conservation, Sauraha, Chitwan.

Picture no. 2.



A photograph of a tourist police taken after a short interview in his own office at Sauraha.

Picture no. 3



A photograph of Mr. Ram Mani Khanal, secretary of Regional Hotel Association, Sauraha, Chitwan. The photograph was taken during the interview session.

Picture no. 4.



A photograph of a hotel owner in his own hotel in Sauraha captured while taking interview.

Picture no. 5



A picture of Ox Cart Race taken in a fair named as International Elephant Race Championship conducted by Ratnanagar Municipality in collaboration with local people, hotel owners, local entrepreneurs etc.