

CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Nepal is a landlocked and mountainous country sandwiched between two big countries India and China. It is rectangular in its shape with the length of 885 Kilometers and its average breadth is 193 kilometers. The total area occupied by the country is 147181 square kilometers which accounts 0.03 percent of land area of the earth and 0.3 percent of Asia. Nepal lies between 80⁰4' and 88⁰12' East longitude and 26⁰22' and 30⁰27' North latitude.

Ecologically, Nepal is divided into three main regions: mountain, hilly and terai. Apart from the ecological division, administratively there are five development regions: eastern, central, western, mid western and far western. The nation is further divided in to fourteen zones and seventy five districts.

Nepal is a unique country inhabited by multi-lingual, Multi culture and multi ethnic people .It has got beautiful fauna and flora as natural gifts. Nepal's beautiful highs landscapes, lakes green valley, waterfalls, streams and hill-sides scattered in the form of an endless series of terraces have been the source of great attraction and admiration.

Nepal is one of the least developed country in the world. Its precipitate incomes is us\$ 470(CBS, 2008). About 86 percent people of the country live in rural area. The major source of the national economy is agriculture and the rest include manufacturing, trade, commerce and services. The main sources of earning are foreign currency are merchandise, export services and tourism. The comparative advantages sector for development is hydropower, agro industry, and tourism.

In general, tourism denotes the movement or journey of human beings from one place to another, whether it may be within own country or second countries, for various purposes. The popular word 'tourism' of the present day is derived from the French word 'Tourisme' Which originated in the 19th century later this word was popularized in the decade 1930s but its significance was not fully realized until today when "Tourism" has wider meaning and significance(Satyal,1998).

Tourism in Nepal started since 1950, when the country opened its border to the foreigners. The political revolution of 1950/51 marked a new era for tourism in Nepal. People were liberated from Rana Regime and the gates of Nepal were opened to the foreign visitors. The great revolution of 1951 proved to be a boon for tourism sector in Nepal (Gurung, 2007).

Tourism is the world's fastest growing industry in the world and Nepal as well. Nepal is the country of Mt. Everest, Gorkha's mother land and birth place of Lord Gautam Buddha. Similarly, natural as well as manmade heritage of Nepal is famous and popular all over the world. Various places are listed in the world heritage sites. Hospitality, friendly people, numerous attractions unique culture are the main source of tourist attraction in the country.

Overall Nepal is the most important tourist destination, in each and every destination, we can find newness. Katmandu valley is rich in cultural heritage; Pokhara is famous for sightseeing, Chitwan for National Park, Solukhumbu for Himalayan, Annapurna for trekking route and Ilam for natural scenes and culture. We have white Himal, green Hill, and yellow Terai .It means Nepal is the country in which tourism can be run for all seasons.

Among seventy five districts of Nepal, Ilam is one of the popular tourism destinations of Nepal. It is hilly district situated in the eastern part which is known as the 'queen of hill' due to the evergreen view and enchanting scenes like Guphathumki, Maipokhari, Gajurmukhi, Mahisthan, Kanyam, Shreeantu, Chhintapu and Siddhithumka etc. Among them Guphathumki is one important place for its natural sightseeing visualize the enchanting scenes of Mt. Everest, Kanchenjunga and Kumbhakarna, Sunrise sunset, and boating for entertainment. It is an important spot for tourism activities where many domestic and international visitors enjoy the natural beauty with very low price. It is about 2 hours to reach there by the vehicles and 5 hours on foot from Ilam bazaar.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

There are many places and sectors, which are distinct and potential areas for tourism in Nepal. Among them, Ilam is such a place where, many places and things have their own identification. These resources have high potentialities in use for the tourist attraction. Guphathumki is such a distinct place, which is situated in the boarder of Santidanda and Mangalbare VDC's at the height of 2200m from sea level. It provides majestic view of beautiful mountain and thrilling scenes of both sunrise and sunset. Thus, it will become a fertile place for researcher furthermore, tourists enjoy with the beautiful view of Mt. Everest and Kanchenjunga so, its research is the essential issue.

There is no study regarding potentialities of tourism in Guphathumki area even though it is an attractive destination. This study is helpful to identify the present situation of tourism in Guphathumki area, which is very crucial to help the tourism planners and policy makers to frame appropriate policies and program to improve the tourism industry further. During their visit tourist can enjoy on buying agricultur product. There is a milk collection center in Pyerebhanjang. It produces ghee and churpee. Tourist can buy churpee as koselee of the place.

Behind its potentialities in tourism industry, this destination is in shadow. Short length of stay, low facilities near by the centers, less participation of private sectors and lack of local people awareness are major combating factors for the development of this area. To dig out its problem and prospects for the economic development of this area, this study will provide the valuable streams. As a result, this problem is identified by the researcher.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study was to identify the problems and prospects of tourism in Ilam district. Whereas the specific objectives of this study are as follows;

-) To find out the main tourism problem in Guphathumki area.
-) To analyze the prospects of tourism in study area.
-) To suggest Guphathumki as a major tourism destination of Ilam.

1.4 Importance of the Study

Tourism is ever growing, never ending industry. Basically it is a smokeless industry from which we can generate income and reduce poverty of a country. So its popularity is increasing day by day. Nepal is one of the most favored tourist destinations of this world. Tourism affects on different sector and sub sectors of the economy, hence the economy is developed and changed by it. The main importance of this study is as follows.

-) This study is a helpful for Nepal Tourism Board to find out new destination of Ilam.
-) This study can support for researchers, scholars, explorers and other who are concerned to get detailed information about the tourism in this area.

-) This study might be a good reference for the government, local and other development organizations to formulate tourism policy in the future.
-) It is also helpful to take entertainment by boating and enrich the biodiversity in the local area.

1.5 Limitation of the Study

This study was related to study area so it could not be generalized other area. But, the inferences might be valid to some extent to those areas, which have similar geography socio-economic and environmental setting. Limited budget and time is another limitation of this study. More specifically, this research has been in the following limitations';

-) This research has been conducted on the Guphathumki region only.
-) Some specific research tools are used in this study i. e. FGD, KII, questionnaires etc.
-) Only 25 local HHs, 5 hotels and 10 tourists were selected as a sample of this study.
-) The period of data collection was Magha to Baishakh.

1.6 Organization of the Study

This thesis has been divided into five chapters. The background of the study is the starting sub-heading. The first chapter includes the statement of the problem, objectives, importance, Limitation and organization of the study. The second chapter presents the literature review. The third chapter focuses on Research Methodology. The fourth chapter identifies the description of study area and presentation and analysis of the data. The fifth chapter concludes the summary, conclusions and recommendations of the study.

CHAPTER - II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter deals with definition of various concepts regarding to tourism and reviews all the available literature, journal, books, and other materials related to tourists and tourism.

2. General Review

2.1 Tourism: Concepts and Definition

In recent years tourism is regarded one of the world's biggest and fastest growing industry. It has been playing a pivotal role in the socio- economic development of the most developed as well as developing countries of the world. So, most of the nations are attracted to this industry and trying their best to strengthen the socio economic life of the people by promoting tourism. Tourism has been identified as an important source of foreign exchange earnings, as an industry creating employment opportunities and generating economic growth of the country.

Generally, tourism denotes the movement or journey of human beings from one place to another, whether it is within one's own country or other countries, for various purposes. The popular word "Tourism" of the present day is derived from the French word "Tourisme" which originated in 19th century and was popularized in 1930s, but its significance was not fully realized until totally when tourism has a wider meaning and significance. (Gurung, 2007)

"Tourism isn't a new phenomenon for hindus. In Sanskrit literature we find three terms for tourism derived from the root atna which means leaving home for some time to other places."

According to Negi (Upadhayay, 2003) the three terms are:

-) Paryatna: It means going out for pleasure and knowledge.
-) Desatna: It means going out of the country primarily for economic gains.
-) Tirthatna: It means going out to places of religious merits.

World Tourism Organization has defined tourist in precise term as "Any person who travels to a country other than that in which he/she has his/her usual residence, but outside his/her usual environment, for a period of at least one night but not more than one year and whose main purpose of visit is other than the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the country visited. The term includes people traveling for leisure, recreation and holidays;

visiting friends and relatives, business and professional; health treatment; religion/pilgrimages and others; purposes.” Whereas any person who stays less than twenty four hours in the place outside his/her usual habitat he/she is called excursionist. (Ibid)

Tourism is studied and understood from fix different perspective, tourism as a human experience, tourism as a social behavior, tourism as geographical phenomena, tourism as a resource, tourism as business and tourism as industry (Smith 1998). It is managed from four different levels; Government, NTO, Business Organizations and locals. (Ghimire, 2007).

Various scholars have defined the word tourism in different ways and yet there is no universally accepted definition. Austrian economist Herman Von Schullard gave the first definition of tourism in 1910 as, “The sum total of operations mainly of economic nature, which directly related to the entry, stay and movement of foreigners inside and outside a certain country, city or region.” (Satyal, 2002).

The definition of tourism given by two Swiss professors Walter Hunsinker and Kurt Krapt in 1942 is broad in nature as, “tourism is the sum of the phenomena and relationship arising from the travel and stay of non-resident, in so far as they do not lead to permanent resident and aren’t connected with any earning activity (Bhatia, 1994)

Likewise, the tourism society of Britain had also attempted to clarify the concept of tourism in 1976. It defined tourism as “the temporary short term movement of people to destinations outside the places where they normally live and work and their activities during the study at these destinations, it includes movement for all purposes, as well as day visits or excursion.” (Ibid)

Similarly, Kunwar defines “tourism is the temporary movement of people to destinations outside their normal places to work and residence, the activities undertaken during their stay in those destinations, and the facilities created to cater to their needs” (Kunwar, 2006)

The concepts of tourism characterized by Tewari (Gurung, 2007) are as follows

-) A movement of people to various destinations and has two components, journey and stay both of which take place outside the normal area of residence and works.

-) A movement is of a temporary nature and for a short duration, which distinguished it from migration.
-) It gives rise to activities at the destination, which are distinct from those of the resident population of the place visited.
-) The main motive for participation in tourism is largely recreation and the visit is made for the purpose other than seeking permanent residence or employment remunerated from within the place visited.
-) Tourism in the pure sense is essentially a pleasure activity and involves a discretionary use of freely disposable incomes and free time.

2.2 History of Tourism in Nepal

The origin of the “tourist” date base to 1292 A.D. It has derived from the word “tour”, a deviation of the Latin word “tornus” meaning a tool for describing a circle or a turner’s wheel. In the first half of the 17th century, the term was used for traveling from place to place, a journey, an excursion a circuitous journey touching the principle parts of a country or region. (Dhungana, 2006)

Tourism is an ancient phenomenon and an inherent nomadic urge in man. From the very earliest historical period, travel has remained a fascination to man. In ancient time pilgrims, traders, explorers, adventure and some scholars had undertaken journey in order to fulfill their respective requirements and needs . The progress of tourism development is related with human evolution. To search for basic needs of life, food, cloth and shelter, human beings used to move from one place to another place. After the rise or industrial revolution in the world brought major changes in the range and type of tourism development.(Gurung, 2007)

In fact, the introduction of paid holidays can truly be associated with the development of modern tourism. In 1936 the ILO adopted the convention to support a serous movement of promote paid holidays in turn. Tourism right to paid holidays has universal recognition now. The trend is to grant longer holiday periods. (Moti, 2001)

In respect to Nepal, Chinese visitor Huen Tsang is believed to have visited Nepal in 637 A.D. during Lichhavi period and can be considered as first recorded visitor in the history of Nepal.

Later, other empirical envoys from China like Li-Y-Piao I and Wang Hiventse II visited Nepal and wrote their experiences about the wonders of Nepal. Chinese history of the T-ang Dynasty gives details about Nepal from 643 A.D. to 651 A.D. The Malla kings who succeeded Lichhavis give a new turn to 1480 A.D. The three kingdoms Kathmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur of Malla kings during medieval period virtually transformed in to open museum of art, culture and architecture. The craftsmanship was at the top level, the evidences of which are the pagoda style temples, places, houses and many other things of artistic character (e.g. thanka painting, fresco art etc.) all over three cities. Since ancient times, Nepal is known as “Abode of the Gods” as such many visitors from china and India visited Nepal as pilgrims to worship at pilgrimage places like Lumbini, Pashupatinath, Muktinath, Baraha Chhetra, Swayambhunath, Boudha Nath and many other sites of religious and cultural interest. (Upadhayay, 2008)

Prior to the sugauli treaty of 1816 A.D. with East India Company, Nepal was virtually isolated and closed to outside world for centuries and closed to outside world for centuries. In 1817 a British resident Dr. Wallich was appointed representative from British government in Kathmandu after the treaty of 1816. He and his officials were allowed to visit and areas and assigned to them as tourists. British visitors like Mr Schaguitweit, Daniel Wright, Sir Britan Hodgform, Sir Joseph Hooker, E.A. Smythie and others visited Nepal during the period of Jung Bahadur and later as British resident, researcher, explorer, medical doctor, writer etc. Nepali has always been regarded as sportsman paradise and was famous for wildlife activities including big game shooting as such king George visit Nepal for his famous shoot in 1911 A.D. and the prince of Wales also visited in 1921 A.D. eith the visit of these limited state dignitaries, Nepal was thus completely in a state of secession from outside world (Ibid)

Nepalese tourism sector began to walk at snail’s pace after the rise of Rana regime in 1950s when the country opened its border to the foreigners. The political revolution of 1950/51 marked a new era for tourism in Nepal. People were librated from Rana regime and the gates of Nepal were opened to the foreign visitors. The great revolution of 1951 proved to be a boom for tourism sector in Nepal. After the successful ascents by two French national Movrice Herzog and Lovis Lachenal of Mt Annapurna-I (8,091m) on 3 June 1950, many mountaineers were attracted to Nepal. The successful ascent of Annapurna-I was significant in this respect. The year 1953, marked the another successful victory over Mt. Everest

(8848m) by two historical heroes, Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norga Sherpa. Since the Nepal has introduced all over the world (Gurung, 2007)

MOF (2008/09) had published economic survey in which tourism has been calculated as the main industry of Nepalese economy. It analyzes that the number of tourists visiting Nepal, their growth trend and length of stay, the number of tourist has increased by 37.2 percent to 526,705 during the fiscal year 2007/08. The number of tourists in the calendar year 2008 totaled 500,277 with a decline of 5 percent. In 2006, the average length of stay of a tourist was 11.96 days but this has come down to 11.78 days in the calendar year 2008.

It has reported that most of the tourists arriving to Nepal are found to be pursuing recreation, trekking and mountaineering. Of the tourist visiting Nepal in 2008 A.D. 30.6 percent visited for recreation, 20 percent for trekking and mountaineering, 4.6 percent for trade, 8.6 percent for formal visit and rest for different purposes.

2.3 Tourism in Development Plans

Planned development of tourism in Nepal began as soon as Nepal interred for national planning in 1956. When the international tourism was in boom, Nepal was one of the new attractions during 1950s and 1960s. Realizing the immense potentialities for tourism development, tourism has been getting a high attraction from the very beginning of the economic planning in Nepal. Since the first plan, tourism sector has been recorded a high priority in every plan periods. Though, hundred percent set targets are not achieved objective of tourism development is always a preference in all development plans till today.

First Plan (1956-1961)

First plan had given adequate emphasis to build infrastructures like road, water, electricity and construction of air ports that is essential for tourism development. During the plan period, Nepal acquired membership of different tourism related organization. Tourist development board was established in 1957 under the development of industry. The setting up of hotels of various standards. Establishment of travel agencies, development of Tribhuvan International Airport, and tourist guide training and some of the achievements of the first plan. RNAC as the national flag carrier was established in 1959.

Second Plan (1962-1965)

During this plan period, collection of information on tourist arrival was initiated which has proved very helpful to have authoritative data base for further planning and policy formulation in developing tourism sector in the country.

Specially, the sightseeing services, trained guide, increasing publicity of Nepal in the international market were priority accorded by the second plan. The enactment of the tourism Act 1964 (2021 B.S.) was notable development for tourism during second plan.

Third Plan (1965-1970)

The third plan aimed to increase the number of foreign tourists there by increasing foreign exchange earnings. The prime focus during the plan was again on the establishment of hotels of international standard in Kathmandu, Pokhara and Biratnagar. During the plan period, for international marketing film on Nepalese attractions of tourism and tourists iterative ware produced and distributed. Nepalese art and architectures provide attraction to tourist, there for, steps were taken to preserve and maintain temples and historical places. Preparation of master plan for Lumbini development was pronounced during the plan period.

Fourth Plan (1970-1975)

The fourth plan had assumed tourism as the prime source of foreign exchange earnings in the economy. This plan was actually the turning point in the history of tourism development in Nepal by formulation Nepal tourism master plan 1972 with the join co-operation of the government of federal republic of Germany in 1971. The main objectives of Nepal Tourism Master Plan 1972 were:

-) To develop international tourism this will provide sustained economic benefit of Nepal.
-) To induce economic activity through tourism that would assist in the development of agriculture industry infrastructure foreign exchange e.g. earning and employment opportunities and
-) To develop tourism in manner that would preserve the enhance the social cultural and historical values of Nepal

Fifth Plan (1975-1980)

The ministry of tourism became a full-fledged ministry during this plan period in 1977. The fifth five year plan had spent out the following objectives for the development of tourism. They are?

Increasing the foreign exchange earning and these by improving balance of payment situation.

Increasing employment opportunity in tourism sector by developing skill and ability

Achieving balanced regional development by establishing tourist carters in different part of the country

Encouraging regional and inter-regional tourism.

Sixth Plan (1980-1985)

The sixth plan adopted and integrated approach with the following objectives:

-) To earn foreign exchange
-) To increase the number of tourists and length of their stay
-) To replace foreign goods by domestic products.
-) Provide employment opportunity through tourism related industry.

Seventh Plan (1985-1990)

The plan had the policy to attract investment from both the public and the private sector in tourism. Emphasis had been laid to develop mountaineering and trekking tourism. The main objectives of the plan were as follows:

-) To improve balance of payment situation through increased foreign exchange earnings by attracting upper class tourist.
-) To create new employment opportunity by utilizing tourism industry to the fullest capacity.

-) To increase the length of stay by extending tourism related activities and business where tourism infrastructure is available and
-) To encourage the use of local goods required for tourist there by reducing imports gradually.

Eighth plan (1992-1997)

The eighth plan recognized tourism in Nepal as having great significant in considering the national economy of the country. The eight plan had reviewed the progress made during the seventh plan. The eight plan also reviewed the progress made during the fiscal year 1990/1991 and 1991/1992. During these two years, some of the notable change had been observed such as previously restricted areas namely Manang and Mustang were opened for trekking.

For the first time in the history of tourism planning, the eighth plan had identified the existing problems of tourism sector and initiated to develop tourism as one of the major sector of the economy.

Government had adopted liberal economy policy and priority has given to private foreign investors to invest in tourism industry. In order to attract foreign private investors necessary atmosphere would be created and suitable policies formulated. The objectives of the eighth plan were as follows.

-) To earn more foreign currency by developing tourists industry.
-) To increase the employment opportunities through expansion of tourism industry thereby improving the living standard of the people.
-) To improve the quality of tourism services and to promote and preserve environmental, historical and cultural heritage.
-) To encourage the use of local materials and services in tourism industry.

Ninth Plan (1997-2002)

The ninth plan has recognized high prospect of tourism, thus the plan has proposed to developed tourism in accordance with the natural, socio-cultural and religious environment of

the country. The objectives spelled out in the plan were guided by the long term concept of tourism development.

-) Priority will be given to tourism as one of the most important sector for economic development of the country.
-) Effective promotion and publicity will be made to establish Nepal “An Exclusive Tourism Destination” and
-) To increase employment and foreign exchange earnings from tourism and to provide this benefits up to the village levels.

The main objective of the plan was poverty alleviation through tourism in the village and backward regions by utilizing the ethnic cultural heritage as an attractive tourism potential. The plan shall look forward to promote regional tourism especially in SAARC countries. For the promotion of tourism, diplomatic missions, friendship associations, airline offices and Nepalese organizations abroad would be made to take active participation. Hi-tech media like internet, homepage, e-mail, international television channel would be used for market promotion.

The achievements of this plan are as given below:

-) Lunched ‘Visit Nepal Year 1998’ as a national campaign.
-) Reached a record number of additional air agreement with different countries for air services, seats and routes.
-) Added airport infrastructures in the hilly and relatively busy local airports.
-) Improved the standard of Tribhuvan international airport runway, its equipment, parking area, terminal building and fire extinguishing services.
-) External flight permits have been granted to some domestic airlines and some opportunity will be made available to other airlines as well
-) Civil aviation authority of Nepal has been established and is functioning well.
-) Established Nepal Tourism Board by dissolving the department of tourism.

Tenth Plan (2002-2007)

Tenth plan has targeted an integrated approaching to the background and foreword market linkage in the tourism economy. Effective marketing, re-establishment of Nepal's tourism image, employment opportunities, increases in foreign currency earning and to channel the benefits derived from tourism sector to the rural areas are the major targets of the Tenth plan.

The major objectives of Tenth plan are as given below:

-) Sustainable and qualitative development of tourism sector and promotion of its right markets.
-) Conservation of historical, cultural, religious and archaeological heritage and enhancing their practical use for income generating purposes.
-) To make air transportation services easily available, secure, reliable and standardized.

Three years interim plan (2008-2010)

The interim plan envisaged enhancing the contribution of tourism in national economy by promoting international and domestic tourism through the development of international and national air services and urban and rural tourism destinations. Potential tourism products and destinations will focus on increasing employment regional balance and social incision.

Physical infrastructure needed to support tourism will be developed and improved. Initial works to construct second international airport will be carried out. Nepal will be established as a major tourist destination in the international level so as to enable tourism sector to develop as important segment of the national economy.

This plan seeks to develop reliable and competitive air service through the expansion of domestic and international air services by involving the private sector in the constructor, development, expansion and operation of infrastructure related to the air transport sector.

Three years plan (2010-2013)

This plan has included the tourism friendly policies and programs. Mainly, this plan targeted to increase the number of tourists and providing quality service to them. In addition to this, this plan has the following objective to develop the tourism industry;

-) To increase the quality service to the tourists.
-) To search new tourism destinations.
-) To enrich tourism friendly policies.
-) To promote the domestic and international air service.
-) To distribute the tourism benefits to all people.
-) To develop the concept of home stay for rural tourism development.

2.4 Major Tourism Activities in Nepal

a. New Tourism Policy 2008

It is in process of publication and implementation. Formulation of New Tourism Master Plan is proposed for the coming fiscal year.

b. Nepal Tourism Vision 2020

Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation, in collaboration with concerned industry entrepreneurs and Nepal Tourism Board, has issued Nepal Tourism Vision 2020. Under this, vision, target objectives and strategies have been set to attract two million tourists in 2020.

c. Nepal Tourism Year 2011

With a view to celebrate the year 2011 as Nepal Tourism Year, production and distributional of publicity materials and promotional programs are being carried out subsequent to establishment secretarial and formation of the main committee and 14 sub committees.

d. Home Stay for Rural Tourism

Home stay is a policy to transfer the benefits of tourism at local level. In this program, tourists are not resided in the sophisticated hotels and lodges but they can enjoy in local people house. Now a day, home stay has been taking as the foremost importance concept in Nepal. It is very crucial to develop the rural tourism in various regions.

With a view to incorporate the tourism with poverty alleviation, feasibility study is underway at 14 different places to conduct Home Stay Program which is based on the model that the tourists stay at homes of local people and visit nearby tourist spots.

e. Development of New Tourism Detonations

Development of tourism is considered as a major component of poverty alleviation and new economic development policy of Nepal. In the process, grants have been made available and the constructions works initiated in Sriantu, Halasi, Manakamana-Goraknath of Gorkha, Swargadwari of Pyuthan, Khaptad Region, ROUNGOSHAN region of Accham, Gadimai-Simaraunaged of Bara for the development of tourists destination through the creation of necessary infrastructure. Likewise integrated tourism development program has been initiated in Karnali zone.

f. Royalty Exemption

From the beginning of this fiscal year, royalty exemption will be availed for next five years to mountain earning expedition teams destined to mountains of western and mid western regions.

g. Medical Tourism

Process is initiated for collecting information on Ayurved based exclusive treatment services being made available through Nepalese health institutions in the process of developing Nepal as a medical tourism destination in collaboration with the private sector, Nepal Medical Association and Ministry of Health and Population. Objective is to develop Nepal as a prominent center for meditation, yoga and natural therapy while publicizing traditional treatment methods like ayurveta and development of medical tourism in participation of the private sector.

h. Agro- Tourism

With the policy to increase the use of agro-products in tourism areas and routes by producing locally, agro-tourism training programs in co-ordination with Agriculture Training Directorate are on the implementation process for the growth of agro-products in some important rural tourism areas as such.

i. Construction of International Airport

Feasibility study is being carried out for the construction of international airport in Nijgadh of Bara district. Fencing work in the chhinnedanta of Pokhara based airport is going on, while the compensation distribution for additional land required for the construction of Gautam Buddha airport of Bhairahawa is in preliminary stage.

j. Airport Upgrading

Upgrading and capacity extension works are being carried out in 9 domestic airports that are regarded important from regional and tourism point of view.

2.5 Study based Literatures

Shrestha (1999), in her Ph.D. dissertation is concerned with the problems and prospect of tourism in Nepal. The main findings of her study are: (i) Tourism has emerged as a major segment a Nepalese economy contributing substantially to the foreign exchange earnings (ii) employment generation and (iii) overall economic development of the country. The main tourist generating regions are Nepal, Asia and Western Europe. There is lack of psychological infrastructure in tourism spots. Most of the service infrastructures are mainly concentrated in major urban areas and in few population trekking routes, majority of the tourists had expressed that there is a great prospects of tourism in Nepal. Nepal Airlines should increase its air seat capacity and solve its problems on a long-term basis, otherwise, private airlines should be allowed to operate immediately even in those routes where Royal Nepal Airlines operates.

It is observed that the female tourists tend to visit more for holiday pleasure, where as their male counter parts visit mainly for business, meetings, seminars and other official activities. Population and environmental degradation, inefficient delivery service system, inability to manage the airport properly, inadequacy of existing infrastructure and inability to diversify

tourism products are the main problems of tourism in Nepal. Nepal is considered as one of the cheapest tourism destination.

She has further recommended certain strategies to develop tourism in Nepal. Besides, concentrating on the old products, Nepal must introduce new tourism products suitable for catering to the interest of all types of tourists by age, sex and occupation and to introduce both urban and rural tourism products. Nepal should be able to attract tourists from diverse income groups by catering to their respective needs and presenting Nepal as the destination for all types of tourists. The road network should be well developed and existing road conditions should be properly improved. It is recommended to develop another international airport preferably in the Terai region that would be technically and economically viable. Encouragement for the development of small hydropower project and solar energy are recommended especially on the trekking routes and at wildlife resorts with view to protect natural environment of the area. The private sector should come forward to join hard with the government for promoting and marketing tourism. The use of satellite communication, media such as international televisions channels, CNN, BBC, NTV television, etc. internet, CD-ROM should be used for promotional purposes. The government and the concerned authorities should take concrete steps to prevent deforestation, landslides, pollution, littering on trekking routes and in national park. It is necessary to protect and preserve the socio cultural values of the country for sustainable tourism development.

Rai, (2005), wrote an article in chinari in which he described that Guphathumki is an exceptional place for herbs, flora and fauna. The region abounds in rhododendrons and the “losar dance” is performed by the Sherpa people and their custom. In the early morning, you can see the memorable “sunrise” over the plain. You can see caravans of yaks, sheep, goats and horses on the way carrying goods. Wild boar bears, red panda, deer, monkey and porcupine are found in the forest there. Sweet songs of mountain birds are heard in the peaceful environment there.

Upadhaya (2003), in his Ph.D dissertation on the headline “Tourism as a leading sector in economic development of Nepal” has mentioned Nepal as a showroom of Natural beauty, rich in flora and foaua which are the main attractions of tourism in Nepal. This leads to raise the economic status of the country.

An article published in Raising Nepal a National News Daily, on 23 March 2001 by Bishnu Gautam on the title 'Ilam's Tourism Potential Waiting to be discovered'. In this article he explained that the local people blame the government for the present state of tourism in Ilam, especially the officials designated to explore new destinations. In addition to it, he further described that not a single study has been made to explore the tourism potentials of this famous district for tea let alone the presence of other facilities and infrastructure essential for the development of tourism.

He added Ilam basically offers two things: panoramic green hills affording a grand view of the rising sun, with Siddhitumka giving extra view of sun set and exquisite cultural heritage of the different tribal people. Sri Antu, Guphathumki, Chhintapu and Siddhitumka are famous hills of the district to observe sun rise, Siddhitumka, a grand hill located to west of Ilam bazaar is famous as a vintage point to see the setting sun.

The unique cultural activities among the Ilam people are another potential source for the promotion of tourism in Ilam. Lepchas, the endangered tribe living only in Ilam district can be attraction to tourists. They live in different 16 VDCs of the district. But the local say that nothing has been done to preserve and explore Lepcha culture and traditions. Besides Lepcha, there is the Limbu community with their unique cultural tradition waiting to be discovered by visitors.

2.6 Major Tourism Destination of Ilam

Sandakpur

Sandakpur is situated at an altitude of 3636meter above from the sea level. So, the area is often snow covered its height and slope provide opportunities for skiing. Due to its height the site offers. Some spectacular sunrise and sunset views. It is also famous for home of an endangered species of animal's Red panda. Thus it has become a fertile place for the researchers Red panda and rare birds. Sandakpur is promising destination for ecotourism for its flora and fauna further more. Tourists enjoy with the beautiful view of Mt. Everest. It is also origin place of Kankaimai.

Maipokhari

Maipokhari the famous lake with nine angular points which covers an area of 188 hector. It lies at an elevation of 2121 meter above the sea level. Maipokhari is a destination for pilgrimage and sightseeing. The pond at the top of the hill with green forest around it and colors of different flowers give pleasure for the tourists. This place has become prime source of attraction of the tourists. It is situated about 11km northern part of Ilam bazaar. This place has immense potentialities to establish a botanical garden and make itself as a center for researchers. This pond is also listed in Ramsar Treaty in last year.

Sriantu (Dipendra Shikar)

Sriantu is located about 55km east from Ilam bazaar. It is famous for the views of the Himalayans, the view point of sunrise and sunset. Sariantu danda lies at an elevation of 1677 meter in samalbung VDC. Antudanda is about 3 hours drive from Ilam bazaar. Home stay facilities available at antu region, village tourism is in growing phase in this area. Rare lepcha an ethnic group and their culture can also view in Antu. Antu pokhari, tea estates are next attraction of Antu. Mountain biking, pony riding, campaign sites, sightseeing, boating, rock climbing, village tour, bird watching, skiing and paragliding are possible tourism products that can be developed in the area, which help to promote tourism in Ilam.

Gajurmukhi

The major attraction of Gajurmukhi is a cave with carved images of gods and goddesses. The cave is about 20 feet long and 10 feet height. Its importance is most from a religious perspective. It is in the bank of Deumai river. Gajurmukhi is 4 hours drive from Ilam bazaar and enhancing the trekking route from Ilam through Mangalbare and Dhuseni, it takes about 6-7 hours by foot. Gajurmukhi is one of the famous place of pilgrimage.

Siddhithumka

It lies at an elevation of 1000 meter west of Ilam bazaar. It is idol for a short trek and for panoramic views of the mountains and plains wrought in the colors of sunset and sunrise khandrung gufa is another attraction of Siddhithumka. It is also famous for diverse flora and fauna.

Chhintapu

An altitude of 3353 m above the sea level, Chhintapu ranks the second highest peak in Ilam district the area is famous for various types of rhododendron are found in this area. It is also famous for herbal plants and various species of birds.

Guphathumki

This place is situated at Shantidada VDC. It is important and famous tourism destination for sightseeing, local cultures and known as an important place for getting entertainment by picnic and boating. Guphathumki can be known as ancient habitat of Lepchas. It is also famous for agro-tourism. Due to the lack of research, publicity, policy and programs, this place is in shadow up to now. At present, there is striving to develop this place in local level. It can be developed and promoted for trekking and religious aspect.

Since this study is a new in nature regarding to its case study, the literatures it had reviewed are more related to concepts of tourism rather than empirical study. It is due to the lack of empirical research findings of Guphathumki area that is why, what researcher had reviewed the empirical literatures are somehow base on experience.

An article published in Paryatan Bisheshank (2064 B.S Page 113) '*Scope of Rural Tourism in Ilam*' by Soroj Bhurtel stated "Rural Tourism is a new concept and can prove extermly benifical in the hill stations like Ilam. In this concept of tourism, we do not need big hotel and motels, nor do we need good motorable roads and fashionable vehicles. We permit tourist to stay in our own homes as guest. By doing so, tourists can get real taste of village life. They can study rural life style from a very close distance. This, since share the same plate of foods, they prove to be the member of our own family. As a result they feel more cozy. Rural tourism can prove a strong means of improving the economy of rustic people."

An article published in Paryatan Bisheshank (2064 B.S page 77) '*Ilamko Parayatanma Napugeko Aankhaharu*' by Bhattarai K.P. that for tourism development ther cannot be found only considerable things after visiting Ilam beyond the headquarter. Having some natural beauties in Sriantu and Mai Pokhari Lake, Ilam has not considered of probabilities of Hangethem jungle, the problems of Red Panda, the depth of Chhintapu and beauties of Todke stream. And it has not thought of religious importance of pilgrimages like Mangmalung, Gajurmukhi and Seti Devi. As much the tea estates of Ilam has pleased those who are entirely fallen in the feelings. Kuibheer in Chamaita having the probabilities of rock climbing for those who want to pass their adventures life. Besides these Guphathumki can provide entertainment by viewing sun rise and sunset, boating, site seeing, picnic spot for the tourists.

CHAPTER- III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

This study had applied exploratory and descriptive research design. Since, it is a new area selection; the agglomerated data were primary from the field survey. So it was an exploratory. The data agglomerated were analyzed in descriptive way. In addition case study had been taken for the household's survey.

3.2 Selection of the Study Area

It lies between two development committees Shantidanda and Mangalbare. But the largest area of Guphathumki C Besides this, Guphathumki is famous for studying cultural diversity. It is also rich in flora and fauna. Although, this place still is in shadow. Government and private sector have no survey in this area, so the researcher has chosen this area for highlight the tourism destination of Ilam.

3.3 Sampling Procedure

This study had been applied purposive sampling for area selection. Where as sample population of the study had selected on the following basis by using simple random sampling method.

Table No.3.1

S.N.	Streams	Total Population	Sampling No	Percentage
1	Tourist during three months	200(Average)	10	25
2	Local people	240 HHS	25	62.5
3	Hotels	15 HHS	5	12.5
	Total	455	40	100

3.4 Sources of Data Collection

Data were collected from primary sources and secondary sources. Primary data were collected by direct observation, interview, checklist and FDG to the local people, hotels and tourist, where the secondary data were collected from different published, unpublished documents and individuals, exports and tourism related organization from district, national and international level.

3.5 Data Collection Tools and Technique

The researcher had followed the following techniques and tools for the data collection.

3.5.1 Questionnaire Survey

The structured questionnaires were prepared for the information collection of the study area. Both the open-ended and closed questions were included. The local people of the particular area requested to fill up the questionnaires. They had been helped by the researchers to fill up the answers .If they couldn't fill up, researcher filled –up by asking them questionnaires.

3.5.2 Key Informants Interview

The key informants had been interviewed for the information to this study. They were the representatives of VDC's member, local people related to tourism development committee person and Nepal Tourism Board Officer.

3.5.3 Field Visit and Observation

Field visit and observation method had been also used to obtain the accurate information. Each household selected in sampling were visited and observed two times during the study. Data were recorded while observing the hotel and local households.

3.5.4 Focus Group Discussion

The focus group discussion was held in hotels owners and local people. This discussion had focused more on problem and prospects of tourism in Guphathumki. It had done in two groups consisting seven people.

3.6 Data Analysis

The agglomerated data were analyzed in quantitative and descriptive way. The quantitative information had been tabulated using simple computer program for these simple statistical tools such as tables, percentage, figures and graphs were used .Whereas, in case of qualitative data, descriptive method was applied.

CHAPTER - IV

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

This chapter deals with the slight introduction of the VDC and data presentation and interpretation. The agglomerated primary data from the field survey have been tabulated and their interpretation had been made thoroughly.

4.1 General Background of Ilam District

Ilam is known as Queen of Hill, Which is located in Eastern Development Region of Nepal with an area of 1703sq.km. It is extending from 26⁰40' to 27⁰8' north latitude and 87⁰40' to 88⁰10' east longitude. The altitude of this district ranges from 250 meter to 3636 meter above from the sea level with minimum temperature of 0⁰C and maximum temperature of 31⁰C .Geographically link to Darjeeling in the east, Morang and Dhankuta in the west, Jhapa in the south and Panchthar in north. The altitude of Ilam bazaar is 1208 meter from sea level.

It is believed that the name 'Ilam' is derived from limbu language (spoken in Ilam by limbu ethnic group). It is made up two words 'I' means twisted and 'lam' means road, so Ilam means a twisted road. The beautiful of Ilam can hardly be exaggerated.

Ilam is pronoun of Biodiversity, Geo-diversity, linguistic diversity, Cultural diversity and sunrise. Ilam is famous for different 'As' (like aalu, olan, amlisho, akabera, alaiche, athathi satkar, arothodus tea, aduwa), Native culture, unique natural resources, traditional customs, handicrafts, innocent smiling people, hills prefer the view of sunrise and sunset, panoramic mountain view of Kanchenjunga cardamom and ginger fields, green tea gardens, different sports of rhododendron, production of cheese and chhurpi, holley pilgrimage sites (like Shriantu, Chintapu, Guphathumki, Siddhithunka, Maipokhari, etc.) are some of the remarkable characteristics of Ilam.

Wikipedia Dictionary introduced Ilam like this Ilam is a municipality and tea producing town in Nepal. It is in Ilam District which is in hilly Eastern Region of Nepal. It is famous for its natural sceneries and landscapes. Ilam is a today one of the most developed place in Nepal.

Its product ILAM TEA is very famous and exported to many parts of Europe. The main source of income of this district is tea, cardamom, milk, ginger and potato (CBS, 2001).

Guphathumki is one of the major destinations of Ilam district. Guphathumki at the height of 2200 meters provides majestic view of the Himalayas, Mt. Kanchenjunga, Mt. Kumbhakarna, Mt. Makalu, and even Mt. Everest. It provides majestic view of beautiful mountain and thrilling scenes of both sunrise and sunset. Natural beauty of Himalayas in the northern part and plain area in the southern part can be viewed. All the VDCs of Ilam district can be seen from Guphathumki except three VDCs Shantipur Salakpur and Erautaar. It is also famous for boating and picnic.

It lies in western part of district headquarter in Shantidanda VDC word no.7 in the borderline with Mangalbare VDC. The name 'Guphathumki' is being taken from its well knowing saying that there was a dense forest in the ancient time. In the middle of the forest there was a lake. It was believed that there was a kirat goddess temple nearby the lake. People believed that kirat goddess Mahadev came there for shelter from high Himalayas known as 'gupha basnu'. The goddess bathed in this lake and took warm in sunlight in small peaks of this area. By this way the place got its name Guphathumki.

4.1.1 Physical Setting

Shantidanda Village Development Committee is one of the VDC among the 45 VDCs. It is situated about 32km. to the west of Ilam headquarter. Extension in 22.1sq.km of its total land, Guphathumki is touched in ward no.7 in the border side of Mangalbare VDC. Geographically, the altitude varies up to 2200 m above the sea level. This VDC has bordered with Mangalbare, Sangrumba, Ilam Municipality, Chamaita, Sakhjung and Barbote VDCs. The total land has steep in nature with rich biodiversity. It extends in open government land where there was a good pastureland in ancient era.

4.1.2 Climate

Climate is the one of the major indicator to observe its prosperity and norms and value. The study area has alpine type of climatic condition. Due to its cold climate, no crops production is matched. So, it is famous for tea Cardamom, herbs, livestock farming.

4.1.3 Demographic Status

The total population of this VDC is 5671 out of which 2887 are male and 2784 are female consisting with 1157 households (CBS, 2001). Table 4.1 presents the caste wise distribution of population of the study area;

Table 4.1 Population Distribution by Caste Wise

Caste/Ethnicity	Population	Percentage
Braman/Chhetries	2763	48.73
Rai	1665	29.36
Newar	472	8.32
Limbu	313	5.52
Gurung	71	1.25
Dalit	253	4.46
Magar	38	0.67
Sherpa	37	0.65
Sunar/Mukhiya	50	0.88
Others	9	0.16
Total	5671	100

Source: *VDC Profile, 2067*

The table 4.1 shows that the total population of the study in the view of caste/ethnicity. The predominant caste of this VDC is Braman/Chhetries i.e.48.73 percent. It is followed by the Rai caste with 29.36 percent. It clears that this region is covered with Aryan group and Mongol has the second existence.

4.1.4 Education Status

The educational status of this VDC is 16.52 percent of people are illiterate where as 83.48 percent are literate. [In this data child below 6 years old are not included]. Most of the under privileged are not attended in the school. There are 6 primary schools, two secondary schools and one higher secondary school. The female literacy rate is 77.66 percent whereas 89.12 percent is male literacy rate.

Source: *VDC profile, 2067*

4.1.5 Infrastructure Facilities

Due to the low level of literacy rate, there has been low developing of its infrastructures. Such as, health, education, electricity, communication, road, market access etc. Although, this VDCs has 8 NGOs which are working there to kick out the prevailing problem.

4.1.6 Tourism Centers

The majority of population of this VDC is based on agriculture. Mix type of agricultural activities is practiced in this VDC with livestock. Besides, it has a high potentiality of tourism development in which Guphathumki is the most important tourism destination.

4.2 Population Structure

Population is the major component of any research. This types of sampled population sketches our real report. The sample population composition of this study has been presented under the table;

Table No: 4.2.1 Sample Population Structure of the Study

Streams	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Local people	25	62.5
Tourists	10	25
Hotels/Lodges	5	12.5
Total	40	100

Source: *Field Survey, 2014*

Table 4.2.1 shows the sampled population of the study. It mirrors out that 62.5 percent are local people, 25 percent are tourists both on national and international level. The rest 12.5 percent are local motels/hotels. Thus, this study covers the all tourism stakeholders of this site.

Furthermore, the sex composition of the study has been given below on the table as:

Table No: 4.2.2Sex Composition of Respondents

Sex	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Male	25	62.5
Female	15	37.5
Total	40	100

Source: *Field Survey, 2014*

Table no. 4.2.2 shows 62.5 percent are male respondents and other 37.5 percent are female respondents. It clears that female are still backward in this areas even though 21st century is the age of gender development.

4.3 Education Status of the Local Respondents

Education is the key to any success. It is the cornerstone of the development also. Higher the level of the education means better will be the opportunities. The education level of the local respondents has been listed on the following table;

Table No: 4.3Education Level of Local Respondents

Levels	No of Respondents	percentage
Illiterate	3	12
Literate	5	20
Secondary/SLC	8	32
I.A	4	16
B.A	3	12
M.A	2	8
Total	25	100

Source: : *Field Survey, 2014*

Table no. 4.3 presents that 32 percent local respondents have secondary level of education. Out of the total respondents, 20 percent are only literate and 16 percent are I.A passed respondents. Similarly 12 percent and 8 percent have B.A and M.A respectively. There are 12 percent illiterate respondents. It concludes that the level of education in respondents is not in homogenous background. It is because of the icon of rural life also.

4.4 Occupation of the Local Respondents;

Occupation in the engagement of people in different activities to satisfy their daily needs is Human beings adopt different types of occupations such as agriculture, trade, service, social worker etc. In these study respondents occupational status has been presented below in the table as:

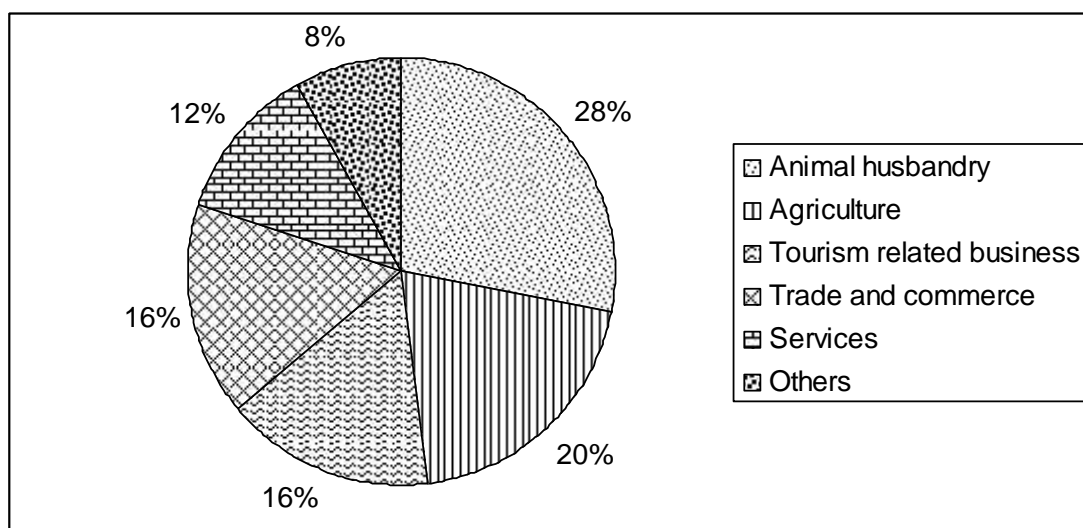
Table No: 4.4Occupational of the Local Respondents

Occupations	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Animal husbandry	7	28
Agriculture	5	20
Tourism related business	4	16
Trade and commerce	4	16
Services	3	12
Others	2	8
Total	25	100

Source: *Field Survey, 2014*

Table 4.4 shows 28 percent of the local respondents are taken animal husbandry as a major occupation for their livelihood. It is followed by agriculture which occupies 20 percent. Similarly, tourism related business (guides, churpi, ghee, handicrafts) consisted 16 percent and trade and commerce is the main occupation of also 16 percent of the local respondents. Likewise, 12 percent and 8 percent are service holders and other way of life as herbal product, wine products etc respectively. It clears that due to its upland geography, majority are engaged in animal husbandry because crops production is not suitable for this area .It has been shown under the pie chart also.

Figure 4.1 Occupation of the Local Respondents



4.5 Age Structure of the Local Respondents

Age factor is also vital to analyze the different types of economic activities. In the context of Nepal, 15-59 years age structure is taken as the economically active population. The age structure of the sampled HHs is given below as;

Table No.4.5 Age Structure of the Local Respondents

Age –group	No. of Respondents	percentage
Under 20 years	3	12
21- 30 years	4	16
31- 40 years	7	28
41-50 years	6	24
51-60 years	3	12
61- 70 years	2	8
Total	25	100

Source: *Field Survey, 2014*

Table no. 4.5 shows 28 percent are 31-40 years age group respondents followed by 24 percent of 41-50 years age groups. Similarly 16 percent are 21-30 years, 12/12 percent of less than 20 years and 51-60 years age group respondents. It clears that the majority are from 31-40 years age group.

4.6 Local Respondents Familiar with Tourism

Tourism is a compound product of multiple sectors. It is the business of the business of people. Local people behaviors and awareness on it erects its future destination. In this study the local people response on familiarity in tourism business has been presented in the following table;

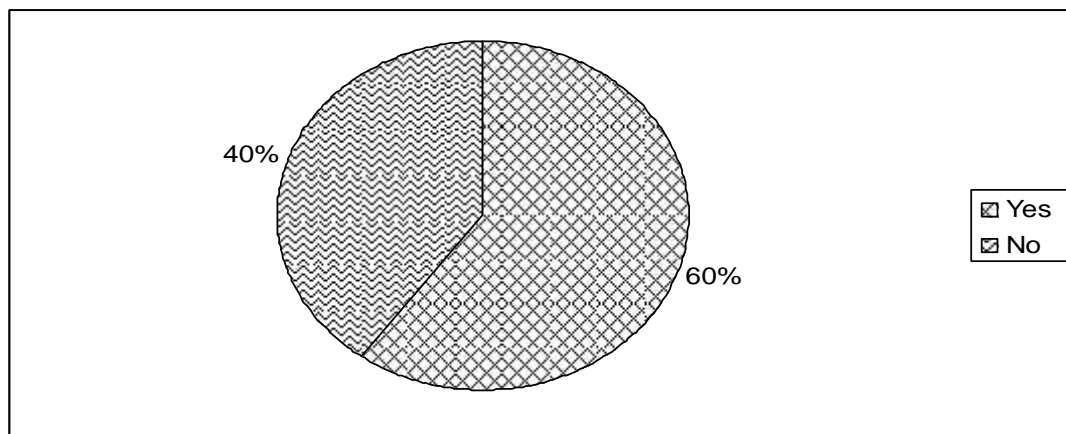
Table No: 4.6 Local Respondents Response on Tourism Familiarity

Responses	No. of Respondents	percentage
Yes	15	60
No	10	40
Total	25	100

Source: *Field Survey, 2014*

The table no. 4.6 reveals that 60 percent of the local respondents are familiar with tourism whereas 40 percent are not. It clears that majority respondents are aware on it. It is shown on the following pie chart.

Figure 4.2 Local Respondents Response on Tourism Familiarity



4.7 Family Involvement

Family involvements in the tourism sector of the local respondents are as follows;

Table No: 4.7 Family Involvement in Tourism of Local Respondents

Numbers	No. of Respondents Family	percentage
1-2	15	60
3-5	8	32
6-8	2	8
9-10	0	0
10 above	0	0
Total	25	100

Source: *Field Survey, 2014*

Table 4.7 shows 60 percent of the total respondents' family members are involved 1 to 2 persons followed by 32 percent of 3-5 persons of the family and only 8 percent family members involved 6-8 persons. It shows that the involvement of the local family members is not satisfactory. It is due to the lack of commercialization of tourism in this area.

4.8 Benefits of Tourism to Local People.

On the query of benefits of tourism to local people, the sampled local people responded the following.

Table No. 4.8 Benefits of Tourism to Local Respondents

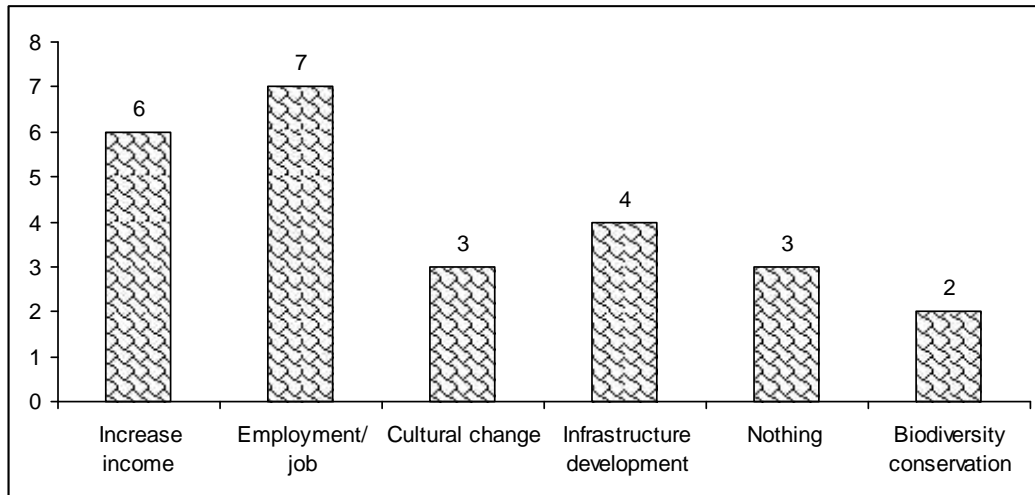
Benefits	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Increase income	6	24
Employment/ job	7	28
Cultural change	3	12
Infrastructure development	4	16
Nothing	3	8
Biodiversity conservation	2	12
Total	25	100

Source: *Field Survey, 2014*

Table no. 4.8 states 28 percent of the respondents have responded that employment opportunities have been creating through this business in local levels, 24 percent viewed that

their income level is increased by it. Similarly 16 percent responded on infrastructure developments is the major benefits of it. 12/12 percent said cultural change and respectively. The rest respondents responded that there is no change in their basic level i.e. no benefits they get up to date now. It has been presented under the bar – diagram.

Figure No. 4.3 Benefits of Tourism to Local Respondents



4.9 Attraction of the Guphathumki Region

One the major component of tourism is the attraction out of among accessibility, accommodation and amenities. It plays the vital role to inflow of tourists in any site. The major attractions of tourists in Guphathumki areas based on respondents views are presented under the table.

Table No: 4.9 Attractions of Tourists in Guphathumki

Attractions	No. Respondents	Percentage
Natural beauty	5	20
Sight seeing	6	24
Sun rise sun set	7	28
Local cultures	1	4
Photography	1	4
Boating	3	12
Picnic Spot	2	8
Total	25	100

Source: *Field Survey, 2014.*

Table No: 4.9 mirror that 28 percent of total respondents said that sun-rise and sun-set is the major attractions of this area. It is followed by 24 percent who viewed that sightseeing is the

attractions. Similarly 20 percent, 12 percent and 8 percent responded on natural beauty, boating and picnic activities respectively 4/4 percent responded on local cultures and photography are the attractions to lure the tourists in this area. It shows that majority of the respondents have the knowledge of its real attractions.

4.10 Problems of Tourism Development in this Area

Any things have two sides i.e bad and good. Nothing remains bright only .Development is the outcome of destruction in a sense. There may be the multiple problems scattered on doing a thing. Likewise Guphathumki has more barriers for tourism development also. Besides on the local respondents view on it, the following are the major problems of this area;

Table No: 4.10 Problem for Tourism Development in Guphathumki

Problems	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Transportation	6	24
Water scarcity	4	16
Electricity	5	20
Information Centre	3	12
Tropical	2	8
Low level of awareness	1	4
Gap of services	2	8
Negligence of Government policies	2	8
Total	25	100

Source: Field Survey, 2014

Table 4.10 shows the problems responded by local respondents. The major problem of this area is the lack of transportation (24%). Due to the lack of pucci road respondent feel uneasy on travelling on kachi road. The next problem said by local respondent is the lack of electricity (20%). Similarly, 16 percent responded water scarcity is the problem of this area. The other problems are low level of information (12%), Tropical ruggedness (8%), low level of awareness (4%), Gap of services (8%) and Government negligence (8%) of the total respondents. It clears that Governments and stakeholder of this area should reduce these problems immediately.

Problems of Tourism in Guphathumki are found as follows:

i. Communication Problems

Communication is one of the important factors which influence the tourism sector. Communication facility helps tourism for the closeness with their relatives through modern information technology. There is no such good facility. There should be landline telephone service, free Wi-Fi services, cyber cafe.

ii. Drinking Water Problem

Clean drinking water is necessary for human being. There is great problem of drinking water. There should be clean drinking water for the visitors who come for picnic and visit. There is a lake but the water is not clean for drinking purpose. So the stakeholder should provide drinking water in Guphathumki near by the source.

iii. Lack of the Health Campinas

Health Campinas should be facilitate for the visitors in case of sickness and hurt problems. There is no such facility near by Guphathumki. Health post of Mangalbare VDC and sub Health post of Santidada VDC is very far away from Guphathumki.

iv. Lack of Security

Security facility is another problem of Guphathumki. There is no such security facility in Guphathumki. There is no police station near by Guphathumki. Police station of Mangalbare bazaar and Rakse bazar are far away.

v. Lack of Recreation Facility

Recreation facilities are the important factor for the attraction of tourism. There is no such facilities in Guphathumki. Recreation facilities such as boating, mountain biking, Horse riding can be provided for the tourist.

vi. Lack of Trained/Skilled Man Power

For the development of tourism business in Guphathumki there is lack of trained/ skilled man power. Trained man power can provide good facilities for the tourist. Trained man power can provide, home stay service boating service guide service etc for the tourists.

vii. Lack of Tourist Information Center

Tourist information center can provide detail information about the tourism place. Tourist can be familiar about the facilities of the place. There is no such centre in Guphathumki. For the development of tourism area in Guphathumki tourist information center should be provided by the stakeholders.

viii. Lack of Information to the Local People

Awareness about the tourism should be provided for the local people, where local people can provide more facility for the tourist. They can be familiar about the tourism business. They can develop tourism business which can help local people for more earning. Therefore stakeholder should provide information about tourism business for the local people. No such information to local people is provided in Guphathumki area.

ix. Lack of Transportation

Transportation is one of the most important factor for the development of tourism. There is great problems of transportation facility in Guphathumki from Mechi Highway Kachhi road is constructed to reach Guphathumki through of Rakse and Nepaltar. The condition of road is very poor. In the rainy season. There is no possibility to travel by vehicle due to muddy and steep road.

x. Lack of Infrastructure Facilities

Minimum amount of infrastructure facilities is hardly provided in Guphathumki. Infrastructure facilities play important role for the development of tourism well facilitate infrastructure should be provided in Guphathumki for the development of tourism.

xi. Lack of Accommodation

Lack of accommodation is another problem of Guphathumki. To fulfill the gap of services, home stay, paying guest and hotels should be established on the way side.

xii. Lack of Integrated Purpose

Due to the negligence of stakeholder on developing Guphathumki as tourism destination, there is lack of integrated purpose. It has the prospect of a lot for the recreation for tourist. But it is still under shadow. Tourist can visit there for different purposes. For the attraction of tourist there should be done the maintenance of infrastructures.

xiii. Lack of Advertisement and Publicity

Guphathumki is one of the finest destination area for tourism. But due to the negligence of stakeholder, it is still under shadow. Due to the lack of advertisement and publicity of tourism area Guphathumki, incoming of tourist is unsatisfied. If the work of advertisement and publicity is done tourism business can be developed in Guphathumki.

4.11 Suggestions of Local Respondents

In the quarry “what are your suggestion for tourism development in Guphathumki ?” by researcher, the local respondents responded the following;

Table No: 4.11 Suggestions by Local Respondents

Suggestions	No. of Respondent	Percent
Extension of road network	5	20
Establishment of hotels/motels in trekking route	1	4
Publicity/ Information center	3	12
Conservation of biodiversity	3	12
Health Campigns	2	8
Regular water supply	4	16
Provision of Electricity	4	16
Skill based Trainings	2	8
Conservation of local Cultures	1	4
Total	25	100

Source: *Field Survey, 2014*

The above table 4.11 shows the local respondents viewed to cope these problems prevailing in the local area. It states that 20 percent of the local respondents said extension and development of road net work is a necessary of it. Establishment of hotels in trekking route (4%), publicity/information centre (12%), conservation of biodiversity (12%), health campaigns (8%), regular water supply (16%), provision of electricity(16%), skill based trainings (8%) and conservation of local cultures (4%).

4.12 Profile of the Hotels Owners and Tourists:

The following table shows the profile of the sampled hotel owners and tourists:

Table No: 4.12 Profile of the Hotels owners and Tourists

Sex		Occupation of Tourists	No. of Respondents	%	Country	No. of Respondents	%
Male	Female						
10	5	Trade and Commerce	2	20	India	3	30
(66.67 %)	(33.33%)	Teaching	3	30	Domestic	5	50
		Institution	3	30	Germany	1	10
		Study	2	20	USA	1	10
		Total	10	100		10	100

Source: *Field Survey, 2014*

The table no. 4.12 shows sex composition of tourists and hotel owners. It states out of the total tourists plan hotel owners 66.67 percent are male and rest are female respondents. Similarly, the occupation of the tourists is trade and commerce (20 %), Teaching (30%), institutions (30%) and study (20%). In case of their nationality, majority are from Domestic (50%). Other are India (30%), Germany (10%), and American (10%) in the study population.

4.13 First Information about Guphathumki by tourists

The first information of the Guphathumki by tourist's response has been presented below in the table.

Table No. 4.13 First Information of Guphathumki By Tourists

Responses	No. of Tourists	Percent
Local people	3	30
Media	2	20
Friends	2	20
Tourism Organization	1	10
Relatives	2	20
Total	10	100

Source: *Field Survey, 2014*

Table no. 4.13 table mentions 30 percent of the visitors have got the first information by the local people, 20/20/10 percent are from media, friends and tourism organizations. Respectively 20 percent of the tourist has known about Guphathumki by their relatives. It clears the publicity of Guphathumki is not well touched by government.

4.14 Purpose of Tourists Visiting in Guphathumki

Tourist's purposes visiting in Guphathumki have been shown in the following table;

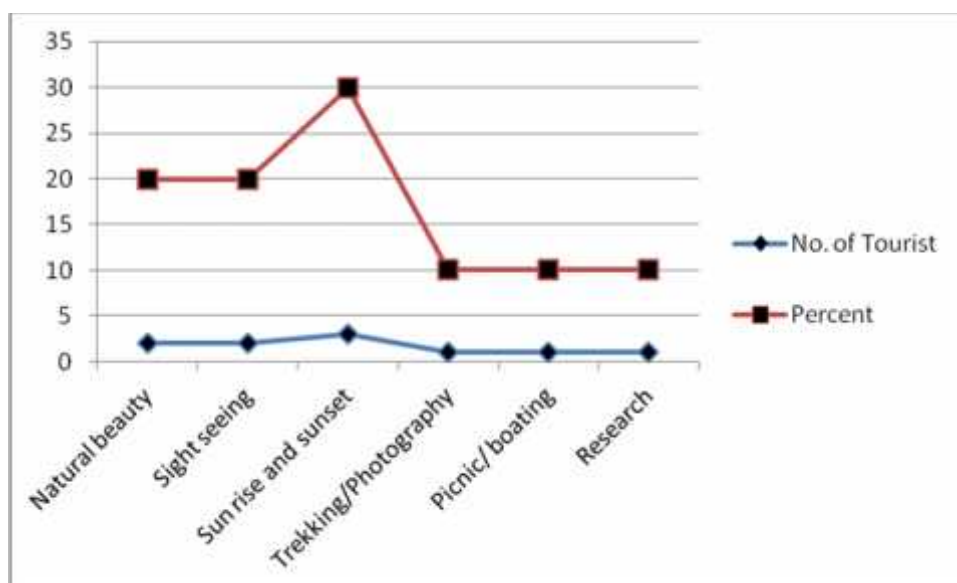
Table No: 4.14 Purposes of Tourists Visiting in Guphathumki

Purposes	No. of Tourist	Percent
Natural beauty	2	20
Sight seeing	2	20
Sun rise and sunset	3	30
Trekking/Photography	1	10
Picnic	1	10
Research	1	10
Total	10	100

Source: *Field Survey, 2014*

Table 4.14 Shows 30 percent of the sampled tourists are visiting there for observing sun-rise and sunset. It is followed by 20/20 percent of tasting natural beauty and sight seeing. Whereas, other trekking and photography (20%), picnic (10%) and research (10%). It shows the taste variety of the tourists. In deed, local tourists are visiting there for worshipping only. It has been visualized on the following line diagrams.

Figure No: 4.4 Purposes of Tourists Visiting in Guphathumki



4.15 Duration of Tourist Stay in Guphathumki

Based on the data agglomerated from the field survey, the days of tourists staying in Guphathumki area has been presented in the following table;

Table No. 4.15 Duration of Tourists Stay in Guphathumki

Days	No. of Tourist	Percent
0-1	4	40
2-3	3	30
4-5	2	20
5 above	1	10
Total	10	100

Source: *Field Survey, 2014.*

The above table shows 40 percent of the tourists stayed there for only 1 day once a visit. 2-3 days staying of tourist in Guphathumki area is 30 percent. Similarly 4-5 days and above 5 days staying of tourists is 20 percent and 10 percent respectively. It clears that the length of stay in Guphathumki region is low in comparison to national level of 11.75 days. It is because of the lack of services, facilities and monsoon.

4.16 Satisfaction of the Tourists

Tourism is the industry in which satisfaction plays a cookbook role to expand. In the absence of tourist satisfaction, they cannot visit again that place. In Case of Guphathumki area the tourist satisfaction was measured by the researcher in 'yes' /'No' responses.

Table No: 4.16Satisfaction of the Tourists

Responses	No, of Tourist	Percent
Yes	7	70
No	3	30
Total	10	100

Source: *Field Survey, 2014*

Table 4.16 shows 70 percent of the tourist responded the available services, facilities and beauty of it, satisfy their purposes. Whereas 30 percent voted against it. They said that the lack of facilities, infrastructure and chilly monsoon are the barriers of their satisfaction in optimum level.

4.17 Suggestions of Tourist for Tourism Development

The following table shows the suggestions of tourists;

Table No: 4.17Suggestions of Tourists for Tourism Development in Guphathumki

Suggestions	No. of Tourists	percent
Tourist information center	5	50
Accommodation	2	20
Trekking route	2	20
Nature guide	1	10
Total	10	100

Source: *Field Survey, 2014*

The table no. 4.17 reveals 50 percent of the tourist informed that tourism information center is need for the promotion of tourism in Guphathumki. Similarly 20/20 percent responded said increase in accommodation and development of trekking route are the essential part of the tourist attraction. The next 10 percent said nature guide who can interpret about flora and fauna of local forests.

4.18 Employees in Hotels/Lodges

The local hotels/lodges have got internal job to the people in local area. The numbers of employees getting jobs in Hotels /lodges have been tabulated bellow;

Table No: 4.18Number of Employees in Hotels/Lodges

Numbers	No. of Hotels/ Lodges	percentage
1-2	1	20
3-5	2	40
6-9	2	40
10- 15	0	0
Total	5	100

Source: *Field Survey, 2014*

The above table shows 40/40 percent sample hotel absorbed 3-5 and 6-9 persons as employees. And 20 percent of the hotels/lodges have provided jobs to only 1-2 persons. It clears that there is no high level of hotels as in urban area.

4.19 Cooking fuel in Hotels

The types of cooking fuels in local hotels have presented under the table:

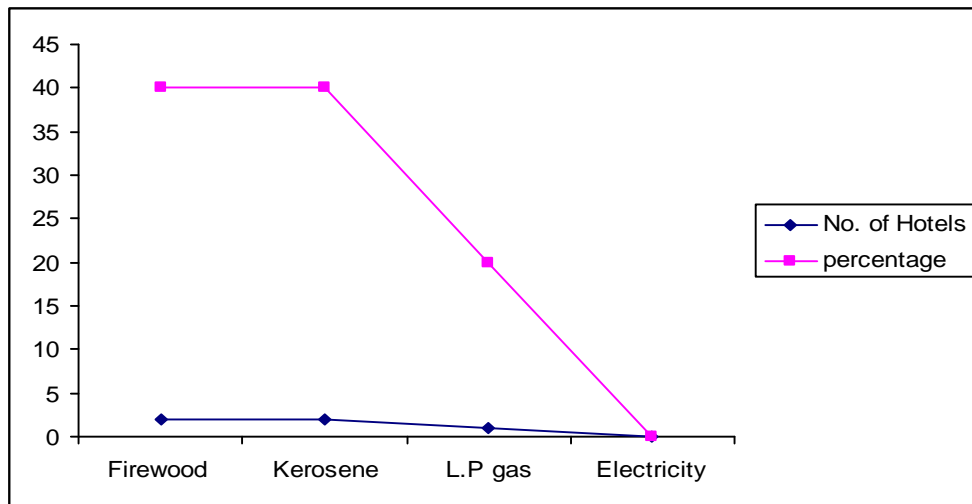
Table No.4.19Types of cocking fuels in hotels

Fuels	No. of Hotels	percentage
Firewood	3	60
Kerosene	1	20
L.P gas	1	20
Electricity	0	0
Total	5	100

Source: *Field Survey, 2014*

The above table has revealed that 40/40 percent local hotels have used firewood and kerosene as cooking fuels. Similarly, 20 percent of the hotels used LP gas also. It shows that there is low level of modern clean energy. This has been shows under the figure also.

Figure No.4.5Types of cooking fuels in hotels



On the basis of primary sources of information, the researcher has analyzed the data in which objectives of the study are through to be fulfilled. In respect to the knowledge about tourism sector in Guphathumki, local people need a variety of awareness program. According to respondents of the study, the future of Guphathumki in tourism industry is the best, however lacking of non-ill policy of local on well as national government and low level of infrastructure Guphathumki is found in shadow still now even through it has unique natural beauty mixing with rich biodiversity and high hills.

4.20 Prospects of Tourism in the Study Site

Guphathumki is renowned for eco-tourism area. Here, there can be done different tourism friendly activities. Above all this area has following prospects in the relation of tourism sector.

i. Sight Seeing

Guphathumki is the most popular place for sightseeing. From there visitor can see the beautiful scene of open land, culture and tree lined in the upper land. There are 51 peaks in this area look like pathivoreko which give feelings for the visitors. In the north part white thrilling Himalayas; Kanchanjunga, Kumbakarna, Sagarmatha can be seen. Thrilling Himalayas of Mahavarat Range of Nepal and India also can be viewed. In the southern part Terai region also can be seen from Guphathumki. Except 3 VDCs Santipur, Salakpur and Erautaar we can see all other 45 VDC's and two municipalities of Ilam District.

ii. Culture and Tradition

Culture and tradition are the crucial for human society. Human being can't exist without culture and tradition. In this study area one can observe the ethnic culture

and tradition. Sakela dance is performed in this area for the attraction of tourist during udhuali and Ubhuali Parba by Rai ethnic.

iii. Picnic spot

Guphathumki is also famous for picnic spot. Many people come there for picnic. According to the local people the most business season for picnic is from Kartik to Poush. Due to the facility of Kachi road people can reach there for the picnic. Wood near by the jungle and water near by the lake can facilitate a few for the people for picnic.

iv. Flora and Fauna

In this study area there is accounted as reach area for biodiversity. Around the area there are different types of flora and fauna. Mainly one can find Laligurans which blossom in the month of Chitra and Baisakh making the place thrilling and other herbal plants can be found. This is also the place of rare animal red panda and salak. So visitors can enjoy the place by observing flora and fauna of this place.

v. Horse Riding

There is also possibility to start the horse riding activities. This area is in village area and there we can find many horses reared by the villagers. These horses are used to carry gods in the village. If these horses are used for riding tourist in certain fees, they can enjoy during visiting this area. By this local people lure in the tourism industry.

vi. Boating

Boating is another activity of this area which gives enjoyment for the visitors. There is a lake in this area, modern boating facility should be provided. It can attract local as well as international tourist.

vii. Mountain Biking

Mountain biking can also be the another tourism activities, which can provide attraction for the tourist in this area. For this there should be reconstructed the road in minimum investment.

viii. View of Sunrise and Sun set

View of sunrise and sunset is another most attraction for the tourist in this area. In

the month of kartik and mangshir visitors can enjoy the beautiful scene of sunrise and sunset. According to the local people many people come here from far places for the view of sunrise and sun set.

ix. Handicraft and Sunar Goods

The study area is the residential area of ethnic groups. Sunar caste people live nearby the area. They make different bamboo equipments which are very beautiful in craft. Tourist can buy the crafts as chino of this place for enrichment of this area handicraft should be done.

x. Camping site

For the recreation of the tourists camping site facilities also should be provided. Tourist can take camping in this place and can enjoy the view of sunset and sunrise. For this, security facility should be provided in this area. Security is very poor in this area. There is no police station near by the area.

xi. Trekking

Trekking is one of the major aspect of eco-tourism Guphathumki can provide this flavor by the three trekking routes one is from Ilam bazaar, another from Rakse and another from Mangalbare. So it can be promoted as eco-tourism destination.

CHAPTER - V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

Tourism industry, being a comparative advantage industry of Nepal, has important role in Nepal's economy. Development of tourism sector has contributed to increase employment, income generation and to improve the balance of payment of the country with its natural beauty and cultural heritage, like Mount Everest (crown of the world), snow Peak Mountains, birth place of lord Buddha (apostle of peace) a number of lakes and rivers etc. Nepal has become the attractive destination for tourists from all over the world.

Tourism is important not only from the point of view earning foreign exchange but it also enhances scope for various industrial branches, like hotels motels and other types of accommodation, restaurants and other food services, amusement, and other leisure activities, gifts shapes and large number of other enterprises such as fruit production and processing etc.

Tourism in some of potential areas can be the leading sector to activate the community level economy. It is a high level production sector in which low investment produces massive gains. Tourism in Nepal found a good soil to grow and it laid its strong root during the last twenty five years. It is the second most important source of foreign exchange for Nepal after agriculture and it will remain central to the economic sustainability and protection of biodiversity. It is found that traveling and tourism is the largest industry in the world in terms of employment.

In National Nepal, the Tenth plan (2002-2007) of GOV focused poverty alleviation through tourism which mainly includes the policies and programs for expansion and diversification of tourism of tourism products with integrated and institutional development. The planners and policy makers in Nepal are presently conscious about the relative advantages of developing tourism and emphasize development of rural tourism sector for reducing regional disparities, poverty and unemployment through proper strategy in a dynamic framework.

In case of Guphathumki, tourism plays a major role to generate local income creating various opportunities of employment and agricultural diversification. It is found that local as well as

national government should revisit the programs, planning's and activities used in this sectors.

Ilam is one of the major destination of the Mechi zone accounted as the 'hill of queen'. It has a great potentiality of tourism development mixing with local cultures, natural scenes, sun rise and sun set etc. Agro-tourism also should be promoted which creates employment for the local people and they can earn money by selling agricultural products for the tourists.

5.2 Conclusion of the Study

Conclusions of this study are as following

-) The majority of the local population is engaged in agriculture and animal husbandry i.e 28 percent of the total respondents. It clears that the study area is an agricultural zone.
-) Gap of services on the way to in Guphathumki is one of the major problem for tourism development. In it there is not any tourist based hotels on the mid path. It also impacts on the lack of earnings of wayside people.
-) Majority inhabitants of the local area are settled barman/chetries. Among the total population of the VDCs 48.73 percent are in this groups.
-) According to the local respondents, the prime attraction of Guphathumki is sunrise and sunset. It is 28 percent of the total respondents viewed on it.
-) It was found that, there is not sufficient tourism infrastructure i.e. transportation, drinking water, electricity, health centers, schools, parks, view point etc. for this local government's collaboration with NGOS /INGOS are striving now.
-) There is no wide publicity to this area from local, district and national level. It is because of the negligence of the local governments and geographical structures.
-) In respect to Hotels there is no tourist based hotels.
-) Guphathumki is also renowned for herbal products, rich biodiversity (i.e. Red panda found) local indigenous knowledge. However in the lack of well planning and policy these characters are not in worth.

-) Guphathumki is also a religious place for Buddhists and Hindus. As a result, it can be taken as religious tourism also.
-) Trekking is one of the major aspects of ecotourism. Guphathumki also provides this flavor by the two trekking routes; one is from Ilam bazaar via; puwakhola and another from rakse. So, it can be also promoted as an ecotourism destination in the western part.
-) The surrounding people of the Guphathumki area rear cow for milk, buffalo goat and pig for meat and manure. They practice transhumance culture on it.
-) April, May and September, October are the prefer months for tourists.
-) We can view the two countries' Nepal and India mountains from the same place. It is the aggregate product for the tourists and it is the most crucial features from which anyone can satisfy his/her two countries views.
-) Except three VDC's; Santipur, Salakpur and Erautaar all other 45 VDC's, Ilam and Suryodaya municipalities can be seen from Guphathumki. Beautiful seen of thrilling hills also can be viewed.
-) The level of awareness in local people is very low. They are not informed about the tourism activities of this area. On the question of researcher on 'Do you know about tourism?' a respondent replied that he had listened first time this term.

5.3 Recommendations

-) Basic tourism infrastructures, road, accommodations, drinking water, electricity, information centre etc are very essential for tourism development.
-) To fulfill the gap of services home stay, paying guest and hotels should be established on the wayside.
-) Majority of the inhabitants of local people settled by ethnic groups. Their culture should be conserved and promoted tourism in this area.

-) It is felt that Trekking Route is very in miserable condition due to the low level of restructuring daily. So, for the trekkers, this trekking route should be developed well with clean manner.
-) In modern world information technology governs the society. So, publicity of that place as a famous eastern destination should be initiated at national and local level.
-) Guphathumki is one of the destinations of eco tourists, so Government should be declared this area as conservation area. It is because also the world's endemic animal Red panda settles there.
-) Many organizations find that cable car is very feasible project for the development of this area. It is in the high of 2200m so, it will be the efficient.
-) Land issue since the past is existing there as a result, government should be solved this issue very soon.
-) Involvement of the local people and private sectors is very low. It is because of low level of the local people and negligence of the government to private sectors. To curb these problems, awareness campaign to local people and its stakeholders and encouraged to private sectors to invest. There is maintained an immediate task.
-) It is found that the activities of tourism becomes seasonal there so, all sectors should be developed this area as the destination of "land of all seasons."
-) Length of stay of the tourists is very low so stakeholders should be encouraged to the tourists for long time stay. For this a package program and other related programs should be conducted at local level.
-) There should be developed human resources. Skilled trekking guides should be produced.
-) For the development of agro- tourism Floriculture and diary technology should be encouraged to the local people.
-) Medicinal plants like chiraito, panchaule, jatamashi should be cultivate and promoted their business.
-) Boating facilities should be promoted for the entertainment of tourist.
-) Tourism festival should be celebrates once a year for the attraction of local as well as international tourist.
-) Home stay should be develop by awaring local people

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APPENDIX-I

Questionnaires for Tourists

Nationality:

Age:

Place of Origin:

Occupation:

Sex:

Name:

1. How do you know about Guphathumki?

.....

2. What is your main purpose to visit Guphathumki?

.....

3. Is it your first time to Guphathumki ?

.....

4. How many days will you stay in Guphathumki?

.....

5. Where do you reside during your staying here?

i) Relative house

ii) Hotels

ii) Home stay

iv) Others

6. Which route do you use to come home?

i) Rakse

ii) Paire Bhanjyang

iii) Mangalabare

7. Are you satisfied with the services of it?

.....

8. Are you existing facilities are available in the region/

.....

9. What problems are you facing during your visit?

.....

10. Will you visit again?

i) Yes

ii) No

11. Any suggestions?

.....

Thank you

APPENDIX-II

Questionnaire for Hotel/ Lodge

Name of the Hotel/ Lodge:

Name of the Hotels Owners:

Established year:

Situated in:

Permanent Address:

1. How many staffs are there in your hotel?
.....
2. How many rooms and beds are available in your hotel?
.....
3. How many Tourists do stay averagely in your hotel per day?
.....
4. Which seasons is the peak of visiting tourists?
.....
5. For how long time do tourists stay in your hotel/ lodge?
 - i) 0-1 days ii) 2-3 days
 - iii) 4-5 days iv) More than 5 days
6. What is the cost of room and beds?
 - i) Double bed room..... ii) Single bed room.....
7. Is the number of tourists arrival satisfied?
 - i) Satisfied ii) No satisfied iii) Moderate
8. Which type of fuel do you use for cooking?
 - i)Electricity ii) L.P Gas
 - iii) Firewood iv) Kerosene
9. What are the problems faced by you?
 - i)Lack of electricity ii) No year round business
 - iii) Others
10. Is there any changes in the economic aspects of you?
 - i) Yes ii) Yes it is iii) No

11. How do you analyze the future prospects of tourism in Guphathumki?

i) Very good

ii) Excellent

iii) Good

iv) Unknown

12. Please provide any suggestion to enrich tourism in Guphathumki?

.....
.....
.....

Thank you

12. What do you feel, are the activities of local government sufficient for tourism development in Guphathumki region?

.....

13. What are the main barriers of tourism development of Guphathumki area?

.....14.

How can you cope with these problems?

.....

15. What are your suggestions regarding to increase the volume of tourism in Guphathumki for making it as the main destination of Ilam district?

.....

.....

Thank you