

**PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF TOURISM IN SAURAHA VDC**

**A Thesis Submitted to  
Central Department of Economics  
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Partial Fulfillment of  
the Requirements for the Degree of Masters of Arts in  
Economics**

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## **LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

This thesis entitled **Problems and Prospects of Tourism in Sauraha** has been prepared by Mrs. RekhaGautam under my guidance and supervision for the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Master of Arts in Economics.

I hereby, recommend this thesis for its evaluation and approval.

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Prof. Dr. KomalDhital  
(Thesis Supervisor)

**Date: 13/09/2073 B.S.**

**28/12/2016 A.D.**

## **APPROVAL LETTER**

This is to certify that this thesis submitted by Mrs. RekhaGautam entitled **Problems and Prospects of Tourism in Sauraha** 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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**Rekha Gautam**

## ABSTRACT

Tourism has become an important sector in the economy of Nepal. It is the main source of foreign currency earning also, development of tourism sector has contributed to increase employment, income generation and to improve the balance of payment of the country. Nepal has become the attractive destination for tourist from all over the world. Sauraha is the most popular tourist destination in Nepal. It has great potentiality for the development of tourism. This study gives both positive and negative effects of tourism in society, culture, economy and environment.

Sauraha has great potentialities to develop tourism. It is rich in natural beauty and cultural heritage. Boating, sightseeing, Village tour, canoeing, elephant safari, Bird watching, jungle drive are the main potential tourism at the study area which attracts the domestic as well as foreign tourists.. The number of tourist visiting from Asia is the highest among all continents, the majority of tourists arrived directly in Sauraha by tourist bus with their guide. Accommodation facilities are found to be insufficient to serve the visiting tourists demand on the peak season. Most of the tourist visiting this area is for jungle safari 64 percent of the tourist in Sauraha go for Safari. The duration of tourist stay in this area ranges from 1 day to six days. Most of the tourist stays for 2 days and 3 night's package. In case of Expenditure most of the tourists are economic. Larger percentage spends below 40 dollars per day. Very few about 10% spend more than 100 dollars in a single day.

Tourism has brought positive impacts on economy, society and environment of Sauraha. Tourism helps to develop the infrastructure like road, electricity, water supply, health, education and communication brings changes in living of people, behavior pattern of people, dresses, life style, language and food habit are positive impact of tourism.

Tourism has created the various types of employment opportunities for local people.

It has also created serious environmental problems such as degradation of forest, water pollution, garbage, problem etc. However, negative impacts are not beyond control. They are manageable. They can be minimized by proper management of tourism activities and resources.

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## **ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMS**

AD	:	Anno Domini
CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistics
CNP	:	Chitwan National Park
FY	:	Fiscal Year
GDP	:	Gross Domestic Product
GON	:	Government of Nepal
HAN	:	Hotel Association of Nepal
IUOTO	:	International Union of Travel Official
MTCA	:	Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation
No	:	Number
NTB	:	Nepal Tourism Board
NTS	:	Nepal Tourism Statistics
NPC	:	National Planning Commission
PATA	:	Pacific Asia Travel Association
SAARC	:	South Asian Association for Regional Co- operation
SN	:	Serial Number
TU	:	Tribhuvan University
TV	:	Television
UN	:	United Nations
UNDP	:	United Nations Development Program
VDC	:	Village Development Committee
WTO	:	World Tourism Organization
WTTC	:	World Travel and Tourism Council

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 General Background

Tourism is the sum of the phenomena and relationship arising from the interaction of tourists, business suppliers, host governments and host communities in the process of attracting and hosting these tourists and other visitors (Macintosh &Goedner, 1986).

Tourism is getting popular worldwide as an important industry. In comparison to other it is less capital intensive high yielding economic sector. Developed countries have already benefited from tourism while developing countries gradually benefiting. It is a main source of foreign exchange earnings. It is also the main source of foreign investment.

Nepal is a small developing country which lies in the lap of Himalayas having harmonious combination between god gifted and human crafted items nature and culture. Because of its peculiarity and diversity Nepal become one of the most probable destinations of the world. Nepal has unlimited potential and boundless opportunities for tourism development where many mountains, valleys, lakes, historical monuments, crafted palaces etc. are waiting for the tourist to horizon their uniqueness. It is a give and take industry in which Nepal gives good facilities of fooding, lodging, transportation, security etc. and it takes foreign money and popularity from tourists.

Tourism sector directly supported 504,000 jobs in 2013. The figure represents 3.2 percent of the total employment in the country, and this share is expected to rise by 6.4 percent in 2014, according to the ‘Travel and Tourism Economic Impact 2013’ a report published by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC). Tourism supported jobs include employment by hotels, travel agents, airlines and other passenger transportation services and also the activities of the restaurant and leisure industries directly supported by tourists.

Sauraha is one of the most important and popular tourist destinations of Nepal, which is situated in the middle part of Nepal. It has many peculiar spectacular natural features which include endearing lakes, Rapti River, dense forest, full of wild species etc. Tharus culture, typical food, their friendship with the elephants and their unique houses along with the local people respect towards the visitors are some reasons of tourist attraction towards the Sauraha.

Tourism is the major tourism industry, main source of foreign exchange and highest employment generators. It affects in both the national and the local level. Directly and indirectly it generates two types of employment in community. Direct employment is created for those people working in various sectors of tourism industry like, Hotel, travel, paragliding, Jungle Safari, rafting, catering services, handy craft, etc. Indirect employment created by tourism refers to the job of those people who manufacture the goods and provide services which are purchased by organization to serve the tourist directly. It has brought both positive and negative changes in socio-culture and environment. In national level, poor country like Nepal, tourism industry plays vital role in the economy because it is main source of foreign exchange earnings by which any nation could meet the favorable balance of payments. Locally, it helps to changes in life standard and behavior of the common people.

## **1.2 Development of Tourism in Nepal**

Nepal is rich in both diversity of nature and culture. Blend of culture and nature makes this small country popular all over the world. There is no fixed date of development of tourism. In the ancient period, tourism was related with religious and cultural purpose but in the modern period the concept changes to the purpose of recreation and entertainment.

The history of tourism in Nepal can be divided into three phases

- Before Unification
- After Unification

- After Rana Rules (since democracy)

### **Before Unification**

There is no authentic written record of the ancient history of Nepal. It is believed that traveler of China Manju Shree was the first tourist to visit Nepal, who cut an opening at the rock-hill at Chovar by a stroke of his Scimitar and drained the lake water to make Kathmandu fit for human habitation. People believed that the first ruling dynasty in Nepal was the Gopal, dynasty who came to visit Nepal from Bharat. The beautiful scenario and the fertile land attract them and later started habitation.

According to Historians In 249 B.C, the Emperor Ashok of India visited Nepal as a pilgrim which is the first recorded history of any visitors visiting Nepal.

### **After Unification**

After unification the Modern Nepal is formed but the tourism Industry does not rise due to political instability and lack of advertisement. After the treaty of Sugauli, a British Resident Dr. Wallich visited Nepal in 1817 and carried on his botanical research for a year. After Junga Bahadur Rana came into power his family laid autocratic rule. In this phase, tourism doesnot get environment to flourish. The Rana rulers were afraid of the political consciousness of Nepalese people from foreigners because they believed that foreigners visiting could lead to political revolution. That is why only selected people from India and the diplomats of Britain were allowed to enter the country. Very Few foreigners visited Nepal for diplomatic and research projects. Indians were allowed to stay only 3 days during the festival of Shivaratri.

### **After Democracy**

After Democracy was established the gateway of Nepal was opened for the foreigners. To manage the tourism sector properly, Government of Nepal established Tourism Department Board in 1951. In 1955 December 14<sup>th</sup> Nepal was known as member of United Nations and later the other world organizations like international union of official travel organization (IUOTO),

World tourism organization in Nepal. To proceed and manage tourism properly, Government of Nepal established Tourism Department Board in 1951, Tribhuvan International Airport in 1954 and Royal Nepal Airlines in 1958. Similarly, in 1964, Nepal became member of PATA. Due to open policies and international recognition, foreigners gradually started to come especially for mountaineering, elephant riding, jungle safari, trekking, traveling and research of Nepali culture and society as a researcher. After conquering the roof of the world Mt. Everest by Tenzing Norgay Sherpa and Edmund Hillary in 1953 Nepal became popular in the Western World for its natural beauty. Advertisement in international Medias, cordial behavior of local people, establishment of luxurious hotels and guest Houses, transportation facilities the helps the tourism industry in present situation

### **1.3 Statement of the Problem**

Sauraha is one of the most aspired destinations where thousands of national and international tourists come here to achieve the sublimity of natural scenario with the wild animals. Elephant riding, Jungle safari attracts the tourists in this reason. However, Sauraha is still not getting the height of tourism Due to the Lack of capital, proper management, political instability, insecurity, environmental degradation and proper facilities of transportation and accommodation are the key problems of lagging behind. This study is concerned with the following questions.

- What sort of strategies should be adopted in order to develop tourism in a suitable manner?
- What kind of opportunities have been created for the income and employment generation?
- What strategies have adopted to reduce the environment pollution?

### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

Nepal is developing country in which tourism can play the vital role for its development. The tourist industry is seen as a way to alleviate poverty and

achieve greater social equity in the country. Economically, culturally, socially and from the perspective of environment it is useful.

Tourism is the key foundation which can establish with minimum investment and achieved high income. Tourism has a huge impact on foreign currency exchange earnings, balance of payments, wide employment opportunities and intersectional linkages of the country. The study of the role of tourism in Sauraha is beneficial in the sense that it would spell out the areas to which government and local organizations should pay attention towards the local people.

Hence, Tourism is the backbone of economic development of local place like Sauraha. Sauraha is one of the most popular and important sites of Nepal, which lies in the lap of Chitwan National Park 14 miles east, from Bharatpur. It is the one of the most important tourist destination which can make significant contribution to the local economic activities of local People

This research tries to analyze the problems and prospects of tourism in Sauraha. This study is significant to raise the awareness among the local people to preserve the Chitwan National Park, environment and their typical culture to absorb the benefit from tourism. This study will be helpful to the policy makers of different institutions and the guidelines for the tourists who want to enjoy in the sublimity of Sauraha.

### **1.5 Objectives of the Study**

The general objectives of the study are to analyze the problems and prospects of Tourism in Sauraha .The specific objectives of the study as follows.

- To analyze the problems and prospects of tourism in Sauraha.
- To examine the pleasure tourism in Sauraha.

## **1.6 Limitations of the Study**

The limitations of the every research are the main social points. This study too has some limitations. This study covers only Sauraha. The study has the following limitations.

- This study limits on the boundry of Sauraha only.
- Limited budget, and time are other limitations of the study.
- The study is based on sample survey.
- The interview was conducted with hotel owners, foreign tourists and local people.

This study is limited itself because of the statistical data on tourism at Sauraha is not sufficiently available at the Nepal Tourism Board, Chitwan National Park and Regional Hotel Association Chitwan, Nepal. It is very difficult to convince the tourists, hotel owners and local people to fill the questionnaires.

## **1.7 Organization of the Study**

The study is divided into six chapters. The first chapter deals with General Background, Development of Tourism in Nepal, Statement of the Problem, Significance of the Study, Objectives of the Study, Limitations of the study and Organization of the Study. Following this introductory chapter, review of literature is presented in chapter two. Chapter three describes the Research Methodology, which includes Introduction, Research Design, Nature and Source of Data, Sampling procedure, Data Collection Techniques and Tools. Chapter Four examines the Background of the Study Area, which includes Physical Background, Problems and prospects of Tourism in Sauraha and Data Analysis and Interpretation. Chapter five describes the Problems and Prospects of Tourism in Sauraha. Chapter six consists the Summary of the Findings, Conclusion and Recommendations.



## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

There are some of notable and remarkable studies previously conducted in the area of tourism industry in Sauraha and its role in the overall development of Nepalese economy. Many experts have shown their keen interest and have increased their expertise in this sector. There are different kinds of literature available on tourism. In this chapter an attempt will be made to provide theoretical insight of export and opinion of the people related with this field based on book, report and periodicals findings.

World Tourism Organization(WTO) has defined "Tourism" imprecise tend as "Any person who travels to a country other than that is which he/she has his/her the usual residence, but outside his/her usual environment, for a period of at other than the exercise of an activity, remuneration from within the country visited. Term includes people traveling for, leisure, recreation and holidays, visiting friends, relatives, business and professional, health treatment, religion, pilgrimages and other purposes."

According to Bhatia (2000 AD), tourism is also being recognized as a source of employment, it is highly labor intensive industry. Being a service industry, it takes employment opportunities for local population. It has economic importance helps to reduce economic inequalities. It enables the wealth earned in the part of the country to be transferred in part to another.

Yojan Raj Satyal (1998) in his profile 'Tourism in Nepal' has classified the Nepalese tourism in six categories:

- i. Pleasure Tourism
- ii. Recreational Tourism
- iii. Sporting Tourism
- iv. Cultural Tourism
- v. Business or Technical Tourism

vi. Conference Tourism

Tourism categorization varies from country to country and organization to organization. Ministry of culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation (MOCTCA) recognized six categories or purpose of tourism.

- i. Pleasure/holiday
- ii. Trekking
- iii. Mountaineering
- iv. Business
- v. Pilgrimage,
- vi. Official and convention/conference.

Tourism also classified based on purpose and destination. It is classified as

- i. Eco-tourism
- ii. Recreational Tourism
- iii. Cultural and Religious Tourism
- iv. Historical Tourism
- v. Agro-Tourism
- vi. Health Tourism
- vii. Sports Tourism
- viii. Business and Conference Tourism
- ix. Space Tourism, etc.

Tourism in Nepal (1999) a PhD thesis prepared by Pushpa Shrestha, tourism identified the problems and prospects of Nepalese tourism. Being labor intensive industry, tourism sector has potentials for generating employment. Nepal is considered as one of the lowest per capita per day spending outlet came to be known as a cheap tourist destination (Shrestha, 1999).

A study on “A study of Tourism As a leading sector in economic development in Nepal” by Upadhaya (2003) stated that Nepalese economy is moving gradually on the path of economic development. Recently, there has been improving economic performance particularly in the last two decades. Part of the agriculture sector has been showed down whereas that of the industry and services gone up. The analysis has revealed that the tourism sector has been improving its significance in the economy. It has been estimated that the activities related to tourism sector has strong inducement effect on other activities of the economy. His analysis shows that the foreign exchange earnings from tourism have been found to be an important determinant of government’s developmental expenditure and regular expenditure.

Shrestha, and Upadhaya (2008) stated that Nepal has greatly suffered due to political conflict, insurgency and political instability in the last 10 years. Government of Nepal wants more and more tourists and more and more tourists too want to visit Nepal but the peace and security are the main problems. Because of these problems Nepal couldn’t get enough benefit.

According to Chairman of United Elephant Cooperatives BalramDahal, Tourist hotspot of Sauraha has not only seen an aggressive development of hotel and resorts over the past few years, but entrepreneurs are also investing heavily in elephant as safari. Around RS 330 million has been invested in rearing elephants. Elephant has becomes an integral part of tour packages of hotels and resorts here, situated in the lush tropical plains of southern Nepal, Chitwan attracts safari goers with its rich wildlife and thick jungles. There are 51 elephant owned by hoteliers and cooperatives in Sauraha.

Pradhan conducted a research on development tourist resorts and its economic impact. His study deals with the need for improving tourists’ resorts in different places of Nepal. The major aim of developing tourists resort is to see that how much the tourist are able to spend as much as possible depends on the extent of opportunities provided to them (Pradhan 1979).

Upadhaya (2003) in his Ph.D. dissertation entitled "Tourism as a Leading Sector in Economic Development of Nepal" has opined that many countries have made various attempts to promote tourism industry as a means of economic progress. The economy of Nepal lacks- in terms industrialization, some further alternative is to be found which can induce the process of industrialization to put the path of rapid economic development. To study the scope for global linkage of the Nepalese economy with special reference to tourism. He has suggested that tourism sector has the potential to link the backward Nepalese economy with the forward economics and to induce the other sector of the economy

Tourism is one of the major sources of revenue in Nepal. The gross foreign exchange earnings from tourism stood at US \$ 191.7 million, which represented a decrease of 64.76 percent over the earnings of 2014 contribution of tourism to the GDP of the nation was 2.8 percent and it also provides 4.8 percent of total foreign exchange earnings fiscal year 2015/2016 (Nepal Tourism Statistics/Nepal Rastra Bank 2015/2016).

Chhetri in his thesis entitled "The Effect of Tourism on Culture and Environment, a Case Study of ChitwanSauraha." viewed that there has been numerous activities around the area of Sauraha, which has brought a lot of changes in the socio-economic activities of the villagers after the establishment of RoyalChitwan National Park in 1973.

According to Robinson, the attractions of tourism are, mainly, geographical in their character. Location and accessibility are more important. Physical spaces may be thought as a component for. There are those who seek the wilderness and solitude, scenario or landscape is a compound of landforms, water and the vegetation and has an aesthetic and recreational value. Climatic conditions, especially in relation to the amount of sunshine, temperature and participation are of special significance. Animal life may be an important attraction, firstly, in relation to birds watching or viewing game in their natural habitat; secondly for sporting purposes, e.g. fishing and hunting. Man's impact on the natural

landscape in the form of his settlements historical monuments and archeological remaining is also a major attraction. Finally, a variety of cultural features ways of folklore, an artistic expression etc provides valuable attractions to many.

Tourism sector covers very vague scope of traveling activities. So there are various kinds of purposes, style and activities in that field. Those kinds of activities are classified as types of tourism. Although there is no one accepted way of classifying different types of tourism, one could classifying tourism into four general types namely leisure tourism (shopping, general observation), recreational tourism (mountaineering, fishing, trekking, rafting etc.), cultural tourism (archaeological, historical sites) and eco-tourism (birds and wild life watching, photography, scenery, scientific tourism etc.) (ICIMOD, 1995). A type of tourism is classified as Dahal Om Prasad in his work 'Rural tourism' (2060 BS) as international tourism, domestic tourism. A study on "A Study of Tourist As a Leading Sector in Economic Development in Nepal" by Upadhaya (2003) states that Nepalese economy is moving gradually on the path of economic development. Recently, there has been improving economic performance particularly in the last two decades. Pace of the agricultural sector has been showed down whereas that of the industry and services gone up. The analysis has revealed that the tourism sector has been improving its significance in the economy. It has been estimated that the activities of the economy. His analysis shows that the foreign exchange earnings from tourism has been found to be an important determinant of government's developmental expenditure and regular expenditure.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

Research methodology is the most important element of Research work and way to solve research problem systematically. In order to gain the objectives of the research, it is needed to follow certain methodology which is explained in the following paragraphs presented below:

#### **3.2 Research Design**

The ultimate target of the study was based on descriptive and exploratory type. Both qualitative as well as quantitative approach was adopted and the study has focused to identify the problems and prospects of tourism in Sauraha. For this fulfillment of the study probability sampling as well as non-probability sampling methods were adopted.

#### **3.3 Nature and Sources of Data**

This research work has been based on the case study. So this study mainly focuses on primary data however secondary data were of great importance in this study. The primary data were collected by case study, observation, interview, household survey methods, tourist, local people, Tharu community, Tharu Kalyankari Sava Chitwan, Nepal Tourism Board, Regional Hotel Association Nepal Sauraha, Office of Chitwan National Park, Department of Wild Life and National Park.

Secondary data were obtained from various published and unpublished information sources i.e. relevant books, journal, dissertation, newspapers, magazine ministry of tourism, Nepal Tourism board, National Planning Commission, Annual Statistical Report of Tourism Department, Central Bureau of Statistics, etc.

### **3.4 Sampling Procedures**

Random sampling method was used to select the sampling units. Local people, intellectuals, tourists, hotel owners and local leaders were selected by sampling and purposive method. The logic behind using random sampling for the study was to get a better result. The sample size of this study was 50. Tourists, hotel owners, workers, officers and households are taken for the sample observation and group discussion.

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

Different methods were adopted to collect reliable and authentic data and information. Secondary data were collected from the concerned agencies, libraries, journals dissertations, newspapers, research, report etc. To obtain primary data and information following techniques and tools were adopted.

#### **3.5.1 Questionnaire**

Structured and constructed questionnaires were used to get socio-economic information, major problems of proper management and the programs launched by government and private sectors from local residents, tourists, local hotel and lodges owners and Tharu community. The respondents were requested to fill up the questionnaire, in case of these respondent who can't fill up the questionnaire the questions were asked to the respondents and answer were filled to collect the required data

#### **3.5.2 Interview**

Structured interview were taken with tourists, local people, hotel managers and owners of the study area to collect quantitative data i.e. demographic information, source of income, employment, situation of tourism of Sauraha, cleaning activities, managing wastages, improvement in the environmental condition. Unstructured interview were taken with local political leaders, teachers and Office Secretary of Regional Hotel association Nepal, Chitwan Committee and other concern agencies to get qualitative information of study area.

### **3.5.3 Field Visit and Observation**

It was done in imbedded form during accomplishing the other activities in destination area. It is recognized as major tool to sketch the employment, income, fuel wood consumption, sanitation, scenic beauty, tourist arrivals, attraction, accommodation, access and amenities were recorded indirectly and photographs were taken.

### **3.5.4 Household Survey**

Household survey techniques were applying to get more information of employment and socio-economic condition, household sanitation and behavior of the local people.

### **3.5.5 Focus Group Discussion**

Group discussion is one of the most important tools to achieve required information from participatory approach and best verification procedure immediately. In the time of collecting information from field Focus Group Discussion was held. Participants were from local levels mainly key informants and number was concise at the range of 18-20. During the program of Field Group Discussion the researcher facilitated the program. The researcher analyzed the problems and prospects of tourism. A short checklist was developed for the task.

### **3.5.6 Data Analysis and Interpretation**

After completing collecting data from the field study, data have been checked carefully and edit if necessary. Different statistical tools like graphs, tables, percentage etc. were used to analyze the data. For the qualitative data descriptive method has been used.



## CHAPTER IV

### DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

#### 4.1 Background of the Study Area

The 84<sup>0</sup>29'37' East 27<sup>0</sup>34'29' South. It is located in the lap of Rapti River and Chitwan National Park. It is situated 23 km east from Narayangarh city and 6 km from Tandi in Bacchhauri VDC. Tandi is the main entrance point of Sauraha and Sauraha is the main entry point of Chitwan National Park. It is situated in an altitude of 150m from the sea level. Sauraha has tropical and sub-tropical monsoon climate with high humidity and four main seasons- spring, summer, monsoon and winter (Pandey, Geography of Nepal, 1990). Sauraha can be reached by Tourist Bus, Van, private vehicle, Public buses and Horse Cart (Tanga). Most of the tourists go to Sauraha by tourist bus.

Temperature reaches a maximum 40°C (in May) and minimum of 6°C (in December) Sauraha has tropical and subtropical monsoon climate with high humidity and four main seasons: summer, monsoon, autumn and winter.

Tharus people are the original, tribal people of Sauraha. In the past Tharus people survived with the agricultural products and fishing. With the frequent movements of tourists they themselves changed their lifestyles. Present Sauraha is inhabited by Tharus, Brahmins, Chhetris, Newars etc., Sauraha was originally a small and quaint village of daub huts, houses and hotels, later it has grown into a town with fully equipped hotels, resorts, restaurants, internet cafes and gifts shops.

#### 4.2 Development of Tourism in Sauraha

Sauraha was practically uninhabited before 1950 except for few scattered Tharu villages. During that time, it was recognized only as an important hunting ground for Elephants, One Horned Rhinos, Tigers and the birds. In 1955 with the United States cooperation mission, the government of Nepal launched the Rapti valley multipurpose project which was launched for road construction, malaria eradication, health improvement, etc. This was to be achieved by distributing

land to landless people providing irrigation facilities. Over 2000 families were settled in Chitwan by 1959. Recognizing that extensive destruction of habitats of wild life, a scientist named E.P. Ghee established both the MahendraMrigaKunja (Mahendra National Park) and a Rhino sanctuary respectively in the north of the Rapti River and in the South of Rapti River in 1959. Then the Chitwan wild life measurement division was established at Tikauli. In 1960 and a force of armed guards (130 strong) did 800 sq. km. area was separated for rhino sanctuary in the year 1960/61.

Sauraha is the gateway to reach the first national park of Nepal, Chitwan National Park. When Chitwan National Park was established in 1973 which protected the floras and faunas of this area. Chitwan National Park has been included in the world heritage site since 1984 by UNESCO. Government of Nepal has made plan for promotion and conservation to National park and the surroundings of Sauraha gradually.

#### **4.3 Tourist Arrivals in Nepal**

The number of tourists and their days of visiting inside Nepal should be increased in order to gain more foreign income. Table No1 explores the total tourist arrivals in Nepal by different means of transportation by air and by land on the basis of length of stay in different years. The table also shows tourist arrivals in Nepal since (2000-2015)

**Table 4.1**  
**Tourist Arrivals in Nepal**

Year	Total		By Air		By Land		Average Length of Stay
	Number	Growth Rate(%)	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
2000	463,646	-5.7	376,914	81.3	86,732	18.7	11.88
2001	361,237	-22.1	299,514	82.9	61,723	17.1	11.93
2002	275,468	-23.7	218,660	79.4	56,808	20.6	7.92
2003	338,132	22.7	275,438	81.5	62,694	18.5	9.60
2004	385,297	13.9	297,335	77.2	87,962	22.8	13.51
2005	375,398	-2.6	277,346	73.9	98,052	26.1	9.09
2006	383,926	2.3	283,819	73.9	100,107	26.1	10.20
2007	526,705	37.2	360,713	68.5	165,992	31.5	11.96
2008	500,277	-5.0	374,661	74.9	125,616	25.1	11.78
2009	509,956	1.9	379,322	74.4	130,634	25.6	11.32
2010	602,867	18.2	448,800	74.4	154,067	25.6	12.67
2011	736,215	22.1	545,221	74.1	190,994	25.9	13.12
2012	803,092	9.1	598,258	74.5	204,834	25.5	12.16
2013	797,616	-0.7	594,848	74.6	202,768	25.4	12.60
2014	790118	-0.9	585981	74.2	204137	25.8	12.44
2015	538970	-31.78	407412	75.6	131558	24.4	13.16

*Source:* Nepal Tourism Statistics, 2015

This table 4.1 shows the percentage change in tourist the flow fluctuates. The trend of decreasing continues upto 2002 with highest 23.7%. The growth rate of tourist inflow had enormously increased up in 2007 with 37.2% and then was found gradually increasing continues except in 2008 and the last three years 2013, 2014 and 2015. The highest number of tourists recorded in the year 2012 with 803,092 which was 9.1% more than the 2011. Similarly the least number of people 275,468 visiting in 2002 with the massive fall of tourists visit with 23.7%. In 2015 there was remarkable fall in the flow of tourist with 31.78%.

This table also shows that more than 70 percent of foreigner used air travel in visiting Nepal except 2007 AD. Only 68.5 percent of travelers visited Nepal by land in 2007. In between 2000 and 2004, the mode of air transport range from 80 percent to 85 percent except few point less in 2002. This figure indicates that the foreigners visiting by air from 2008-2014 has similar share of around 75% similarly; tourists visiting by air in the same period have the share of 25%. In between 1999 to 2003, the mode of air transport average percent is 80 where are, In between 2004 to 2010 the mode of air transport range from 68 to 74%. In the last 10 years the portion of tourists visited by land has more than 25% except 2015.

Moreover, this table reveals that there is no remarkable change in the average length of stay of tourists. The figure shows that the average length of stay of tourists was more than 11 days and less than 14 days except in, 2002, 2003, and 2005 respectively decreasing range between 7 to 9 percent.

### 4.3.1 Tourist Arrival by Month in Nepal

The arrival of tourist depends upon the season. Normally tourists come few in numbers in the summer season.

**Table 4.2**

**Tourist Arrival by Month in Nepal**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Jan.</b>	<b>Feb.</b>	<b>Mar.</b>	<b>Apr.</b>	<b>May.</b>	<b>Jun.</b>	<b>Jul.</b>	<b>Aug.</b>	<b>Sep.</b>	<b>Oct.</b>	<b>Nov.</b>	<b>Dec.</b>	<b>Total</b>
2000	25,307	38,959	44,944	43,635	28,363	26,933	24,480	34,670	43,523	59,195	52,993	40,644	463,646
2001	30,454	38,680	46,709	39,083	28,345	13,030	18,329	25,322	31,170	41,245	30,282	18,588	361,237
2002	17,176	20,668	28,815	21,253	19,887	17,218	16,621	21,093	23,752	35,272	28,723	24,990	275,468
2003	21,215	24,349	27,737	25,851	22,704	20,351	22,661	27,568	28,724	45,459	38,398	33,115	338,132
2004	30,988	35,631	44,290	33,514	26,802	19,793	24,860	33,162	25,496	43,373	36,381	31,007	385,297
2005	25,477	20,338	29,875	23,414	25,541	22,608	23,996	36,910	36,066	51,498	41,505	38,170	375,398
2006	28,769	25,728	36,873	21,983	22,870	26,210	25,183	33,150	33,362	49,670	44,119	36,009	383,926
2007	33,192	39,934	54,722	40,942	35,854	31,316	35,437	44,683	45,552	70,644	52,273	42,156	526,705
2008	36,913	46,675	58,735	38,475	30,410	24,349	25,427	40,011	41,622	66,421	52,399	38,840	500,277
2009	29,278	40,617	49,567	43,337	30,037	31,749	30,432	44,174	42,771	72,522	54,423	41,049	509,956
2010	33,645	49,264	63,058	45,509	32,542	33,263	38,991	54,672	54,848	79,130	67,537	50,408	602,867

2011	42,622	56,339	67,565	59,751	46,202	46,115	42,661	71,398	63,033	96,996	83,460	60,073	736,215
2012	52,501	66,459	89,151	69,796	50,317	53,630	49,995	71,964	66,383	86,379	83,173	63,344	803,092
2013	47,846	67,264	88,697	65,152	52,834	54,599	54,011	68,478	66,755	99,426	75,485	57,069	797,616
2014	70196	69009	79914	80053	62558	50731	46546	59761	52894	80993	76305	61158	790,118
2015	38,616	58,523	79,187	65,729	17,569	18,368	22,967	38,606	39,050	56,584	58,304	45,467	538,970
Change *	(-44.99)	(-15.20)	(-0.91)	(-17.89)	(-71.92)	(-63.79)	(-50.66)	(-35.40)	(-26.17)	(-30.14)	(-23.59)	(-25.66)	(-31.79)
<b>Total</b>	<b>564,195</b>	<b>698,437</b>	<b>889,839</b>	<b>717,495</b>	<b>532,835</b>	<b>490,263</b>	<b>502,597</b>	<b>705,622</b>	<b>695,001</b>	<b>1,034,807</b>	<b>875,760</b>	<b>672,087</b>	

*Source: Nepal Tourism Statistics, 2015*

The table illustrates the highest number of tourists visited in Nepal in the month of October. In the 15 years period 1,034,807 foreigners visited Nepal in October, March and November are the second and third most visited month with 889,839 and 875,760 tourists respectively. June is the least popular month for the foreigners only 490,263 people visited in the last 15 years. The highest number of tourist arrival was in August 2013 October with 99,426 tourists. In June 2001 only 13,030 tourists visited Nepal. However the number of tourists ups and downs in the certain month of the certain year.

#### **4.3.2 Tourists Arrivals by Gender in Nepal**

Age group and gender determines the purpose of visiting any country. In the case of Nepal too it has certain effects. The inflow of tourist by gender is made clear by the given table.

**Table 4.3****Tourist Arrival by Gender, 2000-2015**

Year	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
2000	266,937	196,709	463,646
	57.6%	42.4%	100%
2001	213,465	147,772	361,237
	59.1%	40.9%	100%
2002	174,710	100,758	275,468
	63.4%	36.6%	100%
2003	204,732	133,400	338,132
	60.5%	39.5%	100%
2004	255,303	129,994	385,297
	66.3%	33.7%	100%
2005	257,972	117,426	375,398
	68.7%	31.3%	100%
2006	218,818	165,108	383,926
	57.0%	42.0%	100%
2007	290,688	236,017	526,705
	55.2%	44.8%	100%
2008	286,155	221,801	509,956
	56.5%	43.5%	100%
2009	288,155	221,801	509,956
	56.5%	43.5%	100%
2010	361,611	241,256	602,867
	60.0%	40.0%	100%
2011	352,059	384,156	736,215
	47.8%	52.2%	100%
2012	439,270	363,822	803,092
	54.7%	45.3%	100%
2013	449,058	348,558	797,616
	56.3%	43.7%	100%
2014	445,627	344,491	790,118
	56.4%	43.6%	100%
2015	289,158	249,812	538,970
	53.65%	46.35%	100%

Source: Nepal Tourism Statistics 2015

This table no 4.3 shows that the percentages share of male visitors were greater than of females visitors in all years except, 2011. The percentages of male



visitors were more than 55% in most of the years. From 2002 to 2005 the number of female visitors were only about one third portion of the total 36.6%,39.5%,33.7%,31.3% respectively.

#### **4.3.3 Tourist Arrival by Purpose of Visit in Nepal**

The tourists visiting Nepal have different purpose, such as holiday pleasure, trekking and mountaineering, pilgrimage, official conference and others. The trend of tourist's arrivals by purpose of visit is clear from the following table.

**Table 4.4****Tourist Arrival by Purpose of Visit in Nepal**

Year	Holiday Pleasure	Trekking &Mountai -neering	Business	Pilgrima ge	Official	Semi./ Conf	Others	Not Speci- fied	Total .
2000	255,889	118,780	29,454	15,801	20,832	5,599	17,291	-	491,504
	55.2%	25.6%	6.4%	3.4%	4.5%	1.2%	3.7%		100%
2001	187,022	100,828	18,528	13,816	18,727	0	22316	-	463,646
	51.8%	27.9%	5.1%	3.8%	5.2%	0	6.2%		100%
2002	110,143	59,279	16,990	12,366	17,783	0	58,907	-	561,237
	40%	21.5%	6.2%	4.5%	6.5%	0	21.4%		100%
2003	97,904	65,721	19,387	21,395	21,967	0	111,758	-	338,132
	29%	19.4%	5.7%	6.3%	6.5%	0	33.1%		100%
2004	167,262	69,442	13,948	45,664	17,088	0	71,893	-	385,297
	43.4%	18.0%	3.6%	11.9%	4.4%	0	18.7%		100%
2005	160,259	61,488	21,992	47,621	16,859	0	67,179	-	375,398
	42.7%	16.4%	5.9%	12.7%	4.5%	0	17.9%		100%
2006	145,802	66,931	21,066	59,298	18,063	0	72,766	-	383,926
	27.7%	12.7%	4%	11.3%	3.4%	0	13.8%		100%
2007	217,815	101,320	24,487	52,594	21,670	8,019	78,644	22,156	526,705
	41.4%	19.2%	4.6%	10%	4.1%	1.5%	14.9%	4.2%	100%
2008	148,180	104,822	23,039	45,091	43,044	6,938	99,634	29,529	500,277
	29.6%	21%	4.6%	9%	8.6%	1.4%	19.9%	5.9%	100%
2009	140,992	132,929	22,758	51,542	24,518	9,985	87,134	40,098	509,956
	27.6%	26.1%	4.5%	10.1%	4.8%	2%	17.1%	7.9%	100%
2010	263,938	70,218	21,377	101,355	26,374	9,627	52,347	57,651	602,867
	43.8%	11.6%	3.5%	16.8%	4.4%	1.6%	8.7%	9.6%	100%
2011	425,721	86,260	17,859	63,783	24,054	10,836	37,311	70,391	736,215
	57.8%	11.7%	2.4%	8.7%	3.3%	1.5%	5.1%	9.6%	100%
2012	379,627	105,015	24,785	109,854	30,460	13,646	48,540	91,165	803,092
	47.3%	13.1%	3.1%	13.7%	3.8%	1.7%	6%	11.45	100%
2013	437,891	97,309	30,309	40,678	39,881	15,952	62,214	73,381	797,616
	54.9%	12.2	3.8%	5.1%	5.0%	2.0%	7.8%	9.25	100%
2014	395,849	97,185	24,494	98,765	32,395	13,432	53,728	74,271	790,118
	50.1%	12.3%	3.1%	12.5%	4.1%	1.7	6.8%	9.4%	100%
2015	3,86,065	9,162	20,876	14,996	21,479	9,038	77,354	0	538,970
	71.63%	1.70%	3.87%	2.78%	3.99%	1.68	14.35%	0	100%

Source: Nepal Tourism Statistics 2015

Table no 4.4 shows that the majority of the foreigners visited Nepal with the purpose of Holiday pleasure. The highest numbers of tourists come Nepal for

the Holiday Pleasure was in 2015 with 71.63%. In the first two years the percentage was above 50%. Except 2011 the range was between the 43% to 50% from 2010 to 2014.

This table reveals that, Trekking and Mountaineering second most popular purpose of visiting. In 2000 it covers one fourth part with 25.6%. From 2001 the number decreases till 2016. From 2010 to 2014 the range was between 11% to 13%. The number dramatically decreases in 2015 it covers only 1.70% which is minimal in percentage than the past years which was nearly 5 times lesser than the previous year 2014.

In the first three years the percentage of tourist arriving Nepal for the purpose of pilgrimage was less than the Business. Pilgrimage covered less than 4% whereas Business covered more than 5%. From 2006 tourists came for the purpose of business was less than 5%. In 2015 least the fewest portion of tourists came for Pilgrimage only with 2.78%.

The percentage of tourist visiting Nepal with the purpose of official and conference was the range between 3% to 7%. The percentage of semi conference range between 1.5% to 3%. Others is another one of the most popular reason of visiting Nepal by tourists between 5% to 20% except 2000. Similarly Unspecified reason increases from 2007 to 2011 and ranges from 3% to 11%.

#### **4.4 Gross Foreign Exchange Earnings from Tourism**

Tourist industry has been contributing a significant part to national economy by providing gross foreign exchange earnings. The foreign exchange can be earned from various sectors such as Hotels, Guest Houses, Travel Agencies, Trekking Agencies and other sectors related to tourism. The gross foreign exchange earnings since fiscal year 2000 to 2015 is remarkable which is shown in Table no 4.5.

**Table4.5****Gross Foreign Exchange Earning From Tourism by Fiscal Year, 2000/01-  
2014/15**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Total Earnings (Not Received)</b>			<b>%Change in Us\$</b>
	<b>NRs.(000)</b>	<b>Annual Average Exchange Rate</b>	<b>US\$(000)</b>	
2057/58 (2000/01)	11,969,174		162,513	-4.3
2058/59 (2001/02)	7,798,535	-	101,628	-37.5
2059/60 (2002/03)	10,369,409	-	134,245	32.1
2060/61 (2003/04)	12,337,977	-	168,163	25.3
2061/62 (2004/05)	11,814,853	71.76	164,644	-2.1
2062/63 (2005/06)	11,710,893	72.03	162,086	-1.6
2063/64 (2006/07)	12,645,761	70.19	180,165	11.2
2064/65 (2007/08)	20,339,890	64.72	314,275	74.4
2065/66 (2008/09)	27,959,800	76.58	365,106	16.2
2066/67 (2009/10)	28,138,600	74.24	379,022	3.8
2067/68 (2010/11)	24,610,800	72.07	341,485	-9.9
2068/69 (2011/12)	30,703,820	80.72	380,374	11.4
2069/70 (2012/13)	34,210,576	87.66	390,264	2.6
2070/71 (2013/14)	46,374,900	98.3	471,769	21.4
2071/72 (2014/15)	53,428,800	98.2	544,100	15.2
2072/73 (2015/16) *	20,300,400	105.9	191,700	
2015 (adjusted)	49,783,840	102.36	488,030	

Source: Annual Report, Nepal Rastra Bank, 2015.

Table no 4.5 shows that there is no uniform trend in the foreign exchange earnings from tourism. In fiscal year 2000/1, percentage change in foreign exchange was 4.7 percent negatively. In 2002/3 there was huge decline of 37.5 percent in Foreign exchange revenue when compared to 2000/1 which was the greatest decline percent. The highest percent is 74.4 percent in 2007/8 which was the greatest earning among the all. Except Fiscal year 2004/5, 2005/6 and 2010/12 other has positive changes ranges from 2.6% to 74.4%. The highest earning was in the fiscal year 2014/15 with USD 544, 100.

#### **4.5 Tourist Arrivals in Chitwan National Park**

Sauraha has become one of the most attractive destinations of the tourist since the establishment of Chitwan National Park. Due to the presence of rare and endangered Flora and Fauna, the number of Visitors is increasing rapidly each year. The below table makes us clear about the change in percentage inflow of tourist in Chitwan National Park.

**Table 4.6**  
**Tourist Arrivals in Chitwan National Park**  
**(Fiscal Year 2052/53-2072/73)**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Total number</b>	<b>Percent change over last year</b>
2052/53	83898	-
2053/54	96062	14.49
2054/55	104046	8.31
2055/56	105880	1.76
2056/57	117497	10.97
2057/58	106254	-9.5
2058/59	58317	-45.11
2059/60	49031	-15.92
2060/61	57876	18.03
2061/62	42654	26.3
2062/63	54449	27.65
2063/64	80630	48.08
2064/65	105844	31.27
2065/66	118685	12.13
2066/67	115181	-2.9
2067/68	84,518	-26.62
2068/69	122332	44.74
2069/70	126484	3.39
2070/71	153,776	21.58
2071/72	173425	12.78
2072/73	178257	2.79

*Source:* Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation, 2016.

It is obvious from the table no 4.6 that except some years the change in percentage over last year is always positive. The highest positive change is 48.08 in 2063/64. And the highest negative change is 45.11 in 2058/59. Since 2068 the number is increasing gradually except high flow in fiscal year 2070/71 with 21.58%.

#### **4.5.1 Tourist Inflow to Different National Park and Protected Areas**

The foreigners who visited the National park and wildlife conservation of Nepal were 390,297, 426,321 384,321 in 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively (some of the national parks data of 2015 is not available). The share of tourist of different National parks and wildlife reserve are given in below table.

**Table 4.7****Tourist Inflow to Different National Parks and Protected Areas**

<b>National Park/Conservation Area</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Annapurna Conservation Area						78926
Bardiya National Park	3727	4765	5760	12,974	14197	NA
Chitwan National Park	84518	122332	126484	153,776	173425	178257
Gaurishankar Conservation Area	-	-	-			983
Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve	26	28	47	88	89	NA
Khaptad National Park	12	22	6	19	47	NA
KoshiTappu Wildlife Reserve	456	181	441	4,446	7349	8719
Langtang National Park	10315	13838	12649	13,370	12552	12265
Makalu Barun National Park	1323	1501	1520	1,523	1083	1186
Parsa Wildlife Reserve	-	14	48	192	376	NA
Rara National Park	135	174	49	164	181	143
Sagarmatha National Park	32084	34645	36518	36,750	35157	NA
SheyPhoksundo National Park	558	512	679	620	417	NA
Shivapuri National Park	11798	15921	82935	165,904	180464	103018
ShuklaPhata Wildlife Reserve	115	190	144	471	984	824
<b>Total</b>	<b>145,067</b>	<b>194,123</b>	<b>267,280</b>	<b>390,297</b>	<b>426,321</b>	<b>384,321</b>

*Source:* Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation 2015.

The majority of the tourist visited Chitwan National Park except in year in 2013 and 2015 respectively. In 2010, 2011 and 2012 more than half of the tourist visited Chitwan National Park with 84518, 122332, 126484 respectively. In the same period same period Sagarmatha National Park, and Shivapuri National park are second and third attractive destinations except in 2013. In the six years period Khaptad National Park and Dhorpatan National park have least number of tourists arrival less than 90. The overall number of tourists was increasing except in 2015. Sagarmatha had same number of tourists in this six year period in around 32,000 to 37,000. Langtang too did not see massive change which had around 10,000 to 14,000.

#### **4.5.2 Share of Tourist Visiting in Sauraha**

Most of the foreigners come in Sauraha for rare endangered animals like, one horned rhinoceros, tiger, crocodile etc, and varieties of birds which are found in Chitwan national park and there are also unique "Tharu" culture in Sauraha, which are the main reason for the large number of tourist arrival at Sauraha.

The below table makes obvious clear about the share of tourist by Sauraha among the total tourist of the country.



**Table 4.8****Share of Tourist Visiting in Sauraha**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Total Arrivals</b>	<b>Arrivals in Sauraha</b>	<b>Percentage in Sauraha</b>
2052/53	380,301	83898	22.66%
2053/54	402286	96062	23.87%
2054/55	440283	104064	23.63%
2055/56	477,774	105880	22.16%
2056/57	459,350	117497	25.57%
2057/58	448,731	106254	23.67%
2058/59	289,000	58317	20.17%
2059/60	295,679	49031	16.58%
2060/61	388,043	57876	14.91%
2061/62	341101	42654	12.50%
2062/63	391,172	54449	13.91%
2063/64	462580	80630	17.43 %
2064/65	521298	105844	20.30%
2065/66	491807	118685	24.13%
2066/67	546,932	115181	21.05%
2067/68	602867	84518	14.01%
2068/69	736215	122332	16.61%
2069/70	803092	126484	15.75%
2070/71	797616	153776	19.27%
2071/72	790118	173425	21.94%
2072/73	538970	178257	33.07%

*Source:* Annual Statistical Report, Nepal Tourism Board, 2015.

#### **4.5.3 Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation, 2015.**

Table 4.8 reflects that the share of tourist visiting is increasing trend in Sauraha. Sauraha shares of tourist visiting is the range of between 20 percent to 34 percent where as the lowest range of visiting tourist in Sauraha is between of 12 percent to 16 percent.

#### **4.5.4 Distribution of Tourist by Major Continents in Sauraha**

Tourist come Nepal from different continents like Western Europe, Asia, North America, Australia and Pacific, South America, Africa and others. For this section 50 tourist from different continents were interviewed by making many questionnaires. The number and percentage of tourists visited at Sauraha from different continents while the study time, which are given in table.

**Table 4.9**

**Distribution of Tourist by Major Continents in Sauraha**

<b>Continents</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Asia	20	40
Europe	12	24
North America	8	16
South America	4	8
Australia & Oceania	4	8
Africa	2	4
Total	50	100

*Source:* Field Study, 2016

According to interviewed of the total number of 50 respondents in Sauraha, the large number tourists visiting Sauraha was from Asia (40 percent), followed by Europe (24 percent), North America (16 percent), South America, (8) and Australia &Oceania8 percent respectively. Only 4 percent of tourist arrived from Africa.

**4.5.5 Tourist Visiting Purpose in Sauraha**

Most of the tourists come to visit Nepal with the purposes of sightseeing, jungle safari, trekking and mountaineering. ManyTourists come Sauraha to se do Jungle Safari, and elephant riding inside the National Park. To enjoy with peaceful environment, to do research are other reasons to visit Sauraha.

In this section, the tourist arrivals in Sauraha by purpose of visit are given in table no 4.10.

**Table 4.10**

**Tourists Visiting Purpose in Sauraha**

<b>Purpose</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Jungle Safari	32	64
Sight seeing	6	12
Boating and Elephant Riding	10	20
Research nature and culture	2	4
Total	50	100

*Source:* Field Study, 2016

The above table makes us clear that most of the tourist come to Sauraha with the purpose of Jungle Safari. In this study altogether 50 tourists were interviewed where, 32 were found to do jungle Safari, which is 64 percent of total respondents. Similarly, 6 person (12 percent) were found for sightseeing, 10 person (20 percent) boating & elephant riding, 2 person (4 percent) for the purpose nature and culture research.

**4.5.6 Seasonal Variation of Tourist Arrivals in Sauraha**

Sauraha tourism sector varies according to the season. Autumn season is the peak season and the winter is off season. The following table shows the detail of variation of Tourist by season.

**Table 4.11**

**Seasonal Variation of Tourist Arrivals at Sauraha in Fiscal Year  
(2071/072)**

<b>Seasons</b>	<b>Tourists Arrivals</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Winter (Mangsir- Magh)	48,482	27.19
Spring (Falgun-Baisakh)	52,461	29.43
Summer (Jestha-Shrawan)	19,915	11.17
Autumn (Bhadra-Kartik)	57399	32.21
Total	178257	100

*Source:* CNP Fiscal Year, 2071/72

Due to the favorable climate and temperature the largest number of tourists (32.21 percent) arrived in autumn season in Sauraha. This second most appropriate season is spring, in spring by (29.43 percent) visited Sauraha. 27.19 percent tourists visited in winter and only (11.17) percent of visitor visited Sauraha in summer season due to the heavy rainfall it this period.

#### **4.5.7 Tourist Arrivals by Age Group and Gender Composition at Sauraha**

It clear that the tourist arrived at Sauraha was not of equal sex and age groups. In this part, tourist visiting at Sauraha is classified into five different age group. i.e. below 15 years, 16-30 years, 31-45 years, 46-60 years and 61 and over. The study of age and Gender composition is given in the table.

**Table 4.12**

**Age and Gender Composition of Tourist at Sauraha**

<b>Age group</b>	<b>Number of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
Below 15 years	3	6	2	1
16 to 30 years	18	36	10	8
31 to 45 years	20	40	13	7
46 to 60 years	7	14	3	4
61 and over	2	4	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>22</b>

*Source:* Field Study, 2016

This table no. 4.12 reveals that the highest percentage (40 percent) of those visited at Sauraha was 31 to 45 years of age groups. Similarly least number of tourists is of 60 and over. Only 4% of tourists are of old age who visited Sauraha. Among the total number of respondents 28 were male & 22 were female.

#### 4.5.8 Means of Transportation Used by Different Tourist

Tourist traveling to Sauraha were found to travel by local buses, tourist buses, and private vehicles. The air transportation is also available from Kathmandu to Bharatpur. Where private airlines are found to be operate.

The different type of transportation used by tourist is presented in table.

**Table no. 4.13**

**Means of Transportation Used by Different Tourist**

<b>Different types of transportation</b>	<b>Number of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Tourist Bus	25	50
Local bus	15	30
Own Vehicle	7	14
Air	3	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source:* Field Study, 2016

Table no 4.13 indicates that tourists used the highest percentage 50% traveled by travel coach to visit Sauraha and they used local buses 30% own vehicle 14% and leastwith 6% number of visitors came by plane. The table reflected that the majority of tourists visit to Sauraha by tourist bus.

#### 4.5.9 Length of Stay of Tourist in Sauraha

The length of stay is an important factor in tourism development.. The length of stay varies from tourist to tourist. It depends upon time, money and desire of individual. The duration of stay by tourist's visiting Sauraha may be seen from given table.

**Table 4.14**

**Length of Stay of Tourist at Sauraha**

<b>S.N.</b>	<b>Time Period</b>	<b>No. of Respondent</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Remakes</b>
1	One day	5	10	Two days means two days And three nights
2	Two days	25	50	
3	Three days	10	20	
4	Four days	5	10	
5	Five days	3	6	
6	Six days	2	4	
	Total	50	100	

*Source:* Field Study, 2016

Table no 4.14 indicates that the majority of tourist 50 percent visited Sauraha for three nights and 2 days 20 percent tourist visited for 3 days, 10 percent tourist visited for 4 days and 1 day program, Very few only 4% and 6% of tourists passed six and five days respectively.

**4.5.10 Expenditure Patterns of Tourists at Sauraha**

The expenditure pattern of tourist varies from individual to individual and depends upon available facilities and disposable income. The expenditure pattern also depends upon the tourist and his/her purpose of visiting. The expenditure pattern of tourist is directly related to the length of stay of tourist and his economic status. Total expenditure patterns are classified into six groups, which are presented in table.

**Table 4.15**

**Tourist Expenditure Pattern during their Visit**

<b>S.N.</b>	<b>Amount of Expenditure by One Tourist in Per Day (in US\$)</b>	<b>No. of Respondent</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Remakes</b>
1	Below\$20	12	24	The amount of expenditure is taken only from a tourist
2	\$ 21-40	13	26	
3	\$ 41-60	9	18	
4	\$ 61-80	8	16	
5	\$ 81-100	3	6	
6	Above\$101	5	10	
	Total	50	100	

*Source:* Field Study, 2016

The above table 4.15 shows that 68 percent of tourists spend less than 60 dollars, 16 percent of tourist spend between 61-80 dollars, Only 16 percent of tourist spend more than 80 dollars. It is clear that more tourists have less expenditure in a day.

**4.5.11 The Price Variation of Accommodation**

The rate of the rooms and beds vary according to the season however, First Class Hotel does not changes the room rate. The price variation of the room of different class hotels and the seasons are displays on the below table.

**Table 4.16**

**The Price Variation of Accommodation**

S.N.	Types of Hotel	On season		Off Season	
		Single Bed Room	Double Bed Room	Single Bed Room	Double Bed Room
1	First category	US \$ 50	US \$ 70	US \$ 50	US \$ 70
2	Second category	US \$ 20	US \$ 25	US \$ 18	US \$ 22
3	Third category	US \$ 10	US \$ 13	US \$ 7	US \$ 10

*Source:* Field Study, 2016

This table no. 4.16 explores that there is no difference between off season rate and on season rate for the bedroom of the first category hotels. But there is a fluctuation in the off season and on season for charging the rooms of second and third category hotels. The maximum price charged for Double bed room was found to US\$ 70 in first category hotels. The second and third category hotels room tariffs ranged from US\$ 10 to US\$ 25.

**4.5.12 Source of Market for Hotels and Lodges**

The tourism of Sauraha has played a vital role in the expansion of local markets. Tandi Bazaar and Narayangarh are the local markets which supply good to the hotels lodges.



**Table 4.17**

**Source of Market for Hotels and Lodges**

<b>Market</b>	<b>Goods Purchased ( in %)</b>
Local Place	10
Tandi Bazaar	40
Narayangath	35
Outside of district	15

*Source:* Field Study, 2016

Table no. 4.17 reveals that 40 percent goods purchased for hotel and lodges from Tandi Bazaar, 35 percent goods purchased from Narayangarh, 10 percent from local place and remaining 15 percent of goods are imported from out side than Chitwan specially from Kathmandu. Birjung, Bhairahawa.

**CHAPTER V**  
**PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF TOURISM**  
**IN SAURAHA**

**5.1 Problems of Tourism at Sauraha**

Sauraha is rich in nature and culture however it has facing many problems associated overall tourism development. Tourist could not enjoy as they expect due to the cause of lack of sufficient modern amenities. The length of stay of visitors at Sauraha is not satisfactory. Very few visitors pass more than 4 days in this area. The major problems associated with the tourism at Sauraha are given below.

**5.1.1 Electricity**

Every small and big hotels and lodges have the facility of electricity but due to irregularity of electricity, the hotels or lodges are facing problems. The temperature of Sauraha is more than 35°C. In the day time refrigerators, air conditions, fans do not work and the tourist feels hot as well as the perishable items like fish, milk, meat etc. destroy. Similarly in the winter season the temperature decreases and the tourist needs heater and Air Condition however due to long loadshedding they could not operate and the services need to cut off for the visitors. Big hotels are operating the above mentioned services using generator operated from diesel and petrol which is costly. Hotels need to expense large amount of money in the generator and the fuels. Not only that large sound is disturbing the tourists and the environment is also being polluted. In case of small hotels they are manging for the lights only. They are unable to provide all the services like air condition, Heater, fans etc due to the financial scarcity.

**5.1.2 Infrastructure Development**

The transportation and communication development is limited in Sauraha. Most of parts of Sauraha are not linked with the black topped pitched roads. The main gateway to Sauraha itself is in miserable condition. Though the

government rebuilds the road it is not changing from its problematic situation. Similarly the inner roads in the Sauraha area have the similar problems. In the summer season road becomes muddy and in the autumn it becomes dusty. The tourists feel difficulty due to the poor conditions of the roads. Similarly, there is no permanent bridge in the Rapti River where tourists used to walk to see elephant breeding farm and go for Jungle safari. There is no luxurious means of transportation which can be hired from Tandi Bazaar to Sauraha in the evening and night time. This not only affects to the independent tourists but also those which arrive at Tandi at old hours. By this, the independent (free comer) tourists are unable to reach Sauraha as same as there is a syndicate system in horse cart is also another problem in transportation which is limited also.

### **5.1.3 Medical Facilities in Tourist Areas**

The health hazards for many tourists at Sauraha is one of the key problems facing by the visiting tourist at Sauraha. There is no big hospital for the proper care up in the emergency as well as regular check up for the tourists as well as local people. There is lack up sufficient health center like medical, pharma, poly clinic etc. All the tourists sites need to have health care center due to lack of sufficient health care center tourists afraid to live there for longer time. Not only that Sauraha is danger from Snakes and the wild animals due to the lack of hospital local people and the tourists feel uncomfortable themselves.

### **5.1.4 Trained Manpower**

Trained manpower is the major weapon to satisfy the tourist. In Sauraha there is lack of trained manpower like nature guide, cook etc. In Sauraha Tourists came from the different countries and they speak different languages but in the Sauraha Many nature guides could not speak all languages. Due to the language problem they cannot explain detail about the vegetation and wild animals of Chitwan National park. There is also lack of trained cooks. Many cooks cannot prepare all kind of dish to the tourist. So the concern efforts should be made to produce the required number of quality staff so as to ensure that the increasing number of tourists visiting the Sauraha get quality services.

### **5.1.5 Wages and Security of Workers/Staffs**

Staffs are the backbone of the restaurants, Safari and overall tourism sector of Sauraha. The main problem lies in the security of the workers. Economically and socially they are poor. They are deprived from the basic needs. They have to fulfill the demands of the family as well. Most of the workers like cook, waiters, mautes, drivers have low wages, they only get extra tips in the on season, in off season they don't get job. Most of the workers work in contract for certain season only. Due to this reason many trained workers migrated in the different reason and other sectors in search of future security. Not only this mainly Mautes and nature guides needs insurance. Only government workers are getting these services. But the private sectors are not caring about required facilities to the workers.

### **5.1.6 Sanitary Problem**

Sauraha has not escaped from the sanitary problem. Mainly it has the air and water pollution. The smokes come from the restaurants, generators dusty roads and the old vehicles make the air polluted. No proper knowledge has been seen in the hotel owners and staffs about the disposal of wastage from the hotels. Sauraha lies in the plain area due to this reason it has problem of suitable drainage. So the deposition of wastage on the side of river is deteriorating the environment of that area. The plastics and the papers of the food items and the packaging of goods found in the street are also making the area ugly.

### **5.1.7 Forest Degradation**

In Sauraha In the suburb side hotel owners and local people use fire wood for cooking, heating and producing alcohol. Hotel owners used to do camp fire in the evening for this purpose they need large amount of woods and sticks. After the expansion of tourist industry, comprise, hotel construction, additional requirements of wood. And the people cut down the trees for timba and the furniture supplies. The forest has been slowly degraded in the study area which has also disturbed biomass and habitats of the wild species especially birds and

animals. The fire caught in the dry season also destroys the beauty of the area as well as destruction of small size plants.

### **5.1.8 Fear of Flood**

Many hotels and lodges are situated on the bank of Rapti River. In the Summer season there is high risk of flood. Every year Flood has destroyed the many habitat, animal vegetation and more land has cut by the Rapti River of Sauraha. The edge part of the Rapti River always has the fear of great flood. Due to the lack of embankment there is danger of over flood of the river. Though every years it swamped people and livestock yet, no major activities are using to flood controls as well as forecasting system such as a good and strong dam around the Rapti river.

### **5.1.9 Recreational Facility**

Recreational activities are necessary to increase the quantity of tourists arrival to lengthen their of stay in Sauraha. Sauraha has warmer temperature in most of the period of year. There is no proper swimming pool and water sports which can refresh and make cool in the hot temperature. Similarly there is no big sport grounds where tourists can play outdoor games like cricket, football, basketball, hockey etc. Very few hotels perform cultural programs only for the paid costumers. In the group and public rarely cultural programs are showed up. Tourists only can see the Tharu cultural activities. Sauraha cannot manage other castes cultural programs like Brahmin, Gurung, Newars, Chepang etc. to give the different taste. Many tourists from the world like sun bathing and playing in the beach. Though Sauraha is not linked with sea it has beautiful Rapti River flowing in the lap of Sauraha. The local people are not using the banks of river to make mini beach for the tourists.

Some tourists want to pass extra time by watching international movies in the theatre but Sauraha has a lack of theater where the tourists can see internationally premiering movies in the big screen. Similarly, There Many tourist came Sauraha alone .They want to pass night with the opposite sex. Due

to cultural restrictions foreigners are restricted to pass night with the Nepalese girls and boys legally.

#### **5.1.10 Jungle Drive**

Jungle drive leads to the pollution of jungle. Plastics, papers and other garbage is destroying the beauty of nature. The sound from the vehicles also leads to distraction towards the animals and birds. Limited number of vehicles also leads to problems in the driving. Tourists have to book prior to the trip. Tourists are not allowed to take their own private vehicles inside the jungle. The tour company limits the time and date one cannot change the duration, and direction due to permit and the security reason too. Elephant riding is more fun but there are few elephants and the large number of tourists cannot visit the jungle once.

#### **5.1.11 Fluctuation of Tourist Arrivals**

In the on season tourist arrivals have a peak point which makes hotel owners and tour operators to add staffs and other goods. But in the off season the number falls heavily, it discourages the hotel owners to afford by paying over staffs. Fluctuation brings hesitation on hotel owners to increase their investment for the expansion of hotel and other amenities. Seasonal fluctuation mainly creates problems in the staffs, accommodation, and food items.

#### **5.1.12 Marketing Problem**

The traditional way of doing tourism does not ensure success. Sauraha is rich in natural and cultural phenomena but the government and the local entrepreneurs are not seeking and engaging in the marketing. None of the organizations are making any advertising in the popular medias like BBC, CNN, Discovery, etc. The traditional strategy and methods do not lead any positive effects. Sauraha as well as whole Nepal suffered from the massive earthquake of 2015 which distracts the tourists visiting Nepal and Sauraha too. Only building pamphlets and hoarding board in front of the own hotels and lodges cannot attract tourists in good numbers. In the present situation owners of the hotels and lodges are giving some details with the tour package rate and

itinerary which is insufficient to attract the tourist in high volume. Conference with the other government officials, holidays tour operators and the stall booking in the mega international tourism expo and conference.

#### **5.1.13 National Tourism Policy**

National tourism policy is very crucial to flourish the tourism inside the country. Though, the need of national tourism policy is long talked issue and government was also well aware of it, nothing major activities was done till date. It shows that tourism industry in Sauraha has not received good deal of attention and behavior from the government and Nepal Tourism Board which may be one of the reasons why tourism in our country could not deliver desired result. Nepal government tourism policy is limited in the words of paper but not practically in the field. The government does not show keen interest in the functioning own policies to promote the tourists quantity from the international markets.

#### **5.1.14 Regular Measure**

Tourist industry in Sauraha is facing much kind of problems. To tackle with these problems many laws have been enacted. Rules and regulation have been established. However, they cannot give the desired result unless they are properly and effectively enforced. Implementation aspect is very ineffective in both national and local level

#### **5.1.15 Promotional Activities**

Sauraha has not been given proper attention to the promotional aspect of tourism. We are largely dependent of the foreign tour operator for the customers. To reduce this full depending and to increase the profit margin in the tourism business. It is always essential that we try to reach the final customers by adopting suitable promotional aspect of tourism could be facilitated if the diplomatic mission could be effectively activated in the tourism originating Sauraha. Cultural programs, documentary shows and the

advertisement in the internationally popular Medias and tourism expo are needed to uplift the present status of tourist's number.

#### **5.1.16 Government Incentives**

Government played a great role in the overall development of tourism industry. Government should be aware of the need of the tourism sector and provide the necessary incentives for its further growth and development. Government loaded a high tax in every sector, flights, hotels bills and the entry tickets inside the National Park. Though the Sauraha has facing scarcity of tourists the government took more taxes without spending money in the development works. To make the tourism business more competitive and ensure the accelerated growth, government should offer the maximum incentives as possible.

#### **5.1.17 Social and Economic Problems**

Tourism affects in the unique culture of Sauraha. Local cultural practices and institutions are declining day by day. It encourages the commercialization due to which traditional cultural practices are forgotten, sacred places are being polluted. Modern houses interfere the traditional methods of building houses, lodging and fooding too. Alien architecture styles and building materials are highly uses. More money is wasting in the interior and exterior design of the houses. These are negative changes in society as well. Likewise, disruption of family and social relationship, hospitality resentment within communities, decline in morality and value. Acculturation, prostitution, drug abuse, alcoholism, juvenile homosexuality and beggary are also negative impacts of tourism. The tourism has some serious negative effects, which encourages bringing to imperialism and neo-colonialism.

### **5.2 Prospects of Tourism in Sauraha**



Sauraha is situated on the northern border of the Chitwan National Park. Today Chitwan National Park has become one of the nation's treasures of natural wonders. Recognizing its unique ecosystems of international significance, UNESCO declared CNP a world Heritage site in 1984. It is an eminent park of the country which consumes the largest number of the tourist in its lap filled with the unique ecosystem. Sauraha help to increase the national economic growth by during tourist to show its unique ecosystem as well as unique Tharu culture. Better infrastructure is essential to foster the tourism properly. There are many prospects associated with tourism development in Sauraha. The major prospects are given below:

### **5.2.1 Scenic Attraction**

Sauraha scenic beauty is gifted by the nature. Many hotels are situated in the lap of the Rapti River. Some hotels are situated in the middle of the jungle and garden. The animals and the birds' arrival in the river edge add the beauty of this area. Not only the surrounding but also the Elephant breeding areas and the National parks are the other beautiful sides of this area.

Rhinos and Tigers are the supreme attracting animals. Different flowering and non flowering plants are other attractions.

### **5.2.2 Trekking**

Sauraha is popular for Jungle safari, Elephant riding and boating however it is not limited only with these particular activities. It is also popular for trekking. The trekking from Sauraha to Churia hill, Kasara, Khagendramalli, Badreni are the famous trekking routes to glimpses the nature. In this plain area those mentioned hills add more taste of viewing the nature.

### **5.2.3 Elephant Riding**

Elephant riding is one of the most attractive factor of attracting tourists in this area. Elephants riding are conducted by both government and private sectors. Government elephants are large in number but they are mainly used for the research program. Privates elephants are mainly used and operated for the

tourist to see wild animals, birds and the deep forest like wild boar, bear, rhinos, tiger, leopards etc. There 50 elephant for safari from private sector and nearly 70 elephants were used to jungle safari from government sector (CNP). And 4 elephants by co - operative.

#### **5.2.4 Bird Watching**

The Chitwan National Park and areas of Sauraha is a well known paradise for birds or the world of birds where 450 species of resident and migratory birds live. Tourists encounter hundreds of birds in a single day of different species. The dance performed by peacock, the hardship of woodpecker, rhythmic songs of cuckoo and the diving of different birds in the blue lake will catch the tourist attention. Bishajari Lake, sides of Rapti River, Kumal Lake are the some popular bird watching areas of this reason.

#### **5.2.5 Jungle Safari**

The hidden beauty can be explored only when one can reach into the middle of the jungle. An adventurous tour in the jeep into the deep dense forest helps tourist to view and feel the sublimity of the rarest species of animals like Rhinos, tigers, deer, crocodiles and various floras and faunas. Four to five hours driving in the middle of the jungle with the experienced guides make travel more interesting and memorable.

#### **5.2.6 Nature Walk**

Experienced nature guide take the tourist across the Rapti River crossing in the wooden boat and the area of the park to see nature's gifts, the wild species of birds and animals blended with the surrounding flora and fauna. Similarly, the nature guide also takes the tourist in the typical house of Tharus and other caste people houses made up of mud, bamboo and jhigatees.

#### **5.2.7 Elephant Breeding Center**

Elephant Breeding Center is organized by the Government of Nepal which is one of the most attractive spot of Sauraha area. This is the only elephant breeding center of Nepal, where the tourists can see baby elephant with its

mother of different ages. Tourists will enjoy with the twins child of elephant too.

### **5.2.8 Boat Riding**

Boat riding is regular practice of the Sauraha area. Boats made up of from the wooden are more attractive and exiting for the tourists. Boat riding on the Rapti river along with the crocodiles in the cool water makes more fun.

### **5.2.9 Village Tour**

Village of Sauraha is wide and multi cultural. It takes hours to round themain areas. Guides give three options for exploring the village by foot, by horse carts and by oxcarts. Especially this village tour is about to get the socio-economic status of the local people mainly Tharus and the Majhis, their wooden and mud made house, settlement a, their fooding and lodging condition and the scenic beauty of the local area.

### **5.2.10 Tharu Culture**

Day time is especially used for exploring the jungle and villages but night time engaged in fun making in the rhythm of drumbeats.EspecillyTharusmens and womens performed dances such as harvesting dance, Holidance, Stick dance, Thekara dance and Jhiri dance. The rhythmic movements and the exciting drum beats may urge the tourists to joint in their performance. The unique dress code and the music melt the heart of tourists and took their mind in the Nepali folk culture.

### **5.2.11 Museum of Sauraha**

The museum is the mirror of the Sauraha and Chitwan National Park.Located at the entrance of the park is precious and worthy to the visitors. It shows the number of photos of the rare species found inside the Chitwan National Park. Number of maps gives the tourists detail about the important areas. There is also pasted and displays the bones, skulls and skins of the dead animals. Not only are these traditional dresses of Tharus and tattoing etc. also displayed in the museum.

### **5.3 Opportunities Created by Tourism in Sauraha**

In socio-cultural sector, tourism helps to develop the infrastructure like transportation, modern hotels and lodges, education, electricity, water supply, health, and telecommunication and brings drastic changes in living standard of people, behavior pattern of peoples, dress, life style, language and food habit. With the exploration of tourism it helps to improve the economic condition of the local people in community directly and indirectly by providing the foreign exchange earnings, income generation, creation of employment. Tourism brings the economic improvement of the local people in community giving the employment related tourism directly and indirectly. There are around 155 hotels among them 103 are registered in the Regional Hotel Association Chitwan, Nepal. It gives around 1000 staffs in the different posts. Similarly There are altogether 129 elephants which are used for and about 200 mautes who are working after the Elephants. Similarly there are around 100 people who are engaging in the transportation sectors such as buses, trucks, carts, taxis, oxcart etc.

### **5.3 Improvement of Living Standard**

Tourism is not only a source of earning money and foreign exchange, it also plays a key role in generation of infrastructure development in this area. The road, Bridge education health and drinking water, Buspark are the main infrastructure for the development in village level. In the study area, tourism also has played an important role to develop this infrastructure development. The main is fund collected for infrastructure repaired and built from the Hotel owner & foreign organization & individual foreign Tourist. It has helped to improve in the local life style of people. The dress pattern, food habit, education and others things related to human beings are becoming quality and standard. It means that, the low standard lifestyles local people are strong and visible.

#### **5.4 Environmental Impact**

Tourism in Sauraha has brought some positive impacts on local environment in the study are such as sanitation awareness, plantation program, environmental awareness and environmental education. Regional Hotel Association Chitwan Nepal, Nepalese Army, REBAN and the local people organized weekly sanitation program inside the Chitwan National Park. Similarly in the outskirts of village Local people and the hotel owners operated regular cleaning program.

The local people have been formed local committee for the forest management, which has played an important role in preservation of forest resources. In the sanitation and plantation sector, mother group has a significant role. They have made rules and regulation for sanitation and plantation program. Government of Nepal also helps to design the course book of children about environmental protection. Due to the involvement of local people in different activities related to environment, people have become more conscious and educated as compared with the past. The forests of the Chitwan National Park are protected by the Nepalese Army which restricted to cut the plants and woods of the jungle.

## CHAPTER VI

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 6.1 Summary of the Findings

The present study has analyzed the socio-economic and environmental impact of tourism in Sauraha, Chitwanby using primary and secondary tools and information. The major findings or the results obtained from the analysis are listed below.

- (1) The total number of 538,970 tourists visited Nepal in 2015, which represent 31.79 percent decrease over 2014.
- (2) Tourist entering by air is 75.6 percent of the total arrivals where as those by land stand 24.4 percent in 2015.
- (3) The largest number of tourists 386065 visited Nepal for the purpose of Holiday Pleasure.
- (4) More male visitors 54.66 percent compared to 46.34 percent female visitors.
- (5) By age group, the largest number goes to the group of 31-45 years 29.20 percent and 46-60 years 28.7 percent of the total tourist.
- (6) The majority of the tourists stayed only for about average 11 days.
- (7) Foreign exchange earning from tourism stood at US\$ 191.7 million which represents 64.76percent increase over fiscal year of 2014/15. Tourism contributed around 2.8 percent of the GDP of the nation.
- (8) 384,321 visitors visited different national parks and protected areas of Nepal in 2015. Among them (178257) 46.39 percent of visitors visited Chitwan National Park.
- (9) The majority of tourists arrivals at Sauraha by purpose was the following: National park and wild animal 64 percent, sight seeing 12 percent, boat and elephant riding 20 percent and research study and Tharu culture to 4 percent.

- (10) The majority of tourists arriving Sauraha was in autumn season 32.21 percent followed by spring, winter and summer seasons 29.43 percent, 27.19 percent, 11.17 percent respectively tourists visiting Sauraha were found to visit Sauraha.
- (11) The majority of foreigners visiting Sauraha on the age group 31-45 years of age 40 percent, followed by 36 percent on 16-30 years age group. Old and children are very few in numbers only 10 % of total visitors fall in this two group.
- (12) Roughly, 50 percent of total tourists were found to travel by tourist bus and 30 percent by local bus and 6 percent by plane 14 percent by private vehicles and during the survey period.
- (13) The Majority of the tourists about 50 percent visit for 2 days and three nights package program and 20 percent for 3 days and 4 nights package very few with 30 % spent for longer and shorter trips.
- (14) The majority of tourists with 50 percent spent less than US \$40 per day, 18 percent tourist spent sent \$41-60, only 26 percent tourist spent more than \$80.
- (15) There are around 155 hotel / lodges. Only 106 are registered in Regional Hotel Association Nepal, Chitwan. About 1000 people are getting employment in the Hotels.
- (16) There are about 2200 trained nature guides, however only 250 are working regularly.
- (17) There are 55 elephants in the private sector and 70 elephants with the government. About 110 mautes are working in the private sector and about 210 mautes are working in Government office. Private mautes are having less than Rs 1000 per day.
- (18) Mautes are mainly from Madhesi and Tharus community. Mautes of private sector are not insured.

## 6.2 Conclusion

Nepal is a small nature gifted country lies in the middle of two powerful countries of the world. It is famous for its long chain of White Himalayas, green mountains wide varieties of floras and faunas. The traditional unique culture of various ethnic groups settled in different ecological zones are the other factors to attract tourists in the country. Sauraha which lies in the gateway to Chitwan National Park is one of the most popular and important destination of Nepalese Tourism Industry. It is very famous for Jungle Safari and in Elephant riding. Encounter with the wild animals in jungle safari and in elephant riding in this area attracts tourist. Peaceful environment, boat and bird watching, boating, jungle drive and natural walk, cultural dances are other main tourist activities in Sauraha.

The history of tourism in Sauraha is no longer. Very few Powerful people of the world only visited Sauraha for hunting and collecting the wild animals before the establishment of National Park. Tourism flourishes only after the establishment of Chitwan National Park. Slowly and gradually the flow of tourist increases however there is fluctuation in the numbers due to many reasons. The first lodge Tiger Tops was built in the early 1960's and gradually local people started to establish hotels and lodges in this area. In the five years period the inflow of tourists in Sauraha has been increasing which is a good symptoms for tourism development.

Tourism industry is secure, unproblematic and advantages to the local community and also to the national level. Sauraha's tourism has enormous potential due to the unique nature. Due to the construction of new hotels and lodges. It appears that Sauraha is still able to fulfill expectations of wildlife and rural culture. Likewise, the researcher has found that the economic status of the workers and their family is improving in comparison to the past. In sum, it is also observed that government and private sectors are engaging in the different awareness and cleaning program to make neat and clean. It is also found that numerous income earning activities are run by the different people local shops,



wines shop, Fancies, crafts shop, hotels and lodges, nature guides and the transportation help them to collect the foreign currency to change their lifestyles.

Though the government and private sectors are working together to promote the tourism industry in the international level which is not satisfactory. Similarly the cleaning program is not sufficient to make the area neat and clean. Mainly it is being polluted by the plastics and the paper. This area should be plastic free area to attract tourists. Similarly noise pollution is another problem facing by this area.

Due to the vehicles of jungle driving the peaceful environment of the jungle is disturbing and to the wild species in that route. Similarly the sound from the vehicles and the generators is distracting the tourists in the main city

Unfortunately owing to a number of constraints the rate of increase of the tourists arriving in Nepal is not a high as it should have been from the very beginning. Most of the attractive places of the country are still in shadow as they have not seen the light of development. Government and the local business operators should afford money on advertisement in the different medias.

The government policies are neither appropriate nor effective for the preservation of environment. The government is also not paying enough attention for the infrastructural development of the tourist'sspots. If all the attractive place of the country were to be developed for the tourism the country will changes its status.

### **6.3 Recommendations**

Sauraha is one of the most beautiful and attractive place for tourism. About 46.38 percent of total visitors visited Saruaha. Tourism in Sauraha plays an important role for the socio-economic development of the local people. To promote further tourism development in Sauraha, the following recommendation should be taken up.

- (1) In Sauraha first category hotels are few in numbers. Second and third categories hotels are not able to provide all necessary facilities to the tourists. Therefore hotels should be improved and upgraded to provide modern facilities to the tourists.
- (2) Though the Regional Hotel Association Nepal, Chitwan runs the cleaning program, the environment of Sauraha is still deteriorating due to the accumulation of wastage thrown out from hotels at the bank of Rapti River. So proper measure should be taken to manage the wastage properly.
- (3) Load shedding is one of the major obstacles to the development and promotion of tourism in Sauraha. The temperature of summer season is hot and in the winter it has cold weather. Tourists want fully air conditioned room in each moment but daily load shedding with longer hours make difficulty in the accommodation service. Similarly evening time movement in Sauraha has completely restricted the movement of tourists at the time due to the black out. So electricity facility has to be supplied regularly in Sauraha to provide physical facilities to the tourists.
- (4) Hotel workers, mautes and guides are the backbone of tourism of Sauraha but very few workers are given high wages, their socio economic condition is pathetic. So the concerned authorities should provide at least equal to government salary according to their post and ranking.
- (5) Publicity is the main weapon to increase the numbers of visitors. So, the government of Nepal, Nepal Tourism Board and private companies related to tourism should give advertisements in International and national Television and News Portal.
- (6) In summer season due to the heavy rain the level of water rises. Flood in Rapti River is one of the major reasons of destroying beauty of the Sauraha. The government and the local people should make a

systematic plan to control the flood and make more beautiful in the riverside.

- (7) The tax collected by government from the entrance ticket of Chitwan National Park, Elephant Breeding Center, and museum should be used to develop the national park and tourism area of Sauraha as well as for the betterment of workers.
- (8) The unplanned settlement and the unmanaged wastage in the National park lead water and land pollution. The Government and the local organizations should focus on the beauty of the surroundings. The schedule of cleaning should increase up in the shorter period.
- (9) The road to go to Sauraha is in very miserable condition. It is very difficult to travel in rainy season with mud and water and dust in the windy day. So the Government, HAN, and local people should make a permanent black topped road to get rid from the problem.
- (10) In Sauraha there is not available of international standard hospital. In case of emergency the patient tourist should be taken to Bharatpur or Kathmandu directly, So Hotel Association of Nepal and the government bodies should be serious to establish the Highly equipped hospital.
- (11) Very few numbers of tourists arrived Sauraha from the Air. Flight numbers should be increased and the new big planes should be launch to attract and give more comfortable facilities to the tourists.
- (12) The flow of tourist is not satisfactory. The Hotel Association Nepal, should launch different discount offer to attract the tourists in the offseason.
- (13) The government should make both long term and short term plan and policy with the coordination of private tourism to increase the number of tourists.
- (14)

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