

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Nepal is landlocked, beautiful, small Himalayan kingdom, independent, and heavenly country situated sandwich between two big nations India and China in Southern part of Asia. Physio-graphically Nepal is divided into five physiographic region. Terai (60m-300m), Swalik/Chure (300m-700m), Middle Mountains (700m-2000m), High Mountains (2000m-2500m). And High Himalayas (3000m-8848m). Also their features are quite different according to the geography and climate of each of them. Its located between 26°22' - 30°27' North latitude and 80°4' - 88°12' east longitude and total area is 147,181 km<sup>2</sup>. which accounts as 0.03% of the world and 0.3% of the Asia. But ecologically its divided into three regions, running from East and West (CBS, 1993). It has 885km length from East of West and 193km mean width from North to South (Non-uniform). Nepal is divided administratively into 5 development regions, 14 zones, 75 districts, 3915 VDCs and 58 municipalities. The population of the country is 2,31,51,423, annual growth rate 2.25% where 14.2% live in urban, 85.8% people live in rural area and here 53.7% of people are literate in Nepal (CBS, 2001) but in 2010 record may different or population may be more than 3 corors. Although Nepal has multiethnic, multilingual, multireligion and multicultural but still has physio-climatic diversity too as its physical variation it has found 1°c temperature differences within 165m short distance from South to North and resulting it there are numerous biodiversity in Nepal. The colourful flora and fauna diversity, we found 118 eco-system diversities in our country (WWF, 1991).

As Nepal is rich in natural resources, we see the world's highest mountain peaks including Mt. Everest (8848m) and second richest country in water resources. Similarly, more beautiful spectacular view, sceneries like, lakes, forests, gorges, mountains views provide wide scope for the eco-tourism

industry in Nepal. It allowed to enter foreigners only since 1951 and trekking permit were simplified since 1964. At present its vital source of foreign currency earnings. Now, more than 127 million people are employed in tourism related organization (Lindlad, 1993).

Similarly Nepal is an extremely rich cultural store house where diversity in language and culture, people live with harmony and unity and people are friendly with smiling faces. The perfect combination of natural beauty and cultural diversity provides tremendous potentialities of tourism as well as eco-tourism in Nepal.

Becoming the largest/biggest industry in the world, the tourism industry in Nepal has been growing quite faster rate. Tourism has gained a place among the old and automobile industry. So, tourism has now become the greatest economic generating force in the world wide. The flow of income through this industry may effect the economic system of the world. Since Nepal has immensely diverse and undulating topography, varied climate and mix of people that combine to produce a magical attraction for the outsiders. Walking in the interior of the country follows ancient foot traits which meander through the scene rivers intricately tarraced fields and forested ridges connecting picturesque hamlets and mountain village (DOT, 1993). For the nature lovers and pleasure seekers Nepal can provide many attractions. The sight seeing, jungle safari, trekking, white water rafting, sport fishing, mountaineering, mountain biking, sharing the real happy and joyful life patterns of simple and friendly ethnic people with ecological sound of harmony. Among the different tourisms eco-tourism has specific characteristics which is related to environmental situations where the industry protects natural environment and people share benefits by compromising their generation. To address different hard issues, Nepal has several efforts through policy instruments and institutional arrangements, and that also target to mitigate adverse social, cultural and economic impacts. So mutual benefits to the nature and the local communities needed sustainable designed. So eco-tourism essentially intends

to benefit both nature and human in and around tourist destinations. To promote visited and non-visited tourist destinations, Nepal has presenting the trends to celebrate "Tourism Year 2011" in this coming year. As it considered as world's largest export industry, incensement of 6%-2006, 900 million tourists traveled internationally in 2007. And also Nepal received less than 0.05% of global tourism (WTO, 2008). 'Eco-tourism' implies traveling to relatively undisturbed or uncontaminated natural areas with specific objectives such as studying, admiring, and enjoying the scenery with its flora and fauna, as well as any existing cultural manifestations. The concept suggested that, with the geographical and biological diversity, rich socio-cultural heritage and religious and historical sites. Nepal offers unique ecotourism opportunities (TRPAP, 2005). We called it 'nature tourism'. The highest proportion (41.4%) was for holiday and pleasure during 2007. Therefore in tourism, people move one place to other new place for getting new experiences, knowledge and pleasure or its the sum of the phenomenon and inter-relationships arising from the travel and stay of non residents, in so far as they do not lead to permanent residence and not connected with earning activity (Alliance International de Tourism, Geneva, 1950). Tourism is 3<sup>rd</sup> largest industry after oil and automobile. Its an important source of foreign exchange for many developing countries and measure of poverty alleviation as well. Its also a major employment generating industry.

In 2003 tourism (international) earned US\$192.8 million which is 2.6% of nation's GDP, also provided 8.2% of total foreign exchange earning during fiscal year 2002/03 (Economic Survey, 2003/04). In Nepal foreign exchange gained from tourism sector represented 34% of the total foreign exchange and 4% of GDP (Ghimire, A. 2004). Although Nepal has huge tourism potentialities, but has not utilized this sector effectively since planed development. This industry is more effective and prospective than other sectors as others needed huge investment of time, financial and technical efforts. We have lack of accessibility, amenities and accommodations of tourism

components. Even attractive natural power has touched upto pick of the Mt. Everest. Due to other components, it has sufficiently uneffectively catches commercial value rather than environmental concern. So, to mitigate losses caused to environment and culture by tourism some enthusiastic institutions and conservationists developed a new discipline known by the name "Ecotourism". This concept is popular in tourism literature and activity at present. Its also more becoming popular among academics, researchers and practioners in different part of the world ever since the concept was introduced in the early 1980s.

Ecotourism is the rapid growing sector of the travel/tourism industry, growing at an annual rate of between 10-30% per annum (Michel F. 2005). First, it was emerged from Costarica and now spreading out all over the world. Mostly, its defined as nature based tourism, environment friendly tourism, sustainable pollutionless tourism or ecologically, sound tourism. In eco-tourism, environment friendly tourism takes when both host and guest are positively aware of environmental degradation as participation on tourist activities protection and conservation of natural as well as socio-cultural environment while traveling has attracted the attention of all concern with tourism. Ecotourism is travel to natural areas with the motive of education leading to environmental preservation and local economic benefit (Gurung, 1995). Over 50% of total world wide tourist business has comprises by eco-tourism and still showing increasing trend. In Nepal its associated with nature and natural areas but estimates have shown that about 80% of country's market linked with this kind. Hence this is the great importance to nation and evidence, which shows that it can contributes to both conservation and poverty alleviation (Upadhya, R. Hand Out, 2006).

Among all tourism destinations, Dolpa-Shey Phoksundo National Park area and around it has more prospects and challenges in eco-tourism industry.. Dolpa has covered is 5.38% of area in the country and Shey-Phoksundo NP covered 3,555sq.km. in this district. Shey-Phoksundo situated in the trans-

Himalayan region of N-W Nepal and its the largest national park (NP) in Nepal. This destination is popular in eco-tourism and spreaded over Dolpa and Mugu (2 VDCs) and supported a broad range of wildlife and vegetations. With diverse terrain and altitude variation, landmarks of park are Himalayan peaks, lake Phoksundo, Shey-Gumba in Southern region. The park contains 286 flora species, endangered snow leopard, 200 over species of birds and apart from these, the park is home to 6 species of reptiles and 29 species of butterfly. There is many timber and non-timber forests, medicinal herbs. Dolpa named from "Tholvo" after 2018 B.S. Dolpa is divided into Vot, Himalayan, Alpine, and Mountain Regions (SNV/WWF, 2001). Here Archa-Gumba, Suligad-Jharna and other features are popular. It has covered 4VDC in Dolpa. It has unlimited prospect and challenges to be developed. Nepal Government, local, NGOs, and related departments are needed to victimized against those challenges in the different fields to support different types of sectoral development.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Tourism industry has been improving a lot in 21<sup>st</sup> century and has become main source of foreign exchange, and means of poverty alleviation. Due to financial limitation and technological application, agriculture, business, industry and other productive sectors has been discouraging to provide full employment, poverty alleviation, equality and equity for the Nepalese people. No enough food, sectoral undevelopment; and mankind facilities. It can be found that there are comparative advantage in tourism sector as agricultural hydroelectric sectors needed huge amount of investment and time consuming. We can gain tremendous benefits from tourism without investment of heavy capitals, technology and helps. But its needed goods management, peaceful environment with excellent quality of access, accommodation, and amenities the improvement for alternative means of sectoral development "Eco-tourism". Its scope of economy, supplying employment and awareness opportunities are extremely high. Its the biggest host economy and opportunity created agent over half of the total tourist business. The worldwide comprises eco-tourism

and still improving a lot in 21<sup>st</sup> century and it shares has to be estimated at 80% of the country's market. It also has provided a fair distribution of benefits and costs. Among the tourism, eco-tourism is the most sensitive, awareness and holistic industry within people for its sustainable development. The most significant role of ecotourism is sustain promotion of good environment and ecological management with socio-cultural and economic management for optimistic level. In Dolpa due to physio-climatic, cultural social, religious and economic conditions there are numerous prospects of ecotourism. But in reality, most of the potential sites (natural beauty/destinations) were not explored condition in Dolpa. Due to various challenges our nation is unable to take benefit from its potentials. So to get it well benefits from ecotourism, 'we' the natural elements should struggle and faced against the challenges to conserve the ecology/environment or related elements for future eco-tourism prospects. So to be faced and eradicated the challenges which are related to ecotourism, we need to explore, examine, analyzed and identified the ecological prospects in eco-tourism in Dolpa (SPNP) are.

Shey-Phoksundo Area, Dolpa has extra ordinary pretty potential destination for tourism. Nepal government and related sectors has not been enough concern to promote eco-tourism. As this industry is in shadow part, it needed to dig out its prospects and challenges of eco-tourism for development of this area.

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The general objective of this current study is to identify the prospects and challenges of eco-tourism in Shey-Phoksundo Park Area (NP) in Dolpa district. The specific objectives are as below:

1. To analyze the historical status of Shey-Phoksundo National Park Area.
2. To examine the prospects and challenges of eco-tourism in study area.
3. To analyze the ecological aspect for the promotion of sustainable eco-tourism management in the study area.

#### **1.4 Hypothesis of the Study (Research Question)**

This study was conducted with Shey-Phoksundo National Park area related components and stakeholders on the topic of "Prospects and Challenges of Eco-tourism." This exercise may support other steps of developmental fields, local, elite, hotels and tourists for eco-tourism sustainable development in the study area. This may help to manage the policies, strategies, planning, evaluation monitoring, implementation or feedback in Tourism Developmental Programmes. This may help to mould the well environment of moulding tea and cafe houses, home stay, access, amenities, or accommodation as well. This may support of put the study area in "Biswa Sampada Suchi" (WHS) for related or concern departments. Thus organization of potentialities for prospect of ecotourism may help to minimize the challenges.

#### **1.5 Scope of the Study**

Since eco-tourism ensuring the environmental awareness with accompanying responsible actions, percolates to all its sectors, thus in result can be economically valuable and integrated into citizens way of life. Its multifaced and complex smokeless industry that it reduces poverty, which may changes private attitude of indigenous cultures and environment friendly of tourism destination as ACAP in Ghandruk. It ensure the sustainable development market, international integration in planning, implementation and to encouraging local participation. It avoid spoiling the nature and exploiting on the development of nation. To suggest concerning sectors in vertical and horizontal integration for global development, some scopes are as:

- Eco-tourism is the main branch in tourism industry and it may play vital role in "Nepal tourism year-2011", to find the hidden paradise destinations.
- The research may support for researcher, scholars, explores, sectoral developments organizations and other concerned departments or government, locals to formulate nation tourism policy, strategies, planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and feedback.designs.

- This study may encourage to conserve endangered animals, tourism-destinations, environmental ethnics or biodiversity elements.
- Creation of awareness to participants which may promote stockholders to enhancement of access, accommodation, amenities and attraction in the new destinations.
- This study may support tourism industry to developed the tourism destinations more effectively to introduce with in international circumference.
- Ecotourism is the most rich income generation and poverty alleviation, activities so it can put tourism community image in high respectful for the future development.
- To reduce the challenges and uplift the prospect of tourism industry, explore, analyze and examine the ecological phenomenon needed.
- Since the pollution less industry promotes the environment friendly, natural conservation, awareness, participation, international brotherhood, employment creation and sustainable tourism development, it required to extender inspire the information with related parts in the world.
- Shey-Phoksundo National Park has an unique destination, ecological quality, land feature, climatic condition living thing's settlements, Tibeban culture, and Bon-Po religions. So it is needed to send right messages to all the tourism related sectors.

## **1.6 Organization of the study**

This study is divided into six chapters. The first chapter includes Background of the study, statement of the problem, Objective of the study, hypothesis of the study, and scope of the study and Organization of the study. Likewise, the Second chapter includes review of literature. Similarly chapter Three includes research methodology which deals Source of data and information, Method of data collection, data processing, method of analysis and limitation. The Chapter four deals description of study area, main prospective and challenge of ecotourism in the study area and main challenge. Chapter five includes Analysis and discussions. Finally chapter six deals summary, conclusions and recommendation.



## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

#### **2.1 Concept**

There are many scholars, academician, tourism professionals, and researcher who gave their own view and contribution to the prospects and challenges of eco-tourism. The definition varies from a description of natural tourism to a broader definition whereby not only the activities of the tourist are involved but also elements such as the conservation of eco-tourism and sustainable development. For tourism to and in natural areas, recently a new concept 'eco-tourism' is introduced the use of the concept is not unambiguous. In the past few years, different definitions of eco-tourism have been introduced (Kunwar, 1997). It is the catchword that means ecologically sound tourism; nature tourism and a force sustaining natural resources. It nature travels the advances conservation and sustainable development efforts. Since the tourism represents tourist's movements to and from the destination and origin or its the tasks concentrates on the consequential elements which consists of tourist satisfaction drawn from the visitation of the area and various impacts on destination environment. Similarly eco-tourism concerned with the natural-cultural environmental components. Mainly its systematic planning and development involved places of origin and destination, motivation of travel, travel features, factor influencing the selection of travel destination, assessment of tourist satisfaction and impacts on destination environment. The determinants of carrying capacities of the tourist area and facilities are stressed because tourism often threatens natural environment of over use and over development. It is essential a high level of environmental quality to ensure sustainability of tourism. A suitable environmental planning is necessary to meet the growing demand of the area. Both regional environmental principles and tourism environmental ethics must be applied to minimize tourism's negative impacts (Inskeep, 1987).

According to D'Amore (1990) "Eco-tourism is a form of culturally and environmentally sensitive travel which fosters an environmental ethic among travellers and also contributes to the conservation and management of natural areas for long term, sustainable economic development. Eco-tourism is particularly advantageous to developing countries. It attracts persons who are tolerant even interested in experiencing small scale, locally operated accommodations, built by local people with local materials. Eco-tourism emphasizes the employment of local people as managers, interpreters and custodians of protected areas because of their experience and knowledge accumulated and handed down over centuries (Gurung, 1993).

'Carrying capacity' is a key concept in planning for sustainable tourism development the concept refers to the maximum use which can be made of a site without carrying detrimental effects on its resources diminishing tourists' satisfaction travels or generation socio-economic problems for the local community. As mentioned above carrying capacity refers to maximum use of the any site without causing negative effects on the resources reducing visitors' satisfaction or exerting adverse impact upon the society, economy and culture of the area. In another sense it can also be said that carrying capacity is a well established concept in the general field of resource management and in the particular subject of recreational resources (O' Reilly 1986) describes the various carrying capacity as follows:

- a) **Physical carrying capacity:** The limit of site beyond which wear and tear will start taking place or environmental problem will arise.
- b) **Psychological/Perpetual Carrying Capacity:** The lowest degree of enjoyment tourist is prepared to accept before they start seeking alternative destinations.
- c) **Social Carrying Capacity:** The level of tolerance of the host population for the presence and behaviour of tourist in the destination area or the degree of crowding users and prepared to accept by others (tourists).

- d) **Economic Carrying Capacity:** The ability to absorb tourism activities without displacing or disrupting desirable local activities (Kunwar, 1997).

It is important to acknowledge that tourism is an industry, a form and agent of development and change. It includes low use of resources and operates on a sustainable basis with proper control and management. The ACAP of Nepal has promoted mass tourism on a sustainable basis by managing both tourism and tourism commodities with help of local inhabitants. The prime objective of this management approach is to inject revenues received from tourist entry fees back to the region to promote its socio-cultural, environmental conservation values and economic growth (Gurung, 1993). According to Father of 'Eco-tourism', Prof. Lars Eric Indblad, "Eco-tourism is a multi disciplinary equity approach where all disciplines can be allies rather than inevitable adversary and can avoid negative dimensions" like where,

"The fisherman becoming a trinket sales man the pretty young girl becoming the prostitute, the beautiful estuary the garbage dump." Such an approach can explore the possibilities of looking at quality as a strategy rather than quantity. All the disciplines involved in eco-tourism planning should give each other enough strength to fight off the merchants of quick optimum profit and exploitative politicians. In the world there are some examples which can inspire and many more can serve as a crystal ball of disaster. So, it has no single meaningful approach attitudinal overhaul. Putting more policies on the street is the solution of crime. The only way to reduce crime is to raise the standard of people's existence. Similarly in tourism the mountains of regulation are not going to ultimate upgrade. Hence, priority should be given for better ideas which ultimately can be profitable. The ideas motivated by moral values are very fruitful for this approach (Nilam, 1992).

Eco-tourism is of interest not only to those in the tourism industry, but also to development professions, policy makers and local communities as a

potentially uncreative mechanisms for conserving the natural resource base objectives of eco-tourism, despite often ambiguous, it to attract tourist to natural areas use the revenues for local conservation and economic development activities (Erika et al., 1993).

The "Father of Eco-tourism" concept is simple, more global and wide, so his concept and definition are used. According to him the meaning of eco-tourism in a single word is "Respect". Respect is the root of everything worth while and good. Respect to nature, local people, culture, history, community, aspirations and tourists themselves (Lindblad, L.E., 1993).

Many developing countries like Nepal has a myriad of natural attractions and many have tourism industries which generate significant amount of employment and income. A large portion of tourism revenues are neither spent within the host country nor remain in the area due to high foreign ownership and weakly enforced business regulations. Therefore, the challenge is to redirect tourism and tourist towards natural attractions while ensuring economic development and environmental protection (Nilam, 1992).

Tourism is one of the major sources of revenue in Nepal. The gross foreign exchange earnings from tourism stood at US \$192.8 million, which represented an increase of 80.5% over the earnings of 2001. Contribution of tourism to the GDP of the nation was 2.6% and it also provides 8.2% of total foreign exchange earning fiscal year 2002/03 (Nepal tourism, 2003, HMGN, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation).

## **2.2 Theoretical Framework**

Eco-tourism is responsible traveling to natural areas that conserves environmental and sustains the well being of local people (eppler -wood, 1996):

Explaining on these definitions the international Eco-tourism Society (IES) has developed 6 basic principles of eco-tourism.

- ) Avoids negative impacts that damage the integrity of the natural-cultural environments being visited.
- ) Make awareness the traveller on the importance of conservation.
- ) The management of protected areas and direct revenues to the conservation of natural areas.
- ) Emphasizes the need for planning and sustainable growth of the tourism industry and seeks to ensure that tourism development does not exceed the social and environmental carrying capacity.
- ) Retains a high percentage of revenues in the host country by stressing the use of locally owned facilities and services and
- ) Increasingly relies on infrastructure that has been developed sensitively in harmony with the environment minimizing use of fossil fuels conserving local plants wildlife and belonging with the natural environment (Epler wood, 1996).

The King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation (KMTNC) in Nepal is perhaps the leading organization in this direction which is working closely with local communities to integrate. Eco-tourism in the environmental conservation and overall sustainable development of the Annapurna Conservation and Boymare Village in the Bufferzone of Royal Chitwan National Park are the examples of conservation and communities well beings. So the KMTNC has emphasized local participation in the planning and management of natural resources, eco-tourism development overall local development plan of the area. So mechanism as been developed the resource preservation. Although, many organization in the Asia (Thailand, Indonesia) Africa and tropical endeavour, but non of the them seen to go as far the KMTNC has gone in this respect (Shrestha, 1998).

Some idealistic advocates of eco-tourism depict it as a "better" form of tourism. Some claim the 'Eco' means it should be confined to nature based tourism. Other use the terms in general way as a catch all for the various different styles of tourism associated with nature, wild life adventure culture,

village and indigenous communities. The meaning of the term tends to vary according to the perspective of the individual or organization making the definition with in the world's tourism industry, eco-tourism maybe casually used as a marketing slogan or it can describe a select, highly responsible style of tourism operation overall, the most common tenets of eco-tourism are that it enhance rather than depletes the conservation of environment and culture and ensures local communities reap benefits (BNES, 2001).

Eco-tourism is the one part of the sustainable tourism. The increasing popularity of eco-tourism is a positive development for a country like Nepal. Eco-tourism has tremendous potential to help our tourism industry. Endowed with a wealth of natural beauty and rich cultural heritage our country is ideally suited to take advantage of evolving situation and changes interests and preferences in the tourism market. There are however inherent risks involved in many tourism or eco-tourism initiatives. The vulnerability of our natural and cultural resources being promoted must be carefully assessed to make certain that they are not threatened by any planned activities. A sound tourism and eco-tourism strategy should provide and promote protection for the environment economy sustainability, culture integrity and enhancement of education value (NTB, 2001).

The United Nation (UN) general assembly has designed 2002 as the international year of eco-tourism. Two UN agencies have World Tourism Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is preparing supportive activities on planned activity is a world. Eco-tourism summit to held in Quebe, Canada, 19-22 May, 2002 to prepare for the summit, WTO and UNEP have suggested that all country governments should among other things, define and disseminate a national strategy and specific programmes for the sustainable development and management of eco-tourism (NTB, 2001).

Nepal has a comparative advantage for tourism development based on its spectacular natural landscapes and unique cultural heritage with more than 20% of land area of Nepal being within protected areas 50% of tourists of Nepal visiting at least one of these areas. The development of eco-tourism ventures clearly has huge potential and importance (STN, 2003).

Tourism is still one of the most promoting industries in Nepal, with a great potential for increasing the country's scarce resources sustainable tourism is still possible if proper environmental conservation consideration is given by both the government and the private sector. The recent initiative (Mustang and Ghalegaun Sikles Project) by the ministry of tourism shows that the government is taken on developing. Environmentally sensitive tourism but responsibility must be taken by all the users, both the private sector and tourism alike past seven years experience in the ACAP has led the authors to believe that an area's depleted natural and cultural environments can be restored from the revenue generated from tourism, if tourism is properly managed. Blaming tourism for deforestation, litter and inflation will serve no purpose (Gurung, C.P. and Coursey M. De., 1994).

Batal (1998) has studied the prospects of eco-tourism in the Begnas and Rupa Lake watershed area. In this study that natural environment is found to play a major role for the prospect of eco-tourism. The natural resources such as lake, forest wildlife as well as unique local culture of these areas were found suited for expanding and promoting eco-tourism. During the study the impact of tourism is seen to have influenced to some extent in the employment, education, transportation agriculture, communication, culture, industry and business sectors.

### **2.3 Empirical Studies**

Nyaupane (1999) has made comparative evaluation of eco-tourism conducting a case study of the ACAP Nepal. This study compared an officially designated eco-tourism area with an established trekking area in terms of

environmental, economic and socio-cultural costs and benefits and tourist experiences. The study shows the designated eco-tourism area has experienced slightly less marketed negative impacts on the natural and socio-cultural environments and fewer negative economic impacts than the established trekking/tourism area. However, the designated eco-tourism area also found to experience slightly fewer positive impacts on the natural and socio-cultural environment and significantly fewer economic impacts in terms of employment generation than the established trekking area. In addition the study shows that tourist visiting the eco-tourism area indicated more positive experiences from their visits to the eco-tourism area than in the established trekking area.

According to the Ninth Plan of HMG, "Tourism will be developed as one of the key sectors enhancing employment and as a key sector for economic development. The expansion of tourism to village will contribute more to the economic development" (9<sup>th</sup> Plan of HMG, P. 64) clearly the tourism sector is considered by HMG as a key to strengthening the national economy improving living standards and reducing poverty Ninth Plan's policy and implementation strategies include promotion of eco-tourism programme such as development of model tourist villagers, development of new trekking areas comes under these strategies (Nirola, 2003).

The 10<sup>th</sup> plan is focused to review tourism, policies, assessment of net contribution to economy from tourism, review of institutional performance Nepal's tourism policy, regulation and institutional arrangement. It will also focus to develop tourism infrastructure in remote area which will ultimately help to develop domestic tourism in Nepal (Nirola, 2003). The United Nations designated the year 2002 as the International Year at Eco-tourism (IYE). The UN's focus on the issue is in recognition of eco-tourism's potential as a development tool that can advance the three basic goals of it's convention on biological diversity.



- a) Conserve biological and cultural diversity.
- b) Promote the sustainable use of bio-diversity by generating income, jobs and business opportunities in the eco-tourism and related business network.
- c) Share the benefits of eco-tourism development equitably with local communities and indigenous people.

The definition (IYE) put forth by eco-tourism society, eco-tourism is "Purposeful travel to natural areas to understand the cultural and natural history of the environment taking care of the eco-system while producing economic opportunities that make the conservation of natural resources financially beneficial to local citizens. In this regard, the sustainable tourism network (STN) based in NTB has brought about a number of programmes and events to celebrate this event World Tourism Organization (WTO) and Trekking Agents Association of Nepal (TAAN) (UN, 2002).

The WTO describes sustainable tourism development as development that meets the needs of present tourists and host regions while protecting and enhancing opportunities for the further. It is envisaged as leading to management of all resources in such a way that economic, social and aesthetic needs can be fulfilled while maintaining cultural integrity, essential ecological processes, biological diversity, and life support systems. Eco-tourism planning and management the institute of forestry. (Second Draft Pokhara, July, 2003)

Eco-tourism focuses on local cultures, wilderness adventures, to volunteering, personal growth and learning new ways to live on our vulnerable planet. It is typically defined as travel to destination where the flora, fauna and cultural heritage are the primary attractions. Responsible eco-tourism includes program that minimize the adverse effects of traditional tourism on the natural environment and enhance the cultural integrity of local people. Hence, in addition to evaluating environment and cultural factors, initiatives by

hospitality provides to promote, re-cycling energy efficiency, water re-use and the creation of economic opportunities for local communities are an integral part of eco-tourism. (Pleumaron, Anita 02 July, 2005).

### 2.3.1 Main Factful Findings in the Study Areas

#### Species Diversity

	Worldwide	Nepal	SPNP
Plants	248,428	5,856	1,200
Mammals	4,000	181	32
Birds	9,040	863	200
Reptiles	6,300	100	40

SPNP established in 1984 with an area of 3,555 km to conserve the Trans-Himalayan eco-system and Tibetan type of flora and fauna. Its duo name "Shey" and "Phoksundo" have been derived from the 11<sup>th</sup> century Monastery called Shey and the deepest lake in Nepal called Phoksundo. In 1998 an area of 1349 km<sup>2</sup> surrounding the park was declared as befferzone which is jointly managed by the park and the local communities.

## Information

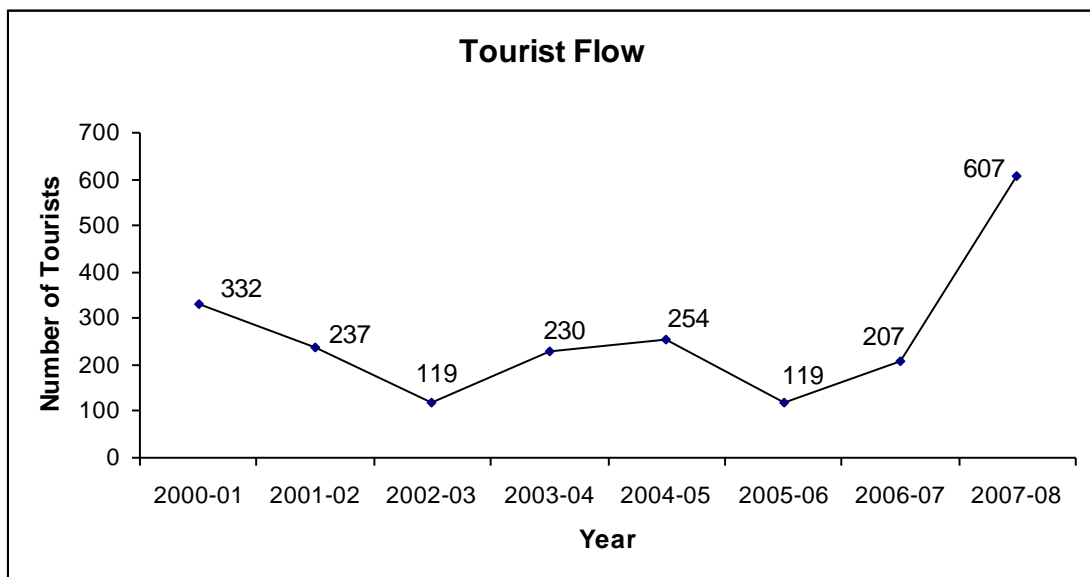
Location	Dolpa and Mugu of Mid-western Devt. Region
National Park Area	3555Km <sup>2</sup>
Declared Year	1984
Major Lakes	Phoksundo, Jagdulla, Buka Daha, Chamkune
Bioclimatic Zone	Upper Temperate to Alpine
Highest Elevation	6883m (Kanjiroba)
Major Geographical Character	Trans Himalayan
Major Destinations	Phoksundo Lake, Suligad waterfall, Shey, Samling, Tsakang and Yanger, Jagdulla lake etc.
Nomination for World Heritage Site (WHS)	Proposed as WHS in 1999 by Government of Nepal
Bufferzone area	1349 km <sup>2</sup>
Declared year	1998 AD
Population	12855 (Male- 6534, female- 6321)
Major Ethnic Group	Lama, Baiji, Gurung, Brahmin and Chhetri
Economy	Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Seasonal migration and trade
Ramsar site declaration	Phoksundo Lake (declared on September 2007, Ramsar Site No. 1694)
Major issues	Poverty, Livestock Grazing, Crop and Liverstock Depredation, High Dependency on Natural Resource and Poaching.
Add. attractions	Snow Leopard, Himalayan Monal, Dho valley, People and culture, Chorten, Tripura Sundari Temple and Yarchagumba (Cordyceps Sinensis)

Source: SPNP, Report August 2008

Since permit to trek upto Lake Phoksundo, October 1992, the Trans-Himalayan region of upper Dolpa has also been opened to groups and individual organized by a certified trekking company and accompanied by government liaison officer but for lower Dolpa including Southern part of SPNP to foreign trekkers was in May 1989. Despite of tremendous tourism potential in this area, the number of tourists in low due to its remoteness and poor infrastructure. Trekking permit for lower Dolpa costs US \$10/Week, upper Dolpa US \$700/10days (each extra day costs US \$ 70, SPNP (top of) \$100 for SAARC National and NRs.1000 for others.

**Figure 2.3.1**

**Flow of Tourist Table upto 2008**



Source: SPNP Report, August 2008

As we see that the flow of tourist from 2000 to 2008 AD was increasing. However, the tourist flow in 2001 to 2006-07 was relatively decreased. The tourist flow number in 2002-03 and 2005-06 were only 119. So, it can be concluded that the tourists flow in 2000-01 was 322 whereas in 2007-08 this figure goes up to 607. Hence the flow of tourist from 2000-01 to 2007-08 was increasing according to the report of SPNP, as shown in the figure above.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Sources of Data and Information**

The sources of data and information were of two types as : Primary data and secondary data. Primary data were taken from direct visit to study area with active involvement of researcher himself through survey and observation by using questionnaire and check list. Secondary data were taken from various books, research report, journals, articles of NTB, DNPWC and DDC, VDC profiles which include both published and unpublished reports. The sources of data and information mainly taken by primary and secondary way from tourists (domestic and international), local elites and hotel members who interested to the area subject matter. The VDCs, DDC Dolpa, study area, the local people and tourists were the information respondents. .

#### **3.2 Methods of Data Collection**

Necessary Data was collected by using suitable tools and techniques through primary and secondary data collection methods. In this study primary and accurate data, the structured questionnaire, unstructured interview and non participant observation with photo, documentary and focus group discussion methods were applied.

##### **3.2.1 Questionnaire Survey**

Structured questionnaire for the informants were open ended and closed typed. The local, elite, tourists, hotel members filled up it by own self and guided by the researcher.

##### **3.2.2 Key Information Interview**

The key informants were interviewed for the information related to the subject matter. The VDCs member, local people, teachers, students and elites were the key informants.

### 3.2.3 Field visit and Observation

While field visit and observation, the researcher concerned with the prospects and challenges of eco-tourism. In the study area mainly helped by tourists, locals, hotels, camera (movie/digital), purposive visited selected household non participant observation technique applied and the contribution of local people as well as tourists in the study area.

### 3.2.4 Focus Group Discussion

Focus group discussion held in study area with in active participants (men, women, students, teachers, ethnic groups) and then where the researcher raised the focus questions and guided them lastly they accepted the conclusion and end the discussion.

### 3.3 Sampling Technique and Size

The study area included 4 VDCs (Vijer, Phoksundo, Tinje, Saldang) but partially Raha, Kaigaun, Tripurakot, Rimi, Dho VDCs. But this NP occupied Dolphu and Kimri VDCs from Mugu district. The PNP area contains 12,855 total population. Among those population households, the researcher applied purposive sampling for the area selection on the sizes.

S.N.	Description/Streams	Total Population (approx.)	Sampling (%)
1	Tourists during study period (natural + international)	200 (average)	20% (= 40 people)
2	Local people	250 HHs	20% (= 50 HHs)
3	Hotels (small + big)	50 HHs	20% (=10 HHs)
	Total	500	60%

### 3.4 Methods of Data Analysis

In order to analyze data for the study, the researcher used both secondary and primary sources data. The primary data collected from the local,

tourists, hotels, elites, field observation and group discussion were analyzed. The different grades are used to measure the level of satisfactions. The answers from the structured, open, close etc. questionnaires in the field are kept in systematically and presented in tabular form for the result. The power point or computer, formulae from statistical subject, maps, etc. used for analysis. The methods of analysis used according to the nature of data information. Almost help from different tools and movie camera had taken. Within the study area itself analyzed to form a real material.

### **3.5 Limitation**

As the social science research is never ending process but every research may not be totally perfect and away from the limitation. Hence the study is not the exception of that. The study was conducted in Shey-Phoksundo National Park area and its title as a case study on the topic of "prospect and challenges of eco-tourism." In fact conducting the comprehensive research, its needed huge amount of resources i.e. time, finance, manpower, suit period of seasons and physical mental conditions of the researcher. So, the researcher is the student and is confined to study in small area (within 4VDCs) and few sample size (respondents) as of such limitation. His study may not fulfill entirely due to the various constraints. The researcher was mainly based on primary and secondary source of data. The study was at micro level and findings of the study can not be generalized or may not represent the whole country and similar other places, though, the caution were taken in generalizing the findings. The researcher may try to expose main hidden and popular destinations by the help of movie camera with photos taking service and with few elite persons.

## CHAPTER - FOUR

### DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREA

#### 4.1 Main Prospect and Challenges of Ecotourism in the Study Area

The major prospects found in the study area were given below:

##### 4.1.1 Shey-Phoksondo National Park (SPNP)

Shey-Phoksoundo is largest National Park located Mid-Western region of Nepal in the remote district 'Dolpa'. With diverse terrain and altitude, variation, the park, established in 1984 with an area 3,555 sq. km spreads over Dolpa and Muga district and support a broad range of wildlife and vegetation. It is one of the few areas protecting trans-Himalyan ecology. The park has more than 286 flora species of botanical importance and in home to blue sheep, heral, musk deer, leopard, wild dog, marmot, weasel, mouse, hare, rhesus, and longer monkeys, himalayan, thahar, himalayan, black bear and jackals. The upper region is habitat of the rare snow leopard over 200 species of birds including the yellow-throated Morten, Tietal Partridge, woodshipe, white throated tit, wood accentor, and crimson eared rose finch are also found here are the impeyan and cheer peasent, chaough revens, Tibetan new cock, Tibetan twit, brown dipper Himalayan griffon and immaerger. Apart from these the park is home of six spices of reptiles and 29 species of butterfly (NTB, 2006).

**Table 4.1.1**

**Biodiversity of SPNP Area**

Species	No.	Species	No.
Flora Diversity	417	Reptiles	> 6
Fauna Diversity	32	Butterflies	26
Birds	260	Mammal Wild Animals	> 4

*Sources: DNPWC, 2005*



### **4.1.2 Shey-Phoksundo Lake**

Shey Phoksundo lake is the deepest, second largest and unique type of lake in Nepal. It changes its more than 7 colours in a clear day. It is located in Dolpa district, mid part of SPNP having 4.8 km length, 1.6 km width and more than 650 m depth. The colour mostly shows real blue and pristine. Such features and attractive sites around it the main attraction of the tourists from national and international. This lake is one of the most attractive and touristic destination in Dolpa district. Thus the lake and around its features regarded as a major touristic attraction centre of Dolpa.

### **4.1.3 Suligad Waterfall (Phoksundo Waterfall)**

This is another touristic product of SPNP area in Dolpa which located in Phoksundo VDC and near the lake Phoksundo. Its the highest altitudinal located waterfall of Nepal and has a length of 168 m which is situated at an elevation 3613 m from sea level also located near the trekking route. So we can behold it while trekking without investing extra money and times as well. The water comes from the lake Phoksundo. After crossing 500m distance it falls as Suligad Jharna and it extended upto Suligad.

### **4.1.4 Flora and Fauna**

The flora and Fauna found within the study area is extremely diverse. The northern regions contain barren areas of the upper himalayas and the trans himalayan step lands consisting of some rhododendron, caragana shrubs, and salix juniper, white himalayan birth and the occasional silver fir dominate the high meadows of the inner-Himalayas. Less than 5% of the part is forested, with mid of it lying in the southern portion. The Suligad valley's flora consists of blue pine, spruce, hemlock, cedar, silver fir, poplar, rhododendron and bamboo. The park contains 286 species of ethno botanical importance. The study area also provides important habitat for endangered species including. Snow leopard, grey wolf, musk deer, blue sheep, goat, great Tibetan sheep, himalayan tahr, leopard, jackal and himalayan black bear are found in the study

area. The area is home to six species of reptile and 29 species of butterfly including the highest flying butterfly in the world; "Paralasa Nepalaica". The park provides habitat for over 200 species of birds among which include yellow threatened marten, Tiberan Partridge, wood shrike, white throated, wood accentor and crimson eyed rose finch. (DNPWC, 2004)

#### 4.1.5 The Medicinal Plants

The list of important medicinal plants available in the study area (SPNP area) as:

S.N.	Species	S.N.	Species
1.	Dactylorhiza haragirea	13.	Delphinium brunonianum
2.	Nardostachys grandiflora	14.	Corydalis megacalyx
3.	Amebium benthamii	15.	Corydalis casmeriana
4.	Dracocephalum tanguicum	16.	Soroeris hookerana
5.	Incravillea Mairei	17.	Pohophyllum hexandrum
6.	Rheum australe	18.	Meconopsis horridula
7.	Reopicrohiza Scrophylaniflora	19.	Logitis kunawurensis
8.	Cordiodiscus Laanuginosus	20.	Meconopsis grandis
9.	Acortium spicatum	21.	Delphinium Caeruleum
10.	Megacarpea polyandra	22.	Halenia elliptica
11.	Gentiana robusta	23.	Gentianella Paludosa
12.	Primula buryana	24.	Cardiiceps Cynesis

Source: SPNP, 2060 B.S.

#### 4.1.6 Scenic View/Natural View

Standing in the midst of the rugged natural landscape of Dolpa in all its beauty and experiencing its remoteness you cannot help but feel that is Shangrila region with an aura of mysticism about it. Dolpa also called "Bayal" or the hidden valley, has fascinating village and is a land of mystery scenery and peace (NTB, 2006). Having the numerous characteristic of Dolpa, like rugged landscape, mountainous, alpine and temperate climate, forestry, Tibetan culture, numerous river and rivulets, will known lake, bio-diversity etc. help to

increase picturesque and panoramic view in upper and lower Dolpa which absolutely attracted tourists for long time with mountain ranges welcoming via smiling hospitality, blue-pure holy Phoksundo lake fascinating via purifying tourist's soul and providing amazement, adventurous. Also can hear the evergreen sounds of river, birds like as a melodious natural songs, swinging sound of different forests and plants, which is entertaining constantly. The harmonie with magnetic sound combination of varieties of natural elements really making Dolpa like a hidden paradise.

#### 4.1.7 Historically (Reputed) Popular Monasteries

There are individual and public monasteries which are related to biodiversity protection. Such as, the Twashung Gumba is located the edge of (beach) Phoksundo lake and established before 900 years for conserving the wildlife or nature through safeguarding from poaches, thieves and illegal persons. The Shey Gumba was established in the 11<sup>th</sup> century and located upper Dolpa (Saldang VDC) which is important for tourists. Some of Gumba in Dolpa VDC only as:

S.N.	Reg. No.	Reg. Date	Name of Gomba VDC	Communal	Est. Date
1	836	056/2/2	Thashung Chholing, Phoksundo	Bon-Po	1628
2	783	057/12/24	Sukree Disar, Phoksundo	"	1937
3	786	057/12/24	Punikha Phoksundo	"	1937
4	789	057/12/24	Yungdung Chlaukam, Phoksundo	"	-
5	835	058/2/1	Jimgang Phoksundo	"	1948
6	788	057/1/24	Namkayal Lohakhai	"	120 Pua
7	-	-	Shey Gumba, Saldang	"	before 900

Source: Monastery Development and Improvement Committee, 2064

(Type: 1 Public Monastery, 2-5 individual and 5 Public Monastery)

Some of the historical old monasteries was stolen by someone (12 monasteries from Saldang), but by the exercise and struggled of locals and

Udkyan Lama (Gurung) with Rimpoche Lama brought back to Saldang (Vital role played by government and local leader currently).

#### **4.1.8 Local Culture and Hospitality**

The inhabitants of the study area, practice Bon-Po religion, formed the entire cultural base for Tibetan Buddhism was found 18,000 years ago, during the Zhang Zung Empire of today's western Tibet. The landscape is dotted with sacret monasteries, thanka paintings and Chhortens, some handicrafts, handmade "Pakhi", blanket, Yak-port and Kiti etc. are some local community dependable trade goods within Tibet and other districts etc. This area is famous for its salt, goat, sheep-wool trade caravans (DNPWC, 2004). Next major culture of the study area is the hosting innocent, happy appearance hospitality style for guests, with flower and khata or garland which is really typical hospitality style of upper Dolpa-people. So tourists can realize to different feelings and amusement. Their festivals and celebration times put hospitality and welcoming features of the area.

In this way the natural phenomenon like geographically, flora, fauna, ethic groups of cultural-social and economic norms and values, languages, religions, glacier lakes like Chamkune and Buka Daha, springs, the Tibetan Autonomous Region, White Kagmara Mountain, with homestay culture in Rigma-Pugma places and Mysterious tourism destinations colouring the study area for attractive tourism destinations facilities. The study area has many opportunity of tourism; trekking, mountaineering, cultural study, research, religious visit and expedition are the main activities that can implement in SPNP area. For the main trekking route to the study area for exploring natural beauties, culture, biodiversity and the contribution of touristy area, tourists mainly go through Suligad Gate, Dho, Kaigaun (Where Jagdula lake situated) and Kalerikanda. The study area has non-timbered and timbered plants, jungles, jagdulatal and high lands which can attract domestic and foreign tourists. The high flow of tourist uplift the socio-economic status of the hosts.

## **4.2 Main Challenges (Problems)**

The shortage of the following facilities created a lot of challenges of eco-tourism in SPNP area.

### **4.2.1 Communication Challenge**

This is the main challenging sector in the study area till now. There is no telecommunication, network, T.V., internet, mobile and so on in all the ward.. Though there is a radio service, it had not functioned well in high altitude. Among the telecommunication service, telephone and internet is major medium in tourism sector but it is lacking in the study area. At present, near Phoksundo lake there is one telephone service which is temporary and depend on solar energy. If we construct hydro-electric power in the lake side, they may support other developmental activities.

### **4.2.2 Accessibility**

Accessibility challenges is the most hard and vital one for eco-tourism development. Accessibility is the backbone of tourism. There is only trail and air service. Air transportation available upto Juphal airport. The visitors have to faced up and down trail routes while walking with labors, yak, donkey and horses. These is no other vehicles facilities. It has become a major constraint of eco-tourism development. If this problem can be remove then this may support constructing road, and mould the recent situation in the study area.

### **4.2.3 Accommodation Challenge**

It is another challenge after or before visiting the destination. The tourist need well facilitated hotel, motels, restaurants, tea and cafe house and staying whole night facilities. Also needed resort, guest house/home stay, food items, nice welcoming styles. So normal negligible tea and hotels can't suitable enough. These regarding challenges to set such facilities for the eco-tourism in the study area is important to develop it the eco-tourism.

#### **4.2.4 Trained Guide**

There is a shortage of trained tourist guide in the study area to solve the problem of untrained manpower, the government, private sectors, co-operative organizations and locals needed to support and participate in each steps. There needed much institutions and I/NGOs to give more training to the people who interested in ecotourism. Training should be about guide, hotel amenity, agency setting, awareness training for the people who may help in the tourism sector. So these qualified tourist guide and coordination facilities promote only by well training programmes in the district.

#### **4.2.5 Pure Drinking Water, Electricity and Sanitation Challenge**

These is a lack of access to quality drinking water, electricity and sanitation facility. To solve these problems is the main challenge in the tourism sector in the study area. Above mentioned facilities are very poor in the study area. Besides few tea stalls and small hotels and opened places for came. There are no well conditions. But regarding to electricity, the mirco-hydro plant has not been installed. But solar projects has helped this problem to some extent in the study area.

#### **4.2.6 Health education, and cooperative organization (Travel agencies)**

In the study area there is lack of medical, education, travel agencies or cooperative organization. So to set those facilities or promote them is the main challenging action to improve the ecotourism. There is only one boarding school "Taparicha School" and unfacilitated health post and due to lack of travel agencies the tourist visited hardly. So to set such facilities and minimized the problem all the sectors needed to support the eco-tourism system in the study area.

#### **4.2.7 Marketing and Recreational Centre**

Marketing and recreational centre are the important needs in tourism in the 21<sup>st</sup> century in all over the world. Publicizing play help in information supply regarding to destination or recreational centres or what and where

tourism products are located. Without having actual information, the visitor can't study their desired place. Marketing play mediator role between consumers and product. So set well marketing system is the major challenge and regarding basic need for tourists as recreational centre is another challenge in the study area. There is no permission for boating and tour or travel in the Lake Phoksundo. So, without chief entry fee and permission from high level it is difficult for simple persons for to visit. Since tourists connect for getting knew experience, knowledge and recreation from the destination, there needed to develop tourism sector by well management and built up recreational centers. The eco-tourists mostly prefers to get entertainment from the ecology so environment friendly recreational centers should be established. The desires of the visitors might be varied according to their intention or nature.

#### **4.2.8 Visitor information centre and entry fee**

Visitor information centre is necessary in the destination especially for eco-tourism to avoid different difficulties and accidents. Planning to visit and fulfill the desire of tourist, tourist need to have information about the place. It can be help through the pamphlet, booklet, brochure, direct interaction, documentary and so on. There are some centers outside the study area like Dunai, Juphal, SPNP office, but not enough. So to built up such facilities is the challenging task.

#### **4.2.9 Nature Conservation and Utilization for Future Development**

There is uncountable natural wealth. We have no conserved and not yet utilized for right order and also not helping by the government's policy, local coordination and the tourists activities. There are valuable plants and animals in the study area. Suitable cultivation and protection of indigenous heritages and items. There only seen less safeguarding and poaching or hunting in the place. Tourists are throughing wastages every where, creating unwanted socio-cultural activities in the open place, not utilizing local items etc are. causing tourism polluted. So, to increase positive activities everybody participate to promote the ecotourism. To extract or take out deer "Navi" without making it

dead which may increase the economic power by NP, but not by others. Taking fee from persons for visiting, punishment for bad behavioural persons may promote the system in the study area. The researcher took more than 5 persons to find the main challenges and prospects of eco-tourism from 4 VDCs.

Similarly due to expensive entry fee and permission, flow of tourist is not expected amount. According to government rule, each individual must pay \$700 for 10 days but for more to pay \$70 charge pay for per day in upper Dolpa. This constraint is the challenging force in the study area. This provision must be modified according to circumstances.



## CHAPTER - FIVE

### ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS

#### 5.1 Data Analysis & Presentation

By the methods of data & information analysis done by the researcher's that provides clear and whole scenario of the study. This unit analyzed through tools: table, percentage, graphs and charts. While for collection process the researcher used purposive sampling tools: transect walk, ranking scoring, SWOT methods are applied one an after other for quantitative and qualitative data. Remaining data or information are explained in chapter II.

**Table 5.1.1**  
**Population and other records of the study area**

S.N.	VDCs	HH	Total Pop.	Male	Female	Tel.	Ele.	No. of resp.	Literacy in VDCs	Language	Religion	AVG H/H
1	Phoksundo	102	491	240	251	-	-	25	50.1%	Kham (100%)	Buddhist (Bon-po)	4.81
2	Saldang	414	1746	846	900	-	-	10	15.6%	Kham (100%)	Buddhist (Bon-po)	4.22
3	Vijer/Blijer	89	390	180	210	-	-	7	0.9%	Kham (100%)	Buddhist (Bon-po)	4.38
4	Dho	182	782	289	393	-	-	8	18.7%	Kham (100%)	Buddhist (Bon-po)	4.3
5	Total	787	3409	1655	1754	-	-	50	21.325	100%	Budhist	4.43

Source: National Population Census, 2001 Nepal.

By analyzing above data the population of study area (4 VDCs), Saldang VDC has high population and Phoksundo has less among the study VDCs. There is more number of female than male, no telephone and electricity services. The literacy status is high (50.1%) in Phoksundo and very low (0.9%) in Bhijer VDC. The record taken by the researcher that there is almost used the language is 'Kham' and were Bhuddhist (Bon-po) religious communities. But in

the current period, there was telephone and solar energy services in a few wards in the study area.

**Table 5.1.2**

**Main occupation & income source of the respondents**

VDCs	Occupation					Income source				Activities/stay			
	Agriculture	Business	Service	Small Industry/other	Student	Agriculture	Business	Herbs harvesting	Service	Warm Season		Cold seasons	
										Max. in side VDC	max. outside village	monthly inside village	max. outside village
Phoksundo	12	4	3	16	5	12	4	6	3	24	1	10	25
Saldang	3	3	1	1	2	3	3	3	1	8	2	4	6
Blujer	4	3	-	-	1	3	3	1	-	6	1	3	4
Dho	3	2	1	-	2	3	2	2	1	7	1	4	4
Total	22	12	5	2	10	21	12	12	5	45	5	21	39
%	44	24	10	2	20	42	24	24	10	90	10	42	48

Source: Field Survey, 2009 (total respondent were 50)

**Table 5.1.3**

**Land holding size of sampled HHs family**

VDCs	Land holding size (Ropani)				Support from NP (SPNP)			No. of respondent
	Up to 5 Ropani	5-10	10-15	15-20	more	quite	less (non)	
Phoksundo	10	8	5	2	2	8	15	25
Saldang	5	4	1	-	2	3	5	10
Bhijer	4	2	1	-	1	2	4	7
Dho	6	2	-	-	1	2	5	8
Total	25	16	7	2	6	15	29	50
%	50	32	14	4	12	30	58	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

**Table 5.1.4****Monthly income (average) of sampled HHs family**

VDCs	No. of respondents	Monthly income						
		< 1000	1000-3000	3000-4000	4000-5000	5000-6000	6000-7000	7000-8000 or over
Phoksundo	25	6	5	4	4	2	2	2
Saldang	10	3	1	1	1	1	2	1
Bhijer	7	2	1	1	1	1	1	-
Dho	8	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
Total	50	12	9	7	7	5	6	4
%	100	24	18	14	14	10	12	8

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

Monthly income of sampled households was very few. It is clear from the table that majority of respondent's income was between <1000 (24%) and very few respondents income was >7000 (more than 7000 is 8%). This scenario shows that almost all the people were unable to fulfill their basic needs through this income.

## **5.2 Knowledge about tourism and eco-tourism**

Tourism is very comprehensive word and its definition and perception may vary person to person and institutions. According to Hermon Van Scheullard. "The same total of operations mainly of economic nature, which directly related to the entry stay and movement of foreigners inside and outside a certain country, city or region. Regarding to study area, the knowledge and perceptions of local people on tourism these is variation in knowledge, perception of respondents which is presented in following table.

**Table 5.2.1**  
**Perception by Locals**

Knowledge/perception about tourism	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1) Experiencing or knowing new place, things & knowledge	15	30
2) Wandering natural and cultural places	14	28
3) Activities of climbing trekking, rafting	4	8
4) Process of leisure holiday time and taking recreation	1	2
5) No idea/don't know	16	32
Total (%)	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

Analyzing the table that 30% and 2% of respondents pointed that the tourism is experiencing or knowing new place, things, knowledge and had no knowledge about tourism respectively. It shown that the people are less awareness about tourism and eco-tourism which proved by above table.

### **5.2.1 Respondent's Knowledge about eco-tourism**

The branch of tourism which concerned with entire environmental friendly, ethnics, principles and so on or nature based tourism. Its also known as nature based sustainable, alternative tourism and pro-poor tourism. According to Lindblad -1993 (father of eco-tourism). The meaning of eco-tourism in a single word is respect. "Respect is the root of everything worthwhile and good. Respect to nature, local people, culture, history, community aspirations and tourist themselves."

**Table 5.2.2**

**Knowledge of Respondents about eco-tourism**

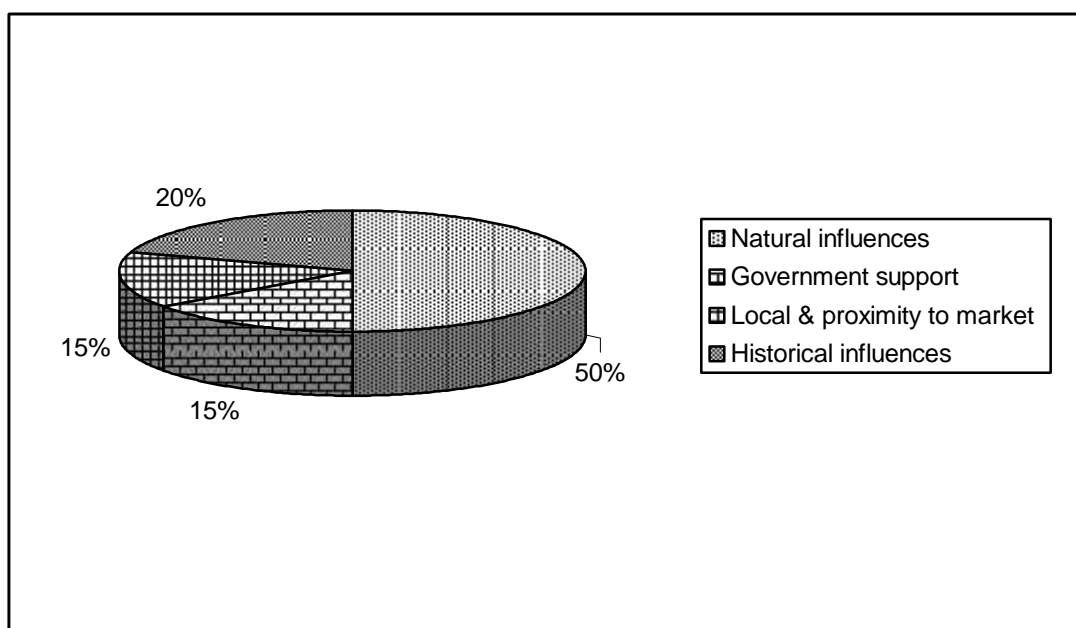
Knowledge	No. of Respondents (from 4 VDCs)	Percentage
Nature tourism	7	14
Environment friendly tourism	6	12
Sustainable tourism	4	8
Alternatives other tourism	7	14
No idea/don't know	25	52
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

As shown in the data table, more than half percentage of respondents were unaware about eco-tourism.

**Figure 5.2.1**

**Environment for eco-tourism (according to respondent's)**



Regarding the above concluded figure shows that 50% of Natural influence, government support 15%, local & proximity to market 15% and historical influences was 20% of environment for eco-tourism. Among those natural influences was greater for the scope.

**Table 5.2.3**

**Main festival of study area people**

Festivals	No. of Respondents (4 VDCs)	Percentage
Dashain	-	-
Tihar	-	-
Loshar	50	100
New Year	-	-
Other	-	-
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

Due to Buddhism area, there are almost 100% are celebrating the festivals "Loshar" in the research area. The festival occurs in February and ward, in off season. The different types of tourists appearing or increasing day by day. The people are a little changing according to the flow of tourism stream and time and are mostly Bon-po religion and while they celebrating the traditional festival the tourists come to see it, as the table showed.

**5.2.2 Type of dresses and foods tourist mostly prefer to see (Responded by local and hotels operators)**

In tourism, experiencing new things, place and knowledge gain by tourists so they want to go outside their permanent residence for acquiring knowledge and recreation. Hence tourists want to see local dresses and foods while visiting rural areas, as this connection the response of respondents regarding tourists interest to see as below.

**Table 5.2.4**  
**Dresses & Foods Prefer**

Interest of tourist	No. of respondents (local + hotels)	Percentage
Typical local foods and dresses	17	28.33
Less local foods and dresses	9	15
Mostly outside dresses and foods	4	6.67
No idea	30	50
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

According to above response mostly interested of tourists said "no ideas" but second most response came typical local foods and dresses.

Where as in celebrating the festival they uses typical local foods and dresses and almost less used modern foods and dresses according to the respondents of study area.

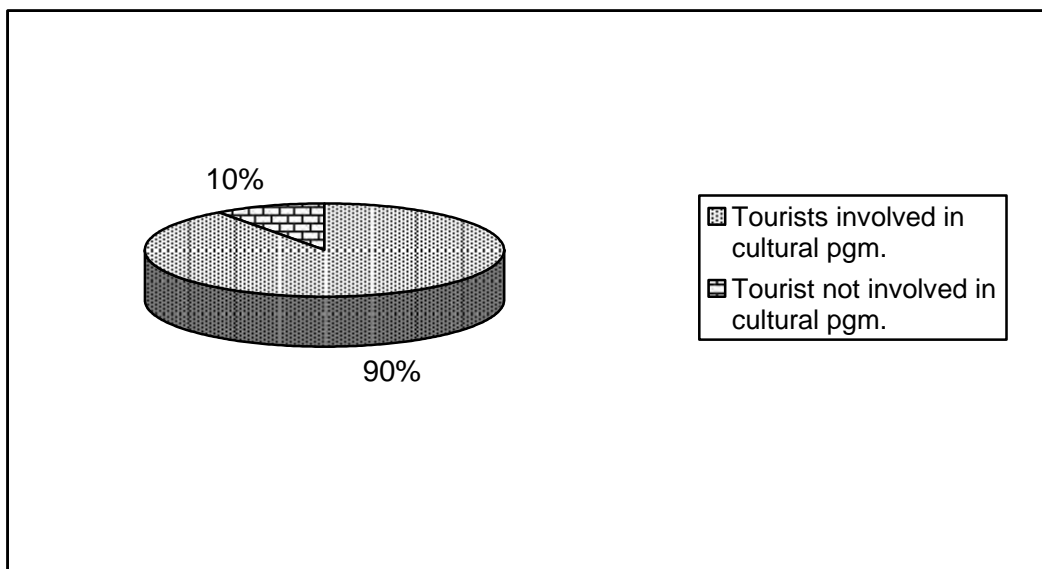
### **5.2.3 Historical and cultural monastery and chhorten**

There are many historical and cultural monasteries and chhortens which gives the entire value or symbol as. Shey Gomba at northern side and established in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Thashung Gomba located nearby lake-Phoksundo was built about 900 years ago to conserve wildlife and historical phenomenon (DNPWC, 2004). There were more than 40 monasteries and 80 chortens in the study area. There were also other very old printed Gombas and chartens which were not seen and recorded yet. Most of are hidden paradise natural historical and cultural symbols. On the prospect of tourist visiting for studying local language and religion, it found that their curiosity to get information about religion, tradition, living style etc. seen low percentage of unconscious of the respondents were unknown about it. So visiting tourist to study ecology found less comparing to the tourist visiting to only experiences and know about the area. Where as the tourist for eco-tourism almostly

curious to visit and involved in local cultural or religious programmes. The style of hosting or showing hospitality play vital role to flourish tourism at the particular tourist sites and also while returned going to destinations tourist get chance to know local culture as well as homestay for the tourist. With knowing the positive policy to boost up rural tourism response among respondents' in the study area. The following pie chart shows the activities about cultural programmes and natural elements involvement of tourists (national & international tourists) as:

**Figure 5.2.2**

**Activities involved by tourists + Locals together**



So

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

From the above chart shows that among 50 tourists 45 said 'yes' and 5 said 'no' interest in the programme. So cultural programmes attracted the different tourists.

### **5.3 Natural prospects of eco-tourism**

#### **5.3.1 Major attraction centre of tourist visiting**

There are many big and small tourists or attractions such as: waterfall, lakes, Himalayan ranges, indigenous medicinal plants/herbs, local culture which constantly increasing tourist attraction for a long time. So, Dolpa became one of the best tourist destination among the Nepal's other destination sites. The main attraction centres given by local, and tourists are:



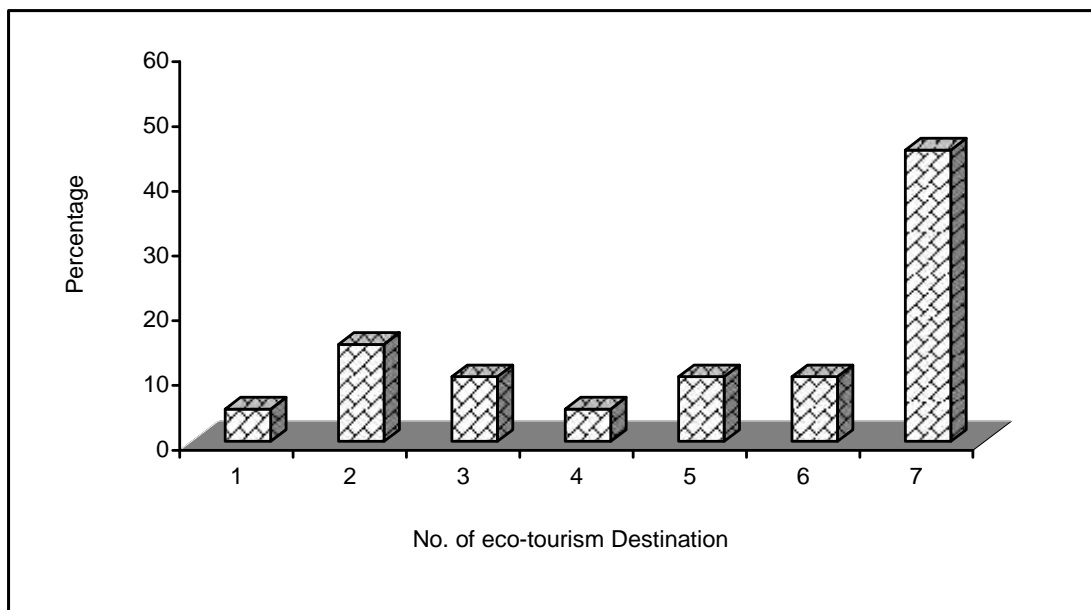
**Table 5.2.5**  
**Major attraction centre**

S.N.	Centres	(Local + tourists) Respondents	% (approx.)
1	Waterfall	5	5.56
2	Phoksundo lake, Jugdula Lake	15	16.67
3	Himalayan range	10	11.11
4	Medicinal plants (herbs)	5	5.56
5	Local culture & religion spots	10	11.11
6	Jungle Safari/advanturous walk (in the jungle or NP)	10	11.11
7	Try (NP including all above) to visit all above at once	45	50
	Total	90	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009 (Respondents : tourists + locals)

Analyzing the above table visiting all above destinations with in 6(six) months for different purposes, but with in above destinations, the tourists and locals all said the centre of tourist attraction is Phoksundo lake in the study area. Its shown in the figure below that almost tourists interested to visit all above at once as there are panoramic views of attraction.

**Figure 5.3.1**  
**Major Attraction Centre (according to above SN)**



Source: Field Survey, 2009.

### **5.3.2 Flow (frequency) of tourist visiting at National Park Area (NP) including its all parts or components or surroundings**

Even the study area includes only 4 VDCs as above maintained, the Shey-Phoksundo National Park Area includes 11 VDCs (two VDCs lies in Mugu). Beside Himalayan, eco-system or bi-diversity/ecological system conservation covered 3555sq.kms area of NP. The main aim to conserve it and its elements such as eco-system biodiversity natural diversities and land structures. Entry fee cost for foreigner is 1000 (NPR), SAARC 100 (NPR) and free for Nepali per person per day (according to report of NTB). Its development stages were followed below.

#### **5.3.2.1 Brief History of SPPNP Area**

- 2030 B.S. | Survey, done by American scientist "Dr. J. Syalar" conducted the prospect or possibility to establish the conservation area for black-sheep's habit and other wildlife (wildlife reserve)
- 2031 B.S. | Purpose, done for "wildlife reserve" establishment. . .
- 2040 B.S. | Established "Shey-Phoksundo National Park (SPPNP)."
- 2053 B.S. | WWF Nepal did supportive trail/exercised.
- 2055 B.S. | "Buffer zone" established
- 2056 B.S. | Put purpose to count NP "World Sampada Chetra" (World Heritage Site)
- 2064 B.S. | Kept Phoksundo lake as "Ramsar Chetra" (Ramsar site).
- 2064 B.S. | Acceptance of "NP and Buffer zone, 5 year's management plan" (now still running forward) (Source: NP or BZMC)

There has been managed a committee with the help of WWF Nepal in 2053 B.S. for upto 2065 B.S., and it has 11 members and its purpose to care bi-diversity or herbal plants, collect finance and use for the development for the area (protected). It has made rule regulation for the persons who entry the area. (Source: NP profile of Shey-Phoksundo NP) Within the NP, there are so many attraction areas. The tourists flowed according to their interest and individual expenditures.

Table Foreign tourist flow year (2065-2066)

Year in Nepali	Year -2065	Year -2066	Remarks
Baisakh	5	56	The rate of foreign tourists flowing less by less according to this comparison which was taken the SPNP office, Suligad Dolpa
Jestha	10	15	
Aashad	20	15	
Shrawan	114	45	
Bhadra	121	70	
Ashoj	168	117	
Kartik	82	86	
Mangsir	6	4	
Poush	-	-	
Magh	-	-	
Falgun	15	20	
Chaitra	13	-	
Total	554	428	

Source: SPNP Report. 2066 B.S.

The SPNP area lies in trans-Himalayan region of north-west Nepal, largest NP and established to preserve a unique trans-Himalayan ecosystem with diversity of flora and fauna. Having the diversity of eco-system many tourists are attracted to come in SPNP. The tourists flow in SPNP according to seasons as:

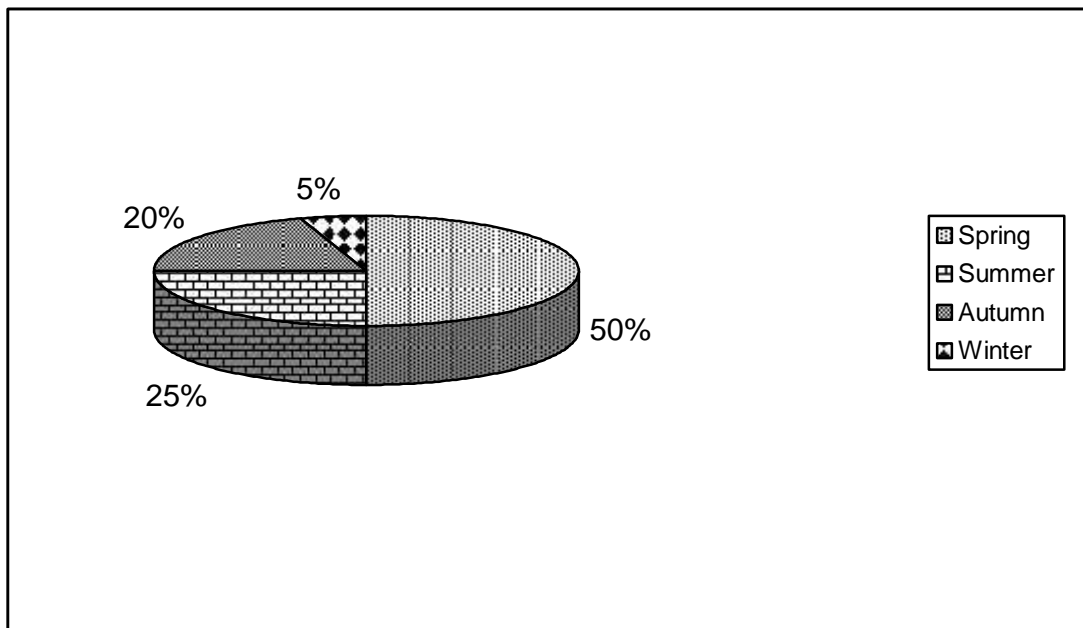
**Table 5.3.1**  
**Visit by Season**

Seasons	No. of respondents	Percentage	Remarks
Spring	30	50	Respondents were hotels and locals of 4 VDCS together
Summer	15	25	
Autumn	12	20	
Winter	3	5	
Total	60	100	

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

As we conclude from the table that the flow of tourist were in spring 50%, summer 25%, autumn 20% and winter 5%. So majority of tourist were used to come in spring and summer in the SPNP area .

**Figure 5.3.2**  
**Flow of Tourist by Seasons**



Source: Field Survey, 2009.

### **5.3.3 Flow of tourist visiting at Phoksundo lake, Sualigad waterfall and surroundings**

The Phoksundo lake, suligad waterfall (Phoksundo waterfall) and surroundings are the main heart-point for eco-tourist or any tourist to visit in the study area.

Phoksundo lake is situated in Dolpa district in the mid-western development region. It lies between 82°55'00" to 83°00'00" east longitude and 25°10'00" to 29°15'00" north latitude. It lies almost centre of the Shey-Phoksundo NP area. Its total area is about 5km<sup>2</sup>. Sagar & Phoksundo rivers area are main water resources for this lake. Its almost like Latin word "∩" in shape, but some said its like lung shaped or "y" shaped. Its length is 5.5km in North to South direction & about 800m in width. Its elevation is about 3,650m above sea level.

**Table 5.3.2**

**Shows that hydrology of the PL (Phoksundo Lake)**

Parameter	Unit
Elevation	3650m
Surface area	4.5km <sup>2</sup>
Maximum length	5.5km
Maximum width	800m
Water volume	m <sup>3</sup>
Average depth	680
Mean depth	over 650m

Source: Phoksundo Profile/on notice board nearby the lake Phoksundo.

The beautiful or lovely site of Suligad or Phoksundo waterfall has length 168m is next heart touch view with wildlifed everygreen forest, herbs, shrubs and sallo-trees whose was really making the tourist to stay more than they expected. The blue-sleeps, Ghoral, dear, rabbit, wild mouse, birds, and varieties of creatures making the tourist to attract much more. Surrounding Himalayan, ranges attracting so much of tourists according to the respondents.

**Table 5.3.3**

**Shows the involvement of the tourists**

Flow (frequency)	No. of respondents	Percentage	Remarks
Too many	12	20	hotel & local persons
Many	30	50	
Medium	15	25	
Few	3	5	
Total	60 (hotel + locals)	100	

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

Almost 50% of respondents responded the tourist interest to visit and involve in tourism components. (Source: Field Survey, 2010)

### 5.3.4 Tourist visiting to See Natural Flora and Fauna

The SPNP area has providing natural habitat for fauna items and endangered species including the grey wolf, snow leopard, mask deer, red panda, blue sheep, great Tibetan sheep, Himalayan black bear, over 6 reptiles, over 29 species of butterfly and over 200 species of birds. Similarly the varieties of flora are found extremely diverse way as rhododendron, caragana, shrubs, salik, juniper blue pine, hemlock etc. also contained over 286 species of ethno botanical importance (NPWC, 2004). Having such type of natural phenomenon, the flow of tourist is also high in this area.

**Table 5.3.4**

#### **Visit tourist to see flora and faunal in the area**

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	36	90
No	4 (hardly)	10
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

Hence, above proved that almost tourist (90%) interested to share and see or visit flora & fauna natural heritages phenomenon in the study area.

### 5.3.5 Climatic condition for tourist to visit/tour

The area contains the transition from a monsoons dominated climate with 1500mm of annual precipitation in the south (suligad) to an arid climate with less than 500mm, a year in the northern slopes. Winter are quite severe, with frequent, snowfalls above 2500m temperatures remaining below freezing above 3,000m through much of winter (DNDNC, 2004). As the climate diversity this area is good for tourist for any purpose of visiting.

**Table 5.3.5**  
**Climate condition for eco-tourism**

Climate	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Best	8	20
Good	20	50
Medium	8	20
Bad	4	10
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

Regarding to climatic condition for tourist, it proved that response of respondents were good 20 (50%), best and medium 8(respectively 20%) and bad 4(10%). So it revealed the condition is quite good for tourist visiting except winter season.

### **5.3.6 Local people view about prospect (potentiality) of eco-tourism**

Actually eco-tourism termed as "it entirely related to conservation, proper utilization and management of environment or nature and its elements. Its environment friendly/nature based tourism". Thus, in connection to study area there is high prospect of eco-tourism where the cultural and natural environment has not been contaminated yet and we find same natural and cultural environment what was existed in the past. So analyzing the perception of respondents the majority 80% said there was prospect of eco-tourism 40 the table is given below:

**Table 5.3.6**  
**Prospect of eco-tourism**

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Prospect	40	80
No. prospect	5	10
Don't know	5	10
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009. (from local respondents)

## 5.4 Challenges of Ecotourism related to study area:

Specially 4As (Accommodation, Accessibility, Amenity, and Attraction) are the components of tourism which are needed to flourish and boosted up properly to increase the tourism industry. These key components should be managed well manner to develop eco-tourism in the study area.

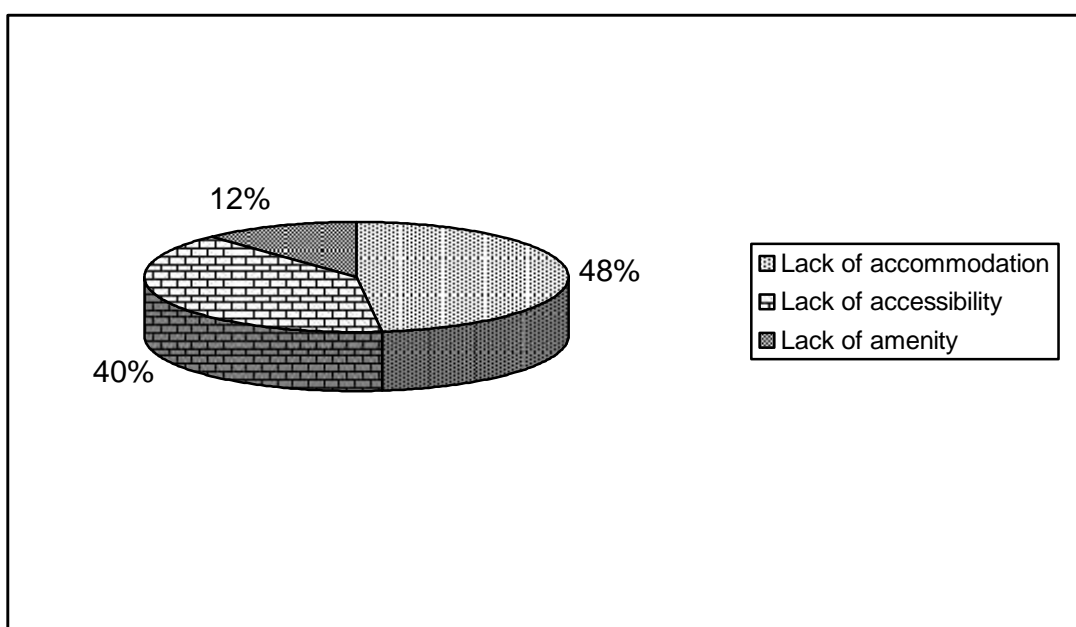
**Table 5.4.1**  
**Challenges of eco-tourism**

Challenge/problem	No. of respondents (local + hotel + tourist)	Percentage
Lack of accommodation	48	48
Lack of accessibility	40	40
Lack of amenity	12	12
Lack of attraction	-	-
Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

From above responded data clearly point out that except attraction, all 3As are needed to clear for the scope of eco-tourism. So prospects is high level but the challenges are uncountable to solve. The chart is given below.

**Figure 5.4.1**  
**Challenges of Eco-tourism**





#### 5.4.1 Availability of Hotel and Restaurant for visitors in study & adjoining Areas

There is no high standard hotel & restaurant in the study area. There is a problem of accommodation. No tea & cafe restaurants, motels or no availability of highly facilitated hotel and restaurants still now. So visitors themselves should manage the accommodation of interested to go such destination and invest money. The simple opened hotels and facilities were found in the area and some examples given below as:

**Table 5.4.2**  
**Some accommodations in the study area**

Hotel name	Per meal charge Rs.	No. of room	No. of bed	Charge per night Rs.
Maintain	150	2	5	100/bed
Swagat	150	3	10	150/ bed
yak	150	2	6	300/bed
Jharana	150	2	7	250/bed
Trekking	150	2	4	200/bed
Lake view	150	4	8	300/bed
River beach	150	1	6	150/bed

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

The area has so many quality less hotels & restaurants but few popular were given above. There mostly uses food as rice, potato curry, meat curry, bread, salty-tea (local) and sugar tea. Most of tourist used their own feats on the ground for stay. Now days there are 2-3 villages managing "The stay home" for tourists with in the study area.

#### **5.4.2 Availability of Transportation and communication facility in the study area**

Its very sad and difficult situation that there is no any transportation facilities except one ft. wide way and horse, donkey, yak, sheep, labors for means of transportations only for the tourists. From this year there is communication facility for every VDCs but not mobile system. Really, the foundation of tourism still not been improved due to access or road-transportation. Tourist, to go for the study area they have to go upto Nepalgunj by bus and then to Dolpa air-port by aeroplan and than after 3-5 days to reach destination. So this area remaining so far back from this access. Its sorrowful, tragic situation and bitter truth that unable to provide basic facility for the tourism in this area. Hence the scope would not be flourished properly.

**Table 5.4.3**

#### **Transportation and communication facility**

Facility	No. of respondents	Percentage
Availability of transportation and communication	-	-
No availability of transportation and communication	50	50
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

The table proved that there is no facility (100%) as mentioned above which is the main obstacle to enhance eco-tourism. So it needed to remove those challenges in permanent way.

#### **5.4.3 Availability of hospital in Study Area**

Hospital facility is vital necessary to enhance the tourism sector but we found only 4 health centre, 2 sub-health centre including Amchi hospital. But those were also not working well except Amchi hospitals.

**Table 5.4.4**  
**Availability of Hospital**

Hospital	No. of hospital
DDC level hospital	-
Community hospital	-
Health post	2
Sub-health post	2
Amchi hospital	2
Total	6

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

#### **5.4.4 Tourist recreational centre**

In tourism, people go one place to another for special purpose, experience and entertainment. So its found that there is no well facilitated restaurant, reports, parks, club, casino like in Pokhara and Kathmandu except natural and cultural attractions only. So, its realized that the recreation facility needed in and around destination area. The respondents responses are as:

**Table 5.4.5**  
**Recreation centre (with tourists)**

Recreational centre	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Available (minimum)	-	-
Not available	40	100
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

The above data information clearly classified that there is no recreational centre till now.

#### **5.4.5 About Tourist Information Centre**

Since the study area lies with in SPNP, there is no proper information centre. Before there were Sumdona, Polam NP's camp for providing general information and security for national and international tourists but the period

and action in "people war" run by Maoist, those spots were vandalized badly and there is no access for information. Those camps were not renovated till now, so it should be rebuilt quickly.

**Table 5.4.6**  
**Tourist information centre (with tourists)**

Information centre	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Available	-	-
Not available	40	100
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

The response of respondents that 100% said no available of information centre. So it should be concern by all sectors.

#### **5.4.6 The main challenges seen by local people**

Regarding to tourism (eco-tourism) in the study area there are so many challenges that concern with local people and the ecotourism. Its needed to remove those challenges on time. The following points are responded by locals.

**Table 5.4.7**  
**Major challenges seen by local people**

Challenges/problems	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Security (physical)	8	16
Accessibility	10	20
Accommodation	17	34
Communication	1	2
Sanitation	1	2
Natural Resource Management	8	16
Economic, Social, Education	5	10
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

The above table shows the response of respondents the major challenges seen by the locals in the study area that security 8(16%), accessibility 10(20%), accommodation 17(34%), communication 1(2%), sanitation 1(2%), natural resource management 8 (16%), and economic, social and education 5(10%) seen.

#### **5.4.7 Measures of ecological aspect for sustainable eco-tourism management/Development**

The measures of ecological aspect for sustainable eco-tourism can be managed to enhance for the further development as it interconnect with other rural development. Every eco-tourism related with the activities should avoid negative impact that damage or destroy the integrity of natural and cultural environment being visited. To educate the travellers about importance of the conservation, direct revenues from to the conservation of natural areas and management, harmony of infrastructure road, hotel and amenity management as there is no permission to boating in Phoksundo lake. Monitoring and evaluation activity for eco-tourism in the study area is needed. So certain measures should be taken and implement strongly for enhancing carrying capacity, moulding products and promotion let the further flow of tourist.

**Table 5.4.8**  
**Measures**

Measures/activities	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Making aware to local + tourists	8	16
Well management of eco-tourism	12	24
Environment friendly activity by all sides	10	20
Proper conservation and management of SPNP area	8	16
All above activity	12	24
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

The major measures with respondents view proved that in average, above all activities needed for promotion of sustaining eco-tourism development in the study area which are collected from a active, elite, hotels and teachers of 50 numbers. Beside those, there needed local, government, elite, and related department's role for the promotion of eco-tourism.

#### **5.4.8 Role of Government**

For biodiversity or ecological management and protection of natural heritage in sustainable eco-tourism, in the study area the government is the principal part of the system management agent. The government should play driver role with in the people, guests and other organizations. Responses for the issues arises in the field survey as:

**Table 5.4.9**  
**Government Role**

Role	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Make entire plan, policy, and strategies	20	40
Proper implementation of plan & evaluation	10	20
Build up tourism infrastructure (road)	8	16
Marketing touristic product & support	2	4
Make proper rule & regulation for all	5	10
Reduce entry fee and technical supports	5	10
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

Beside various issues of government role for promotion of eco-tourism system, above responses of respondents shows that mainly government should make proper holistic plan, policy and strategies in the study area.

### 5.4.9 Local People Role

For successful development basic activity depends on joint effort/co-operation efforts between government, local, various agencies and organizations to make well support and participation. So co-ordination between government and the related sectors definitely uplift the development of eco-tourism system. The part of unity or strength for promotion of tourism industry, there must not neglect the role of local people. The local people's activities may flourish eco-tourism in sustainable way. The following in the table are major chosen views.

**Table 5.4.10**  
**Local Peoples Role**

Roles of local people	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Keep environment clean by community organizations and locals	8	16
Preserve natural, cultural and socio-economic environment	7	14
Promote tourism product, marketing and avoid negative impacts	8	16
Follow "Athiti Devo Vaba" and eradicate anti environmental activities	15	30
Showing good hospitality to guest and not to destroy nature	12	24
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

Regarding the issues of the roles of local people, the above response of respondents proved that they show good hospitality to tourists, preserve nature and cultural environments promote products, avoid negative impacts, and always be lover of the nature then only the eco-tourism may increase its carrying capacity in eco-tourism. Talk politely, be helpful always think tourists

are god, and our happy feeling certainly increase the efforts to be sustainable eco-tourism in the study area. Beside above roles other additional role may arised within the running system according to the situation and time period.

### **5.5 Socio-cultural and natural prospects of eco-tourism (in view of Hotel operator and tourist)**

Here separately taken response from hotel & tourist although it has already involved in before chapter or unit. The socio-culture, nature, and economic are the necessary parts in the tourism. The eco-tourism based on the entirely environment friendly. To explored specially in the study area regarding to prospect of eco-tourism, the table below explain.

**Table 5.5.1**  
**Socio-cultural attraction**

Attractions	No. of Hot. Rp	%	No. of Tour. Rp	%
Having Buddhist (Bon-po) culture	3	30	23	57
Having Tibetan culture	1	10	2	5
Oldest ancient Nepalese Monasteries	2	20	5	12
Traditional local survival culture	2	20	8	20
All mixed socio-cultural in local	2	20	2	5
Total	10	100	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

By the response of hotel operators and tourist, concluded that both said the prospects of ecotourism in attraction mostly on having Buddhist (Bon-po) culture. So the future is bright for having Buddhist (Bon-po) culture and ancient monasteries mostly in the study area.



## 5.6 Natural prospects seen by hotel operators and tourists (Hot. & Tourist)

Entire existing natural attractions in the study area have attracted many types of tourist streams. The nature is the best tourism resource among human, cultural, social and economic capital resources. Regarding to the issues in the study area, the response of respondents (Rp) was as below:

**Table 5.6.1**  
**Natural Attraction**

Attractions	No. of Hot. Rp	%	No. of Tour. Rp	%
Shey-Phoksundo NP & all elements	4	40	20	50
Shey-Phoksundo lake & waterfall	4	40	16	40
Picturesque Himalayan Range	1	10	2	5
Medicinal (herbs) plants and jungle	1	10	2	5
Total	10	100	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

From above responded information shows that there is huge prospect for the future generation of tourists in maximum number due to natural attractions, where mainly the table clarified that having the Shey-Phoksundo NP with lake and waterfall attracting 40-50% of tourists according to hotel & tourist respondents.

## 5.7 Economic prospect of eco-tourism

Mainly, human, natural, socio-cultural, physiological, and physical capitals come within economic prospects. So mainly economic development generated by different ways, such as employment opportunities, standard of living, entry fee, funds, and different income generating ideas. The main economic is to serve or "SEWA" or positive hospitality to the guests or tourists in the study area. So the basic elements of eco-tourism are: destination, people, product, promotion of natural, resources, organization and market in the study

area. To be awareness in practically by host person about eco-tourism which will be the enough for upliftment of the system. It was the conclusion from the group discussion (one day in the study area).

### 5.8 Prospects of eco-tourism in whole study area (SPNP area)

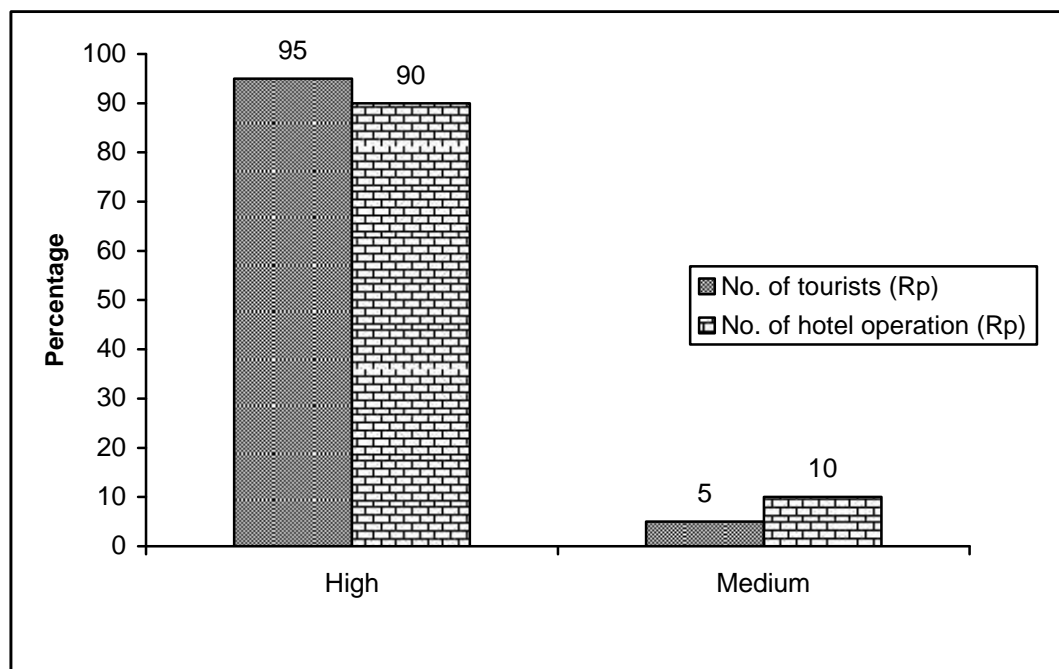
Having the tremendous economic, socio-cultural, and natural attractions in the SPNP area that most of the non-formal persons said certainly high prospect of eco-tourism, but formal, view of respondent given in the table below:

**Table 5.8.1**  
**Prospect of eco-tourism**

Prospect	No. of Hotel Rp	%	No. of Tour. Rp	%
High	9	90	38	95
Medium	1	10	2	5
Low	-	-	-	-
Don't know	-	-	-	-
Total	10	100	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009. (Almost said the prospect was high)

According to the table, bar graph shown below:



From the above information data table and figure shows that respondents of hotel and tourist, 90% and 95% respectively responded that there is high prospect of eco-tourism in the study area, and also complained that there should be given full support from locals, governments, international sectors, I/NGOs and other institutions to uplift this industry.

## 5.9 Major Challenges of Eco-tourism

### (Respondents of Hotel Operators and Tourists)

The study area has been many challenges, prevailing from very long time. Existing such challenges regarding to tourism in SPNP area, the tourism sector could not flourished in well manner. So tourism challenges should be either totally solved timely. Some of the challenges were:

**Table 5.9.1**  
**Major Challenges**

Challenges	No. of Hotel Respondents	%	No. of Tourist Respondents	%
▪ Accommodation	4	40	15	37.5
▪ Accessibility	4	40	10	25
▪ Communication and information	7	10	5	12.5
▪ Drinking water, electricity and Sanitation	7	10	10	25
Total	10	100	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

According to respondents hotel operatives said 40% for accommodation and accessibility where as tourist said 37.5% for accommodation as challenges of eco-tourism in the study area. Besides those above, there were some issues about geography, climate, wildlife attack, amenity, awareness, health and so on challenges for eco-tourism.

## 5.10 Measures of Sustainable Eco-tourism Management in SPNP Area

So, for sustaining the eco-tourism, some appropriate initiatives should be taken by local as well as government side in timely, otherwise the condition of eco-tourism might be deteriorated. Some important suggestions given by hotels and tourists were.

**Table 5.10.1**  
**Measures of Eco-tourism**

Measures	Hotel Operator	Tourist	Total	%
Making well plan about eco tourism	2	20	22	44
Making tourist aware	1	5	6	12
Making local people aware	2	5	7	14
Lunch pro-environment programme	1	5	6	12
Request help from I/NGOs and organizations	4	5	9	18
Total	10	40	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

Regarding the measures of eco-tourism development maximum of 44 percent tourists and local said making well plan about eco-tourism followed by imitation of NGOs and related organizations (18%). Other measure were: role from government to make law, plan, policy and strategies, well funds from I/NGOs and local organizations co-operations. Also every one should be active to fulfill the aim of eco-tourism development in the area.

## **CHAPTER SIX**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

#### **6.1 Major Findings**

The main objective of this study was to analyze, explore and examine the prospect and challenges of eco-tourism in SPNP area of Dolpa district. In the research 50 local households, 40 active tourists members and 10 hotel operators were taken for sample with purposive sampling method to get authentic information regarding to eco-tourism in the study area. Primary data were collected by using household survey through questionnaire as a tools for acquiring authentic and reliable information. And by focus group discussion. The collected data were analyzed by simple statistical tools as table percentage, graph and charts. The SWOT method also applied. The chapter highlighted the main findings and drawn conclusion about the eco-tourism. Some recommendations made for the sustainable eco-tourism management and development of specific study area and facilitating to locals for maximum utilization of benefits from tourism sectors. The constraints such as accommodation, accessibility, communication, electricity, education, health, drinking water, sanitation, trained manpower, market lack of nature preservation poaching and hunting activities are bottlenecks to be managed well in right time in right manner.

In the study area these was: pre-dominance of Kham (Mother tongue) language and Buddhist (Bon-Po) religion. Agriculture is the main occupation as well as income source followed by herbs harvesting. The monthly incomes of people was very low due to various constraints. Besides the tourist flow rate also was very low. Education status of the people was poor so they don't know about eco-tourism. Loshar is the main festival and its seems to be the attraction of cultural tourism. While celebrating festivals, people used typical local foods and dress and some of the people also wear mix dresses. Bon-po monasteries, Chhortens are main the centres of tourist attraction. Most of the respondents viewed that the climate in the study area is good.

Regarding to the prospects of eco-tourism more local respondent that there was potentiality, hotel operators and tourists responded there was more potentiality to develop the eco-tourism. Buddhist (Bon-po) culture and oldest monasteries were major socio-cultural and historical attractive values.

Similarly, Shey Phoksundo NP, lake, waterfall, landscapes, himalayan range, medicinal plants were the major natural attractions and prospects of eco-tourism. Also almost all the respondents were of the view that accommodation accessibility, geography, climate, traditional culture, hunting and poaching wild animals and government policies, were the main challenges. Electricity, water, attack from wild animals unawareness are the additional challenges which needs to be solved for tourist's attraction. There is also no tourist recreational centers and information centers except natural beauty within the SPRN area.

Identifying, analyzing, exploring above factors, there are much more eco-tourism prospects. However, these are many challenges to improve the tourism in the study area. To make well plan, cooperation among all, sharing ideas, changing attitude about eco-tourism and launching pro-environment programmes are the good measures for sustainable eco-tourism development in the SPNP area.

## **6.2 Conclusion**

Since Nepal is a least developed country in the world with lower per capita income, poverty is the major challenging characteristics and has become a bottleneck of all development activities. About 85.6% of the people live in rural area and there is vast gap between rural lifestyle and urban in Nepal. So, to alleviate rural poverty, the tourism only may be a panacea of all challenges. Tourism is the backbone of Nepalese economic sector in terms of providing employment, foreign exchange earning and uses of natural resource. Its contribution to GDP of the nation was 2.3% and it provided 7.2% of the total foreign exchange earning during fiscal year 2008/09 and CDP (Billion Rs.) in 2009 was 818.402 (Economic Survey, 2008/09). But In Nepal, foreign

exchange earning from tourism sector represents 34% of total foreign exchange earning, about 4% of GDP (Ghimire, 2004). Eco-tourism is a new and popular concept in tourism and its contribution towards economic sector is noteworthy. In global context eco-tourism comprises over 50% of total tourism business but in Nepal it has 80% of total tourism business. (Upadhya, R. Handout: 2006)

Regarding to SPRN area that most of the people were very poor and illiterate. Having the tremendous socio-cultural attractions Buddhist (Bon-Po) culture, Tibetan culture oldest ancient Nepalese life surviving culture etc. and other natural beauty, SPRN has a great potential for eco-tourism. Besides Picturesque and Panoramic view of Himalayan range, glaciers, rivulets, medicinal plants and biodiversity etc. were found to be major attraction of eco-tourism in the study area. Majority of the respondents also viewed that the prospect of eco-tourism could be high in this area. In this study area the main challenges such as: accommodation, accessibility, communication, trained manpower, drinking water, electricity, sanitation, medical facilities, marketing chief entry fee, visitor information centre, awareness, recreational centre etc. were found as the constraints of eco-tourism development. To solve those problems are the main challenges in the area. For solving the challenging aspects to promote eco-tourism majority of tourists, hotel operators, and local people suggested to make well plan about eco-tourism. Besides they also suggested for making aware to local, people, tourists and need to launching pro-environment programmes in the study area for sustaining eco-tourism.

Analyzing the whole scenario of socio-cultural and natural attraction in nutshell it can be concluded that the prospect of eco-tourism in future is absolutely high if proper plan, policy and law could be made and implemented. By means of eco-tourism it can be possible to uplift all civic society's status, livelihood attend, establishment of small industries, and other sectoral developments in qualitative and quantitative way. It is necessary to activate all related departments to develop physical, mental, social, natural and infrastructure for eco-tourism.

### 6.3 Recommendation

According to Hunziker and Krapt "Tourism is the sum of the phenomena and relationship (1942) arising from the travel and stay of non-residents, in so far as they do not lead to permanent residence and are not connected with any earning activity". So any tourism consists transportation, locale, and accommodation elements. Eco-tourism is the kind of tourism that varies place to place according to the nature of situation. Analyzing the collected information from the tourists, local people and the hotel operators and elites recommendations can be put forwards:

- ) To promote education status of the local community, the government should provide effective formal and non-formal free education for all inhabitants.
- ) There should be accommodation, access and amenity facilities by establishing hotel, tea and cafe resorts, guest house and restaurants transportation means, road facilities by private sector and government should encourage them.
- ) Give especial importance to environment friendly tourism, to construct suitable road to destination.
- ) Communication and information centre should be established and connected to world wide networking point.
- ) The expensive entry fee of Dolpa should be modified or reduced to some extent, and visiting information centre should be built in the study area or upto lake Phoksundo, so everyone can get particular information.
- ) "Eco-tourism related" awareness programmes should be conducted among the local people and, tourists, so that they can know what do or not to do in the destination place.
- ) The marketing of tourism product and support should be emphasized and disseminated it in world wide.



- ) Older ancient monasteries, temples, Chhorten should be renovated, local traditional culture should be preserved, mobile tower should be established and the government free credit loan for establishing high qualitative hotel, restaurants, tea and cafe houses for tourists facilities.
- ) The pure drinking water, electricity, sanitation, rule and regulation for environment conservation and health education related project should be conducted from government and private sectors sustainable environment cleanliness and better health of visitors, local and elites.
- ) The sustainable eco-tourism related plan should be made and implemented in dedicated manner from ward, VDC, DDC, regional and central governmental level.
- ) There should be given much importance awards and supports to the local organizations and committees who are actively to involve in cultural, traditions, natural, sceneries, entertainment, and other attractive activities. So that it may help in all types of tourism.
- ) There should be established institutions and training offices for awareness and competitions in Dolpa. 50 that the government, locals, and international cooperative organizations can participate and gain the benefits.
- ) There should be clear rule and regulation for utilizing and preserving the natural components so that it will help for bio-diversity system.
- ) There should established small hydroelectric power, and prizes for researcher in the study area, then only open the development gate.
- ) Everyone should take positive, clear, wide transparency and long termed vision or goal for promotion of eco-tourism in Dolpa.
- ) The main intention of everybody to put the SPNP in "BISWO SAMPADA SUCHI" or WHS for this the government should press "World Heritage Site" so the purpose for National Reputation in the world.
- ) The government should mobilize the locals to utilize the and natural resources management programmes.

- ) There should be more transparency and constitutional law or policy about prospects and challenges of eco-tourism in the study area and other similar protective destinations in Nepal
- ) Everybody and sectors should activate towards to promote the economic backbone "tourism/eco-tourism" for the future development.

The above recommendation may help to enhancement to eradicate challenges and improve the hidden prospects of eco-tourism in the nation the "Nepal".

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**APPENDIX-I**

**Prospects and Challenges of eco-tourism : A Case Study of Shey-  
Phoksundo  
in Dolpa District**

**Questionnaire model prepared for Local People**

**A. Individual Description**

1. Name of the house owner : .....
2. Sex : M/F .....
3. Add: .....
4. Name of respondent: .....
5. Sex : M/F .....
6. Religion : .....
7. Ethnicity : .....

**B. Questionnaire**

1. Eco-tourism information on the subject matter.

S.N.	Name of the family member	(M/F) Sex	Age	Occupation	Education	Outside village or Inside village	Add	Earning
1								
2								
3								

2. Do you know historical status about the area around Shey-Phoksundo?
  - a) Yes
  - b) No
  - c) Don't know

| If yes, what do you think about promoting the domestic eco-tourism ?

- a) .....
- b) .....
- c) ..... (n)

| What do you think about promoting international eco-tourism ?

- a) .....
- b) .....
- c) ..... (n)

3. What are the major floral and faunal around your village ?

Floral	Faunal
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

4. Are you benefited from Shey-Phoksundo NP ? (Yes/No)

| If yes, what purpose, its important ?

.....

| In which time is mostly suitable for eco-tourism in this area ?

- a) Spring and autumn seasons
- b) Winter season

- c) Summer season    d) All season

5. Do you see the prospects of eco-tourism in Shey-Phoksundo Area ?  
 a) Yes    b) No    c) Don't know  
 | If yes, in which cases its useful for ?  
 a) .....    b) .....    c) ..... (n)

6. Name attraction conditions the eco-tourism requiring in this area.

- 1. Sightseeing of monuments, settlement in hill, lake
- 2. Culture and tradition
- 3. Hospitality of people
- 4. Colorful festival (labor/Dasain etc.)
- 5. Trekking
- 6. Paragliding
- 7. Mountaineering
- 8. Rafting, kayaking and canoeing
- 9. Mountain flights

Yes	No

7. What are the major medicinal herbs and shrubs in this areas ?  
 ....., ....., ....., ....., ....., .....

8. Are you allowed to use natural resources from Shey-Phoksundo NP ?  
 a) Yes    b) No    c) Don't know

9. What are the challenges of eco-tourism in the devt. of this area ? (Put    for ok)
- a. Misuse or unuse of natural resources
  - b. Lack of rule and regulation
  - c. Lack of feasible policy and strategies in conservation planning
  - d. Lack of access, amenities, promotion, information or accommodation etc.
  - e. Conflict, lack of guidelines and principles for sus. eco-tourism
  - f. Lack of education for common people
  - g. Illegal use of natural resources
  - h. Lack of quality of NRM about this area
  - i. Under development condition
  - j. Lack of division of protection design
  - k. Lack of financial support and networking within responsible sectors
  - l. Lack of community service, educational resources, capacity building

10. What kinds of attraction (destination) that appeal to broad segment of the market ? (Put    for ok)
- i) Natural Resources (climate, beaches, mountains etc.)
  - ii) Cultural resources (historical sites, museums, theaters, the people themselves)
  - iii) Convention and conference facilities : .....
  - iv) Event (games, marathons, music, festivals etc.)
  - v) Recreational facilities (parks, ski slopes, marines etc.)

- vi) Other activities (shopping, theatre, gambling etc.)
- vii) Psychological appeal (of romance, adventure, remoteness)

11. Are there any environment for eco-tourism ? (Put for ok)

- i) Location and proximity to markets [ ]
- ii) Natural influences [ ]
- iii) Historical influences [ ]
- iv) Government support [ ]

12. Can you give the items that are serving the local people for the promotion of eco-tourism ?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Don't know

| If yes, then: put 1 = most and 2 = least usable item

- i) firewood [ ]
- ii) timber for contrution and other infrastructural fields [ ]
- iii) herbs, shrubs and grasses for living beings [ ]
- iv) medicinal plants, sight scenes, fresh environmental components and financial [ ]
- v) leaves, branches and manure for agricultural [ ]

13. Can you have any new ideas to develop ecological balance, economic promotion, historical places, and heritages to promote or increase eco-tourists ? (Yes/No)

| If yes, what are the ideas from your side ?

.....

| What are the roles from government ?

.....

| What are the roles from related department and institutions ?

.....

| Then, what are the roles from donor agencies, NGOs, local organization for eco-tourism?

.....

14. Would you please give some suggestions, comments and to reach fully to facilitate the components or elements for the development of eco-tourism in Shey-Phoksundo Area ?

Comments	Suggestions	Eco-tourism components or elements
1. ....	1. ....	1. ....
2. ....	2. ....	2. ....
3. ....	3. ....	3. ....


15. Are you interested to improve, conserve and promote the area for the benefit of socio-economic side ?

- a) Yes    b) No    c) Don't know

| If yes, how will you do ? Give the ideas.

.....

**Questionnaire for Hotel Operator**

**A. Personal Information**

1. Name : .....

4. Profession :

.....

2. Age : .....

5. Nationality:

.....

3. Sex : .....

**B. Questionnaire**

1. When was the hotel or resort started ? .....

2. How many hotels and resorts are there now in Shey-Phoksundo area ?

3. Are you local for this area or outside ?

4. Do you have any hotel, lodge or home stay in other destination ?

- a) Yes    b) No    c) Where ?

.....

5. How are you running your hotel ?

- a) Proprietorship                          b) Partnership                          c) Joint venture  
d) Private limited

6. How much your total investment ? .....

7. What are the number of rooms and bed in your hotel ?

- a) single .....                          b) Double .....                          c) Dormitory

.....

- d) Total room .....                          e) Total bed .....

8. How many tourists stayed at your hotel ?

Seasonal	No. of tourists	Length of stay	Expenditure
Summer			
Winter			
Spring			
Autumn			



All seasons			
Total no. of tourist in a year			

9. Do you find any benefits from Shey-Phoksundo ?
- a) Yes                                b) No                                c) Don't know
- | If yes, give the necessary aspects which you can get from this area.
- a) .....                                b) .....                                c) ..... (n)
- .....
10. Do you find any challenges from the area ?
- a) Yes                                b) No                                c) Don't know
- | If yes, what are the challenges ?
- a) .....                                b) .....                                c) ..... (n)
- .....
11. Do you have any idea to manage this area ?
- .....
12. Is your business making profit from Shey-Phoksundo Area ?
- a) Yes: how much profit Nrs. ....
- b) No: how much profit Nrs. ....
13. How do you evaluate the existing activities in this area ? [put 1 = Excellent, 2 = Good, 3 = Bad]
- 1) Water supply [ ]                                7) Products for domestic animals [ ]
- 2) Electricity supply [ ]                                8) eco-tourism [ ]
- 3) Health and drainage service [ ]                                9) Medicinal plants for use [ ]
- 4) Hotel and toilet facilities [ ]                                10) Employees in eco-tourism [ ]
- 5) Attack from wild animals [ ]                                11) Communication and security [ ]
- 6) Behavior of local people [ ]                                12) Conservation and promotion of ecology [ ]
- 13) Small cottage industries [ ]
14. Do you see future prospect of domestic and international tourism here ?
- a) Yes                                b) No                                c) Don't know
15. Can you say the key scoped areas inside this area ?
- a) Yes                                b) No                                c) Don't know
- | If yes,    a) .....
- b) .....

c) ....., .....

16. Would you please give some suggestion and comments for the development of eco-tourism in Shey-Phoksundo Area ?

### Questionnaire for Tourist

#### A. Personal Information

1. Name : ..... 4. Profession :  
.....
2. Age : ..... 5. Nationality:  
.....
3. Sex : .....

#### B. Questionnaire

1. Is this your first visit to this place ?  
a) Yes                                      b) No                                      c) Don't know  
| If yes, how many times have you been in Nepal ?  
.....  
| Then, you may be stay for ..... days in Shey-Phoksundo Area.  
| Then how do you like while travel ?  
a) Alone                                      b) Group                                      c) Friends  
And, by ..... means of transportation.
2. What types of food you like most ?  
a) Nepali                                      b) Indian                                      c) Continental                                      d) Any other  
types of  
| Then, what do you feel about price of lodge and food here ?  
a) Cheap                                      b) Expensive                                      c) Moderate /ok  
| How much may be your average spending in this area ?  
a) Accommodation : US\$ ..... per day  
b) Food : US\$ ..... per day  
c) Miscellaneous : US\$ ..... per day  
| Which you like most to accommodate in Shey-Phoksundo Area ?  
a) Hotels                                      b) Resorts                                      c) Home stays                                      d)  
Camping
3. Are you satisfied the hospitality at the people of Shey-Phoksundo Area ?  
a) Yes                                      b) No  
| Then, what about with the services of hotels ?

- a) Good                      b) Satisfied only                      c) Bad
4. Which is the best season to visit this area ?
- a) Winter                      b) Summer                      c) Autumn                      d) Spring
- And, you choose eco-tourism for what purpose ?
- a) study              b) entertainment              c) do welfare for the area              d) all above
5. What are the prime attraction in this area ?
- [put 1 = Excellent, 2 = Good, 3 = Satisfaction only and 4 = Badly]
- a) Natural and cultural heritage [   ]
- b) Hospitality of people [   ]
- c) Natural and socio-cultural scenes [   ]
- d) Colorful festival and occasion with amusement [   ]
- e) Trekking, paragliding, adventurous walk and etc. [   ]
- f) Special ecological scenes [   ]
6. What language do you use to communicate with local people ?
- a) English                      b) French                      c) Lama                      d) Hindi                      e) Others
7. Do you see future eco-tourism prospects in this area ?
- a) Yes                                      b) No                                      c) Don't know
- | If yes, can you mention few major points ?
- a) .....                                      b) .....                                      c) .....
- (n).....
8. Would you please name the most attractive, historical, and memorable key areas within Shey-Phoksundo NP/ Area ?
- a) .....                                      b) .....                                      c) .....
- (n).....
9. Please, can you give the challenges to develop eco-tourism ?
- a) .....                                      b) .....                                      c) .....
- (n).....
10. Would you like to give some suggestion and comments for the existing facilities and further development of eco-tourism in Shey-Phoksundo NP/Area ? What will be the responsibilities needed to done by the government, I/NGOs, local communities, hotel operators and tourists to promote it ?

.....  
.....

*Group discussion on the following issue* (If possible, while local gathering around their settlement)

- Problem arises from eco-tourism
- Solution ideas about the obstacles for sustainable eco-tourism development, which was created by different sectors.
- Components of eco-tourism
- Economic and socio-cultural impacts (positive and negative)
- Other sectoral development for the promotion of eco-tourism.
- Impact on Natural resources and its management.
- Conflicts and infrastructural development
- The things that eco-tourists mostly like
- Roles and responsibilities from other sides for improvement of eco-tourism
- Suggestion and comments about prospects and challenges of eco-tourism of Shey-Phoksundo in Dolpa District.
- Poverty reduction.

**ANNEX-II**  
**Collection of photos from Study area**



**The researcher with the local people and hoteliers**



**The scene of lake and Jharna.**



The researcher looking at the scene



The researcher with the tourists.



**The SPNP and Buffer Zone management committee**



**Women Participation in Phoksundo VDC**



**The researcher with the SPNP staffs**



**Phoksundo Lake**





**Tourist Camp around the Phoksundo Lake**



**Side scene of Lake Phoksundo from monastery**



**The researcher with tourists**



**The researcher with local hotelers**

# ANNEX-III

## Map of the Shey-Phoksundo National Park in

Dolpa

MAP - I



MAP - II

