

CHAPTER – I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The urge to explore new places and seek a change within the environment is not new, rapid development in the areas of transportation and communication has made the whole world one neighborhood which has lead travel , leisure as principle motivating factors which helps to sustain the development of mass movement of the people. Tourism is an important human activity of great significance. It has economic, socio-cultural , environmental, educational and political significance. At present tourism has become one of the pivotal concerns of all nations as well as among international communities.

In simple word, tourism can be defined as the business or industry of providing information, accomodations, transportation, and other services to tourists. It is also an activity or practice of touring,especially for pleasure. Likewise, tourism in Nepal dates back to 1950 formally. The country ascends from the tropical plains of the flat terrain to swanlike through the high and middle mountains to high ice peaks in the Himalayan region. The world's highest peak of Mt.Everest (8848m) lies in Himalayan region of Nepal. Due to geographical, cultural ,ethnicl, biodiversity and religious diversity, the country is known as the kingdom of classified diversities. Tourism can be one of the major tools to reduce poverty if being handled properly. With worldwide increasing trend of tourism, Nepal should embrace that opportunity that would ultimately benefit to our national economy. The country can improve the economy from advancing the sector by using her potential resources of tourism. So, Nepal holds greater prospects within the areas of tourism. The need of suitable plans and policies for effective management and marketing is a must . The country has shown some efforts for promoting tourism but they are not sufficient. Various beautiful destinations have not been visualized and presented before tourists, which can further help to develop the economy of the concerned destination.

In the early nineteenth century, the term "tourist" amused a meaning as those who make tours, especially one who does this for recreation or who travels for pleasure, object of interest

etc (Bhatia, 1982:95). According to League of Nations and the UN," A tourist is any person visiting a country, other than that in which he resides, for a period of 24 hrs." The definition of 'tourist' adopted by the Government of India Tourism Department states that -

"A person having no residence or occupation in India, whose stay in India does not ordinarily extend beyond three months and who has no other objectives in visiting India rather than recreation and sightseeing .(Kaul1994,Tourism and the Economy). From the above discussions, it concludes that tourism means the inflow of tourists in the foreign countries including those who happens to stay in any part of the country for certain limited periods basically for pleasure and enjoyment. In fact tourism is an industry based on human motives. So it is also often said that a " tourist can be defined as a person who leaves his country for certain period of time and make tours to different foreign countries for the purpose of sight seeing and recreation."

Development of tourism sector has contributed to increase employment opportunities as well as to generate income in order to uplift the economic status of the country. It is not only important from the aspect of collecting foreign revenue but it also enhances scope for various industrial sectors , like hotels and other types of accommodation, restaurants , amusement, leisure activities, and other large number of enterprises such as fruit production and processing etc. Nepal where the possibilities of exporting manufactured goods are limited cannot ignore the role of tourism because of its multifaceted effects such as the balance of payments situation, diversification of the economy, augmentation of revenues, and generation of employment opportunities . Tourism is instrumental to our's country economy in the process of regional development which holds insufficient resources for development of industrial sector and agriculture . Nepal has immense potential for tourism development as it is blessed with immense natural scenic beauty that attracts tourist throughout the globe like Mt. Everest and Lumbini. So a landlocked, mountainous and poorly resource based economy like Nepal, can be benefited from the development of tourism.

Our country Nepal is predominantly a rural country where about 85 percent of people reside in the rural areas. Majority of rural people remain within the vicious circle of poverty. Thus, tourism can be a vehicle to eliminate rural poverty. Rural Tourism is also a means of sustainable tourism development. It involves tourists staying in or near village, either traditional

or remote and are keen to learn about the village way of life. This kind of tourism involves provision of local style accommodation, locally produced food items, traditional chores and activities. Nepal has a huge potential for eco-tourism which provides the visitors an opportunity to observe rural hamlets inhabited by different ethnic groups with exotic cultures. Visitors can stay at typical Nepali village, eat delicious local food and drink, enjoy comfortable accommodation provided by the host family and get to know about rural culture and tradition. Villages like Ghale Gaun, Ghandruk, Sirubari, Palpa, Bandipur, Tatopani and other places have already been promoted as model tourist villages. In this context Fikkal of Sindhuli district also might be proposed as a model tourist destination.

Fikkal as being located in the highest altitude, initiations need to be taken to make it one of the models for promoting rural tourism. The locals are collaborating together to introduce it among the entire world. Fikkal development Committee formed by the local people has also contributed efforts in making this area a model tourist destination. The financial support of the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation to build nine-storey tower is also under construction. Development of Magargadi, preservation of natural resources, culture and various dance forms such as Maruni needs to be preserved for attracting large number of tourists.

According to the latest demography, at an altitude of 7771 feet Tibet, 134 species of herbs has been found and some possibilities of mining has also been traced out. The mysterious caves on the mountains of Fikkal is also of huge importance. The tourism development of Fikkal can be estimated as a strong economic source to the neighbouring districts of Ramechhap, Okhaldhunga, Udaypur including the inhabitants. Fikkal tourism sector in sunakosi yaphinako law, endangered species already beginning to harvest apples, olive (olive) planting even as the economic development organization Phikkal Visalia plan is to build Phikkal. The mysterious cave of the mountain of the same Phikkal important tourist in his said. Going live in a cave there, and the world is affected mahamkali alaukika power could make the estimates of reserves also Phikkal More topic

1.2 Statement of the problem

Fikkal had to face many challenges in the course of development as well in the promotion of tourism industry. Though there are many possibilities and opportunities of tourism development, it has become a challenging task to monetize the benefits by standardizing the development. Similarly, it has also been unable to generate huge benefits from tourism campaigns and conduct sustainable development programs for the eradication of rural poorness. The need for tourism planning arises because of the sheer importance of the tourism industry. Tourism here is purely a seasonal activity which shows an economic weakness because the people remains unemployed during the slack season. Tourism business and its development is said to be inevitable in this district as it economically backward and due to rapid population growth rate as well. Besides that due to prevalence of poor economic condition, small space, over growth of population it has been unable to generate expected benefits from the services and goods used by tourists. Similarly, it was a challenging task to run tourism related programs in a friendly environment due to internal controversies. The tourism industry is not getting priority in terms of investment being funded by governmental, non-governmental and private investors as they are more involved in the promotional activities rather than in the development of infrastructures.

In Nepal there are many places and areas, which are distinct and carry huge potentials for tourism development. Among them Fikkal is such a unique place where there are many natural, cultural and other attractions which can attract domestic as well as foreign tourists. As most other districts, Sindhuli is a multiethnic district . It is rich in culture, religious sites which could be a source of attraction for the tourists. The increasing interest of foreign tourists in diverse rural life style and culture, pristine nature have made it imperative to do some thing for the development of tourism in Sindhuli district.

In this context the the challenges , can be stressed as follows :

- i) Challenge and prospects of tourism in Fikkal of Sindhuli District
- ii) Relationship between tourism and indigenous culture
- iii) Role of the tourism for poverty alleviation

1.3 Objective of the study

The major objective of the study is to develop and establish Fikkal as a prime tourist destination. It has highlighted the natural heritages that holds historical, archaeological, religious importance and embraced the economic and social life patterns of the people within the local communities against a rural background . It has also identified and recommended major tourism infrastructure that prevails in the local environment .

General objective of the study is to analyze the potentialities of tourism development in an integrated manner in and around Sindhuli district along with the problems and challenges in realizing the potentialities. The specific objectives of the study:

To examine current trends and nature of tourist's inflow in Kholagaun VDC.

To identify the challenges and prospects of tourism in Fikkal.

To observe the impact of tourism in the study area.

1.4 Importance of the study

Nepal is recognized as an ideal tourist destination for culture and nature lovers. Diversity in terms of geography, ethnic communities and cultural heritages is the predominating characteristic of Nepalese society. Tourism development in Nepal is largely dependent upon expanding linkages between nature conservation and tourism. While Nepal's rich natural heritage attracts a large number of nature loving tourists, it can also be a proper hub for other types of visitors who admires culture, and for adventure seekers as well. It's hospitable people and their rich and colourful socio-cultural heritage are also the major source of attractions for the people from the western parts of the World.

Tourism can be regarded as the most potential and feasible source in order to uplift national economy. It has also been recognized as one of the most important sectors of national economy. The potential of tourism is to contribute to poverty reduction in any given specified area. In many areas of the country, there are no available alternatives other than tourism. Therefore, tourism should be considered as one of the most important economic development opportunities available to the developing countries like ours(UN WTO 2001).

The present study aims to analyze the challenges and prospects of tourism development in Fikkal. The salient significance of the study is that Fikkal, despite being rich in tourism resources, the people have not been able to identify about the uniqueness and its natural beauty. Tourism also supports to a large number of indigenous industries and services, or in creating direct, indirect and induced employment opportunities. Fikkal has also been eyeing to pace forward in terms of tourism development.

This study visualizes and addresses Fikkal as one of the prospective and unique place of glory, land of culture, and valley of lakes and temples. Expansion and identification of more tourism destination and resources has help to attract more number of tourists. This sector has been benefited by tourism promotion activities adopted by the local and central level. This case study of Fikkal has help to think and initiate about tourism promotion programs and develop plans for government, other stakeholders to develop it as a famous tourist destination.

Besides all this, the following points also highlights on the rationale of this study :

- i) The study has highlighted on the socio-economic and cultural reality of the local people.
- ii) It has raised the level of awareness among the people in and around the study area to preserve nature, culture and environment .
- iii) It has also explored the major challenges and prospects to promote tourism in Fikkal .
- iv) It has paved the way for the development of tourism in Fikkal .
- v) It holds significant contribution in promoting tourism diversification of the country in terms of both place and product as its success stories are replicated by other districts that would contribute in attaining the goal of poverty alleviation.

1.5 Limitation of the study

The study has referred some of the major tourist sites and tourism models of Fikkal. However, with limited budget and time it has not gone in detail on these aspects and is primarily based on the socio-economic and cultural realities of Fikkal . Therefore, findings of this study may not be readily applicable to all places of the country with regard to the challenges and prospects of tourism .

1.6 Organization of the Study

The overall study conducted has been organized in the following manner.

Chapter One presents the general overview of tourism and its contribution in the economic development of nation, potential tourism destinations, statement of problem, and limitation of study.

Chapter Two focuses on the brief review of literature, reports and journals available with the support of accepted theories and practices. Conceptual framework about contribution of tourism in the economic development of nation is briefly reviewed. Review from different books, journals (articles) , thesis etc are included in this chapter.

Chapter Three summarizes the research methodology has been presented.

Chapter Four and Five presents the data related to the study that has been analyzed by using several data analysis techniques.

Chapter Six presents the challenges and prospects of tourism development within Fikkal of Sindhuli district.

Chapter Seven addresses summary, conclusions of the study, express recommendations to improve any time of lacking, if found in the subject during the study.

Finally, Bibliography of books, all published and unpublished reports, journals and literatures along with appendixes containing elaboration for calculation and presentation of detailed data has been jotted down at the end the report.

CHAPTER-II

LITERATURE REVIEW

The study has reviewed a wide range of relevant books, journals and research materials to avoid duplication in maintaining qualitative research. Books on rural tourism, eco-tourism, community tourism and principles of tourism have been reviewed to build theoretical as well as

analytical framework. Likely books on culture, sociology, social studies, behavioural science and political economy have also been consulted to give practical touch on the study .

2.1 Review of related Research Reports and Literatures

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

People have travelled for many different reasons. Tourism as an industry, however, began to flourish after the Second World War. The per capita income in the developed countries also started to increase significantly along with the development of efficient mass air transport. The tourism industry is the largest industry in the world and is a complex one. The demands of international tourists, the consumers and of international destinations, the producers are bridged by the tourism industry. The industry consists of a wide range of enterprises supporting the mass movement of people across varied areas within a country and across international boundaries, including a variety of wholesale and retail outlets for hotels, airlines, tour operators, etc. The tourism industry sells a unique product, often called as an invisible export. The product may be sold and consumed locally, i.e. foreigners consume it. Nepal is one such popular destination for tourists from all over the world. (ICIMOD, 1995:6)

Tourism is also a major source of employment. It is a highly labour-intensive industry offering employment to both the semi-skilled and the unskilled population. Being a service industry, it creates employment opportunities for the local population. It is a major source of income- an employment opportunity for individuals in many places deficient in natural resources, which cannot readily contribute to the economic prosperity of the area except through the medium of tourism. This aspect of provision of employment becomes more important in a developing country where the level of unemployment and underemployment tends to be high. Besides, providing employment to a large number of people, tourism can be the instrument of

regional policy aimed at achieving an equitable balance between major industrial areas and rest of the country. Tourism enables to be transferred in one part to the another. (Bhatia, 2000; ix)

Various scholars have defined tourism in their own words and their definition has also changed over years implying change in its scope and trend . The Austrian economist "Hermann van Schooyard gave the first definition of Tourism in 1910 (op.cit.Footnote No.1). According to him, "Tourism is the sum of operations mainly of economic nature , which is directly related to the entry, stay and movement of foreigners inside and outside a country, city or region" .

Tourism sector is one of the most important sector of the economy to overcome country from the vicious circle of poverty. It is not only concerned in earning foreign currency, but helps to develop small cottage industries and create employment opportunities. US\$1,68,100,000 through foreign exchange was generated from tourism in 1999AD. By(which year) 48,104 tourists visited Nepal and 80,000 people are employed in this sector. It has shared that 15.9 percent earning of total foreign currency and 3.6 percent contribution to GDP in that particular year. This sector is severally victimized by the unsecured condition prevailing within the country. That has caused to downward rate resulting to 23 percent of visitors and 23.8 percent of revenue in 2003 A.D. (Economic Survey, 2003)

Tourism being an important sector in the economy, is rapidly increasing compared to other sectors of world trade. The international tourist arrivals increased from 25,282 in 1950 to 616,635 thousand in 1997 with an average annual growth of about 7 percent, likely the number of international tourist arrivals is expected to reach () million by 2010 A.D. (WTO, 1998). The revenue from international tourism was US\$ 2100 million in 1995, which later increased to US\$ 448,265 million in 1997 with an increase of 12.1 percent annual growth rate (WTO, 1998).

Modern world specializes in each and every aspect, but tourism is the only sector where every entrepreneur becomes tourism experts without having its depth and broader knowledge . It is somehow similar to a medical shop holder , pharmaceuticals or a dispenser who is treating a heart patient. Since a dispenser is not qualified to treat any diseased patient, similarly a tourism entrepreneur cannot become a national tourism development seeker, which itself is a high degree of concern. A master-mechanist of Toyota Motor Car, having 35 years of experience in repairing, will be confused to repair Mercedes, Skoda or Lade vehicles and will never be able to develop new models, whereas an automobile engineer, as a technician, always understands the

mechanism of vehicles and would be able to gear off for its development . Similarly, tourism is a technical subject . Until and unless the concerns are not recognized on the basis of its technicality, tourism in Nepal will never be successful in real terms, but has to struggle for more than half a million for unrecoverable natural and socio- cultural calamities (Tula Dhār :2008).

b. Review of National Plans and Policies

To achieve successful development and sustained growth of tourism industry, good management, leadership and organizational behaviour are crucial and a well thought planning and high level of co-operation among the various key stakeholders is the first and foremost requirement for efficient and effective drive of tourism industries.

The official records do not indicate any planned approach regarding tourism till 1950. The first study regarding tourism potential of the country was carried out in 1959 with the technical assistance from the French Government along with the publication of "General plan for the Organization of Tourism in Nepal." The first five-year development plan (1955-60) envisaged to identify the possibilities and also initiated to establish infrastructures for tourism development. The establishment of tourism development board in 1975 and Nepal Airlines Corporation, the national flag carrier started operating in domestic and some international sectors in 1960 are some of the tourism highlights that started back then. The second three plans (1962-65) was a major step to regularize and promote the tourism activities by establishing hotels, travel agencies and construction of other infrastructures . Although there was no specific provision of tourism development in the first five year plan, it gave adequate emphasis to build requisite infrastructures like roads, water, electricity, construction of airports etc. Tourism Development Board and Tourist Information Center were established in 1975 and 1959 respectively. Hotel survey and tourist guide training were also conducted during this plan period.

Having realized the importance of tourism as a major source of generating foreign revenue, emphasis was given to promote tourism in Nepal and abroad, to develop travel agencies, hotels, during the second three year plan (1962-1965). One of the most important achievements, of this plan for tourism was the Company Act 1964 to regulate and develop tourism sector. This plan had allocated Rs. 2 million for outlay within the tourism sector. The new tourist resorts were explored and constructed in Pokhara, Lumbini, Kakani, and Nuwakot.

The Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) was under construction and the emphasis was given to improve its modern facilities.

The fourth five year plan sought to enlarge the scope of tourism with trade as an important source of increasing national income by earning foreign exchange. Similarly the fifth plan was exerted on the preservation of historic, cultural and natural attractions of the country to promote tourism in the areas other than Kathmandu valley. Ministry of Tourism was formed in 1977 and the Government constituted a high level tourism task force in 1978 to coordinate promotion, development activities and to review the master plan.

The Fifth Plan (1975-80) emphasized on (a) Tourism development through conservation and development of historical, cultural and geographical specialties (b) Development of tourist centers outside Kathmandu valley in order to reduce concentration of tourists inside the Kathmandu valley (c) Increasing the length of stay of the tourist (d) Developing necessary facilities in Pokhara, Chitwan, Lumbini, Khumbu etc. and extending training to develop skilled manpower.

The Sixth Plan (1980-8) also adopted policies for the extension of tourism centers in different parts of the country, preserving and protecting the natural, cultural and historical heritages of the country, encouraging domestic products in the tourism industry, providing employment opportunities to the large number of people and making necessary publicity and promotional measures.

Seventh Plan (1985-1990) mainly emphasized on quality tourists over the quantity, expansion of tourism in the areas with infrastructure facilities, creation of new employment opportunities, local production of consumable items, conservation of the environment of the religious places and historical sites. Tourism was envisioned to extend to the outskirts of the urban areas through opening up of new areas and mountain peaks. Domestic air services were extended to additional districts in the mid western development region to support the initiative of the government to reduce the regional economic imbalances. The Plan had also started to formulate and implement the Second Tourism Master Plan that did not happen.

Eighth Plan(1992-1997) for the first time, flits the need of producing a comprehensive and liberal Tourism Policy. It had thus, set the way for the declaration of the Tourism Policy in 1995.

The plan had taken the policy of government's involvement in infrastructure development and identification of tourist markets. Creation of additional national parks in the country and extension of tourism inside those protected areas was also envisioned. Emphasis were also laid down towards increasing the length of stay of tourists, providing incentives to address the issues of seasonality, encouraging high budget, cultural and religious tourists. The plan opened an avenue to participate private sector in domestic air service operation in the country. Special programs were introduced for promoting trekking tourism in remote areas with the objective of creating rural employment opportunities and establishing linkages of rural tourism sustainable from the environmental point of view.

Ninth Plan (1997-2002) gave more emphasis on environmental protection. The plan was specific on carrying out tourism activities based on the environmental impact assessment on protected areas and their vicinity. It recognized the need of code of conduct for private sector service providers. As a balanced economics and social development, domestic tourism also got special priorities. For the purpose of harnessing optimal benefit from tourism it was proposed to promote all the three categories of tourist namely, Regional of SAARC nationals, International and Domestic.

Tenth Plan (2002-2007) has encouraged value based and quality tourism in the country. It has clearly stated its objectives to contribute to poverty reduction initiatives by increasing people's participation in tourism activities while ensuring effective promotion and sustainable development. Diversification of the products, optimal utilization of existing potentials, establishment of regional tourism hubs, encouraging tourists to visit new areas, ecotourism as an over-riding guideline for the future development of the tourism activities, are the major aspects of this plan. The retention of earning in the local areas through increased use of local products is one of the main agenda and the plan states to engage women and deprived section of the society in delivering such services. Development and conservation of heritage sites, managing air pollution, solid waste and air safety, expansion of road and air access, tourism facilities are few other areas of concentration. The rural tourism managed by the rural community themselves and the ploughed back resources to be handled by the local communities are the noticeable remarks of this Plan. It has also emphasized on allowing community participation in managing national and historical heritage sites for the benefit of tourism.

Three years Interim Plan (2007-2010) has accorded high priority to tourism development so as to make this sector a building block of the economy. It has emphasized on tourism diversification that would contribute for balanced regional development in the country. The plan has focused on rural tourism in order to raise the living standard of the rural people. It has introduced the concept of integrated tourism infrastructure development which is carried out by the respective sectoral ministries. The plan has a policy to encourage the youth and the people from backward communities, women and the rural poor to participate in tourism related awareness and employment oriented trainings, skill development and capacity development programs.

The government of Nepal had brought out, for the first time in its history, a separate set of Tourism Policy in 1995. Its cross-sectoral linkages were found crucial to support other sector of the economy too. It has emphasized on the income generating activities at central as well as rural level to support in narrowing down the regional imbalances through tourism. The major objectives of the Policy are to accommodate natural, cultural and human environment for the sake of tourism at the internal front as well as reinventing the prestigious image of the country as an attractive tourist destination internationally. It has also dwelt upon the linkages between tourism and agro-based cottage industries. The local communities are motivated to take part in tourism and the rural tourism has been especially encouraged.

The commendable part with the Tourism Policy is that the respective roles of the government and the private sector have been clearly delineated. The government is bestowed with the role to act as a catalyst, leader, coordinator and facilitator while the commercial and business activities are set aside for the private investors. Development of the required infrastructures and facilities in the rural areas, enhancement of the quality of services, promotion of pilgrimages, and development of adventure tourism are also some of the major activities mentioned in the policy but concrete actions fail to support those initiatives. More critical review is done in the following segment.

Others

Nepalese economy is of dual nature (small modern sector and vast poor rural sector), and thus the economic activities out of the poor's reach would not be able to carry any significant meaning to create just equitable and prosperous societies in the country(Upadhyay,2008).

Poverty reduction measures have to be essentially integrated with the tourism development. Someone has rightly said " Nepal is a live global museum, where hundreds of villages can be developed as tourism attractions ". As tourism has tremendous forward and backward linkages it will help to boost other sectors as well as to diversify our economy for balanced development of the country. Investment in tourism sector has positive impact on tourist arrivals as well as economic development of the country through increasing tourism activities and foreign exchange earnings.

Tourism growth was one of the greatest success stories till 2000. But in the recent years, there have been increasing warnings; the deterioration of some destinations, the overwhelming of some cultures, bottlenecks in transport facilities, and growing hostility of residents are some of them. Some tourism entrepreneurs were earning some before the start of armed conflict in Nepal in 1996. During the decade long conflict period they did not receive a single guest even in a long period of time. Such was the state of the common working man in the long years of destruction and distress during the period of armed conflict in Nepal. The psychological damage has caused unwillingness in the people to continue their businesses. The significant damage is expected to take longer for recovery. Therefore, the overriding concern for the industry must be to seek out ways to enhance rather than to degrade its core product, the environment, upon which all of humanity must depend for survival. In other words, the environment is tourism resources, it is our environment or rather the experience of enjoyment of it that the tourism industry promotes and sells. The close relationship between tourism and the environment and the importance of environment planning and sustainable tourism development planning are becoming of high recognition. (Sharma; 2001)

The joint publication of NTB and TRPAP, (2004), "National Ecotourism Strategy and Marketing Program of Nepal, 2004" contains the overall sectors related to the tourism activities, especially the strategic plans for all sectors of Nepalese ecotourism. D Bhatta has extracted the quotes of Tourism Concern, 1991 in his book, "Ecotourism in Nepal, 2006" about the basic principles of sustainable tourism viz. using resources sustainably, maintaining biodiversity, integrating tourism into planning, supporting local economies consulting stakeholders and the public, marketing tourism responsively and undertaking researches .

The famous conservationist Dr.Harka Gurung in his article "Tourism and Tirtha" published by Hotel Associations of Nepal in 25 January 2000 has elaborated certain unique features of tourism in the context of a land locked country like Nepal.

Likewise, Dr Gurung in his lectures in "International Conference on Himalayan Biodiversity, 2002" has triangulated conservation, tourism and development as mutually interconnected factors. Conservation gives assists to tourism and takes revenue, tourism provides resources for development and takes framework while conservation ensures sustainability of development by taking its physical and social enhancement. Gurung concludes that conservation promotes tourism, tourism generates revenue for conservation and development enhances sustainability of conservation.

Likewise, Sharma (2006) in his article "Village Tourism for the Sustainability of Rural Development" in Nepalese Journal of Development and Rural Studies (Vol 3.1, Jan-Jun) has extracted the quotes of the Tenth Plan (PRSP, 2002), the tourism sector can be an important instrument of poverty reduction by increasing employment opportunities directly in urban as well as rural areas, particularly in the hills and mountain areas along trekking trails and tourism sites. He has asserted that it can be (aids-led) tourism development where problem of sustainability and indigenous efforts will be overshadowed.

As stated by Nepal Tourism Board. (2006) in "Rural Nepal Guide Book", Nepal is one of the richest countries in the world in terms of natural beauty due to its unique geographical position and latitudinal variation. Within this spectacular geography are some of the richest cultures of Himalayan heritage and it has also invited tourists to meet the lovely people of rural Nepal, share a meal with them, stay at their houses and family, taste their local drink and see them carry on with life graciously . They are also expected to receive the heart warming hospitality, to witness some of the most spectacular views of the mountain landscapes or heritage sites along the way. It has also requested to visit rural Nepal through pristine landscapes and colourful mountain cultures, to know the rural Nepal but it also gives a chance to educate and empower the local community and be a part of their development process. Similarly money spent in these areas contributes directly to the local livelihood. Therefore, with the aim of showcasing new areas and promoting and developing indigenous people and culture, a new approach to tourism, based on sustainable development has been initiated by Nepal. Community-based

tourism is also being initiated in other parts of South Asia as a tool for sustainable development. It has been highlighted as a major tourist attractions of various parts of different regions with the people , Geography, Himalayan Region, Mountain Region, Terai Region and History as well. It has also paid attention to Eastern Nepal, Central Nepal, Western Nepal, Mid and Far Western Nepal, Major Tourist Activities, Brief Ethnic profiles. In Mid Western Nepal, it has focused on Fikkal of Sindhuli district, the district which is full of tourism potentials for religious tourism as well as nature based rural tourism.

In the changeable global community , we need to handle according to the changing human psychology as we should modify the policies and strategies that will extend the stay of tourists within the country and since tourism is an active industry we need to change accordingly with international trends. In this regard a noted tourism industrialist of Nepal, Karma Shakya puts forward. "Tourism is not a trade; neither just an industry, it's a science of understanding human psychology and we need to change with the changing trends and psychology if we want to keep up with the international community."

Dhungana (2008) has written in the form of a record, unfold Nepal's glorious history, culture and tradition as well as the present stage of violence and political instability endangered by the unleashing of the hither to dormant social and political forces. Despite the rather grim scenario of the present, the author offers a ray of hope for the future through his own patriotic affection for the genuine philosophical heritage of the motherland, the natural beauty of the landscape abundant in diverse flora and fauna, and the sense of inner peace and harmony that is to be gained by living a truly religious, non-violent, philanthropic and contemplative life dedicated to the well being of all.

Tourism before 1950:When we come across the development history of tourism in Nepal, we can say that Tourism Prior to 1950 is the first .There was not institutional and formal development in the field of tourism before 1950s. But there were different practices of tourism even before 1950s. The ancient history of Nepal is the history of Kathmandu valley and the ancient history of tourism is also related to it. It is believed that Kathmandu valley took birth when a visitor named Manjushree came here from China, cut the edge of the hill in Chovar with a sword and emptied the water of the lake. After this in 249 BC, ruler Ashoka of India visited Nepal as a pilgrim and created a Monastery entitled 'Charumati Bihar', and also four Buddhist

stupas in the four corners of Patan. During the Lichhavi period, most of the foreigners visited Nepal as pilgrims. At this period, the great emperor of Tibet named Shrangchong Gampo visited Nepal and married the daughter of King Anshuvarma, princess Bhrikuti. The Chinese visitor Human Tsang described in his travels accounts the Kailaskut Bhawan and Mangriha of Lichhavi dynasty. Similarly, around 6th century, in the Kirati Regime, some foreigners visited Nepal as pilgrims. In Malla Regime there was a significant development in art and culture, and then rulers of Nepal were more or less interested in greeting travellers who entered into the kingdom of Nepal as pilgrims. Krishna Mandir of Patan, Nyatpol Durbar Pashupatinath Temple, Swayambhu and Buddhist Stupas were renovated during this period. After the unification, the rulers of Nepal had not made any attempt to develop tourism in Nepal. On the contrary, the policy of the government was not to let any tourists enter into Nepal, except in some special cases. In the Rana's regime which lasted for 104 years, the policy of the government was not favourable for tourism development. Only during the great festival of Shivaratri, permission was given to Indians to enter Nepal as pilgrims. Till 1950 only 100 foreigners visited Nepal. The restrictions on tourists to enter into Nepal during the Rana regime adversely affected tourism in Nepal. As a result there was lack of foreign exchange earnings. In that time, the religious tourism was highly flourished in Nepal because different monks and other religious personalities had visited to Nepal. On the other hand, the other persons from different dynasties used to visit to Nepal either for political purposes or for religious purposes. After the unification of Nepal, Prithivi Narayan Shah had visited to Banaras and different other parts of India for religious as well as political purposes. King Ashok had also visited to Lumbini and created a religious pillar which still prevails there.

Tourism after 1950: The second stage of Tourism started after 1950. The Tourism of 1950 is called Diplomatic Tourism where diplomats spread the word about Nepal. A great political change took place in Nepal in 1951. The Rana government was overthrown from power and democracy within the country. Thereafter a rage of development in the country, internal as well as external communication and transportation began to start. After that only Nepal opened its access for foreigners. Swiss geologist Tony Hagen and Edmund Hillary from New Zealand who were also one of the first to climb the peak of Mt.Everest, were among the most significant tourism promoters of Nepal. Edmund Hillary also introduced and promoted mountaineering in Nepal. After the initial years of tourism, the country was rich in culture and blessed with nature's

bounty emerged as one of the most popular adventure destinations in the world with its offer of mountaineering and trekking. In actual sense the promotion of tourism started more or less only in the beginning of 1960s. The then government made attempts for the development of tourism with relatively more liberal tourism policy than before. A new era of Nepalese tourism started in November 1957 when 'Nepal Tourism Development Board' was established under the chairmanship of the minister of trade and industry. We call the tourism of 1960 as Hippie Tourism, in this stage a lot of hippie were here as tourists go for hiding towards toil as Army force.

In 1970, Nepal Tourism Development committee was constituted under the chairmanship of late prince Himalayan Bir Bikram Shah. In 1972, the committee published 'Nepal tourism Master Plan' with technical assistance from the government of Federal Republic of Germany. The master plan had been prepared for further development in the field of tourism. After that tourism also started to be considered as an industry and for its development efforts have been made to distribute posters, booklets to international organizations and to provide sufficient hotels and transportation facilities to tourists. As a result, there was 41 fold increment in tourists visiting Nepal, 6179 tourists in 1962 and 2,548,885 in 1990. In 1965, John Copman, who was running 'Tree Top' in Africa, came to Nepal and was impressed by the dense forests and wild animals, later started 'Tiger Top', the first jungle Resort in Nepal. Similarly, James Robert, Ex-British Army-man who was in British India came in contact with Nepalese Gorkha soldiers and with their links he came to Nepal and introduced trekking tourism by opening a company named 'Mountain Travel' in 1965, which still runs today. The 1970 decade is also called as Trekking and wildlife Tourism decade. Similarly 1980 is Cultural Tourism decade.

Tourism after 1990: Accordingly after 1990 is the third stage which is Ecotourism and now Endemic Tourism in the 21st century. By the late 1990s tourism evolved as one of the main industries of Nepal contributing 18 percent of the foreign currency earnings and 4 percent of the GDP. Analysis of the event related to the development of tourism in Nepal suggested that in the decade of nineties there have been much more conscious effort in globalizing the economy of Nepal. However, here we are taking up only some important events that reflect upon globalization of tourism related activities in Nepal. These are:

Formation of Tourism Council (1992)

National Civil Aviation Policy (1993)

Tourism Policy (1995)

Visit Nepal Year (1998)

Formation of Nepal tourism Board (NTB) in 1999

Destination Nepal 2002-2003.

From then onwards however, there has been a streaky decline in terms of tourist arrivals as well as income generation owing to several national and international misfortunes. Tourists arrival in Nepal was on a steady rise in the late 1990s, with almost half a million tourists visiting the country wholly during the Visit Nepal 1998 period, it suddenly plunged to low numbers in the after years with the hijack of the Indian Airlines in December 1999, followed by the street riots caused by the alleged statement of Indian actor Hrithik Roshan. Since then tourist arrivals has not picked up the expected numbers. The main cause behind the lagging tourist numbers in the country has been the civil strife in the country started by the Maoists and the political turmoil that has followed.

Although there have been regional and global incidents as well, Nepal's own armed conflict and political uncertainty have been the biggest obstacles to this fledging industry. As the political strikes and harsh security measures obstruct tourists from movement, cancellations of bookings etc. The main causes of the Maoist insurgency and the decade long armed conflict are asset inequality, unemployment, unequal access to public services and over taxation, economic mismanagement, lack of democratic rights and suppression. Instead of trying to find peaceful measures to end the violent conflict, the government has adopted coercive method initially to cope with it. The other massive loss that the tourism industry is facing today is the negative publicity being cried out by national and foreign media as a war prone zone. Political instability, frequently organized mass rallies, and strikes have significantly contributed to negative publicity in the international market. This has also led to issuance of negative travel advisories by many embassies of the primary and secondary market countries. Finally, with the royal takeover of political power in October 2002, the country plunged into an emergency and further political turmoil. The burnt of all these have been borne by all sectors in the country, and tourism is no

exception. But after the peace accord we are in a revival stage and belief of increment has arose within the tourism sector.

Peace has been elusive in Nepal, ever since the start of the armed conflict, even though all governments formed after 1996 stated peace as the primary agenda. In the past two attempts regarding peace were total fiascos. With the success of the April 2006 Peoples Movement carried out jointly by the seven major political parties in coordination with the Maoists, a third attempt at peace between the democratic government and the Maoists was initiated . With the declaration of constituent assembly in the recent days, a ray of hope has been seen among all the Nepalese people. However, the endless civil strife and upraise of ethnic conflict, difference in power sharing, issues concerning decommissioning of arms and management of the military products, process of and representation in the constituent assembly, restructuring of the state etc. are some of the contentious issues and challenges that have to be met with before sustainable peace can be attained in the country.

Poverty is greater and more pervasive in rural areas, while compared to urban areas, and it is varied across regions. The Mid and Far Western Region as well as the Mountain Belt, is much poorer than the Eastern Region (CBS.1999) . Overcoming human and economic poverty is the biggest challenge for Nepal of which rural poverty ranks at the top.

Tourism links unique natural resources with an exciting living cultural heritage, friendly and hospitable people. It provides significant potential to use nature-based tourism at a low cost, eco-friendly alternatives to support socio-economic growth and fight against poverty (SNV, 2003)

It is safe to assume that the centre (Kathmandu) benefits disproportionately from incoming tourism. Much of the tourists earnings remains within Kathmandu and little finds its way into other parts of the country. There exists a situation of core-periphery dependency in which the centre controls to a very considerable extent, the distribution of tourism around Nepal, accumulating most of the income generation, organizing much of the travel activity in prepaid packages, and supplying many of the needs from the centre so that benefits outflow to rural areas and towns becomes limited (SNV, 2003).

CHAPTER – III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study has employed various methodologies since there is no single methodology being sufficient to conduct this type of research work.

3.1 Research Design

The research design is based on descriptive and exploratory method. It is descriptive as it is based on detailed investigations and records of the study area. It is exploratory in the sense that analysis is focused on exploration as the information are derived from the study focused for analyzing the tourism development activities seeking for the prospects of tourism in Fikkal of Sindhuli District.

3.2 Rationale for the selection of study area

Fikkal is situated in Sindhuli district. This area is the destination for tourists to enjoy different types of environment, culture, ethnic groups along with different places to visit. Researchers selected this area because of their own interest, in order to gain new experiences and to figure out problems prevailing within Fikkal. Kholagaun VDC is the place full of religious and cultural significance. The study area supports a broad rank of tourism. People from different castes, ethnicity involve themselves in the management of tourism.

3.3 Nature and Source of Data

Data and information has been analyzed mainly by described method. Some aspects of this proposal have used quantitative method by applying statistical tools, rate value of average, percentage, mean and linear correlation, regression models and statically tests. Approaches of analysis are both quantitative and qualitative types. This study has been conducted by generating primary data as well as secondary data. In order to collect secondary information, concerned people has been consulted. Secondary information has been taken from Nepal tourism Board, related documents from Ministry of Tourism, Department of tourism, National planning Commission, for required information and data. Various bulletins and booklets on tourism and

media source like newspapers, radio, internet has also been consulted. Local tourists, hotel owners, managers, local journalists, intellectuals, politicians have also been consulted. The primary data and information has been taken via questionnaire, observation and interviewing local tourists, hotels, tourist visitors etc .For primary data, hotel owners of Kholagaun VDC and Tourists visitors has been selected through convenience sampling method for interview during the survey.

3.4 Sampling Procedure

This study includes local people, experts, teachers, intellectual persons and hotel owners. The sample units are selected as:

Table No. 1
Sampling Area of the Study

S.N	Ward No.	Respondents	Percentage
1	1	11	27.5
2	2	9	22.5
3	3	15	37.5
4	4	5	12.5
		40	100

Source : Field Survey,2014

In this study the sample units of 11 were taken from ward no. 1, 9,2, 15, 3, 5, 4 and were selected for this research.

Table No. 2
Sampling Units

S.N	Ward No.	Respondents	Percentage
1	Local People	25	62.5
2	Hotel owners	9	22.5
3	Others	6	15
	Total	40	100

Source : Field Survey,2014

In this study of 25 local people, 9 Hotel Businessman and 6 others were used for data collection.

3.5 Presentation and Data Analysis

3.5.1 Primary Data Collection Technique

The researcher used different types of tools like questionnaires, observation and interview in order to collect the primary data from the field. For the data collection questionnaires were served to tourists who visited Fikkal, local people and hotel owners. Both structured and unstructured questionnaire were used to collected quantitative information in the Fikkal.

3.5.2 Questionnaire

The study had undertaken structured, semi-structured and unstructured questionnaire to explore the information on challenges and prospects of tourism. For these, the study was based on questionnaire form from the local people, hotels, businessman, domestic tourists, international tourists and government officials.

3.5.3 Observation

Research involved in the observation was to record different information, related challenges and prospects of tourism in Fikkal. To accomplish the task both participant and observant of tourist places, local people, customs, feasts and festivals, other activities were also involved.

3.5.4 Interview

In this study telephonic interview, direct personal interview was undertaken with local people, some experts, and teachers to collect their opinion on challenges and prospects of tourism in Fikkal.

3.6 Secondary Data Collection Technique

Secondary data was obtained through sources like Nepal Tourism Board, Central Bureau of Statistics(CBS), Central Library of Tribhuvan University and from various websites.

3.7 Methods of Data Collection and Technique

Data analysis is the main part of this study. There are two types of data analysis methods; in quantitative analysis data is tabulated from database system, worksheet and interpreted by using simple statistical tools. In qualitative analysis, it represents the personal feelings and experiences which are presented in sentences in the process of data analysis, classified and tabulated data, which he had collected, through various sources. In this study data were collected and tabulated manually. Simple statistical tools such as percentage, tables were used. To fulfill the objectives of the study, data were analyzed in a descriptive manner.

3.8 Analysis of Data

Based upon the sample units selected for the analysis is made by questioning local people, hotel businessman and government officials. The primary and secondary data collection techniques were adopted. Similarly, observation is made including both participant and quasi-participant, tourist places, local people, customs, feasts, cultures and other activities. The telephonic and direct interview was undertaken with local people, experts and teachers to collect opinion on challenges and prospects of tourism in Fikkal.

CHAPTER– IV

INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDY AREA

4.1 Sindhuli district at glance

Sindhuli District, a part of Janakpur Zone, is one of the seventy-five districts of Nepal, a landlocked country within South Asia. The district, with Sindhulimadhi Kamalamai as its district headquarters, covers an area of 2,491 km² and has a population (2001) of 279,821. This place has a huge historic significance. The Sindhuli Gadhi in Sindhuli is the place where British soldiers were defeated for the first time in Asia in 1767 A.D. The British under the leadership of Captain Kinloch came to help the then ruler of Kathmandu, Jai Prakash Malla against the attack of Prithvi Narayan Shah. The Gurkha soldiers were familiar with the terrain and they utilized it to the fullest. The British Army had advanced weaponry such as guns and cannons whereas the Gurkhas were with bows and arrows, spears, etc. But the Gurkhas fought bravely and eventually defeated the British. The British ran for their lives and retreated leaving behind the weapons they brought together with them. Some of these weapons can still be found in Sindhuli Gadhi.

4.1.1 Major Attractions of Sindhuligadhi

A. Natural Attractions

Sindhuligadhi is one beautiful place which gives more pleasure to travellers and gives more recreation to the visitors. The sightseeing view of the green forests and the Mahabharat range lure visitors to stay at Sindhuligadhi. The climate of Sindhuligadhi is always cool which attract visitors and let them enjoy the peaceful environment. During the month of Magh, Falgun (Jan-Feb) the Rhododendron forests looks like flower-garden. It is rich in flora and fauna with varieties in itself as for e.g. Rhododendron, Katus, Kafal, Nilkamal, Sunakhari etc. During winter season, tourists can experience or feel the consoling cool climate with fog that can vanish people in seconds. The splendid glittering view of the Gaurishankar Himal appears in the far convex horizon. Submissive gesture of goddess Parvati before the god Shankar can be amazingly witnessed virtually at stones through distance. Panoramic view of Mahabharat range and Ramechhap district, high-rise frozen lakes are really impressive. It is also famous as a Picnic Spot and hill station .

B.Man Made Attractions

Sindhuligadhi is not only rich in nature but there are also other places of attractions which help to gain more knowledge about it. Sindhuligadhi is also rich in culture heritages. This historical place is famous for ancient history of Prithivi Narayan Shah. Also this place is connected with the Unification Process of new Nepal. Sindhulighadhi is that particular place where Gorkhals defeated the British armies. Apart from them historical, religious and cultural attractions of this region are:

1. Rani Durbar

Situated at an altitude of 1417m, Rani Durbar lies in the Mahabharat belt. This historic palace is situated 23km north from Sindhulimadhi and can be reached via public transport. Built by Bamber Bikram Bahadur Rana, the palace is one of the most beautiful and artistic example of ancient architecture. This Palace was built in 1956 B.S. Among them brick walls is their gracious setting and sculpture design that shows the glorious history of the Rana Regime. The maximum length of the palace is 104' and maximum breadth is 48'-4' and the roof is covered by tins. But today it is getting destroyed due to the lack of conservation efforts.

2. Siddababa Temple (Gadhi)

This temple is situated 800m east from Ranidurbar and it was built 300 years ago. The temple has richly carved bells which were offered by the devotees in 1982 B.S, 1977 B.S, 1961 B.S and 1943 B.S respectively . This one storeyed pagoda temple is the sign of God Shiva. During the festival of Teej women gathers and worship God Shiva. This is one of the most colourful days of the year for women as they sing songs wearing bright red wedding saris. Therefore this temple is famous especially for women during the festival of Teej.

3. Siddababa Temple (Chayoukot)

This temple is situated in the hilly side of Sindhulimadhi and lies in Chayoukot. A hike of 1.5 hour takes to reach this place where visitors can see the beautiful landscapes and the valley. This temple is also the sign of God Shiva and the Kul Devata of the Adhikari People. The temple is just renovated with the help of local people and Shrestha Construction Company. This temple is famous especially for Mangsire Purnima and Baisakhi Purnima. In this time many devotees gather and worship for god and distribute rotis as parsadi. The specialty of this temple is that red tika and red flowers are not necessary for worshipping god. Only yellow colour is offered to God by the devotees. Devotees also gather here during the festival of Shivaratri. There is also a

legend related to this temple, that one Adhikari Brahmin got success in his meditation and he became powerful man of this region. People also believe that because of this place and the Brahmin, this place got its name Sindhuli.

4. Pouagadhi (Aadh)

Pouagadhi is situated on the way to BP Highway and is 3 km far away from Ranidurbar. Local people also calls it Aadh. Pouagadhi is that historic place where Gorkhalis defeated the British armies. It is also connected with the history of Unification of Nepal and it was built by king Prithivi Narayan Shah. This beautiful artistic place is just renovated by local people and Shrestha Construction Company. It is made of stones where Gorkhalis kept their weapon in Pouagadhi during Unification period and the armies protected the state from here itself. The huge door shows the history of Prithivi Narayan Shah.

5. Bhadrakali Temple

Bhadrakali Temple is situated on the way to BP Highway and lies 3 km far from Pouagadhi. This temple is the sign of Goddess Kali. During Dashain festival, many people come to worship goddess kali and even sacrifices animals whereas some of them offer Coconut and flowers. This temple is also known as the sister of Goddess Manakamana of Gorkha. According to inscription carved in bell in 1946 B.S., it is proved that this temple was built 100 years ago. The specialty of this temple is that it has no roof.

6. Ganesh Than

Ganesh Than is situated approximately 5 km far from Sindhuligadhi. This temple is the sign of God Ganesh. Mostly people come here to worship God on every Tuesdays. The other attraction of the temple is the waterfall which are located nearby the temple.

7. Kalika Temple

This temple is situated 1 km far from Sindhulimadhi and lies under the Kamalamai Municipality-4, Madhutar. It is said to be built 200 years ago. This temple is the sign of Goddess Kali. Many devotees gather here during the time of Dashain, Maghe Sankranti and Srawane Sankranti. At that time devotees sacrifices Goats, Chickens, Pigeon and other animals. The 7th day of Dashain(Phoolpati), District Police Officers sacrifice goats and salute by gunfire. At the

time of Maghesankranti, Dhami people gather here and perform their dance with musical instruments and costumes.

8. Kashiram Falls

Kashiram falls is situated in Kamalamai Municipality-9, Dhovantar and is 4 km far from Sindhulimadhi which lies on the way to Siddababa Temple in Chayoukot. People need to walk for 15 minutes from the bus station of the BP Highway. This beautiful waterfall is very attractive but due to the lack of promotion and conservation it is getting shadowed.

9. Bagwani Farm

This Bagwani farm is situated near the Kalika Temple and is 500m far from Sindhulimadhi. The visitors can explore different types of agricultural products and can also study the germination, plantation, and nursery of different plant species. This farm also produces different vegetables and fruits like Litchi, Mango, Pineapple etc. This farm is suitable for agriculture students to gain knowledge about agriculture and one can also see the green view of different plants and vegetables.

10. Balan Dance

This dance is performed as a means of ritual performance uttering in the name of Lord. There is no specific time to celebrate this dance but in special occasion it is mostly observed. Though the origin of this dance is Sindhuli but it is also performed in other places of Nepal. This dance is mainly organized for group worship, where devotees perform by dancing and singing in the name of glory of Lord Rama for the whole night. There is a one group leader who will be assisted and followed by rest of the people whereas two dancers perform dances. The participants also play different forms of musical instruments. The main objective of this dance is to gain God's bliss and to extend brotherhood among each other.

11. Kamala Mai Temple

It is situated on the confluence of the Gwang Khola and Kamala River, this temple is approximately 10 km far from Sindhulimadhi and lies on the way to BP Highway. It is said to be renovated in 2041 B.S. But according to the carved statue of lion, in 1972 B.S. and as per the copper inscription in 1974 B.S., it might be one of the oldest temple in Sindhuli. This two-storeyed pagoda temple is the sign of Goddess Durga. Many devotees gather here at the time of

Dashain, Maghesankranti and Srawane Sankranti and sacrifice goats, chicken and other animals. Devotees do come here from India and other different parts of Terai of Nepal. This temple is famous during Maghesankranti where many devotees come and celebrate Mela at the day of Masanta. At the time of Mela people gather, sing songs and perform dances for the whole night. People also sell local goods, come from far away places to celebrate Mai Mela.

4.2 Fikkal at glance

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4.2.1 Demography Situation

Demography situation is one of the determinant factor of demand for the services which includes health, education and communication . This chapter describes population structure, settlements, social aspect and institutional status of the study area.

4.2.1.1 Population

Demographically Fikkal is moderately densely populated in Kholagaun VDC. The population census of 2011 shows that the total population of that area is 2829 whereas the population of male is 1352 and female population is 1477. The same data also shows 528 number of households in the study area.

Table No.3

Distribution of people on ward wise and number of total households.

Household	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Total Population	Percent

528	1352	48.93	1477	51.06	2999	100.00
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Source: District Profile, Sindhuli

4.3 Educational Background of the Study Area

Tourism has provided and enhanced educational opportunities in particular areas. Access to education is a basic right of all human beings. When, we talk about education status of Fikkal ,it is satisfactory compared with other villages of Nepal.

Table No.4

Educational Status of Total Population of Fikkal,Kholagaun

S.N	Literacy Status	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
1.	Can read and write	1037	41.79	743	71.64	294	28.35
2.	Can't read and write	1392	56.06	457	32.83	937	67.31
3.	Read Only	54	2.17	33	61.11	21	38.89

Source: District Profile, Sindhuli

The table indicates that, there are educated people (41.79%) in Fikkal, Kholagaun VDC. More are uneducated. Illiterate female are high(67.31%) in number than male (56.06%). The table also shows female are more dominated in education . It also shows that male are more educated in comparison with female.

4.4 Population of Study Area by Religion

Table No. 5

Population of Study Area by Religion

S.N	Religion	Number	Percentage
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1	Hindu	2691	89.72
2	Jain	304	10.13
3	Buddhism	1	0.039
4	Christian	1	0.039
5	Others	2	0.069
	Total	2999	100

Source : District Profile, Sindhuli

4.5 Distribution of People on Caste and Ethnicity

Caste is the extreme form of social class in which mobility, occupations, life changes, individual ranks and positions are ascribed on the basis of birth into particular caste group, ethnicity also influence the gender roles and status of men and women. Generally in high caste group, women are in low status than men and ethnic groups women are in better condition than women of high caste within the caste group.

Table No.6

Distrubution of Population according to their Caste/ethnicity

S.N	Castes	No.	Percentage
1	Magar	773	24.01
2	Chhetri	425	13.20
3	Brahmin	725	22.52
4	Tamang	314	9.75
5	Newar	211	6.55
6	Sunuwar	5	0.16
7	Kami	275	8.54
8	Damai	150	4.66
9	Majhi	12	0.38

10	Gharti	23	0.71
11	Sanyasi	5	0.16
12	Sarki	295	9.17
13	Others	6	0.19
	Total	2999	100

Source: District Profile, Sindhuli

CHAPTER -V

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

The collected information was interpreted by tabulating collected datas and was being arranged systematically. The datas were precessed by editing, classifying and tabulating method techniques.

In this study descriptive as well as analytical method was used to analyze data and information. Simple statical tools and computer were also used. Necessary maps and diagrams were used when ever appropriate in the presentation.

5.1 Tourist Inflow in Fikkal

In Fikkal of Sindhuli district there are no any formal records that shows the inflow of tourists. But according to hotels and trekking entrepreneur Fikkal have been able to attract 65% of domestic and 35% of international tourists from among tourists coming from different countries. Chanaute, Thuliban, Tinpokhari, Kholagaun, Mahakali Temple, Hatti Dhunga, Hattiban gufa, Dhau padartha are the famous and beautiful tourist places of Fikkal. During the field survey, researcher met 15 tourists of which 9 of them were domestic, 2 of them were Indians and remaining persons were from other countries of the world.

5.2 Distribution of Tourist by Nationality

Table No. 7

Distribution of Tourist by Nationality

S.N	Countries	Number	Percentage
1	Domestic	9	60
2	Indian	2	13
3	Other countries	4	27
Total		15	100

Source : Survey report ,2014

5.3 Major Tourist Destinations in Fikkal:

Fikkal has its own scope for tourism development. The fundamental attractions of tourism in Fikkal are the natural sceneries, pleasing weather, short trekking routes, small hills with green forests, snowcapped mountains and hospitable people. Because of these places of attraction Fikkal holds strong potential for the development of ecotourism. Apart from the natural beauty, this is a region enriched with ethnic diversities and cultural heritages. Mahakali Temple, Hattidhunga, Mahakali Cave, Dhau Padartha, Pigion Stone etc are some of the famous natural tourist destination for pilgrimage tourists. Different ethnic communities like Magar, Newar, Sunuwar provides different cultural tastes. Fikkal offers some of the most usual and delightful trekking. Tourist who come to Fikkal can make tour more exciting and pleasant through such trekkings. The following routes are most potential for trekkers, which also help to develop ecotourism in these areas. (DDC,Sindhuli)

Chanaute

Chanaute is situated at an altitude of 5903 ft above from the sea level. So, the area is often covered with snow . It's height and slope provide opportunities for skiing . Due to its height, the site offers some spectacular sunrise and sunset views. It also offers view of Mt. Everest and some of the world's highest mountains. Rather than cultural and historical aspects, its natural aspect seems highly promising for ecotourism development in this area. The area is also important for flora and fauna. Jungle bear, a rare animal species is also found here. From

Bahuntilung bus services are not regular so tourists can use private vehicles that take them to Khurkot which is about 50 km far from Bahuntilung. From there Chanaute is about 4 hour trek. (DDC,Sindhuli)

Thuliban

Thuliban is located about 29 km east from Fikkal . Thuliban is famous for the majestic view of the Himalayas, especially the best view point for sunrise and sunset . Thuliban lies as an elevation of 1627 meter in Kholagaun VDC. Thuliban is an hour drive from Khangsan and about 3 hours from Sindhuli. Home stay facilities, village tourism is in a growing phase in this area. Magar a ethnic group and their culture can also be viewed in this area. Dense forests, citrus fruits are the next attractions of Thuliban . Mountain biking, rock climbing, village tour, bird watching, skiing and paragliding are the possible areas of tourism that can be developed in this area , which helps to promote tourism in Fikkal. (DDC, Sindhuli)

Tinpokhari

It lies at an elevation of 1434 meter west of Fikkal. Tinpokhari is ideal for a short trek and for panoramic view of the mountains and plains wrought in the colours of sunrise and sunset. It is a 3 and half hour trek to reach Tinpokhari from Sindhuli bazar. (DDC,Sindhuli)

Kholagaun

It is at an altitude of 3400 meter above the sea level. This area is famous for various types of rhododendron. Among them, 6 varieties of rhododendron are found in this area. It is also famous for herbal plants and various species of birds. It is close to Thuliban, similarly a trek from Thuliban to Kholagaun Arthunge vanjyang and Bajugaun is a five hour walk. This area has great potential for the development of tourism. (DDC,Sindhuli)

5.4 Main Tourism Sites in Fikkal

The researcher had taken 40 local informants during the field survey. Due to lack of time, climate problems and limited resources the researcher could not take more than 40 people. The table also shows that the majority of local respondents said that Chanaute, Thuliban, Tinpokhari and Kholagaun are the main tourist destination sites of Fikkal.

Table No.8

Main Tourism Sites in Fikkal

S.N.	Tourism	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Chanaute	17	42.5
2	Thuliban	13	32.5
3	Tinpokhari	4	10
4	Kholagaun	6	15
Total		40	100

Source : Field Survey,2014

5.5 Social and cultural Diversities of Fikkal

Western, Northern parts of Nepal including Fikkal has more than one festival in a year. Fikkal is rich in terms of religious and cultural importance. The festivals celebrated by the people in Fikkal binds people of all ethnic groups. The Magars celebrate Maruni, festival, Tamang and Gurung celebrate Lhochhar, Newar celebrate Gaijatra, Lakhejatra while Brahmins and chhetris celebrate Deepawali and Dashain.

Maruni

Maruni is one of the main festival of Magar, it is performed by males in female attire. It is one of the most famous and oldest dance form of Nepalese community residing in this region. Earlier, this festival was related to the [festival of Tihar](#). This festival also celebrates the return of Lord Rama to [Ayodhya](#) after 14 years of exile. With time, Maruni was performed even during many personal events, especially marriages. Maruni is performed by both men and women who dress themselves in colourful clothes, shining ornaments and nose rings. The dancers are usually accompanied by a clown who is called 'Dhatu Waray' which means liar but acts as a comedian or a joker. In the many forms of Maruni, nine unique instruments are used with this dance and is called as the 'Naumati Baja'. But nowadays, people are not showing interest towards these dances as they remain busy in their daily chores inorder to earn their living. It is basically performed at western and mid-western hills of Nepal. According to the place, the style of this dance varies. It is purely a part of Nepalese culture.

5.6 Knowledge of Tourism among Respondents

To find out local's perception towards knowledge of tourism, 40 respondents were interviewed and their perception were different. According to them 27.5 percent were travelling from one place to another, 52.5 percent had very sound knowledge regarding tourism activities, 20 percent had travelled from one place to another for job purpose, none of them stayed permanently and all people had full knowledge about tourism. It has been categorised in the following manner :

Table No. 9

Table Respondents according to their knowledge of Tourism

S.N	Category	Number	Percentage
1	Travel from one place to another	11	27.5
2	Tourist activities	21	52.5
3	Travel for job from one place to another	8	20
4	Reside permanently from one place to another		0
5	Do not know		0
	Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey,2014

5.7 Caste Distribution of the Respondents

Degree of severe poverty, illiteracy and lack of accessibility to decision-making level are highly attributed by the groups who have never been represented in true sense by the Nation or the state. Therefore, caste and ethnic variation by groups becomes one of the important variable to define social illness. There is a clear foreland cropping up of an affluent and a poverty-

stricken society on the basis of caste or ethnic groups. However, groups have their own traditional value system that is less likely affiliated with the income level. In spite of that poverty and abundance measured in terms of income is perceived according to a society and is becoming less traditional and more market dependent. Either called it globalization or modernization it ultimately shapes the society in a more homogenized manner. The modern process reluctant to hear the society still constitutes ethnic diversity. Nepal is an exceptional one where dozens of various castes and ethnic groups are identified. According to national census there are 101 different castes and groups identified so far, where in the case of Fikkal, the following castes and ethnicity are found during this study .

Table No. 10

Distribution of Respondents according to their Caste and Ethnicity

S.N	Category	Number	Percentage
1	Brahmin	14	35
2	Chhetri	11	27.5
3	Janajati	12	30
4	Others	2	7.5
	Total	40	100

Source : Field Survey,214

According to field survey 2014, from the above tabulated data janajatis are the highest ethnic group in Fikkal. So, this place has a possibility of tourism because they are very keen in doing this type of business.

5.8 Education status of the Respondents

Educational status of the respondents has been divided into 7 different categories. Illiterate are those who cannot read and write whereas literate are those people who can read and write through informal education system.

Table No.11
Distribution of Respondents according to their Education Status

S.N	Category	Number	Percentage
1	Illiterate	0	0
2	Literate	9	22.5
3	1-5class	0	0
4	6-10 class	0	0
5	SLC	2	5
6	10+2	15	37.5
7	BA & above	14	35
		40	100

Source: Field survey , 2014

None of the respondents that were interviewed were illiterate. 22.5 percentage of the total respondents are literate who can read and write. The above data shows that a lot of educated people are attracted towards tourism industry either in the capacity of business related to tourism or to the level that people occupy the information and knowledge about tourism.

5.9 Expenditure nature of Respondents

In Fikkal, the expenditure nature seems to be different. 10 percent of people spend below Rs.18000, maximum expenditure was Rs.45000 and 47.5 percent of people spend above Rs.45000. It clearly shows that if people have good economic status, they can spend basing upon their satisfaction.

Table No.12

Distribution of Respondents according to their Expenditure nature

S.N	Category(Expenditure)	Number	Percentage
1	Below Rs. 18000	4	10
2	Rs.180001 -Rs.30000	5	12.5
3	Rs.300001-Rs 45000	9	22.5
4	Rs.450001 and above	19	47.5
5	Rs.100000	7	17.5
	Total	40	100

Source : Field Survey, 2014

5.10 Occupational Status of the Respondents

Table No.13

Occupational Status of the Respondents

S.N	Occupation	No.	Percentage
1	Agriculture	25	
2	Business	6	
3	Job(Govt.)	4	
4	labour	3	
5	Others	2	
	Total	40	

Source : Field Survey,2014

Table 5.5 shows the occupational status of respondents. Among 40 respondents, percent are involved in agriculture where only percent are involved in labour work, respondents are involved in business, and government job and percent are involved in other works respectively.

5.11 Saving Nature of Respondents

In Fikkal, the saving nature of people is also different. 10 percent people save below Rs. 15000, and maximum savings is 36001 and about 17.5 percent people save within Rs.24001 to Rs.36000. It clearly shows that if people have good economic status, they can save satisfactorily .

Table No. 14

Distrubution of Respondents according to their Saving Nature

S.N	Category(Saving)	Number	Percentage
1	Below Rs. 15000	4	10
2	Rs. 150001 - Rs 24000	7	17.5
3	Rs. 240001 - Rs.36000	8	20
4	Rs. 360001 and above	16	40
5	No saving	5	12.5
	Total	40	100

Source : Field Survey,2014

5.12 Knowledge about Tourist

To find out locals perception towards knowledge about tourists, 40 respondents were interviewed and their perception were different. According to them 30 percent were travellers, 30 percent were foreigners and 30 percent were both travellers and foreigners and rest 10 percent were others. It has been categorised in the following manner :

Table No. 15

Distribution of Respondents according to their knowledge of tourist

S.N	Category	Number	Percentage
1	Traveller	12	30
2	Foreigner	12	30

3	Both	12	30
4	Others	4	10
	Total	40	100

Source : Field Survey,2014

5.13 Attraction of the Location

Fikkal in one unique place that holds greater prospects for tourism. Among 40 respondents, 7.5 percent people said that it has unique culture, 32.5 percent people said scenic beauty, 35 percent people said geography and 17.5 percent said hospitable people .

Table No. 16

Distribution of Respondent according to their view as an attraction place

S.N	Category	Number	Percentage
1	Relative	14	35
2	Neighbours	3	7.5
3	NTB	2	5
4	Self	14	35
5	Other	7	17.5
	Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey,2014

5.14 Motivated to enter in Tourism

We interviewed 40 respondents as how they have been motivated to enter in tourism. Among them 35 percent people said by relatives, 7.5 percent by neighbours, 5 percent by NTB, 35 percent by self motivation and rest by other sources in Fikkal.

Table No.17

Distribution of Respondents according by their motivation to enter tourism

S.N	Category	Number	Percentage
1	Unique culture	3	7.5

2	Scenic Beauty	13	32.5
3	Scenic Geographical	14	35
4	Lovely	7	17.5
5	Other	3	7.5
	Total	40	100

Source : Field Survey,2014

5.15 Reason of Tourist Attraction

There are many reasons behind tourist attraction within Fikkal. According to survey conducted among 40 respondents, 7.5 percent people said because of cultural programmes, same percent said communication and hospitality, 82.5 percent people said natural beauty and geographical reason is one of the major reason of tourist attraction.

Table No. 18

Distribution of Respondents according to their reason of tourist attraction

S.N	Category	Number	Percentage
1	Culture Programme	3	7.5
2	Hospitality	3	7.5
3	Natural bt Geo.Cul.	33	82.5
4	Typical food	0	0
5	Other	1	2.5
	Total	40	100

Source : Field Survey, 2014

5.16 Employment

The first and foremost economic impact of tourism is employment. It can employ all kind of manpower from skilled, semi-skilled, unskilled. Fikkal has immense opportunities for women's advancement and empowerment because there is no need of additional preparation for tourists. Tourism has allowed many households to employee seasonal labour that can assist for

cooking and cleaning. Not only man even women also gets benefited from visitors. The number of employment opportunities found in Fikkal is generated from tourism. The primary employment generated by tourism in this area is from porters, guides. The secondary jobs generated by tourism includes builders, labourers for constructing houses, shopkeepers etc.

According to interview conducted among key respondents, 70 percent of people are employed from tourism business, 20 percent are semi-employed, 5 percent are alt employed and 5 percent are involved in time pass business which are described in the following way :

Table No. 19
Distribution of Respondents according to their nature of Employment

S.N	Category	Number	Percentage
1	Employment	28	70
2	Semi Employment	8	20
3	Alt Employment	2	5
4	Time pass business	2	5
5	Other	0	0
	Total	40	100

Source : Field Survey, 2014

5.17 Socio- Economic Impacts of Tourism in Fikkal

When a place starts to promote tourism activities obviously social, economic and environment impacts would occur there. Similarly, the impacts of tourism on the society and economy of Fikkal have not been felt yet which is mainly because of low volume of tourists. Development of tourism in Fikkal has brought overall changes in socio-economic status of villagers. Tourism not only affects the way people live and work, but how they think, dress and act accordingly. Only socially sound community can manage development works. Number of impacts of tourism depends upon local society which were observed during the field survey that has been described below.

5.17.1 Social Impact

Tourism is not exclusively an economic phenomenon. It also involves social, cultural and environmental aspects. It has non-economic and intangible effects which provides ample to locals. Development of tourism industry in particularly remote areas has brought large number of changes in the lives of local people. Villagers have got opportunity to learn many things from tourists. Tourism in Fikkal embraces many aspects of community life. Truly, tourism is important to check people from doing hard work such as agriculture labour, water and fuel wood collection. This study is focused on social impacts of tourism in Fikkal .

5.17.2 Impact of Tourism in their Social life

To find out the impact of tourism in their social life of locals, the major question was kept " How has tourism affected to your social life " ? The following table gives detailed information about these questions :

Table No. 20

Distribution of Respondents according to impact of tourism in their social life

S.N	Category	Number	Percentage
1	Increase soc. Status	24	60
2	Increase soc. Friendship	5	12.5
3	Decrease soc.Friendship	0	0
4	No Affect	6	15
5	Other	5	12.5
	Total	40	100

Source : Field Survey,2014

Out of 40 respondents, 60 percent said due to increase of social status, 15 percent respondents said no affect, 12.5 percent respondents said due to increment of social friendship and rest of the people said others. It means that Tourism business has a very much good impact to uplift their social status .

5.17.2 Impact of tourism in their Economic life

To find out the impact of tourism in their economic life of locals, the major question was kept " How has tourism affected to your economic life " ? The following table provides the details of these questions.

Table No.21

Impact of Tourism in their Economic Life

S.N	Category	Number	Percentage
1	Economic growth	15	37.5
2	Decrease Economy	12	30
3	As it is	10	25
4	No affect	0	0
5	Other	3	7.5
	Total	40	100

Source : Field Survey,2014

Out of 40 respondents, 37.5 percent respondents said due to increase in economic growth, 30 percent respondents said due to decrease in economy, 25 percent respondents said as it is and rest of the people said others. It means that tourism business do not hold good impact to raise their economy growth. All the villagers told that they are all quite satisfied by its popularity although the contribution of tourism in their income is negligible because they are not fully dependent upon tourism.

5.18 People's involvement in Tourism

Tourism has become a main employment source as well as generation of foreign exchange in Nepal. Tourism is a strong factor to change economic condition of people within a particular destination. Tourism has changed the economic status of local people within a short period of time. The economic impact of tourism is found particularly in the form of employment and income. Tourism development is pursued at the community level for three main economic reasons :

- It is a source of income.

- Provides employment.
- Helps to deversify the local economy.

For local people, tourism has provided an unparalleled opportunity to improve standard of living and the quality of life, households are able to buy more food and better clothes, can afford to repair houses.

Table No. 22

Distribution of Respondents according to their involvement in tourism business

S.N	Category	Number	Percentage
1	Involvement in tourism	30	35
2	Not involved in tourism	10	7.5
	Total	40	100

Source : Field Survey,2014

Out of 40 respondents, 75 percent are involved in tourism business and only 25 percent among the respondents are not involved within tourism business. It shows that tourism, if appropriately developed, can create more tourism related business activities.

CHHAPTER – SIX

CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS OF TOURISM IN FIKKAL

6.1 Challenges of Tourism in Fikkal

This chapter deals with the challenges and prospects of tourism in Fikkal which is another main objective of this research. A number of constraints have affected the tourism development processes due to lack of physical and institutional infrastructure, while others result from shortage of skilled, technical and professional human resources. Despite great

potentials and promising prospects, tourism in Fikkal has been facing various challenges. Unless these challenges are being solved tourism cannot be promoted as expected. The major challenges associated with tourism are as follows :

6.1.1 Lack of Infrastructure

Inadequate physical infrastructure hampers the growth of tourism. Accommodation, accessibility, hospitality and amenities are generally affected due to lack of fundamental facilities within the tourism sites such as Chanaute, Thuliban, Tinpokhari, Kholagaun etc.

6.1.2 Transportation

Transportation is the backbone of tourism industry. It enables people to visit various tourist destinations. Modern means of transportation is not available to all tourism destination of Fikkal. HImal-Terai-Fikkal road is providing transportation facilities in the eastern part of Fikkal. Fikkal-Panchar road is also available whereas other parts of this district are lacking from this facility.

6.1.3 Communication

Communication is also one of the major facilities within the tourism industry. Tourism is developed in the rural areas generally in remote villages. The telephone services are not properly distributed in all parts of VDCs within the district. There is neither proper telephone services in district headquarters and its periphery nor good network accessibility is available in the whole district.

6.1.4 Accommodation

Accommodation is another most effective factor in the tourism industry. Accommodation facilities are insufficient and not available in all tourism destinations of Fikkal. Few available lodges and hotels are located in Tilpung bazar. Other parts of this area lack these facilities.

6.1.5 Health services Sector

There is only one hospital in district headquarter of Sindhuli whereas primary health services are provided within the VDCs. They are not well equipped in terms of emergency and

even for general health services. It is causing a great deal of insolvencies for the locals as well as tourists visiting this place. Therefore insufficient facilities of health services should be considered as a challenge for the promotion of tourism.

6.1.6 Electricity

Electricity is also a major component of tourism development. There are not sufficient facilities in Sindhuli district as well as in all the VDCs till date. These challenges has been constrained in the way of other facilities like telephone, internet and publication of other tourism productions.

6.1.7 Banking Facilities

Tourists need banking facilities within tourism areas. Therefore, banks must be established near tourist destinations and money exchange facilities should be available for tourists. But these cannot be managed in Fikkal properly.

6.1.8 Skilled Human Resources

Trained guides are most important to make the tourists visit various culture and historical places. With the co-operation of guides, any tourist can study and know about the correct image of Nepal as well as Fikkal. If the guides are untrained and imperfect they can mislead foreigners. Most of the people do face language and communication problems.

6.1.9 Lack of Promotion and Marketing

For the development of tourism, advertisement and publicity do play an important role. Advertisement and publicity are only means to attract tourists from its organizing countries. To attract tourists, culture, architecture, natural beauties, religious environment etc. can be advertised through pamphlets, booklets, short documentaries, films, postcards, internal magazines and through other possible means. It is also one of the major tourism challenges in Fikkal. Due to these challenges, many foreign tourists including domestic tourists do know about the paradise of this part of the country. That is why Fikkal is unable in attracting domestic as well as foreign tourists. Lack of publicity and promotion of most of the tourism destination has not explored yet.

These challenges need to be addressed properly and timely with the help of private and public institution.

6.1.10 Lack of Travel and Trekking Agencies

Tourism can be developed through travel agencies if they perform their task smoothly. Travel agencies do play a significant role in generating tourists from tourist organizing countries, marketing reservations for hotel accommodation, organizing travel tour for a tourist etc. But due to lack of well-organized travel agencies, it could not provide substantial contribution in the development of tourism sector. In Fikkal there are no any adequate travel agencies and due to this tourist cannot contact directly. This is also affecting in the development of tourism.

6.1.11 Lack of Proper Co-ordination

If Fikkal we can see lack of coordination among agencies, trekking agencies, rafting agencies, resorts etc. Junar garden, Thuliban, Tinpokhari, Mahakali cave, Mahakali Temple, Hattidhunga can be promoted within Fikkal. But Fikkal could not implement this in an effective manner. Likewise, the inefficient administrative procedure of government in implementing tourism policy is also a serious challenge.

6.1.12 Inadequate Recreational Facilities

Lack of sufficient bus parks, swimming pools, performances of cultural programmes and other facilities are not available in Fikkal. Recreational facilities and tourism are directly related to each other so that these centers should be made accessible all over tourism areas in Fikkal wherever possible.

6.1.13 Information Center and Advertisement

Information center should be established in tourism areas. But there are no any information center in Fikkal. Tourism maps and other information related to tourism are not available for introducing in front of tourists. So we have to launch various programmes as people

get to know more about Fikkal. Websites are to be launched and information related to Fikkal is most important to provide information for tourists residing in every corner of the world.

6.1.14 Ample Air Accessibility

Since there is no good condition of roads, international tourism in Nepal is heavily dependent on air services as there are no any air travel facility in Fikkal.

6.1.15 Inadequate Inter- Sectorial Linkages

A distribution aspect in study area is due to lack of inadequate linkages of tourism with the local economy of the multiplier effect of generating additional income and employment which makes it excessively dependent on external inputs.

6.1.16 Market Limitation

To attract number of foreigners and Indian tourists, it requires substantial improvement, investment in infrastructure facilities and services. Considering the limited tourist arrivals in Fikkal, it may not be feasible for private entrepreneurs to invest in infrastructure development.

6.1.17 Lack of People Awareness

One of the major and dangerous challenges of tourism in Fikkal is lack of awareness among people. Only few people have knowledge about tourism. Majority of the people are engaged in agriculture which is also limited to the subsistence level. Fikkal has high tourism potentialities, but that has not been explored yet. Explored tourists destination has also not been developed so far. Since people are illiterate, they are unaware about the benefits that can be generated from tourism. Government and Non-Government organizations should provide formal as well as tourism education to the local people.

6.1.18 Negligence of the Government

Lack of government priority and commitment for development is also one of the major challenges of tourism development and proper plans has not yet been framed out for long term tourism development . If tourism is widely accepted, it can be flourished in a rapid manner.

6.1.19 Political Disturbance

Political disturbances created by political turmoil, due to Nepal Banda, Chakkajam etc. have also adversely affected the tourism sector. These conditions create case of uncertainty in the country leading to reluctance on the part of foreign tourists to visit Nepal. In this situation, Fikkal has also faced challenges in attracting large number of tourists.

6.1.20 Challenges of Tourism Development In Fikkal

Table No .23
Challenges of Tourism Development

No of Respondents	Opinion	Percentage
12	Transportation facilities	30
12	Lack of information	30
10	Problem of trained Manpower	25
3	Hotel facility	7.5
3	Others	7.5
40		100

Soruce : Field Survey, 2014

Public view about the challenges of tourism development in Fikkal has been shown in above table. Researchers had taken 40 people for study. Among 40 people, 30% respondents showed that main challenges of tourism development is lack of information about tourism areas in Fikkal. There are so many beautiful tourist spots but due to lack of advertisement these places are not explored yet. 25% shows that main challenge is lack of trained manpower, 25% opined transportation facility is the major challenge. 7.5% showed that hotel facilities are not good whereas 7.5% respondents opined that other challenges like good travel company. Lack of good trekking guides within congested Nepalese society are also creating challenges in the development of tourism.

6.2 Prospects for Tourism Development in Fikkal

The main challenges are to change the behaviour of the people of Fikkal to implement various development projects. Through this, knowledge, talent and resources can be optimally utilized for common benefits. The tourism projects should be generalized and implemented to achieve development goals in the community. Local people should be recognized as the main decision makers to tackle challenges collectively for their natural benefit. The tourism development programs in Fikkal should pay more attention to income generating activities both of short and long term nature and at the same time ensuring people's right and privileges over the resources. It is equally important of installing the right kind of value system and change attitude to develop entrepreneurship and management skills. The prospects of tourism development in Fikkal are summarized below :

6.2.1 Natural Beauty

Natural Beauty is one of the important aspects for the attraction of tourists in the study area. Fikkal itself originate by the natural resources therefore, there is high possibility of Fikkal being a potential destination for the tourists. For example, Hattidunga, Mahakali Temple, Thuliban, Tinpokhari, Dhau padartha, Junar garden makes Fikkal itself a beautiful place.

6.2.2 Religious and Cultural Heritages

It is another major prospect of tourism in Fikkal. There is dominance of Hindu religion whereas only few of the people have adopted Christianity and Buddhism. People adopted diverse tangible and intangible culture, which seems to be different in accordance to caste and ethnicity. People of this region follow different kinds of festivals in order to preserve their identity through the generation. Mainly the people of this region follow different festivals like Gaijatra, etc. Along with the celebration of different festivals they have been playing different musical instruments like Naumati, Damaha, Narsinha (flute) and shanai in order to entertain the observer in that particular day. Usually they have been using these musical instruments to perform different dances like Sakela, Lakhe Nach, Ropai, Jatra etc. Local Shaman heals on the basis of the tune of musical instruments and bless the people who have been suffering by the

supernatural forces. People follow these kinds of practices on the basis of the Hindu principle, which is uniquely surviving even in the 21st century. The cultural heritage of this region itself a potential region for the researcher where the society have been constructing through the kinship network and Hindu varna system. The cultural pluralism itself creates the diverse roles and responsibilities of the people, which are the unique features of cultural diversity in the study region.

6.2.3 Public View About Prospect of Tourism in Fikkal

The researcher had taken local people in the study as per the study of challenges and prospects of tourism in Fikkal. The following table shows the public view about the prospect of tourism in Fikkal among 40 respondents.

Table No.24

Public View About Prospect of Tourism in Fikkal

No of Respondents	Opinion	Percentage
15	Highly sound	37.5
20	Moderately sound	41.5
3	Not so good	7.5
3	Unknown	7.5
40		100

Soruce : Field Survey, 2014

Out of 40 people, 41.5% people opined the prospect of tourism in Fikkal is moderately sound and 37.5% believe highly sound, 7.5 % respondents do not have any idea about prospects of tourism in Fikkal. 7.5% opined tourism prospect in Fikkal is not so good.

CHAPTER - SEVEN

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

7.1 Summary

The contribution of foreign tourism sector in the national development of Nepal has been quite significant. However Nepalese tourism sector has not been developed as expected. In the scenario of low productivity in agriculture sector, the condition of having no abundant resources for industrial development, tourism can be a high productive sector to compensate unemployment and disguised unemployment prevailing in the country as well as Fikkal. Nepal as a whole can be a means for development in rural areas that are rich in natural and cultural resources and tourism has comparatively more advantages than other industries such as, it has low opportunity cost, it takes low gestation period to give return, it can involve the lower strata of all ecological zone, involves women and ethnic groups and bears direct relation to all ecological zone, like culture, environment, nature, behaviour of the people. Tourism also has a very significant contribution to GDP, foreign exchange earnings, government revenue, employment and its indirect and induced effects. In this basis, tourism can be a leading sector and socio-economic force in the economy of Nepal.

The researcher aims to assess the present situation, to identify and explore challenges and prospects of tourism in Fikkal. The study attempts to assess the physical, religious, cultural tourism resources of Fikkal. The data of the research are based on both primary and secondary sources.

Similarly, Chanaute, Tinpokhari, Thuliban, Kholagaun and Tilpungbazar are the main trade centers. There is one special resort which is also the place of attraction for tourists that is called as the Fikkal Resort. It is filled with cultural and natural resources. This is inhabited entirely by the Magar people. Fikkal is a small place compact with clean trails connecting the main stone slate house. The present study was carried out in Fikkal with a view to find out the contribution of tourism in improving local life and condition of this place. In the field visit of Fikkal, researchers have exclusively found new feelings and experiences.

Most part of the Fikkal lies in the hilly belt. Unique diversified cultural system exists in this place. Agronomy is the base of economy. Fikkal is one of the potential destinations for

tourism. Natural scenery, peaceful environment, ethnic simplicity, rich and diverse culture, religious sites and pilgrimages, historical places, Junar garden etc. are the main tourist destinations of Fikkal. Hence, Fikkal provides a wide spectrum of tourists interest ranging from sight-seeing, adventure, researches, cultural trips, pilgrimages and others.

The present situation of tourism in Fikkal is not satisfactory. There is no any attention being paid by the administration for tourism and no priority for tourism in district development plans. Tourists are not formally recorded, local people are not aware about tourism, lack of professional people, negligence by NTB and the government, tourism plans are not formulated in Fikkal. The main attractions of tourism in Fikkal are the scenic natural beauty, pleasant climate, socio-cultural heritages etc. Mahakali Temple, Mahakali Cave, Junar garden, Hattidunga, Thuliban, Tinpokhari, Chanaute etc. are the main tourism sites in Fikkal. Maruni Naach , Gaijatra, Ropai jatra and Lakhe fair of Newari community are the main cultural attractions for tourists. As a whole, Fikkal is also referred to as the "Queen of the hills" . It is a beautiful place enriched with green healthy environment equipped with fundamental requirements promoting tourism. Fikkal is one of the richest place of Nepal in terms of its bio-cultural diversity, natural landscapes and flourishing professionalism in agricultural especially in rich cash crops sector. Fikkal is the most famous place of Nepal for Junar production. It is widely famous for major six cash crops all initiating from the same vowel sound /a/ in Nepali, so it is also known as the district of '6 As'. Potato, Cardamom, ginger, Red round chilly, Milk and Broom grass are the major cash crops which are known as Aalu, Alaichi, Aduwa, Akbare Khursani, Olan & Amliso respectively in tribal Nepali language.

Development of tourism infrastructure in Fikkal is a recent phenomenon. Now there are not better and enough infrastructure facilities available, where one and only non star hotel and lodge is available. Most of the respondents opined that basic infrastructure are not developed so tourism couldn't be promoted in a healthier manner in the area which are the main challenges of tourism in Fikkal. About prospects of tourism in Fikkal, 37.5 percent respondents reported that prospect of tourism in Fikkal is highly sound, 41.5 percent respondents mention that there is moderately sound where as 7.5 percent respondents reported that prospect of tourism in not so good and 7.5 percent respondents are unknown about the prospects of tourism.

7.2 Conclusion

Definitely tourism is one of the most significant contributors of Nepalese economy. In spite of high potentiality of tourism development in all areas and their ecological region, tourism in Nepal is centralized in Khumbu, Kathmandu, Chitwan, Pokhara, and Annapurna regions and is highly seasonal in nature. Therefore both the natural and cultural diversity of these areas and their potentialities are at high risk. The study of tourism in Fikkal revealed the absence of government policy and long term planning. There was no long term planning exercise for tourism development in Fikkal. Therefore, policy and long-term tourism planning at the micro level should be given due emphasis. This research depends on exploratory and descriptive research design. Information of the research is drawn from questionnaire, survey and literature review to make more reliable and authentic. Majority of the people have lower education therefore educational based programs needs to be initiated by the government and non-government agencies. There is a huge connection between education and tourism because more the number of educated people helps in development activities, it plays a significant role in its promotion and publicity within the short span of time. Majority of the people are involved in agricultural services and remaining other population adopts non-agricultural activities like business, services and students that is why there is high potentiality to run agro-based industries and eco-agro tourism. If the government and local people draw their attention for the establishment of such types of industries and tourism hand in hand, the income level of people will be increased. By the conventional tourism the majority of benefits are generally retained in the central and city areas and no share reaches the villages and other areas like Fikkal. Emerging local people in new tourism activities starts with tourism awareness and then requires capacity building and skill training. Therefore capacity building and skills training is a core activity to promote tourism. The local culture and religious sites, agro based products emerges as key product in tourism. The beneficiaries can be women and deprived people with awareness and skilled training. In order to access tourism products it is necessary to upgrade and maintain roads, trails, bridges and other essential infrastructure. These improvements not only help tourists, but also ease the live holds of local people. For tourism infrastructure development, successfully concluded partnerships between the government, communities, localbodies and NGOs generating in some districts who are already showing a good will and developed a feeling

of ownership among the local users and other local population are of great importance. These types of partnerships can upgrade or renovate access to roads and trails, create tourism facilities, repair religious sites, build public utilities, social infrastructure and environmental conservation facilities as well as alternative energy systems. It can be concluded that there are number of problems, challenges and constraints in front of village tourism development in Fikkal. Low level of infrastructure development, lack of awareness, entrepreneurship, investment and lack of marketing to the existing tourism products are serious challenges for tourism development in Fikkal. Nevertheless, all these challenges can be overcome with concrete efforts of public private partnership. If tourism destinations of Fikkal are linked with famous tourism destination, then the development of tourism in Fikkal will take pace in a rapid manner. There are various types of tourism models which could build up in Fikkal like community based tourism, home stay tourism, farm tourism, religious tourism, cultural tourism etc. There are great potentials of trekking, hiking and adventure tourism as well.

7.3 Recommendations

On the basis of conclusion suitable recommendations have been made in order to provide solution to the various challenges of tourism. Fikkal is the potential hub and the best option to develop as a model of tourism. Fikkal itself is a beautiful place for the cultural experts and trekkers. Its natural setting has added much beauty on it. There is huge possibility of diverse products to sell to the tourists. However, that has not been explored yet. Looking at the existing festivals like Dashain, Tihar, Lhochhar, Gaijatra, Lakhe Jatra etc., this place can provide better products to the domestic as well as foreign tourists. First and foremost Fikkal should be developed externally and it should be advertised and other attraction areas should be preserved in order to attract a large number of tourists. Depending upon my study the following recommendations should be followed :

- Prepare immediate action plan to preserve and conserve sites with historical, religious and cultural importance like Tinpokhari, Chanaute, Thuliban, Mahakali Temple, Mahakali Cave, Hattidunga, Dhau padartha and Pigeon Stone.

- Study area itself is one of the potential area for the study of the tourism. Therefore, further research is needed.
- Government assistance is required for promotion and infrastructure development.
- Conduct mass awareness programs to create conducive environment for tourism development.
- Priority should be given to the develop tourist destinations in order to reduce poverty and promote equality.
- Home stay model and Nepalese type accommodation facilities should be built and established in the areas of tourism destination.
- Organic farming should be encouraged at the satellite area of major tourism spots.
- Development of minor forest products such as aromatic and medical herbs, ferns, orchids as they are in high demand.
- Provide education and training that encourages local skill enhancement and natural resources management capacity of local people.
- An integrated approach among government agencies, NGOs, INGOs working in Fikkal is needed in order to make resources enhancement program effective.
- Improving user ability in identifying needs and in planning and managing resources, in particular of the women and the underprivileged groups.
- A well planned, well-coordinated and systematically integrated, publicity campaign is required for effective promotion of tourism. Publicity of Fikkal in the outside world related to various culture, tradition, religion, heritages, photos of panoramic scenes, new

tourism activities and required facilities must be organized time to time in the different parts of the world.

- In Fikkal there is no system of keeping a record of tourists, tourist information center, travel agencies as such no data are available on tourists and their characters. Therefore tourist record keeping system should be initiated, tourist information center should be established and tourism promotion committee should be formed.
- To solve the problems and develop tourism in Fikkal, the above suggestions are recommended. To fulfill these recommendations, district development committee of Sindhuli, Sindhuli chamber of commerce and industry, Fikkal tourism promotion committee, Ministry of tourism, Nepal tourism board, government, NGOs, INGOs and private sector need to work in local and pay their attention in time. Ultimately, it would contribute in raising the living standard and poverty alleviation of rural poor in Fikkal.
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Questions for International tourist

1. How did you arrive here ?

- a. By car b. By bus c. With major airline d. OtherS

2. How did you hear about this tourist destination?

- a. I already knew about it b. Internet c. Books and guides d. Travel agency

3. Is this your first visit to this tourist destination?

- a. No. b. Yes.

4. How many nights are you planning to stay at this tourist destination ?

5. What are the main reasons for your visit to this tourist destination?

- a. Rest and relaxation. b. Visiting relatives and friends. c. Business reasons. d. Sports and recreation

6. Who is accompanying you on your current visit to this tourist destination?

- a. No one b. Partner c. Family or relatives d. Friends

7. When did you decide to stay at this tourist destination ?

- a. Less than a month ago b. 1 to 3 months ago c. More than 3 months ago

8. How much do you plan to spend per person during your visit to this tourist destination on the following items?

- a. Transportation (plane ticket, bus ticket, taxi, etc) b. Accommodation c. Restaurants, cafes
d. Other shopping

9. Please, name your country of residence ?

10. What is your employment status?

- a. Employed b. Self-employed c. Unemployed d. Student / pupil.

11. What are the most challenging difficulties that you face when choosing a destination?

- a. Language difficulties b. Price c. Other

Question for Domestic tourist

1. What means of transport did you use to come here ?

- a. Car b. Motor bike c. Bus d. On foot

2. Who motivated you to enter in tourism ?

- a. Relatives b. Neighbour c. NTB d. Self - Motivated

3. How does tourism affects your life ?

- a. Increase income b. Decrease income c. Increase life- style d. Others specify

4. What kind of challenges are you facing in this area ?

- a. Lack of marketing b. Lack of accomodation c. Lack of awareness of tourism in the local people d. Others (specify)

5. Why did you visit this area ?

a. Entertainment b. Educational tour c. Research d. Others (specify)

6. How did you hear about this tourist destination?

a.I already knew about it b. Internet c.Books and guides d.Travel agency

7. Is this your first visit to this tourist destination?

a No. b. Yes.

8.What are the most challenging difficulties that you face when choosing a destination?

a.Language difficulties b.Price c.Others

Question for Hotel owners

1.What is your source of income ?

a. Tourism b. Agriculture c. Job d. Own Business

2. Do you know about tourist ?

a. Traveller b. Foreigner c. Both d. Other s

3. Do you know about types of tourists ?

a. Yes b. No

If yes what is their type ?

4. Since, How long tourism has been started in this area ?

a. Before 1990 b. Since 1990 c. Since 1995 d. Since 2000

5. Because of what reason tourism started in fikkal ?

a. View tower of fikkal b. Lovely environment c. Beauty Geographical d. Others (Specify)

6. By which factor tourist are more attracted in this area ?

a. Typical food b. Natural beauty c. Temple d. Cave

7. i) How many tourist visit this village in a year ?

a. Below b. 50-100 c. 100-150 d. Above 200

ii) If you any record please mention here :

a. Domestic :

b. International :

8. Are all the basic needs of tourist available in the local market ?

a. Yes b. No c. I don't know

9. How do you find your social status after entering in tourism ?

a. Good b. So so c. Criticized d. Others

10. Does tourism have erased (negative effect) any norms and values of society ?

a. Cultural destroy b. Religious change c. Increased gap between poor and rich

11. Have you served both Domestic and international tourists ?

a. yes b. No

ii) If yes , what is the ratio ?

a. 50-50% b. 60&40% c. 40&60% d. 70&30%

12. Is it easy to deal Domestic or International tourists ?

a. International b. Domestic c. Both

10. i) Do you find any special problem to deal with International tourists?

a. Yes b. No

ii) If yes

a. Cultural barrier b. Religious barrier c. Language barrier d. Others (specify)

13. Which of the below infrastructure have been developed after development of tourism ?

a. Drinking water b. School and colleges c Health post d. Transportation

14. What are the more essential facilities to develop tourism ?

a. Transportation b. Government aid c. Electricity d. Awareness of tourism

15. i) Does government help to develop the tourism of fikkal ?

a. Yes b. No

ii) If yes,

a. Transportation sector b. Communication sector c. Marketing of product d. Health sector

16. How does tourism affect to diverse development of this area ?

a. By providing opportunities of employment and service

b. Development of traditional cottage industries

c. Conservation and promotion of culture

d. Opportunities of local business

e. Opportunities of cash crops

17. Would you mind to give any suggestions to develop the tourism of this area in present situation ?

a.

b.

c.

d.

18. In your opinion, what are the main challenges to develop tourism in this fikkal ?

a.

b.

c.

d.

19. In your opinion, which factor is more potential to develop tourism in this area ?

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



Figure No. 1 Kholagaun VDC

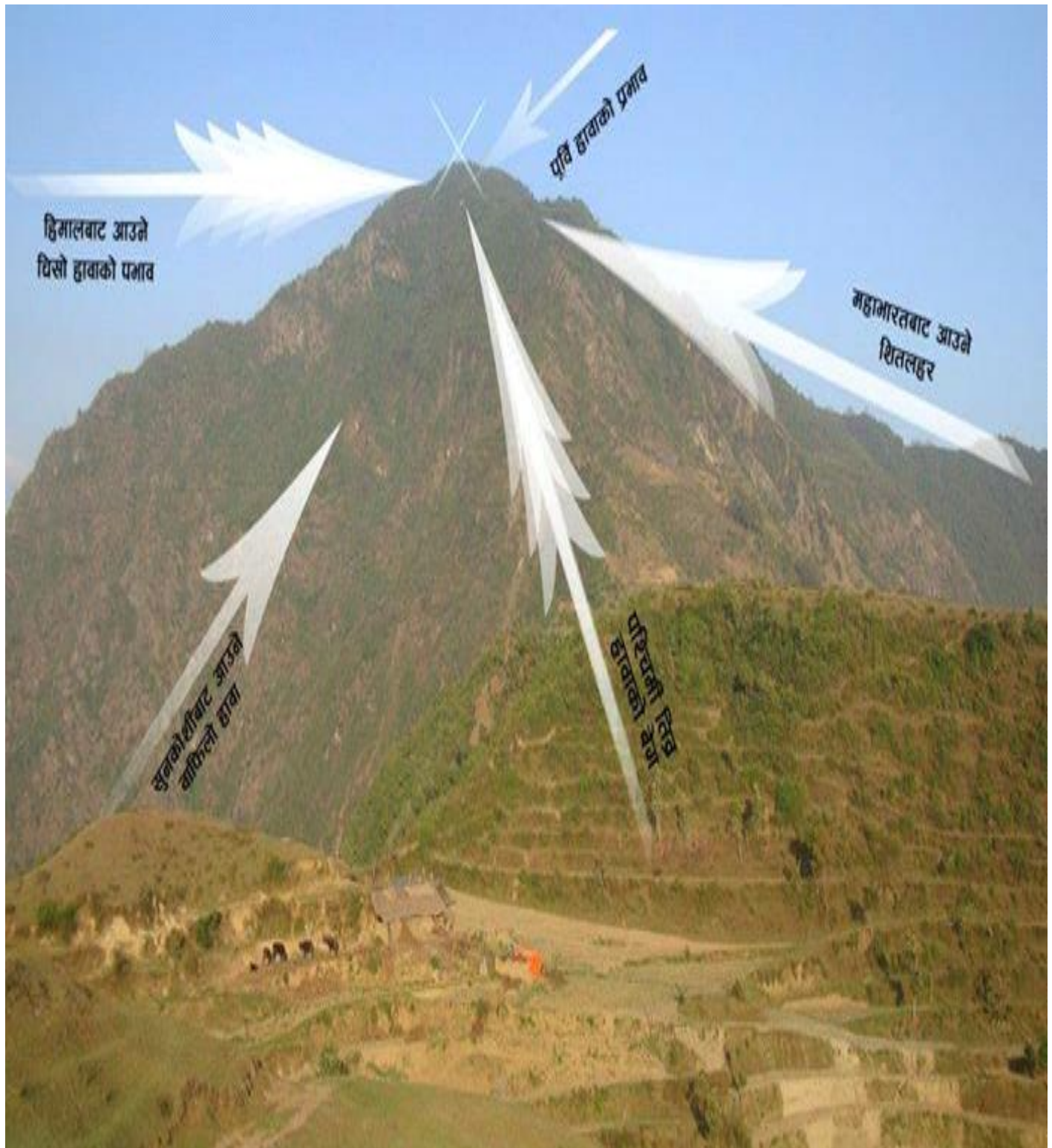


Figure No.2 Environment Condition of Fikkal

विश्व ज्वलोकन घरहरा (भ्यू टावर) फिक्कल (सिन्धुली)

निर्माणमा हामी सबैको प्रतिबद्धता



Figure No. 3 View Tower





Figure No. 4
Junar, Rhododendron and some Jadibuti

