

**ECONOMIC DIMENSION OF TOURISM IN LANGTANG
VILLAGE**

A Thesis

**Submitted to Faculty of Humanities and Social Science
Central Department of Rural Development
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the Degree of Master of Arts in
Rural Development**

By

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled **Economic Dimension of Tourism in Langtang Village** submitted to the Central Department of Rural Development, Tribhuvan University, is entirely my original work prepared under the guidance and supervision of my supervisor. I have made due acknowledgements to all ideas and information borrowed from different sources in the course of preparing this thesis. The results of this thesis have not been presented or submitted anywhere else for the award of any degree or for any other purposes.

.....

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Date: 2076/01/08

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RECOMMENDATION LETTER

The thesis entitled **Economic Dimension of Tourism in Langtang Village** has been prepared by **Nirdesh Bal Lama** under my supervision in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development. I, hereby, recommend this to the evaluation committee for final examination and approval.

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APPROVAL LETTER

The thesis entitled **Economic Dimension of Tourism in Langtang Village** submitted by **Nirdesh Bal Lama** in partial fulfillment of requirements for the Degree of Arts in Rural Development has been found satisfactory in scope and quality. Therefore, we accept this thesis as a part of the degree.

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ABSTRACT

Tourism industry provides products and services to the internal and foreign customers, generates profits to the country, all the while creating employment opportunities to the host communities and nation. Nepal's economy largely depends on tourism and nature based tourism is its backbone. Tourism accounts for 7.5 percent of Nepal's GDP and 6.4 percent of employment (WTTC, 2017). The Himalayas and the scenic beauty of Nepal are the prominent attractions to the tourists. With its breathtaking landscapes, snow-capped mountains and friendly people, it has long been known as heaven on the earth. Langtang village lying at the heart of Langtang trek has seen flourish in tourism post 1980, yet the scientific researches and assessment have been scarce. In this background this study has aimed to analyze the economic dimension of tourism in Langtang village. The specific objectives of the study are, to assess the tourism services in Langtang village, and to analyze the economy generated by the tourism.

Exploratory and descriptive research design have been employed in this study. For the study, both qualitative and quantitative data have been collected through primary and secondary data sources. The respondents' age, sex, occupation, income earned has been quantitative in nature, and how they are dependent on tourism, problems and challenges associated, and other related information is qualitative. The primary sources of data were Household Survey Questionnaire, Key Informants Interview (KII), and Observation Checklist. The secondary sources were published and unpublished hard and soft copies of scholarly articles, books, academic thesis, journals, internet, reports, etc. The universe for this research is 152 households of Langtang village (CBS, 2011). Simple random sampling method has been employed to select 41 household samples with 90% level of confidence and 5% margin of error. The study has used the data collected from techniques namely; Household Survey, Key-Informants Interview, and Observation by using questionnaire, KII guidelines and checklist as tools respectively.

Assessing the tourism services in Lantang village, the earnings were made from mainly hotel business (88 percent), tea-shops (8 percent), and few had porters (4 percent). In majority, about 58.5 percent tourists came for trekking, 19.5 percent for

site-seeing, and 9.8 percent for mount-climbing and remaining others for photography, and volunteer works.

And regarding the economy generated by tourism in Langtang village, this study revealed that 51% of the households had primary source of income from tourism followed by 39% from foreign employment. Every households made some monthly income through tourism, among which about 85.4 percent households could earn more than 40 thousand NPR, with the lowest earners about 4.9 percent making upto 20 thousand from this sector. These very businesses were run with the investment made with upto 5 lakhs by 14 percent, 5.1 to 10 lakhs by 10 percent, 10.1 to 15 lakhs by 12 percent, with above 15 lakhs of investment by 5 percent of the households. In terms of generation of employment, the businesses were run mainly employing the family members with 24 percent households running business by a single person, 12 percent employing 2 members, 2 percent employing 3, and 3 percent employing more than 3 members.

Based on the findings, this study concludes that tourism is one of the important sources of economy in Langtang village. Many households make significant income through conducting businesses such as hotel, restaurants, guide and pottery service, trekking service and several others. But the scale of operation, quality tourism products, and other amenities are lacking for the optimum growth of this sector in this region. It is recommended to the community that collective bargains could be made to the governments for improving and investing more on tourism sector, concerned policy makers could extend helping hands to the investors in tourism sector in Langtang village through tax rebates, subsidies, which could attract more tourists into the village, and the local governments should first identify the potential tourism attractions, make plan and manage resources to preserve, and present them in attractive manner.

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ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMS

AD	Anno Domini
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
Etc	etcetera
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
WTTC	World Travel and Tourism Council
FY	Fiscal Year
IUOTO	International Union of Official Travel Organization
KII	Key Informants Interview
MoCTCA	Ministry of Culture, Trade, and Civil Aviation
NRs	Nepalese Rupees
m	meter
NTB	Nepal Tourism Board
pa	per annum
PATA	Pacific Area Travel Association
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
VDC	Village Development Committee

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Tourism is one of the biggest and fastest growing industry in the world. Nepal's economy largely depends on tourism and nature based tourism is its backbone. Tourism accounts for 7.5 percent of Nepal's GDP and 6.4 percent of employment (World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), 2017). The country is in developing phase and so is the tourism sector. The beauty of Nepal lies in the natural resources, culture, wildlife and the geographical diversity. Being rich in natural diversity, nature based tourism has a huge potential. With the successful implementation of the concept of sustainable tourism and ecotourism, the natural diversities of Nepal has gotten even more hype.

Late King Birendra said, *"Tourism if cultivated properly may help a country to earn foreign exchange as well as friends from across the land seas helping to forge link of mutual understanding and appreciations for a better world of tomorrow. Thus, tourism is emerging as good option for rural development as well as for uplifting living standard of people in developing countries like Nepal"* (Lamichhane, 2018).

Tourism has been playing a pivotal role in the socio-economic sectors of the most of the developed as well as developing countries of the globe. So, most of the nations are attracted to this industry and trying their best to strengthen economic life by promoting tourism in the country. Tourism industry has emerged as a sector that contributes a lot to the country by creating jobs and by taking development to remote and far off areas that has turned out to be corner stone in alleviating poverty (Shrestha, 1978).

Nepal is one of most attractive tourist destinations of the world. The Himalayas and the scenic beauty of Nepal are the prominent attractions to the tourists. With it its breathtaking landscapes, snow-capped mountains and friendly people, it has long been known as heaven on the earth. Gorgeous mountains, rivers, water-falls, lakes, green forest, caves and rare flora and fauna have played great role in attracting tourists and visitors. Its forests, hills and mountains crisscrossed by myriad of trails and diverse cultural heritage attract both novices and experienced trekkers, so it is also known as a trekker's paradise.

The inception of tourism in Nepal was about six decades ago in 1950s, since then tourism in Nepal has come a long way. At present, tourism is one of the main sources of foreign exchange earnings and employment opportunities at different levels. It also plays a pivotal role in the economic development by promoting cottage industries, trade and other services in various sectors. In 1998 the tourist arrival in Nepal was 4,63,684 and total foreign exchange earnings from tourism was Rs. 9,881.6 millions which leaped to maximum 5,26,705 tourist arrival generating total foreign exchange earning of Rs. 18,6503 millions in 2007 AD. It was the maximum point met till now. In 2008, total number of tourists visiting Nepal has decreased to 500,277. It has decreased the amount of total foreign exchange earning to 16,825 millions in the first eight months of the fiscal year 2008/09 AD. Nearly 3.3% of the total GDP was shared by tourism industry in 1998, which decreased to 2.3% in 2008 AD. It has increased to 2.6% in first eight month of F.Y. 2008/09 (MoCTCA, 2008). To increase tourist influx in the future, government of Nepal in consultation with Nepalese Tourism Industry had launched a national tourism campaign "Nepal Tourism Year 2011". This announcement reflected the government's keenness to bring into at least one million international tourists in Nepal by 2011 and spread the benefits of tourism to the people at large.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Though Nepal is a beautiful country with incredible tourism potential, the economic condition of the state is dismal, ranking it as one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world. This could be a reason very less amount of research has been carried to gauge how tourism has impacted the progress and development of these areas and the people living there.

Nepal is one of the richest countries in diversities but somehow it is unable to generate much from the available resources. Tourism of Nepal highly depends upon the infrastructures availability. And after the devastating earthquake hit Nepal we lost many of our precious heritages and natural beauties. One of the worst hit area was Langtang, an idyllic, scenic valley which is a must travel destination for true travelling aficionados. The tourism related activities in Langtang had started after the establishment of the Langtang National Park in 1976. However, it got frequent footfalls after 1980.

Langtang village lies at the heart of langtang trek, one of the most important trekking routes of Nepal. However, not much research has been done in exploring and bringing forth the impact of tourism on the livelihood of people. As aforementioned, tourism to Langtang flourished post 1980, yet not much assessment has been done on how it has affected the lives of erstwhile agrarian society where people were and are still to an extent involved in animal husbandry and traditional industry. This study aims to evaluate how rural livelihood of a pristine valley has been affected, changed and improved by tourism.

1.3 Proposed Research Site

Langtang is a village municipality in Rasuwa district in the Bagmati zone of northern Nepal. Langtang village lies in the Langtang range in the Himalaya just at the north east of the Kathmandu. Located at the elevation of 3400m above sea level Langtang village is a valley surrounded by the Himalayas. Coming from the Langtang trek passing through traditional ethnic villages and forests Langtang village is the last human settlement. It has the total population of 415 and household of 152 (CBS, 2011). The tourism related activities in Langtang have been started since after the establishment of the Langtang National Park in 1976. However, as aforementioned it gained prominence and started attracting large number of tourists after 1980.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The overall objective of this research is to analyze the economic dimension of tourism in Langtang village.

The specific objectives of the study are:

-) To assess the tourism services in Langtang village.
-) To analyze the economy generated by the tourism

1.5 Significance of Study

This research could help identify the problems and prospects of the area. As Langtang village is one of the prominent tourism destinations of Nepal, this research could be used for further enhancing nature-based tourism of the area in a sustainable manner. Langtang was one of the worst hit regions by the 2015 earthquake. As a

result one of the most popular trekking region was shunned and avoided by the tourists. This research could help to show the present status of the area and bring into light the efforts of local inhabitants to make the trek safer. The knowledge about the present condition and impacts of the tourism would help policy makers to devise effective programs so as to improve and develop the society and to persuade the tourists about the safety of the trip.

1.6 Limitations of the Study

This research only studies about the economic dimension of tourism in Langtang village. The social and political dimensions of the village are not within the scope of this study. Due to time and budget constraint, this study might not be comprehensive enough to present the status of economy based on tourism in the Langtang village. If the census study could have been done in the village, a total picture of the economic dimension of the tourism sector could be presented.

1.7 Organization of the Study

This research consists of five chapters which are introduction, literature review, research methodology, data analysis and interpretation, conclusion and recommendation. The introductory chapter describes about the socio-economic condition of rural Nepal, livelihood and status of tourism in Langtang Valley. It also illustrates the objectives, significance, limitations of the study. The second chapter reviews previous literatures relating to the economic condition, livelihood option, and tourists inflow and activities done in the Langtang village. The third chapter illustrates about the methodology used in this research. Similarly, the fourth chapter (analysis and interpretation) presents brief overview of the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the population in the study area. In the fifth section, along with concluding remarks, major findings and recommendations have been mentioned for further researchers. Two annexes have supported the research. At the end, references for the literatures that have been used in this research have been provided in a sequential manner.

CHAPTER II: LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter reviews previous literatures related to the economy based on tourism businesses, and their impacts on lives of people. The chapter has been categorized into theoretical review, empirical studies, national policy on tourism, economic aspects of tourism related businesses and conceptual framework of the study. For this purpose related books, journals, official reports, articles, previous research work, other published and unpublished documents of the subject matter were reviewed.

2.1 Theoretical Review

This part covers rationale of literature review for the study. Literature of different studies of foreign and Nepalese publication has been reviewed regarding the impacts of tourism. Tourism has been boon for the rural people livelihood however it has both positive and negative impacts on socio-economy and environment. The literature review helped to outline the objective of the study which deals mainly with the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of tourism.

2.1.1 Tourism

Tourism is termed as a peace industry as it prospers only in peace environment and also contributes to extend the international affability among countries. It is also known as a dream industry as it sells dreams to the potential tourists to attract them to visit the destinations. Tourism denotes the temporary short time movement of people to destinations outside the places where they normally live and work and their activities during the stay at these destinations.

The word 'Tourism' or 'tourist', which dates back to year 1292 AD, is derived from the Latin word 'tornus' and has come in vogue as the notion of 'round tour' or 'package tour' (Bhatiya, 1982). The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO, 2017) defines 'tourism' as the activities of persons travelling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes not related to the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited.

Tourism is an ever growing industry of today's world. It has been considered as a major product of modernization and globalization. It has profound impact on the society. It is multidimensional and multidisciplinary in terms of culture and nature. Somewhere it is blamed as a major cause of cultural erosion and somewhere it is appreciated as an effective tool for economic development and social harmony.

According to Tewari (1994), the concept of Tourism is as follows:-

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

The movement is of a temporary nature and for a short duration, which distinguishes it from migration.

It gives rise to activities at the destination, which are distinct from those of resident population of the place visited.

The main motive for participation in tourism is largely recreational and the visit is made for the purpose other than seeking permanent residence or employment remunerated from within the place visited.

Tourism, in the pure sense, is essentially a pleasure activity and involves a discretionary use of freely disposable incomes and free time.

Kunzikes and Krapf have defined tourism as "the sum of the phenomenon and relationship arising from travel and stay of nonresidents, in so far as they do not lead to permanent residence and are not connected with any earning activity". This definition briefly covers only a few aspects of tourism, though it has been accepted and adopted by the International Association of Scientific Experts in Tourism (Negi, 1988).

Tourism is a key resource for sustainable development. Tourism provides the best platform for the business of local foods, customs and handicrafts. It helps in business promotion' and income generation by preserving the indigenous knowledge and skills. Conservation through tourism is possible. And tourism is only sector where invisible things like social values, norms, traditions, folk-stories do meant money. Tourism has both positive and negative impacts. It provides modern facilities to the locals too, supports the local economy, provides employment opportunities, gives a sense of

pride and good name to the locals and locality, and reduces social/racial conflicts and discriminations. It also can commodify the culture, hike the price of goods, displace traditional residents, increase pollution, creates extra population.

Tourism is bound to bring change but these needs to be distinguished from sustained negative impacts. In the long term, impacts on mountain communities have been largely positive and in many remote areas, without tourism, there are few alternatives to improve well-being.

Tourism has benefited areas like Namche Bazaar, Ghandruk and Langtang and in many remote areas, without the development of “mountain tourism”, these areas would not have benefited from tourism (Banskota, 1998).

Tourism nevertheless has the potential to play a large role in Nepalese development, both directly through employment created and money injected into the economy, as well as indirectly through government investment of tourism-obtained revenues in national and local development of agriculture and industry and the further elaboration of the tourist infrastructure itself.

Tourism, both international and domestic, is an intermingling of people from diverse social and cultural backgrounds and also considerable spatial redistribution of spending power which has a significant impact on society, culture, environment and the economy of destination area (Archer, 2001: 63).

2.1.2 Livelihood

As defined by Chambers and Conway (1991), a livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources) and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stress and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base.

Tourism is used as a rural livelihood strategy. In recent years, it has been focused by the rural developers for rural poverty reduction in developing countries. The livelihood of the many people living in the developing countries like Nepal depend upon tourism.

2.2 Empirical Studies

2.2.1 Tourism in Nepal

In 1951 Nepal followed an open-door policy after the establishment of democracy, before that; there were no any proper records of tourism statistic in Nepal. During the period of Rana Regime, Late Mr. Tenzing Norge and Mr. Edmund Hillary made history of Mount Everest on 29th may 1953, for the first time which caught the attention of international visitors. Officially Department of tourism in Nepal was established in 1996 under the Act of tourism development and Nepal Tourism Board (NTB). Following that, Nepal got the membership of UNESCO and Nepal's heritage sites were listed in UNESCO and were known to the world. And after knowing the fact that the Nepal has a tremendous future potential in tourism industry ,it succeed to get the membership of the International Union of Official Travel Organization IUOTO, South Asian Travel for Commission, Pacific Area Travel Association PATA and American Society of Travel Agents (Bhattarai, 2003).

The most economically potential growth sector of Nepalese economy is the tourism industry. Tourism can be summed up in Nepal's comparative advantage in three words: Nature, adventure and cultural beauty. These include the world's highest peaks Mount Everest, national parks rich in fauna and flora, exceptional trekking routes, snow-fed rivers, wonderful lakes and rich in cultural and religious diversity as well. Out of 14 highest peaks on the earth, eight lies in Nepal including Mount Everest. Nepal has some of the best and bio-physically and culturally diverse trekking trails anywhere in the world along the mid-hills and the high Himalayas. The Asian Rhino, the Royal Bengal Tiger and the Asiatic Elephant are the three flagship species of wildlife sanctuaries that can be found in southern plains of the Terai. The architecture and ancient history of the cities of the Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur, the pilgrimage centers of birth place of Lord Buddha; Lumbini and place of lord Shiva; Pashupatinath temple are the major cultural attractions of country. Other attractions of Nepal are the huge cultural diversities, religion, and life style of the many ethnic groups (Sharma, 2012).

According to UNWTO (2012), Tourism is a major tool for socioeconomic transformation in the developing countries like Nepal. Nepal is a well- known destination in the world tourist map. Currently political stability has provided a strong

base for development of tourism in Nepal. The newly formed government after the election has strong visions to develop and promote the tourism development in the entire country. For successful development in tourism, the government has to be in line with local needs and aspirations, maintain the cultural value of the place, conservation of environment and the requirement of skilled manpower.

Nepal's snow-capped majestic mountains, ancient cultures, captivating sights and religious activities have attracted thousands of tourists yearly. Nepal is rich in biodiversity and home to different ethnic groups. Nepal can develop a new form of adventure sports because of its unlimited tourism potentials and organize various social and cultural events. Tourism possibilities, available in Nepal, are not exploited optimally. Recently, the Government of Nepal has formulated its vision for 2020, which mainly focus on the area of creating employment in rural areas that include women and marginalized communities, distributing tourism benefits to a grass root level and enhancing community participation in tourism related activities (MoCTCA, 2009). For promoting tourism in Nepal, the Government of Nepal and the Ministry of culture, tourism and civil aviation have been actively working and also been motivating private sector for their active participations in the development and promotion of tourism development in Nepal.

2.2.2 Tourism and livelihood

According to Trah (2004), Local Economic Development is a concept to do with development of local territory, specifically aiming to stimulate the local economy to grow, compete, and create jobs, in particular by making better use of locally available resources.

Joshi (2007) has presented that tourism can increase the opportunities for the rural poor in their own communities. It also has the potential to reduce rural migration to the urban areas, increase employment opportunities for the urban poor, and give them additional income to provide for their families in the rural areas. Also tourism related skills gained by the urban poor could be applied in rural areas, helping to reverse the migration process. Tourism provides employment opportunities by diversifying and increasing incomes that help to reduce the vulnerability of the poor. Through increased national income, additional funds can be diverted to poverty reduction programs and can be linked with local development. So, tourism plays a number of

important social and economic roles. It is commonly seen as an important form of community economic development with the place and scale of tourism placing significant pressure on heritage resources.

Gurung (2013) found that tourism brought changes in the facilities like health post, trekking route and provided opportunities to learn second language, change in profession and in education level. However the main source of livelihood among people are foreign employment and agriculture, tourism plays a vital role in the additional income generation to make life sustainable. The economic benefit from tourism is usually reaped by tourism entrepreneurs but the locals also benefit through employment.

K.C & Parajuli (2014) found that tourism had brought positive changes in community livelihood. With the increasing number of visitors in recent years, the tourism participation is helping local people earn more money and improve their living standard. Generation of income from tourism is also helping entrepreneurs to enhance their business in ecotourism sector as they are investing money in making the environment clean, green and clear. They are also working in the trade of local products from animal and plant origin such as handicraft and bamboo baskets. It is creating more employment opportunities for the local people to generate income for living a good quality life. So, tourism had direct effect on livelihood of people.

Adhikari & Fischer (2008) study investigates the socio-economic impact of tourism in two wards of Ghandruk VDC, western Nepal based on household surveys and secondary data, office records, informal and formal interviews and direct observation. Sustainable tourism is able to enhance nature conservation by opening up new opportunities. The study suggests that there is a trade-off between economic benefits and environmental and social-cultural costs, which requires a good balance to implement the concept of ecotourism, which is boon for forest conservation, livelihood, and community development.

Guha & Ghosh (2007) has examined the contribution of tourism towards improving the livelihoods of local people in a remote island village of the Indian Sundarbans. Households entering into tourism-related occupations have significantly raised their living standard compared to other non-participating households. The participating households distribute the seasonal inflow of tourism money over their year-long

expenditures. The additional money from tourism enables the households to consume over and above the bare necessities as revealed by the fact that they have enhanced their expenditure on non-food items proportionately more than on food items. The trickle-down effect of tourism money to non-participating households by intra-village transactions is statistically insignificant as such households show no significant increase in their expenditures by virtue of their location in the study village.

According to Godfrey and Clarke (2000), socio-cultural change relate to local quality of life and sense of place. Positive change in the quality of life could be as follows; personal income increases, helps to improve living standards for those more directly involved in industry, supports the diversity of restaurants and other cultural entertainment, influence the assortment of goods for sale in many local shops that would not be available in the same amount if tourism did not exist to support them, park areas are often improved, street furniture and design criteria introduced, greater care and attention placed on overall environmental quality, new opportunities etc. And in contrary negative changes in the quality of life could be as follows; local shops overcharging, petty theft from cars and accommodation, more serious personal assault etc. Regarding the sense of place, positive changes could be as follows; revitalizing local culture and traditions, enriching local understanding and interest in history and culture, a sense of pride in local heritage, celebrations/festivals can become tourist attractions, crafts promotion and production in large scale, etc (Acharya, 2005).

The direct economic impact reflects the 'internal' spending on Tourism (total spending within a particular region on Travel & Tourism by residents and non-residents for business and leisure purposes) as well as government 'individual' spending -spending by government on Travel & Tourism services directly linked to visitors, such as cultural (eg: museums) or recreational (eg: national parks).

Tourism has found to affect 3 percent of the National Gross Domestic Product in Nepal. Thus the economic impact of the tourism is significant. Nepal has to utilize all the resources and advertise the tourism industry to get more benefit from tourism industry.

In 2016, the total contribution of Travel and Tourism to employment, including jobs indirectly supported was 6.4% of total employment (954,000 jobs). This is expected

to rise by 5.4% in 2017 to 996,000 jobs and rise by 2.9% pa to 1,325,000 jobs in 2027 (7.1% of total) (World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), 2015).

On a macro level, tourism is one of the principle sources of foreign exchange in Nepal. Tourism growth has been strong in the last decade of the 20th century. By the end of 2001, the tourism sector was assumed to have directly employed 80,000 people, and the contribution of this sector to the total foreign currency income generation and total gross domestic product had been 12% and 3.1% (NPC, 2003). A large amount of money comes in through informal employment, such as informal guides, porters, pack animal owners, street vendors, et cetera.

Langtang is one of the major trekking destinations in Nepal. Tourism development in Langtang started since after the establishment of Langtang National Park in 1976. Langtang is the nearest mountain trekking route from Kathmandu. About 12000 tourists annually visit Langtang Valley. Rich in physical, biological and cultural diversity Langtang has been the center of tourism activities. But there has been almost no research on tourism development trend in Langtang.

Nepal has been blessed with a combination of landscape, cultures, and mystique that makes it undoubtedly one of the world's foremost shrines for environmental and ethnic tourism. National government has become aware of the growing tourism linked environmental problems, the problems of leakage of potential foreign-exchange earnings, and the shortcomings of tourism instead of putting blinders and viewing tourism as a panacea for the solution of Nepal's deep poverty. Tourism nevertheless has the potential to play a large role in Nepalese development, both directly through employment created and money injected into the economy, as well as indirectly through government investment of tourism-obtained revenues in national and local development of agriculture and industry and the further elaboration of the tourist infrastructure itself.

The tourism industry is the world's largest industry and is being utilized for economic development and rapid growth in many developing countries. In Tanzania the tourism industry is growing at an annual rate of almost 5% and contributes 17% to GDP. Tanzanian tourism is based on wildlife tourism which requires not only programs for the conservation and protection of flora, fauna and the environment but also for job and wealth creation for the indigenous population who often pay a cost in lost land

usage for conservation and tourism. Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA) is unique in Tanzania in that it is a conservation area but contains a population of almost 70,000 people (mostly Maasai) living in it. This paper, based on a survey of 119 local Maasai and 39 employees of the NCA's governing authority, examines whether tourism revenue directed to the Maasai pastoralist communities has an impact on their economic development and how much does this revenue complement other income sources. We found that while members of the local community are economically benefiting, many people are still not aware of tourism's potential for them. (Melita, 2012).

Tourism businesses influence both individual and community on their different aspects; social, economic, political, geological, environmental, etc. In this study, special focus has been given to the following variables.

2.2.3 Individuals

The effect tourism business has on the individual includes the opening up of a range of employment opportunities; the chance to have a crack at leading "the good life"; the ability to send ones children to school and away to university; in short, the overall improvement of the 'life chances' of the individual. It denotes the probability of an individual achieving an array of goals, benefits and resources during his lifetime. These goals are long life, good health, a desirable job and recognition from fellow "citizens. The benefit and resources include income, education, housing and social security.

) Income

Travel and tourism represent important economic activities that contribute to the vibrancy of regional economies and provide a source of both entrepreneurial and household income. Individual and household incomes are affected by the wage and salary employment in tourism-sensitive sectors. Tourism is considered to have special position in poverty alleviation through:

- An engine of foreign exchange earnings which creates multiplier effect by increasing spending frequency over and over again.

- A more viable and sustainable economic development option for underdeveloped and developing nations as the earnings trickles down to the grass root of society.

- Generates revenue through accommodation and restaurant taxes, airport taxes, sales taxes, park entrance fees, etc (Njoya and Seetaram, 2018).

J Employment

Tourism is extremely labor intensive and a significant source of employment. It is among the world's top creators of jobs requiring varying degrees of skills and allows for quick entry into the workforce for youth, women and migrant workers. Tourism and hospitality industries create many employment opportunities in different areas like accommodations, transportation, attractions sites. Therefore, the availability of skilled and trained manpower is a crucial element in the success of any tourism development plan or program, hence employees is a sine qua non of tourism industry.

Employment opportunities in tourism and hospitality sectors can be created either directly or indirectly. Direct Employment opportunities are the total number of job opportunities supported by directly in travel and tourism. For example employment by hotels, restaurants, travel agencies, tourism information offices, museums, protected areas such as national parks, palaces, religious sites, monuments, aircrafts, cruise lines, resorts or shopping outlets, souvenirs, photography, sightseeing tours, farmhouses, bed and breakfast, rural inns, and guest houses, local transportation (state owned airlines and railways, private transport facilities), Guides, cooks and scouts. Tourism and hospitality also supports indirect employment in activities like restaurant suppliers, construction companies that build and maintain tourist facilities, as well as necessary infrastructure, aircraft manufacturers, various handicrafts producers, marketing agencies, accounting services, which are more or less dependent on the companies providing direct employment for their revenues (Aynalem, Birhanu, & Tesefay, 2016).

J Quality of life

Tourism has enhanced the interaction between rural ethnic communities and the outside society. It functions as a bridge connecting city people and villagers, in which urbanites can learn traditional farm culture, while villagers can access modern information from the city. Cultural and social changes happen by tourism. The tourists

bring economy to their families and had strong influences on their lives. They became more confident doing business with outsiders and open-minded towards their children's education. Many villagers sent their children to the city for school and some even sent children to overseas for higher education.

) Access to resources/infrastructure

The tourism industry is very land and resource intensive. There should be balance between with the local resource and land use practices. Tourism business owners utilize these resources and infrastructures to earn income. It should promote the establishment of small and medium-sized tourism enterprises which, compared to large-scale hotels etc., have far more moderate impacts on the environment. It is the industry's responsibility to act as a model for communities to show that it is possible to do business whilst protecting natural resource (UNSCD, 1999).

2.2.4 Community

) Infrastructure

Tourism tends to encourage the development of multiple-use infrastructure that benefits the host community, including various means of transports, health care facilities, and sports centers, in addition to the hotels and high-end restaurants that cater to foreign visitors and communication. The development of infrastructure has in turn induced the development of other directly productive activities.

) Access to natural resources

Tourism has a significant impact on natural resources and the environment, while it can also contribute to the conservation of these same resources. Locally, tourism affects the quality, availability and accessibility of natural resources for local users. Regionally, tourism provides revenue for nature conservation (Marcouliller, 2008).

) Rural urban linkage

Rural-urban linkages through tourism take a variety of forms. Connections between urban and rural spaces through tourism take many forms including both spatial and sectoral flows. Among the spatial flows are investment channeled from urban areas into rural tourism products and tourism movements from urban to rural areas for various purposes as well as counter flows from rural to urban areas for various trip purposes. In terms of sectoral flows once again a range of these flows occur through tourism including of supply chain linkages both from urban to rural environments of a range of commodities and from rural to urban areas of mainly agricultural products.

2.2.5 Livelihood

Tourism is indeed a potent catalyst for individual and social development. It provides a market for creative people to produce items for sale to visitors, thus creating cottage industries which can be very important in societies, such as ours, with a high percentage of female-headed households.

A wide range of costs and benefits need to be taken into account. In particular, it is as important to address negative impacts as to maximise positive ones. And to address impacts on people's assets and existing activities, not just direct contributions to household income and security.

In reference to the livelihood strategies, the impacts of tourism can be considered in terms of:

- Impacts on household assets
- Impacts on other household activities and strategies
- Contribution to a variety of household goals
- Influence on the external policy environment, and people's capacity to influence external forces (Ashley, 2000)

2.3 Conceptual Framework

This study is based on the concept of economic impact. Economic impact involves analysis of the activities of the tourism stakeholders on the community. This study will analyze how the tourism affects the economy of the people living in a certain tourist designated area. The framework below shows the effect on household as well as in the community. Income generation, employment and infrastructure are some examples that tourism ensures if carried out properly.

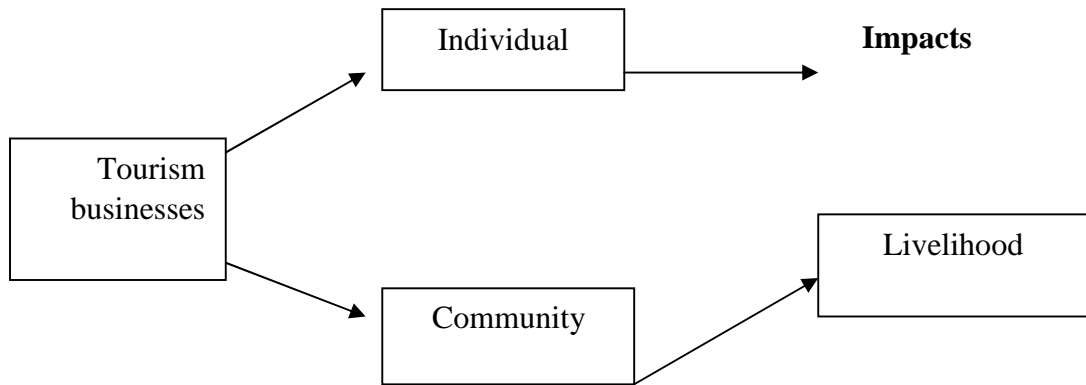


Fig. 1.1 Conceptual Framework

CHAPTER III: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter deals with the methods employed to conduct the research and analyze the data. It consists of design of the study, study area and its selection, study population and sample size, nature of data, tools used for validation of data, analysis and interpretation method, and ethics considered during the collection of data.

3.1 Research Design

This research has applied exploratory and descriptive research design to study the economic dimension of the tourism in Langtang village. It is exploratory because no prior research had been conducted in Langtang village regarding its economic dimension of tourism sector and also a descriptive design as the information collected from the field has been organized and explained in a descriptive way. This study has tried to explain different aspects of tourism in Langtang village in detailed manner. It is a study about the economic impact of tourism on rural livelihood.

For the study, both qualitative and quantitative data have been collected through primary and secondary data sources. The descriptive statistics regarding the people residing in Langtang village, their demographic information, occupation, economic aspects of tourism businesses, and others are based on quantitative information while the impact on livelihood, changes observed in the community, challenges faced, needs of rural people are based on qualitative information.

3.2 Rationale for the Selection of the Study Area

The prospect of tourism in Langtang is huge as it has reserves of National park, trekking route, and unique Nepali culture of Himalayan region. It is important to know the status of the available services and facilities for the tourists, impact of recent earthquake, and future needs in the area. So the Langtang village has been selected as the study area for this research.

3.3 Nature and Sources of Data

The nature of data is qualitative in nature and both the primary and secondary sources have been used. The age, sex, occupation, income earned has been quantitative in nature, and how they are dependent on tourism, problems and

challenges associated, and other related information is qualitative. The secondary sources were published and unpublished hard and soft copies of scholarly articles, books, academic thesis, journals, internet, reports, etc.

3.4 Sample Size and Sampling

The universe for this research is 152 households of Langtang village (CBS,2011). The study does not concern with other nearby and neighboring villages. Simple random sampling method has been employed to select 41 household sample for the research. The calculation for the representative sample has been shown in the Annex I.

3.5 Validation of Tools

The developed household survey questionnaire and key-informants' interview (KII) guidelines were checked for the validity among 6 households prior to conducting of the research. The findings were shown to the experts in the department for its validity during the research.

3.6 Techniques and Tools of Data Collection

Primary data were collected through the household survey with semi-structured questionnaire for collecting data on changes in life-habits and impact on the entrepreneurship.

3.6.1 Questionnaire Survey

Structured questionnaire provided was used to obtain the factual data from tourists. Household survey was also conducted but most of the local people of the place were not able to fill up the questionnaire form so the questionnaire was also used as schedule to get information from them. The questionnaire has mainly covered the information related with the status of tourism business, start-up cost, and revenue generation through different tourism related activities. The format of the household survey has been attached in the Annex II.

3.6.2 Key Informant Interview

In order to obtain factual and authorized data about the park, Key Informant Interview was conducted with park staff, school teacher, representative of local

government, health assistant, and social activist. The information was collected from 5 local persons; 1 park staff, 1 lower secondary level teachers, a ward member, a health assistant, and a social worker. The guideline of the Key Informants Interview (KII) and its participants list has been attached in the Annex III.

3.6.3 Observation

In the field visit different infrastructures and services related to tourism were observed through checklist which has been attached in the Annex IV. The data was recorded through filed observation and first-hand experience while visiting the study region.

3.7 Analysis and Interpretation of Data

The collected data were arranged, categorized for further processing and analyzed in simple descriptive manner. The quantitative data were subjected to statistical analysis like central tendency for data analysis and the result have been presented and presented in suitable tables, charts and diagrams in the final report. The qualitative data was analyzed in simple descriptive manner. After proper interpretation of these data, findings were properly arranged in a report format. The report is subject to be presented to various stakeholders.

3.8 Ethical Considerations

The research was conducted only after receiving informed consent from the respondents while the focus group discussion was conducted after receiving written consent from the participants. The participants and respondents did not receive any monetary gains but the knowledge would indirectly benefit all. During the course of conducting the research careful attention was provided not to disturb the social cohesion and state of the community.

CHAPTER IV: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter focuses about the presentation and analysis of collected data from the household survey questionnaires, checklist and key informants interview to achieve the stated objectives. The data is presented and analyzed using theoretical basis with simple table, graph, pie chart and verbal expressions. According to specific objectives the data are presented and analyzed systematically.

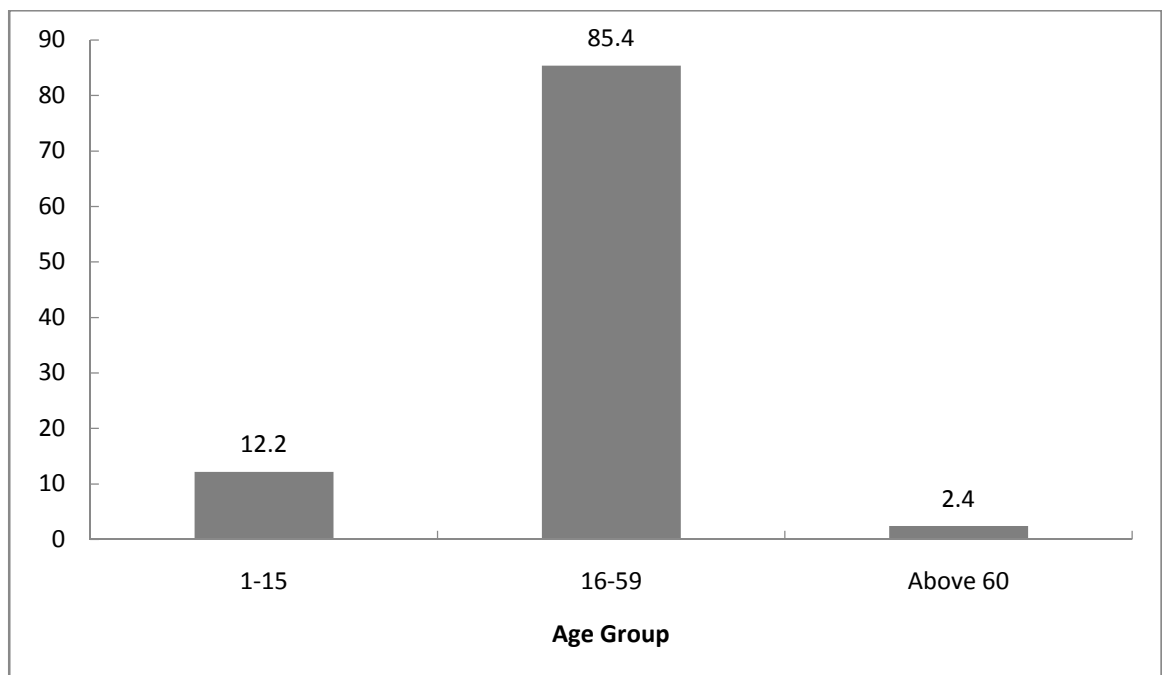
4.1 Socio-Economic Status of the Respondents

4.1.1 Demography

Age Group

Age plays an important role in getting genuine and correct information from the respondents along with the effective decision making. The respondents' age-group had been divided into 3 classes, of which the distribution has been presented in the figure given below:

Fig 4.1: Percentage distribution of respondents according to age



Source: Field Survey, 2018

More than 85 percent of respondents were in the age-group of 16-59 years old, followed by 12 percent belonging to 1-15 years old, and 2 percent above 60 years of

age. This meant the data collected would represent the true situation as the working class citizen more apt to provide correct information rather than children and old people above 60 years of age.

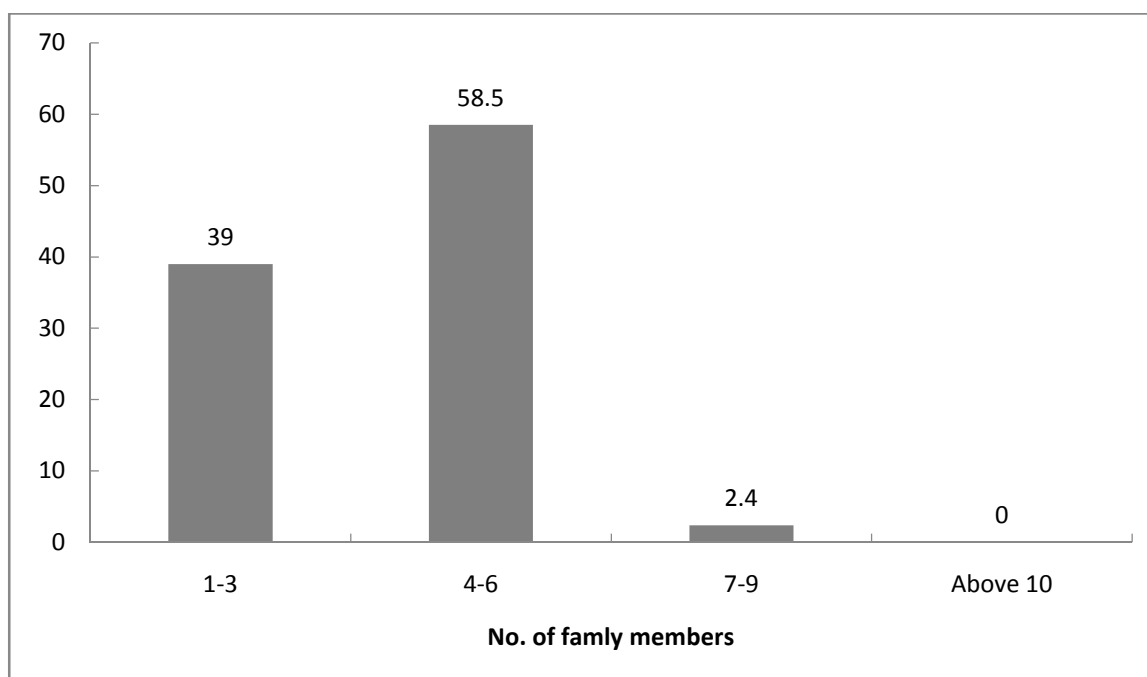
Gender of Household Head

About 61% of the household heads were male, and remaining 39% were female. The culture of rural setting is that the decision maker is almost always a male which has its roots to the patriarchal upbringing and feudal socio-economic system. Nevertheless, the number of female headed households are on the rise nowadays. The reason for this might be trend of out-migration of male members for employment.

Household Members

The number of household members have been categorized into four groups, of which the distribution has been presented below:

Fig 4.2 Percentage distribution of respondents according to household members



Source: Field Survey, 2018

Almost 59 percent of households had family size of 4 to 6, followed of 39 percent of households having 1-3 family members, and the remaining 2 percent comprising 7 to 9 family members. The mere 2.4 percent of households having family members of 6 to 9 represents the socio-economic system in which family are dissipating from joint

system. People are investing on different economic activities apart from traditional agricultural system which might be the cause behind few no. of family members in the village.

Caste

Almost cent percent of the households belonged to Tamang caste. The indigenous people of the Himalayan region; the Mongols are adapt to the harsh environment of high Himalayas where other castes such as Brahmin, Kshetri, Newar, and others do not like to make their living. The reason behind exclusiveness of the Tamang people in the village might be due to generations of family residing in the village and their adaptiveness to surrounding environment, harshness of livelihood avoiding settlements of others, and cultural background of the people.

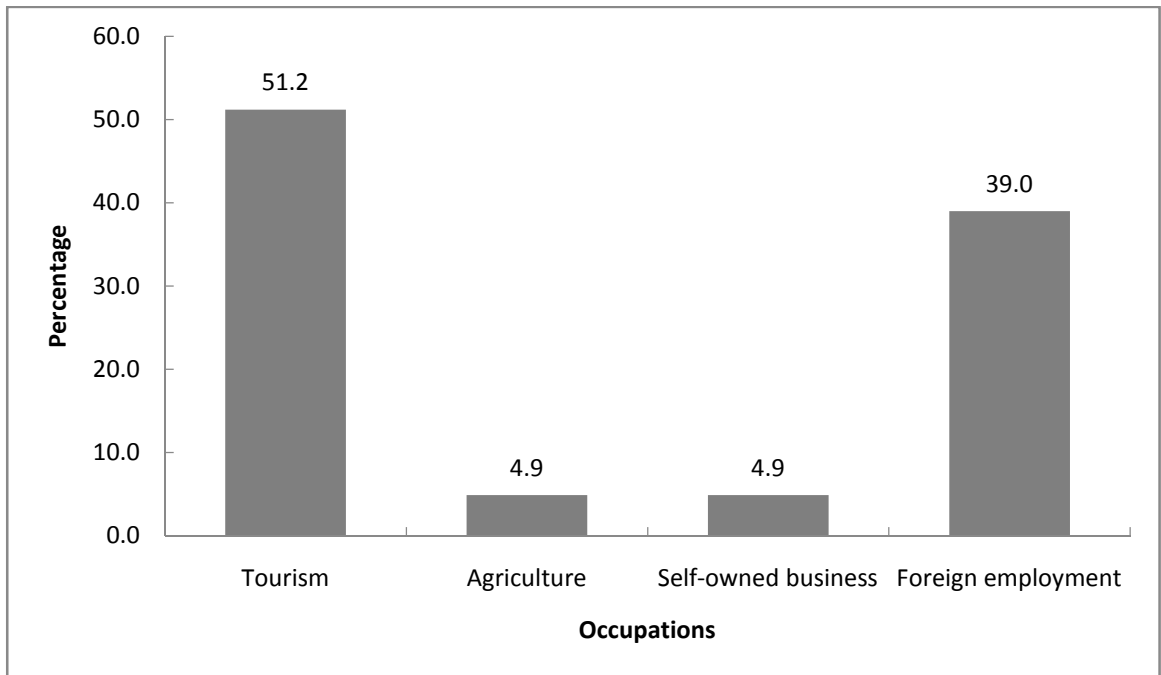
Religion

About 100% of the households were Buddhists. Likewise the Tamang caste people are almost all followers of Buddhism in the Langtang village which might be due to age-old customs and traditions being handed down generations to generations. This might have deeply rooted in the lives of people which might not have called for impact of other religions in the village.

Occupation

The main occupations of the residents of the Langtang village have been presented in the figure provided below:

Fig 4.3: Percentage distribution of the occupation of the residents



Source: Field Survey, 2018

The main occupation of the residents of the Langtang Village was Tourism as indicated as 51 percent by the above figure, followed by 39 percent of Foreign employment, and 4.9 percent each of agriculture and self-owned business. Owing to the geography, and population the seasonal income from tourism sector is the major source of income for the residents.

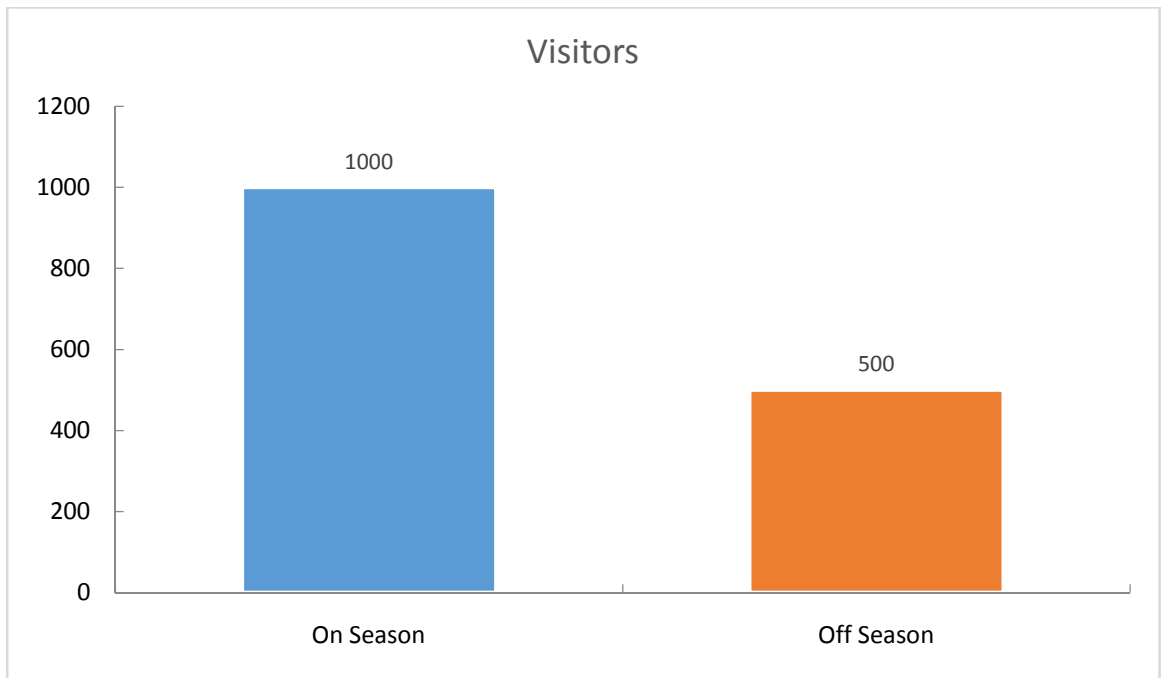
4.2 Economy Based on Tourism

4.2.1 Entry Fee

Every foreigner who entered into the village had to pay entry fee of NPR 3390/- (Thirty three hundred and ninety only) which was being collected by the National Park/Reserve. Out of the collected revenue, the local communities or the buffer zone receive 30 to 50 percent for the better management of the natural resources.

4.2.2 Monthly Visits of Tourists

The number of tourists making their visit to Langtang village differed significantly during on-season: March-April, & September-Oct and off-season which has been shown in the figure below:



Source: Field Survey, 2018

Langtang village tourism is found to be affected by the climatic variations. March-April & September-October are happened to be the appropriate season for being in this area where as other months of the year are unsuitable for travelling due to monsoon and snowfall seasons. Rainfalls and snowfalls are the causes behind low flow of tourists in this area however some tourists and local people are found to be visiting here on off season as well.

4.2.3 Accommodation Cost per Night

The average accommodation cost for staying a night in the Langtang village has been presented as below:

Table 4.1

Accommodation cost per night

Tourists	Cost per night
National	200
International	1000

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Accommodation cost varies according to the national and international identities. As national tourists are made to be paying NRs.200 per night, NRs.1000 per night are

charged for international tourists. Though Langtang village also has high services hotels and accommodations, its up to tourist's choice. Accommodation for free are also offered for national tourist during off season to promote internal tourism.

4.2.4 Average Stay

The tourists stayed for a night in Langtang village on an average. Some stayed for 2 nights for research and luxury purpose but the majority of tourists move ahead upto Kyanjim Gumba.

4.2.5 Cost of Travel

The average cost of travelling from Kathmandu Valley to Langtang Village has been presented below:

Table 4.2

Cost of Travel

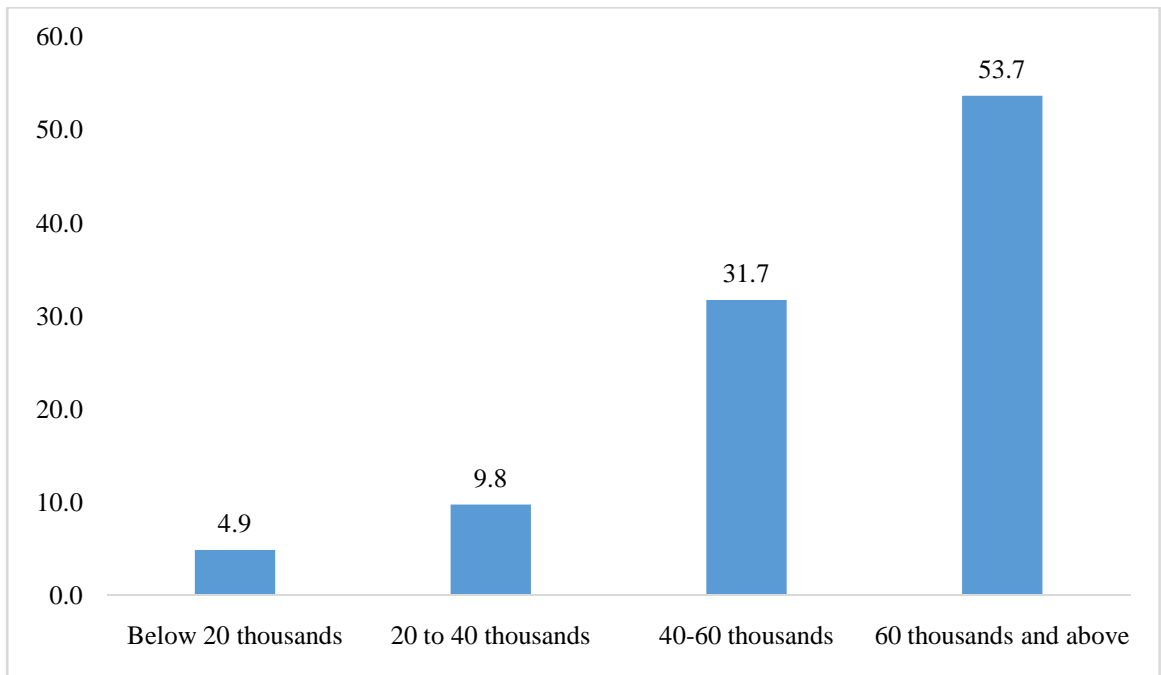
Tourists	Cost of travel
National	2000
International	7000

Source: Field Survey, 2018

The average cost of travelling to Langtang valley for national tourist is around NRs. 2000 which includes bus transport fares and additional charges whereas rs.7000 for international tourists which includes transport fares and national park entrance charge.

4.2.6 Monthly Income

The monthly income generation of the households in the Langtang village were as follows:



Source: Field Survey, 2018

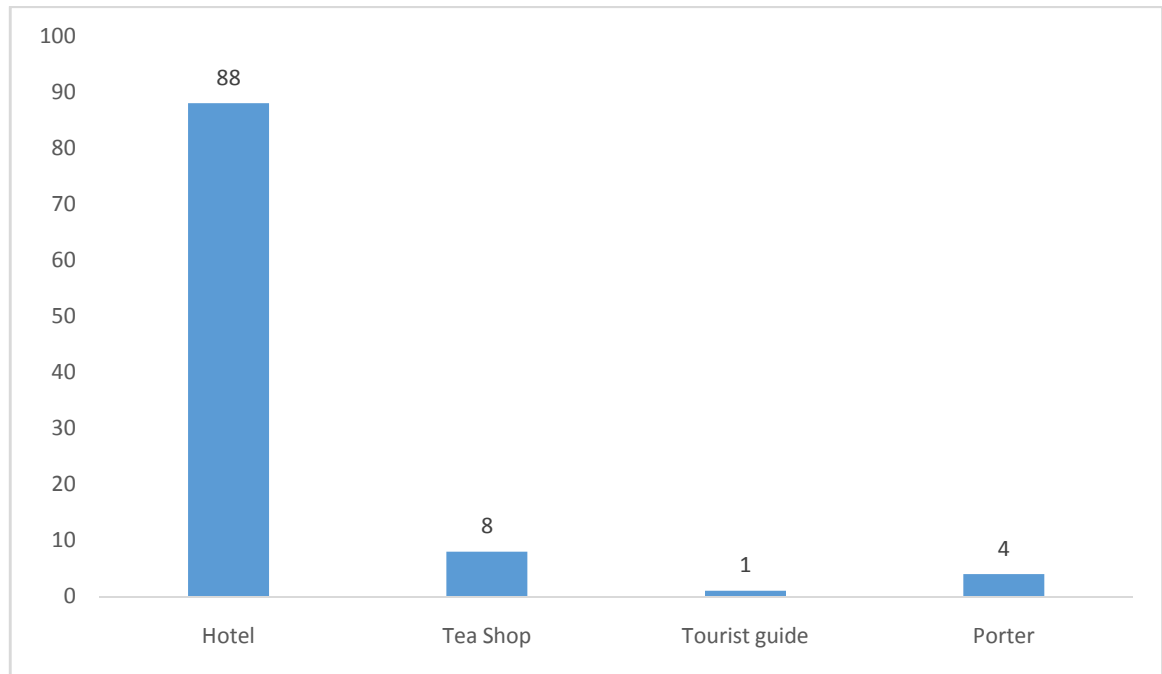
About 54 percent of the households involved in tourism business made 60 thousands and above income in a month. This shows the prospect of tourism and suggest the high inflow of tourists in the Langtang village. About 5% households made upto 20 thousands, 10% from 20 to 40 thousands rupees per month. This discrepancy might be due to investment made on tourism business which have limited to serve different desires of tourists. Tea shops, material provisions shop might earn less than hotels, lodge, trekking and guide service.

4.2.7 Major Tourism Activities in the Village

The respondents said that major activities offered to the tourists in Langtang Village were: Being a trekking destination majority households offered trekking services, some also offered site-seeing service, climbing services and others being photography, agriculture, and volunteer. This shows that majority of the tourists make their visit to Langtang village for trekking. Thus, it might be beneficial and productive to improve trekking services, routes, information booths, and other associated facilities in order to attract more trekkers and engulf them in other amenities so that the village could benefit more from the revenue generated through these activities.

4.2.8 Tourism Business Run

Following figure shows the percentage distribution of tourism businesses run by the households in the Langtang Village.



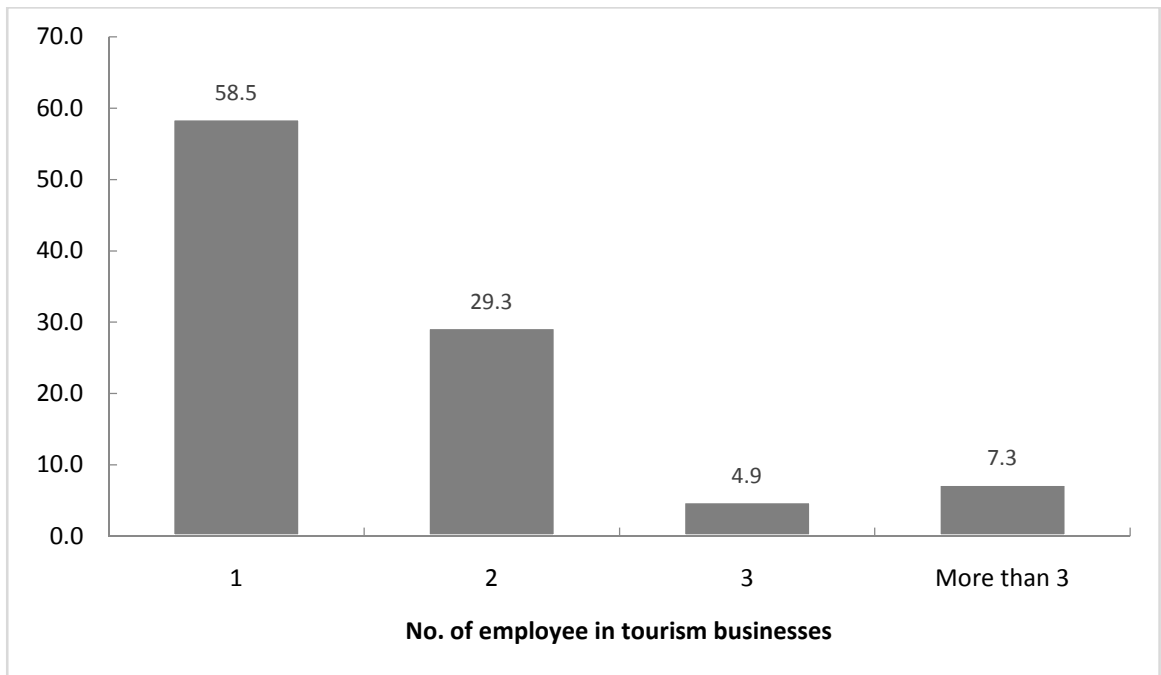
Note: Non-exhaustive data

Source: Field Survey, 2018

The households in Langtang village offered more than one services like hotel with guide and porter services as well, thus the data generated is non-exhaustive in nature. Nevertheless about 88% of the households provided hotel services with reasonable accommodation to spend the night and food provisions. Professional guides were provided by 1% households while porters were provisioned by 4% of households. This shows that the village has been providing only basic service of spending the night for the tourists. Had other facilities and amenities been established more tourists would be attracted and they could spend more time in the village itself.

4.2.9 Employment Generation

The different tourism businesses run in the village has been able to generate employment opportunity for the residents. The status of the same has been presented in the figure provided below:

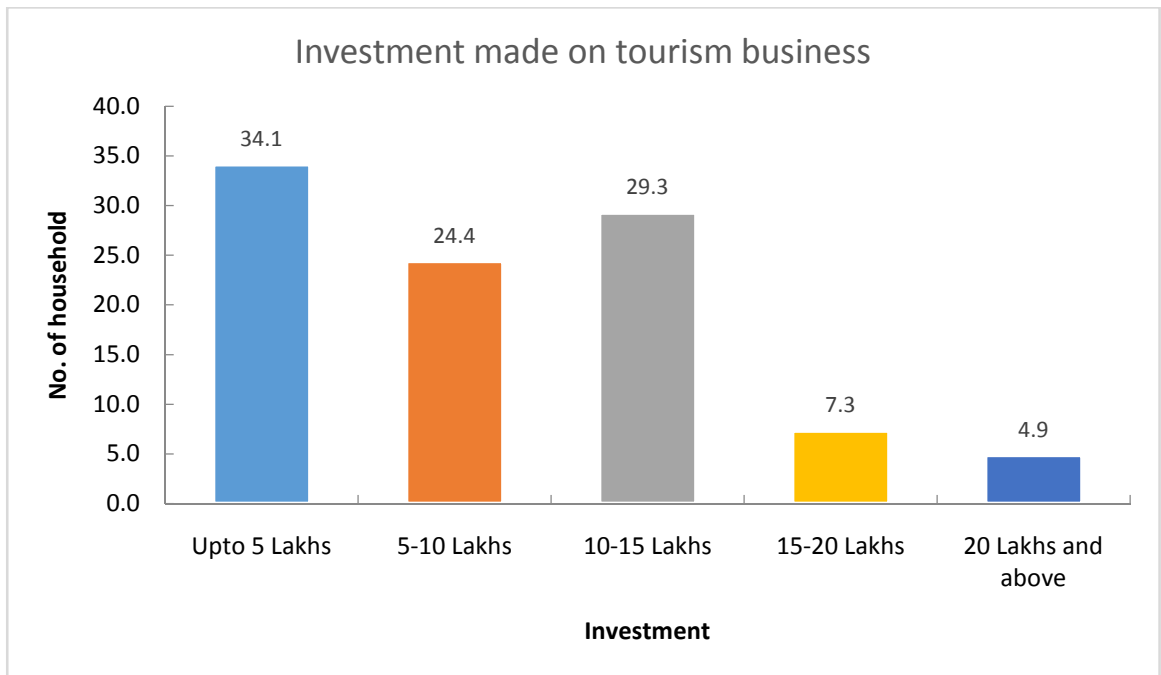


Source: Field Survey, 2018

The above figure indicates that almost 58% of tourism businesses were being run by a single employee or the owner him/herself. Only about 7% of the businesses were able to employ more than 3 individuals, 5% of businesses employed upto 3 individuals and remaining 30% employing just 2 individuals. This situation again represents the dire status of tourism business with basic provisioning for tourists. If there had been more tourists inflows, and more revenue generated then the employment prospect would also have increased. Till now, most of the businesses are family run which lack professionals that would be able to serve the tourists.

4.2.10 Investment in Business

The average investment of the businesses being run in Langtang Village has been categorized as following:



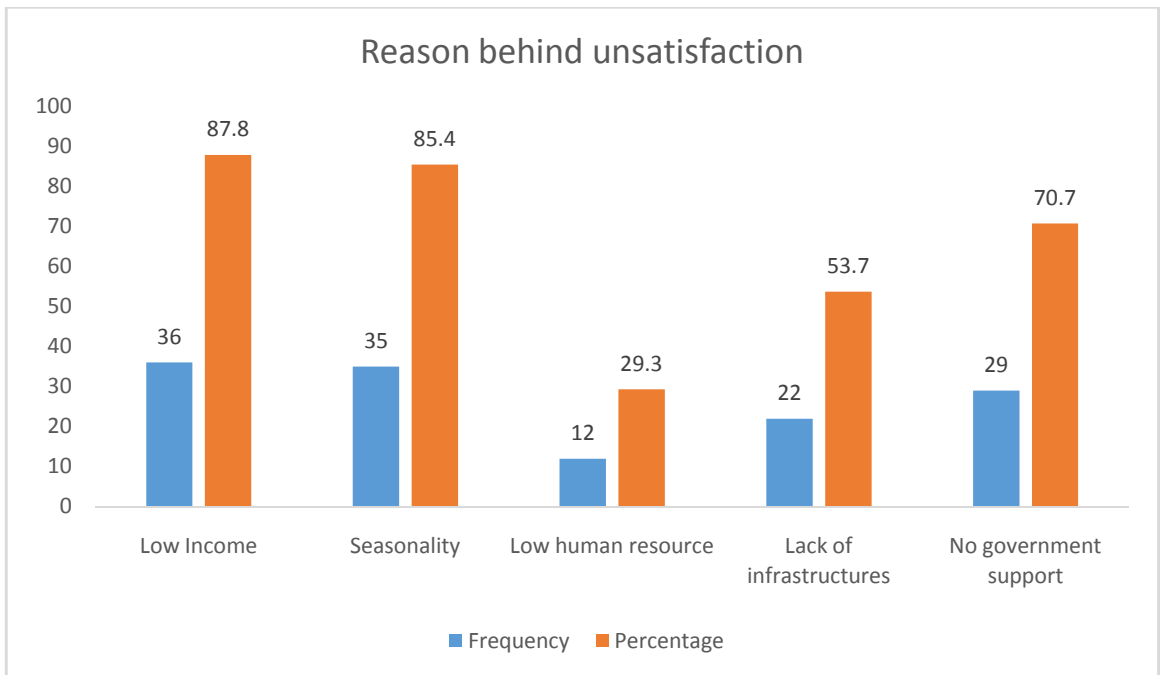
Source: Field Survey, 2018

About 34% of households had invested upto 5 lakhs, 29% had invested 11 to 15 lakhs, about 24% had invested 6 to 10 lakhs, about 7% had started their business with 16 to 20 lakhs, and remaining about 5% had made investment of 21 lakhs and more in their tourism business. This little investment made of the businesses to serve large inflow of tourists cannot meet their expectations and needs. The people might be able to serve the tourists more if they pool their capital and make a joint investment in a large project. To sum up, it is high time to make more investment to be made on the tourism businesses to quench such a large inflow of tourists in the village.

4.2.11 Response towards the Tourism Business

Having been asked whether their businesses were able to fulfill their needs, about 98% of the respondents indicated they were not satisfied with their business. This indicated low level of returns, seasonal collection of revenue, and transit nature of stay of tourists in the village. In order to study the detailed reasons behind their unsatisfaction they were further questioned.

The major reasons for being un-satisfied with the businesses being run in Langtang Village have been categorized as below:



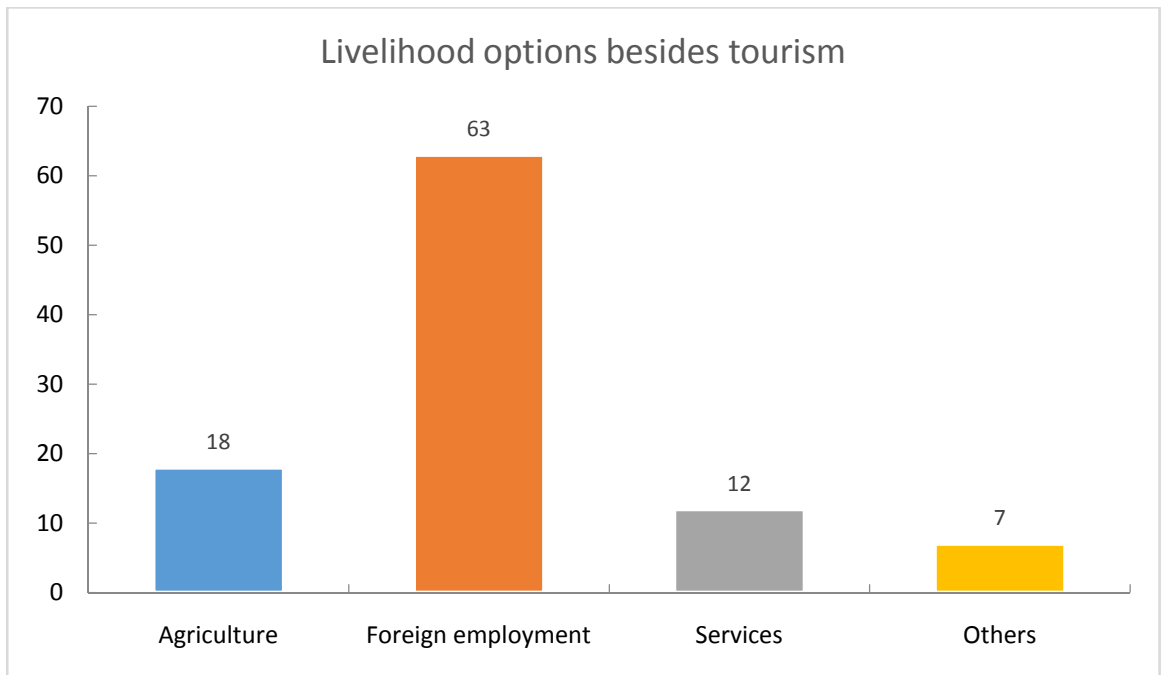
Note: Non-exhaustive data

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Most of the business owners reasoned for low level of income, seasonality, and lack of government support for their un-satisfaction. And a small number of households indicated the cause for their un-satisfaction to low human resource and lack of infrastructure.

4.2.13 Livelihood Options Beside Tourism

According to the survey, making a living for a whole year with tourism business is almost unachievable in Langtang Village owing to its seasonal nature. Other options for livelihood were:



Source: Field Survey, 2018

About 63% of the households indicated foreign employment for another livelihood choice beside tourism business, while 18% indicated agriculture, 12% indicated service and remaining indicated others. Similar to the situation of the entire nation, people choose to move abroad in search of employment opportunities. With some government supports and investment on tourism businesses the abled citizens could be absorbed in the local economy who could drive the development of the community and the entire Langtang village.

4.3 Tourism Services in the Langtang Village

Flight Accessibility

The valley is accessible to helicopter as no airport has been constructed and the motor-able roads are upto Syaprubeshi. Helicopters are run for emergency cases like natural calamity, health emergency cases, and high delegate visits.

Communication Centers

There was lack of means of communication in Langtang Village, with SKY SIM being the only way to connect to outside world in terms of technology. There were no telephone lines, wifi internet connections, fax services. During the time of the survey wifi system was being thought of to be connected by a local hotel owner. Police

station was delivering key information and few boards and signs were built along the foot-trail to direct the travelers.

Electricity Connection

Every household was connected to the electricity generated by the Langtang Hydro Power Project of capacity 8 KW.

Provision Shops

The number of shops selling grocery, stationary, and other day to day needs, was very few as the village was also small. A meat shop had to accustom for the whole village, clothes had to be bought from elsewhere, among several others.

Health, Security and Other Provisions

Local health post, and police station along with army camps were available to account for the health and security services respectively.

Accommodation

There were hotels providing different levels of services to meet the needs of the tourists. They offered traditional culture, food, dances along with met the daily requirements for staying at a reasonable hotel.

Government supports

According to the ward president, the management committee of the National Park returns about 30-40 percent of the revenue collected for the development of buffer zone, and the government has provided security provisions, information board, health service center, and transport service upto Syaprubesi for ease of access to the tourists and residents.

The Langtang Management and Reconstruction Committee (LMRC) is widening and improving the trekking route using JCBs, societal development is being aided by non-government agencies (NGO) like UNDP's Community Infrastructure and Livelihood Recovery Programme (LRP), German Alpine Club (DAV), and others, the number of which has rocketed after earthquake of 2072 B.S. Langtang Kyangjin Hotel has been registered by the national park for maintaining and cleaning the trekking route.

4.4 Tourism Products in Langtang Village

The park staff indicated that the prospect of tourism in Langtang village is much higher due to the facts of being a lucrative trekking destination, snow peaked mountains, rich himalayan culture, monastery like 'Kyanjin Gumba', and gateway to Yala peak for mountain climbers. But the seasonality and limited promotional activities have resulted in diminishing the number of tourists visits in this region. The social worker added, sustaining livelihood for year round on tourism is difficult for the residents which have resulting in diversifying the livelihood options to foreign employment, agriculture and others.

Major Attractions

-) Trekking destination: Syaprubesi to Kyanjin gumba
-) Rich Himalayan Culture
-) Snow peaked mountains
-) Mountaineering to Yala peak, Kyanjin Ri, Tsergo Ri
-) Religious destination: Kyanjin gumba

The primary level teachers argued that the tourists who make their visit to the village admire it for the offerings of natural beauty, services and, culture. The amenities like food outlets, trekking services, accommodation services, mule caravans, security of Nepal Army and Police and health post services, information point add to the attraction of the village. The recent reconstruction projects led by government, NGO and INGOs have resulted in increasing the inflow of tourists in the village. However, the general public is still skeptic about making their visit due to limited information about the trails, risk of landslides, and lack of tourism infrastructures.

Chapter IV: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter has concluded the whole study through summary and conclusion. It has also made some recommendations for the concerned stakeholders and future research as well.

5.1 Summary

Tourism is one of the major income sources of earning foreign currency and generating revenue in Nepal. A growing number of Nepalese as well as foreign tourists have significantly contributed to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP): in 2017 AD Direct Travel and Tourism Contribution was 1 billion US\$ which is 4 percent (WTTC, 2018). The social contribution of tourism is even more encouraging in terms of exchange of culture, access of rural Nepal to foreign worlds, employment generation; direct contribution of 497.7 thousand jobs (WTTC, 2018) and sharing of knowledge of new and modern technologies, and many others. With this regard, among the total of 4.8 billion US \$ being invested in travel and tourism in the world in 2017, that of Nepal was 0.2 billion US \$ (WTTC, 2018). This figure indicates the potentiality of growth of the sector for which the economic impact assessment is required to attract future investments in this sector. The study aimed to explore the economic dimension of tourism in the Langtang village of Rasuwa District, Nepal.

For this purpose, data from the 41 households of the village sampled at random was collected. The data for the demographic status and the economic impact of the tourism in the village were collected through interview using Households' Survey and Checklist as the tools. And the information regarding the economic impact of tourism in the community and associated problems was collected through Key Informants Interview (KII) which followed the KII guidelines provided in the Annex. Exploratory and descriptive research design was employed for this study.

The findings regarding the tourism services in Langtang village was that it was accessible through gravel road and trekking trails which was at the mercy of nature, the means of communication and accommodation facilities were too basic and informal, the village lacked proper facilities of means of communication, health

centers, and transport facilities. The tourism businesses run were hotel business (88 percent), tea-shops (8 percent), and few had porters (4 percent). Majority of the tourists came for trekking, few for site-seeing, and small number for mount-climbing, photography, and volunteer works.

Analyzing the economy generated by the tourism in the village, about 51% of the households had primary source of income as tourism followed by 39% of foreign employment. Every households made some monthly income through tourism, among which about 85.4 percent households could earn more than 40 thousand NPR, with the lowest earners about 4.9 percent making upto 20 thousand from this sector. These earnings were made from mainly hotel business (88 percent), tea-shops (8 percent), and few had porters (4 percent). Tourists were offered trekking, site-seeing, and mount-climbing, photography, and volunteer works in the village. These very businesses were run with the investment made with upto 5 lakhs by 14 percent, 5.1 to 10 lakhs by 10 percent, 10.1 to 15 lakhs by 12 percent, with above 15 lakhs of investment by 5 percent of the households. In terms of generation of employment, the businesses were run mainly employing the family members with 24 percent households running business by a single person, 12 percent employing 2 members, 2 percent employing 3, and 3 percent employing more than 3 members.

5.2 Conclusion

The largest number of tourism businesses opened in Langtang village was hotel with the prospect of catering to trekkers i.e. 36 households out of 41 surveyed. This accounted for majority (51 percent) of households with their major source of income being from tourism sector which was able to generate NRs 56,829 (Nepalese Rupees Fifty Six Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Nine Only) monthly on an average. The businesses were mainly run by the family members in an household level which might result in failure to deliver quality and professional services to the customers as they lack proper trainings, education, and exposure. The lack of well developed and required number of infrastructures in the village like; lack of means of communication; mobile network, internet, lack of accessible and safe road networks, lack of well equipped health centers, and other government agencies have greatly hindered the pace of development specifically in the tourism sector.

5.3 Recommendations

Treacherous roads with possibility of avalanches, landslide and rock-falls take lives of residents and tourists every year, seasonal tourism has affected the livelihood options, and lack of tourism infrastructures like communication centers, information centers, few signposts along the foot trail all need to be improved for increasing the number of tourists in the village. Besides the trekking route being in close proximity with the Kathmandu Valley, the number of visits have not been up-to the expectations.

Diversification of tourism products like glacier walks, eco-treks can be potential attractions for tourists. However, the package should be designed focusing to the minimum disturbance to the nature and wildlife.

Less attention has been paid to package preparation, branding and marketing of special interest tourism in and around the park. The monsoon season is regarded best for glacier walks and crossing the highland pass.

For future studies it is recommended to:

-) Study the productive uses of the earnings made from tourism businesses run in the Langtang Village.
-) Broaden the scope of the study to accompany intra-household power sharing, gender relations, and effect of policy on the development of the tourism sector in the village.
-) To account for social, demographic, and political impact of tourism in the village to obtain comprehensive impact of tourism.

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Annexes

Annex I. Sample Size

At confidence level of 90%, and margin of error of 5% and the universe size being 152, the sample size was determined to be 39. In this study 41 households were selected at random for the primary data collection.

Annex II. Household Survey Questionnaire

S.N.	Questions	Code/Answer
1.1	Name of respondent	
1.2	Gender	1.Male 2.Female
1.3	Age of respondent	
1.4	Number of household members	Male..... Female.....
1.5	Caste	
1.6	Religion	1.Buddhist 2.Hindu 3. Others (.....)
1.7	Main occupation of household members	1.Tourism 2.Agriculture 3.Selfowend business 4.Foregin employment 5.Others (.....)

Objectives

-) To examine the economics of tourism in Langtang village.(Questionnaire)
-) To find out the economic impact at household level. (Questionnaire)
-) To find out the economic impact at community level. (KII)

Questionnaire

A) Economics of tourism in Langtang Village

1. How many tourists visit Langtang village in a month?

.....

2. Do you charge them for entry to the village?

.....

If Yes, how much do you charge for village entry?

Rs

3. How much is the accommodation cost per night?

Rs

4. How long do they usually stay in Langtang?

..... days

5. How much does it cost in average to travel to and from Kathmandu valley ?

Rs

6. How much does the Village raise as monthly revenue during peak season?

Rs

7. What are the main components of their stay in the village?

- a. Site seeing
- b. Trekking
- c. Photography
- d. Mount climbing

8. Are there any other activities they are involved in apart from trekking during their stay in village? (Please mention them)

.....

B) Economic impact at household level:

1. Do you run any sort of tourism business?

- 1. Hotel
- 2. Homestay
- 3. Tea shop
- 4. Tourist guide
- 5. Porter
- 6. Others

2. Have you employed anybody in your firm? If yes, how many?

3. What activities do they perform ?

- Hospitality business
- trek guides
- Trek organizers
- Others

4. How much money did you invest in your business?

Rs

5. Do you find the tourism business has increased your income level?

.....

If not, why?

.....

6. Is there regularity in the income from tourist business?

.....

7. Are you able to make a living for whole year through the tourism business? If no, how do you make your living for the rest of the months

.....

8. What month of the year observes high inflow of tourists?

.....

9. What is the annual income of the family through the tourism business?

Rs

Annex III. Key-Informants Interview Guidelines

Key Informants Interview (KII) guidelines

My name is _____ from the Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu. I am a graduate student at the Central Department of Rural Development in an effort to understand the impact of tourism in Langtang village.

Anything you tell me is confidential. Nothing you say will be personally attributed to you in any reports that result from this interview. All of our reports will be written in a manner that no individual comment can be attributed to a particular person.

Are you willing to answer my questions? Do you have any questions before we begin?

1. How much does the tourism help in the livelihood of people?
2. What are the travelers' attitudes and traveling behaviors towards the village?
3. How many villagers are directly involved in tourism business?
4. Are there any other scopes of earning for villagers besides tourism?
5. What are the investments planning by the Village Development committee?
6. Are there enough investment in tourism infrastructures?
7. What areas do you see where infrastructures need to be built?
8. How can a well-known trek destination such as Langtang be packaged differently to attract more sophisticated travelers from around the world?
9. Is there need to form a formal community in your village to promote tourism or the present arrangement is functional? If yes, does it need a sectoral group or service-related group?

Key-Informants

S.N.	Individual	Occupation
1	Chewang Norbu Lama	Teacher
2	Lakshmi Karki	Health Assistant
3	Nawang Lopchan	Social Activist
4	Rewat Thapa	Park Staff
5	Subba Lama	Ward Member

Annex IV. Checklist

1. There is easy flight to get to Langtang and there are roadways to get by.
2. There are communication centers with telephone, fax, and internet connection.
3. There are enough provision shops
4. There are information centers at key points.
5. There is electricity connection in the household/firm.
6. There are health posts, medical personnels and medicines for residents and tourists.
7. There is the provision for the security of tourists.
8. Accommodation provision is as per the tourists need.
9. Nepali traditional culture, foods, dances, are presented to the tourists.
- 10.** The trekking trial is managed to support such inflow of tourists.