

**ROLE OF TOURISM IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SAURAHA,  
CHITWAN**

**A Thesis Submitted to**

**The Central Department of Rural Development**

**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

**Tribhuvan University**

**In Partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree of**

**the Master of Arts (M A)**

**in**

**Rural Development**

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## **Declaration**

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled **Role of Tourism in the Development of Sauraha, Chitwan** 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 any other purposes. I assure that no part of the content of this thesis has been published in any form before.

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## Letter of Recommendation

The thesis entitled **Role of Tourism in the Development of Sauraha, Chitwan** has been prepared by **Kamala Subedi** under my guidance and supervision. I hereby forward this thesis to the evaluation committee for final evaluation and approval.

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## **Approval Letter**

The thesis entitled **Role of Tourism in the Development of Sauraha, Chitwan**. Submitted by Miss **Kamala Subedi** in the partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Master's Degree (MA) in Rural Development has been approved by the evaluation committee.

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## **Acknowledgements**

The acknowledgement presents not only a ceremonial but also provides a real opportunity to voice by gratitude for all to those who offered at least helping hand to complete this thesis. On the outset, I would like to express my sincere thanks to my thesis supervisor Prof.Dr. Prem Sharma, Department of Rural development, Tribhuvan University, Kritipur, for his valuable and remarkable guidance specifically on the area of suggestions, encourage and supervision while completing this dissertation.

I am highly obliged to Prof.Dr. Prem Sharma, Department Head, Department of Rural development, Tribhuvan University, Kritipur for his support and suggestions to completion of this research. I also express my gratitude to all the respondents who had given me an opportunity to share their ideas and opinions in filling the questionnaire curiously in spite of their busy schedule. My sincere thanks go to the community leaders of the study area who helped me directly and indirectly during my research work at the time of data collection.

I am very much grateful to my family members for their continuous encouragement and inspiration throughout my life during study period.

Last but not the least; I am also thankful to my friends Ms. Amrita Gyawali and Mr. Shambu Nepal for their valuable encouragement, suggestion and kind co- operation throughout the study period.

**Kamala Subedi**

**2016**

## **ABSTRACT**

*The present study has focused on 'role of tourism in Sauraha Chitwan'. It is upon a case study of Ratnanagar municipality in Chitwan District. This study had been conducted from January 2016 to May 2016. The study was mainly limited to household survey of ratnanagar municipality, ward No. 2. Out of 540 households, 60 HHs was selected with quota and random sampling method by lottery and lucky-dip. The survey was mainly conducted on local-people including those of Tharu culture and the key informant interview was mainly on religious sites. The study was based on qualitative and quantitative research approach.*

*Tourism has a great prospect in the Sauraha. Geographically Chitwan lies in Southern Central part of Nepal. Nepal has an unequalled ecological and natural environment variation ranging from the Terai plains to Mountain and High Himalayas representing richness in biological and cultural diversity. It has been found that the area has huge potentials for tourism development as in other destinations in the country. Biodiversity, endangered fauna like crocodile and python etc. and their habitat, natural scenario, fishing, cultural and religion in prospect of tourism have been found great potentialities of attract various natural tourism. Thus, the study has three major objectives,*

- 1. To analyze the economic impact on local people.*
- 2. To analyze the prospect of socio-cultural tourism.*
- 3. To identify issues and problems of tourism in Sauraha.*

*To reduce the overall poverty taking through the creation of income and employment generating activities in the key sectors, we look upon the existing tourism development approach in Sauraha and we find that the wildlife tourism is the single most but other complementary projects such as hiking, bird watching, solitude wondering around the pond and lakes, fortuities and culture, community display, agro-tourism, sport tourism type and of religious type tourism. In view of the promotion of tourism, the study examines the potentiality and essential of tourism in Sauraha. Sauraha is really a natural, cultural, religious way for all the Nepalese. It is also near from major cities of Nepal in thinking of its accessibility.*

*As the results of the study shows that there is a great potentiality for tourism in Sauraha in spite of its strengths, like transport facilities, rich biodiversity, cultural diversity and religious values for tourism development. Tourism in the area has not been found properly developed due to the weakness as mentioned in the following lines. Lack of awareness, negligence on the part of government, economic deficiency, publicity lack and promotion etc. 29.11% of local respondents focused economic deficiency as main weakness for tourism development in the study area. Economic gain, utilization of local resources, improvement on livelihood, publicity of the area, conservation of culture etc have also been found to be the opportunity for tourism development along with the threats - an acculturation of threats on biodiversity, change in religion, prostitution and other negative impacts in the area.*

*By proper management of attractions and strength, threats of tourism could be minimized by maximizing the opportunities. Rural tourism could then be the clean force to change the livelihood of rural people and an integrated development of the area at large.*

## Table of Contents

<b>DECLARATION</b> .....	<b>i</b>
.....	
.....	
.....	
.....	
<b>LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION</b> .....	<b>ii</b>
<b>APPROVAL LETTER</b> .....	<b>iii</b>
.....	
.....	
.....	
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b> .....	<b>iv</b>
<b>ABSTRACT</b> .....	<b>v</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENT</b> .....	<b>vii</b>
<b>LIST OF TABLE</b> .....	<b>ix</b>
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b> .....	<b>x</b>
<b>ACRONYMS</b> .....	<b>xi</b>
.....	
<b>CHAPTER- ONE</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1. Background of the Study .....	<b>1</b>
1.2. Statement of the Problem.....	<b>3</b>



1.3.	Importance of the Study .....	4
1.4.	Objectives of the Study .....	5
1.5.	Limitation of the Study .....	5
1.6.	Organization of the Study .....	5
<b>CHAPTER-TWO</b>	.....	<b>6</b>
REVIEW OF LITERATURE	.....	6
2.1	Concept of Tourism .....	6
2.2	Development of Tourism.....	6
2.3	Historical Backround of Nepalese Tourism.....	8
2.4	History of Tourism in Nepal .....	11
2.5	History of Tourism in Sauraha .....	20
2.6	Review of Ph.D. Thesis .....	22
2.7	Review of Research Report .....	23
2.8	Review of Books.....	24
<b>CHAPTER –THREE</b>	.....	<b>25</b>
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	.....	25
3.1	Research Design.....	25
3.2	Rationale of the Selection of Study Area .....	26
3.3	Nature and Sources of Data .....	26
3.4	Universe and Sampling.....	26
3.5	Techniques and Tools of Data Collection .....	26
3.6	Data Analysis.....	27
<b>CHAPTER- FOUR</b>	.....	<b>28</b>
ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA	.....	28
4.1	Background of the Study Area .....	28
4.2	Structure and analysis of Data .....	30
4.3	People, Culture and Traditions .....	34
4.4	Infrastructures .....	35
4.5	Major Sources of Tourists Attractions .....	36

4.6	Tourist-Arrival in Sauraha .....	37
4.7	Revenue from Tourism Sector in Chitwan National Park .....	39
4.8	Key informant interview .....	41
<b>CHAPTER-FIVE .....</b>		<b>42</b>
PROSPECTS AND PROBLEMS OF TOURISM IN SAURAHA.....		42
5.1	Prospects of Tourism in Sauraha .....	42
5.2	Problems of Tourism at Sauraha .....	45
5.3.	Role of tourism in Sauraha .....	59
<b>CHAPTER -SIX .....</b>		<b>52</b>
SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION.....		52
6.1	Summary .....	52
6.2	Conclusion .....	53
6.3	Recommendations.....	53
<b><u>REFERENCE</u> .....</b>		<b><u>55</u></b>
<b><u>ANNEX I</u> .....</b>		<b><u>58</u></b>
<b><u>ANNEX II</u>.....</b>		<b><u>61</u></b>

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1	History of Tourism	14
Table 2.2	Tourist Arrivals by Major Nationality	15
Table 2.3	Tourist Arrivals by sex and age groups	18
Table 2.4	Tourist Arrivals by Purpose of Visit	19
Table 2.5	Seasonality in Tourist Inflows	20
Table 2.6	Tourist Arrivals in Chitwan National Park	21
Table 4.1	TheClassificationRespondents According to Age Group	30
Table 4.2	Cast/ Ethnic Composition	31

Table 4.3	Education Level of the Resondents	31
Table 4.4	Occupational Distributions of the Respondents	32
Table 4.5	Changing of Traditional Rites and Rituals Patterns of Local People	33
Table 4.6	Family Pattern	34
Table 4.7	Sources of Tourists Attractions	37
Table 4.8	Total tourist Arrivals in Chitwan National Park	38
Table 4.9	Chitwan National Park Kasara,Chitwan Revenue Record	39
Table 5.1	Interesting Place to Visit from Kasara Darbar	44

## **LIST OF FIGURES**

Figure No. 4.1	Education Levels of the Respondents	32
Figure No. 4.2	Chitwan National Park Kasara, Chitwan Revenue Record	40
Figure No. 5.1	Positive impact	51
Figure No. 5.2	Negative impact	51

## ACRONYMS

BISEP-ST	:	Biodiversity Sector Programme for Siwaliks and Terai
BZUC	:	Buffer Zone User Committee
CBS	:	Central/ Bureau of Statistics
DDC	:	District Development Committee
DFO	:	District Forest Office
GDP	:	Gross Domestic Product
GON	:	Government of Nepal
IUCN	:	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
NTB	:	Nepal Tourism Board
VDC	:	Village Development Committee