

**PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF TOURISM IN ILAM
DISTRICT**

(A case study of Sandakpur Region)

**A Thesis Submitted in Partial fulfillment of the
Requirement for the Degree of Master of Arts in
Rural Development**

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2010

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This Thesis entitled have been "**Problems and Prospects of Tourism in Ilam District (A Case Study of Sandakpur Region)**" prepared by **Mr. Basu Dev Paudel** under my supervision as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development.

To the best of my knowledge the study is original and carries useful information. I recommend it for evaluation to the report evaluation committee.

.....
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LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE

The thesis work entitled "**Problems and Prospects of Tourism in Ilam District (A Case Study of Sandakpur Region)**" by **Mr. Basu Dev Paudel** is prepared for the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Central Department of Rural Development at Tribhuvan University, for allowing me to carry out this thesis in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Masters in Rural Development. In this course of action, many individuals help me in direct as well as indirect way. It is not possible to keep each name in this short report though I would like to thank the following persons for their continuous support and providing intellectual comments.

I am extremely grateful and indebted to my supervisor Prof. Dr. Pradeep Kumar Khadha, Head of Central Department of Rural Development, for providing me an opportunity to conduct this study under his supervision. I can't forget this kind guidance, supervision and inspiration during the preparation of this thesis. I must express my deepest respect for his perennial support of encouragement to accomplish this study.

I am very much thankful to Dil Nath Fuyal, Dipak Paudel and Youdha Prasad Baidhya Lecturer of M R M Campus of Ilam, Dharma Gautam, the social worker of Ilam, for their valuable suggestions and inspiration during the preparation of this thesis. I would like to recall my heartfelt reverence to the librarians of T.U, IUCN, NTB, and District Development Committee. I would like to thank to the respondents of this study and my dear friends and well-wishers Mr KN Bhattarai, Jiwan Neupane, Duryodhan Gautam, Chirinjibi Dahal, Chetan Neupane, Pradip Thapa, Dharani Khatiwada, Indra

Paudel and Nandaraj Gyawali for their kind suggestions and help in the course of preparing this study. .

I would like to express my deep gratitude and indebtedness to my parents Mr Thakur Prasad Paudel and Ishori Maya Paudel with out whom this work will not be in this form. Likewise, brothers Padam and Mohan Paudel go to quintiles of thanks for their encouragement and support during the study life.

Last but not least, I am thankful to the people of the study area, who provided necessary as well as valuable information and possible help to accomplish this study.

24 Feb. 2010

Basu Dev Paudel

ABSTRACT

This thesis entitled 'Problems and Prospects of Tourism in Ilam District; A case study of Sandakpur region' has been prepared for the fulfillment of Master Degree in Rural Development from the Central Department of RD, TU, Kirtipur. It is totally based on the field survey in which researcher has dug out that tourism is one of the greatest industries in Ilam. It is because of its natural environment mixing with cultural richness.

The origin of tourism can be traced back to the earliest period of human habitation on the globe. Of course, there exist differences between modern traveling and traveling in the early period. Nevertheless, it is the habit of traveling which has initiated the growth of the survival and existence of early men. No doubt, it is originated in the advent of human civilization and change of human desires.

World Tourism Organization defines tourists as people who "travel to and stay in places outside their usual environment for more than twenty-four (24) hours and 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 has become a popular global leisure activity. In 2008, there were over 922 million international tourist arrivals, with a growth of 1.9% as compared to 2007. International tourism receipts grew to US\$944 billion (euro 642 billion) in 2008, corresponding to an increase in real terms of 1.8%.

It is accounted that the three big industries of the world are Oil, Automobiles and tourism. In Nepal, the first two are not presently feasible due to the geography and lack of technical knowledge that is why the third big industry i.e. tourism is very noticeable. It is the best one not because of that only but of the world crowded countries are side of us. So, for the sustainable national development, tourism is regarded as an efficient and trustful approach.

This research has been conducted on the basis of field survey applying exploratory cum descriptive in which 25 locals, 10 tourists and 5 hotels and lodges were taken as sample. It is selected by using simple random sampling method. Major research methods used in this study were FGD, KII, and Interview and HHs survey.

This study had found that animal husbandry and agriculture are the major occupations of this area. The predominant population used in the study said that low tourism infrastructures are the major problem for tourism development in Sadakpur region. Similarly, the prospects of the tourism in this area can be only acquired by creating infrastructures and generating awareness to the locals.

Out of the total local, 28 percent responded that tourism has been creating employment opportunities followed by 24 percent of income increase. In case of cooking fuels, 40/40 percent sampled hotels owners used firewood and kerosene as cooking fuels and there is not connected by national electric grid. So, even if this area is regarded as the most important destinations, no concrete measures have taken from the local as well as national level.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

| | | |
|-----------|---|--|
| CBS | : | Central Bureau statistics |
| DDC | : | District Development Committee |
| GDP | : | Gross Domestic Product |
| GON | : | Government of Nepal |
| HH | : | Households |
| Hrs | : | Hours |
| INGO | : | International Non Government Organization |
| Km | : | Kilometer |
| LPG | : | Liquefied Petroleum Gas |
| MA | : | Master of Arts |
| MOF | : | Ministry of Finance |
| NGO | : | Non Government Organization |
| No. | : | Number |
| NPC | : | National Planning Commission |
| NTB | : | Nepal Tourism Board |
| Rs | : | Rupees |
| TU | : | Tribhuvan University |
| VDC | : | Village Development Committee |
| WDR | : | World Development Report |
| WTO | : | World Tourism Organization |
| MOPE | : | Ministry Of Population and Environment |
| ILO | : | International Labors Organization |
| GOV | : | Government |
| KII | : | Key Informants Interview |
| NRB | : | Nepal Rastra Bank |
| FGD | : | Focused Group Discussion |
| MoCT & CA | : | Ministry of Culture, Tourism & Civil Aviation |
| IUCN | : | International Union for the Conservation of Nature |