

CHAPTER: I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Nepal is barely a speck on the world's globe, but it contains varieties ethnic composition and ecological diversities which shows the massive possibility of tourism and tourism related industries. Nepal is a small country; it has enormous natural variations which are much pronounced by its beautiful ruby rhododendron forest, emerald jungles and crystal Himalayas. It has been divided into six physiographic regions and similarly different agro-ecological zones. Due to these geographical and climatic variations, different ethnical varieties and their corresponding religion and culture, Nepal has great potential of tourism and which can be considered as the backbone of Nepalese economy (Nepal, S.K., 2003).

Nepal has wide diversity in cultural and ethnical composition ranging from Tharu community, having peculiar genetic and ethnical characteristics on Terai to highlanders popularly known as Sherpa community at upper Himalayas. Similarly, Nepal has abundant biodiversity results from changes in altitude from Southern to Northern borders. If one was to walk from South to North of the country, one would start in sub-tropical plain of Terai, walking through the green terraced fields, midlands and hilly region and ends in the barren alpine glacial moraines of Himalayas (KC, B.B. 2002).

Not only natural beauty is the assets of Nepal but the water resources are the most important economic, aesthetic resource of the country. Nepal is the second richest country in the world possessing about 2.27% of the world's water resource. However due to the lack of infrastructure and financial resources, it is very difficult to utilize the water resources. Apart from water resources, tourism is an important sector that plays a vital role in economic and social advancement of Nepal. Nepal's natural, cultural and social phenomenon presents its exclusive

uniqueness to tourists across the globe. Presently the sector contributes roughly 3% of the GDP. (Economic Survey, 2008-09)

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Ecotourism is an important niche market in the world tourism industry. It is becoming increasingly popular as an alternative to mass tourism. The concept of ecotourism emerged to address the problem created by environmental damage associated with mass tourism. Ecotourism can play an important role in the ecological and economic development of a nation. It is necessary to explore the way, which can help to integrate ecotourism with poverty reduction and natural resource management.

We can traditional and conventional type of tourism trend of tourism in most of the area of Nepal and even on around the peripheral zone of Capital Kathmandu of Nepal. Nagarkot is such a place where around 40% of short duration visitors visit the area, but such area is still running on mass based ecotourism without caring the nature and the local natural resources (KC, B.B. 2002). Furthermore the entrepreneurs, hoteliers of the Nagarkot area are not local people but outsiders invest on the that area, so the local people are always residing on the darkness of poverty and other side hoteliers are getting ample of economic benefit from by using the natural beauty and cultural heritage of the area. This problem is mainly due to conventional type of tourism growing around the Nagarkot area. This type of tourism has led the inequitable economic development were only the investor are getting benefit but local people are not getting as much benefit as hoteliers. So to have equitable social and economic benefit for all partners i.e. local people and entrepreneurs' ecotourism should be developed in the area which not only uplift the socio-economic condition of the local people but also promote of the environmental protection of the local area thus helping in multidimensional sustainable development.

Present type of tourism may have significant contribution to the economy; mass tourism in any area may lead to a considerable damage to the environment and culture. Thus it can be realized fact that mass tourism gives more importance to the commercial value of tourism rather than its environmental concern. So to mitigate losses caused to the environment and culture by present

state of tourism some enthusiastic institutions and conservationists developed a new discipline known by the name “Ecotourism”.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The overall objective of the research is to investigate the prospects of ecotourism on Nagarkot area. However, specific objectives of the studies include the following:

-) To identify the natural and cultural resources of the Nagarkot area in the context of tourism.
-) To identify the potentiality of the area as an ecotourism site.
-) To describe present state socio-economic activity of tourism on the area.
-) To find out the impact of tourism on environment and natural resources of the area.

1.4 Rationale of the study

Ecotourism is becoming progressively more popular as an alternative to mass tourism which has main goal of achieving sustainable economic development of the simultaneous growth on environmental and sociological component and elements. The model of ecotourism appeared to deal with the problems created by present approach of mass tourism which are the key factors for environmental and socio-cultural degradation. Ecotourism can play a vital role in the ecological and socio-economic development of a country. So it is essential to investigate the way, which can help to incorporate ecotourism with poverty reduction and natural resource management thus achieving the sustainable economic growth contributing major portion of nations GDP.

Since, Nepal is well known for tourism activities after the emergence of democracy on decades of 1950s, especially on trekking sight seeing etc, but the environmentally sensitive tourism is still not the progress in satisfactory manner. In Kathmandu Valley and its periphery alone, there are many tourist hubs like: Nagarkot, Kakani, Dhulikhel, Daman, Shivapuri, Phulchowki, Dakshinkali, and so on. The present study is intended to cover one of these places of Kathmandu Valley, namely Nagarkot.

The serene place Nagarkot is the hub of attraction located nearby Kathmandu Valley and is famous for its natural beauty, view of rising and setting of sun and also for the spectacular view of Himalayas and Indrawati River Valley. Almost 45% of tourists visiting Kathmandu are said to visit Nagarkot. Thus the scope of ecotourism is quite potential at Nagarkot area. Implementation of ecotourism program in Nagarkot would be beneficial for the community development in social and economical aspect and nature conservation as well. In this context present study dealing with the impact of tourism as well as natural resources of the area and potentiality for ecotourism development will be of greater significance. This study will also be helpful for planners, policy makers to set out necessary program for preventing further degradation of existing cultural heritage of local area, depredation of natural and economical resources, thus promoting sustainable utilization with prosperous tourism implementation. This study may also contribute to future researchers working in the area of ecotourism and its side-line studies.

CHAPTER: II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Defining Tourism

The literal meaning of 'tourism' is 'organized journey out and home again during which several or many places are visited'. Webster's New International Dictionary defines tourism as "traveling for recreation" but the word "tourism" has several meanings and incorporates several things. One of the widely used definitions is the one adopted by "Alliance Internationale de Tourisme, Geneva, 1950". According to this definition tourism is "the sum of the phenomena and interrelationships arising from the travel and stay of non-residents, in so far as they do not lead to permanent residence and not connected with earning activity". In other words, tourism can be defined as "temporary movement of people to the destinations outside their normal places of work and residence and the activities undertaken, the people met, and the facilities and services used by them during their stay in the destinations to meet their needs" (Mathieson and Wall, 1982). However, as per World Tourism Organization (WTO, 2001) the officially accepted definition is 'it comprises activities of persons traveling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes'.

Tourism has emerged as the fastest growing industry in the world and it is said to be the third largest industry after oil and automobile. Direct employment through tourism industry in the world is believed to be 212 million. Every ninth person in the world is engaged in tourism and travel industry for livelihood (Sharma, 2000).

Tourism is an important source of foreign exchange for many developing countries. In Nepal, tourism is important not only because it is an important source of foreign exchange but also it is a major employment generating industry. Foreign exchange earnings from tourism stood at US\$ 192.8 million in 2003. Contribution of tourism to the GDP of the nation was 2.6% and it also provides 8.2% of the total foreign exchange earnings during fiscal year 2002/2003 (Economic

Survey, 2003/04). The development of tourism in and around protected areas and others is seen as one of the best ways of delivering economic benefits to remote areas by providing local employment stimulating local markets, and improving transportation and communication infrastructure. These are equally significant for a developing country like Nepal (Mackinnon et al., 1992).

Tourism has grown in Nepal since the first ascent of Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) by Tenzing Norgay Sherpa and Sir Edmund Hillary in 1953, although at a slow pace. At present, various programs, policies are being planned for the tourism development in Nepal. Nepal Tourism Development Master Plan, 1972 and Tourism Policy 1995 for the first time were introduced for the tourism development in Nepal. The tourism Development Board was established in 1997 with a view to promote and develop tourism in Nepal. (IUCN, 1996)

Although tourism may have significant contribution to the economy, mass tourism in any area may lead to a considerable damage to the environment and culture. It is a realized fact that mass tourism gives more importance to the commercial value of tourism rather than its environmental concern. To mitigate losses caused to the environment and culture by tourism some enthusiastic institutions and conservationists developed a new discipline known by the name “Ecotourism”. (Mathieson, A. and G. Wall 1982)

For long Nepal’s tourism was basically associated with travel to remote areas, mountaineering and trekking. In recent years the sector has also been influenced by new trends. Since ecotourism is related with nature travel in rural, remote and protected areas, tourism in Nepal is often viewed from an ecotourism perspective (MoPE, 2004).

2.2 Concept of Ecotourism

Ecotourism is a new phenomenon and is different from other types of tourism. Ecotourism is nature-based tourism and its main objective is to protect the natural environment. The Mexican conservationist Hector Ceballos-Lascurain conceived the idea of ecotourism in mid eighties and is also considered as the ‘Father of Ecotourism’. Although this discipline was born in 1980 this

concept is as old as during the time of Charles Darwin (19th century) who visited the natural area of the Pacific for scientific studies. But then, the name ecotourism was not given to his visit.

The future growth of ecotourism has been further influenced by the Earth Summit held in 1992, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Some of the definitions of ecotourism put forward by some prominent scholars and institutions in this field are:

The Ecotourism Society (2009) defines ecotourism as a responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the welfare of the people. Ecotourism as defined by IUCN's Ecotourism Programme is "environmentally responsible travel and visitation to relatively undisturbed natural areas, in order to enjoy and appreciate nature that promotes conservation, has low visitor impact, and provides for beneficially active socio-economic involvement of local population" (Lascurain-Ceballos, 1996).

Ecotourism is nature based tourism that is ecologically sustainable and is based on relatively undisturbed natural areas. It is non-damaging, provides a direct contribution to the continued protection and management of protected areas, and is subject to an adequate and appreciate management regime. According to National Ecotourism Strategy and Marketing Programme of Nepal 2001, a broad definition of sustainable tourism or ecotourism was adopted as: "Any style and type of tourism that has the potential to bring benefits to the local economy whilst contributing to natural and cultural resource conservation is known as Ecotourism" (NTB, 2007).

Ecotourism is also seen as an interfacing of conservation concerns and tourism interests, setting free and required jointly preserve the quality of the environment while protecting nature and promoting tourism. It is a timely strategy that is vital to the maintenance of healthy ecosystems along with economic benefit to any host area communities. Hence, ecotourism has been viewed as a new tourism strategy that balances development and economic gains by benefiting both nature and local areas (Farrel and Runyan, 1991).

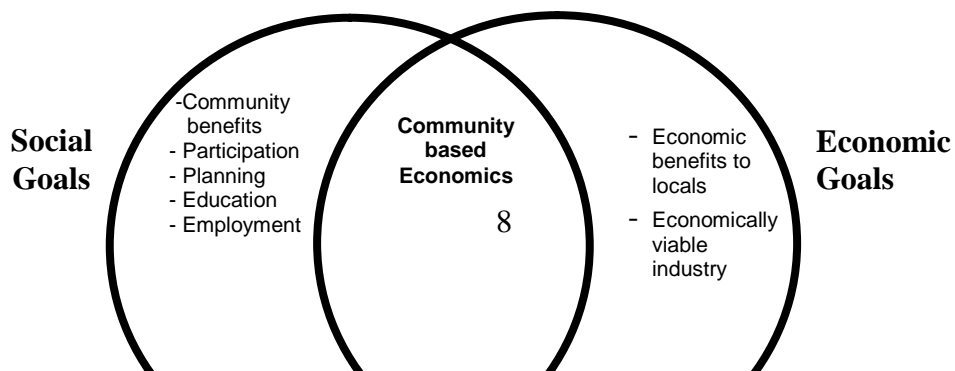
Ecotourism is now seen as a model of development in which natural areas are planned as part of the tourism economic base, and biological resources and ecological processes are clearly linked

to social and economic sectors. It is also expected to be a natural fit to protect biological diversity and find non-consumptive uses of natural resources which still show up on the national balance sheet (Kutay, 1989).

Ecotourism differs from other forms of tourism particularly due to the opportunity for observation and learning it provides to tourists and its contribution to cultural conservation and long term sustainability of communities and natural resources. Therefore, it is a form of sustainable tourism that benefits the community, environment and local economy. This may be achieved through various means such as employment for local people or programs where tourists contribute money or labor to community activities such as tree planting or conservation of local monuments or sites (SNV, 2003).

“Ecotourism also includes such essential elements as travel to natural tourist spots where all concerned parties have a responsibility towards the environment, or the ecological system i.e. a form of travel without substantially disturbing the integrity of nature. It gives tourists the opportunity to appreciate, learn and gain quality tourism experiences, while raising their environmental awareness. Finally, it is a form of travel which feeds return back to nature, and the neighboring local communities, either directly or indirectly” (Chettamart and Emphandhu, 1994).

By definition ecotourism is a sustainable form of tourism. To be sustainable, the sets of goals: environment, economic and social must be fulfilled and balanced. The sustainable ecotourism values and principles model developed by Wight assists us to examine current ecotourism operations, critically, to determine those elements which may be out of balance. Also, given the many calls for better planning in ecotourism, it presents a holistic, balanced, values-oriented, systems and policy framework which should be incorporated in an ecotourism management approach focusing on desired environmental, social and economic conditions and their outcomes (Nyaupane, 1999)



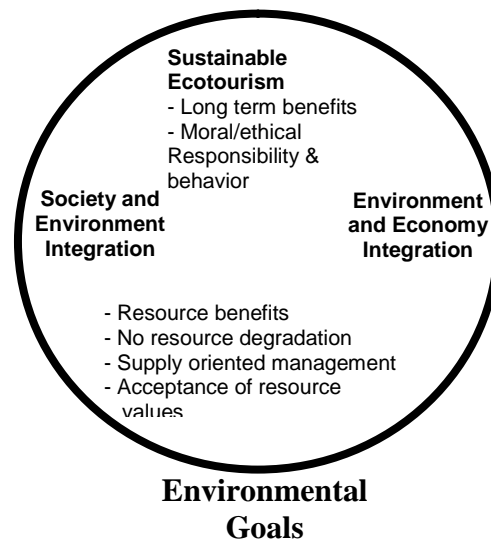


Fig 2.1: Sustainable ecotourism values and principles model (Nyaupane, 1999)

2.2.1 Requirements for Ecotourism

For an activity to qualify as ecotourism, it must demonstrate the following characteristics (Scace et al., 1991 cited in Lascrain 1996):

-) It should promote positive environmental ethics and foster ‘preferred’ behavior in its participants.
-) It does not degrade the resources.
-) It is oriented around the environment in question and not around humans.
-) It must benefit the wildlife and environment.
-) It provides a first-hand encounter with the natural environment.
-) It actively involves the local communities in the tourism process.
-) Its level of gratification is measured in terms of education and/or appreciation.
-) It involves considerable preparation and demands in-depth knowledge on the part of both leaders and participants.

2.2.2 Principles of Ecotourism

Although the scholars have defined ecotourism in various ways, the essence of each definition is more or less same. The principles of ecotourism developed by the International Ecotourism Society (TIES, 2009) are presented hereunder (Shrestha and Walinga, 2003).

- J Avoids negative impacts that can damage or destroy the integrity or character of the natural or cultural environments being visited.
- J Educates the traveler on the importance of conservation.
- J Directs revenues to the conservation of the natural areas and the management of protected areas.
- J Brings economic benefits to local communities and directs revenues to local people living adjacent to protected areas.
- J Emphasizes the need for planning and sustainable growth of the tourism industry, and seeks to ensure that tourism development does not exceed the social and environmental ‘carrying capacity’.
- J Retains a high percentage of revenues in the host country by stressing the use of locally owned facilities and services.
- J Increasingly relies on infrastructure that has been developed sensitively in harmony with the environment- minimizing use of fossil fuels conserving local plants and wildlife, and blending with the natural environment.

2.2.3 History of Ecotourism

The history of nature travel is traced back to Aristotle who is known to have traveled to the island of Lesbos in the Aegean Sea where he spent time studying marine creatures. Nature travel during the 19th Century was essentially a quest for spectacular and unique scenery. This was also the time when the concept of national parks came into being. The founders of national parks wanted to protect the environment but it was the tourists inside the national parks who “provided the economic and political rationale needed to translate philosophy into accomplishment” (Lascurain, 1996).

“The restoration of peace after the Second World War appealed and opened the world market for travel throughout the world and this was the reason for explosion of tourism. This opportunity not only helped to establish tourism as one of the most important industries, but it also became cause for deterioration of the early image of tourism. During the Fifties and Sixties, Americans who formed an important segment of the world tourists were known for their insensitive behavior towards nature and culture of the destination they were visiting. They were recognized as ‘ugly tourists’. During the Seventies, the Germans appeared as ‘ugly tourists’ followed by

Japanese in Nineties. The ‘ugly tourist’ phenomenon does not come from actual personality traits. It is the feeling and experience brought about by the cultural and social invasion by visitors who are different from the host community. More recently, the ‘ugly tourism’ phenomenon continues with uncontrolled tourism development, and variation in cultural and societal values in the destination areas where tourism thrives” (Butler, 1992 cited in Lascurain, 1996).

The concept of ecotourism is also rooted in the environmental concerns raised by industrial development in Europe during the 1960s. The unprecedented industrial development essentially raised awareness regarding environmental conservation and conservation organizations that came into being demanded that governments set aside a landmass not just for tourism purposes but for preservation of ecosystem integrity. The whale conservation movement during the second half of the 1960s was an example of such campaign and this period mark the birth of ecotourism (Butler, 1992 cited in Lascurain, 1996). With the unprecedented development in transportation, even travel to most inaccessible areas is now feasible. Therefore, ecotourism today is not confined to popular national parks but has expanded to include even the most remote parts of the earth.

However, actual nature tourism began in Costa Rica in the early 1980s. The word ‘ecotourism’ was first coined by a Costa Rican tour operator while registering his business, which soon became a popular word and frequently appeared in the literatures in Costa Rica (Kunwar, 1997). But the ‘ecotourism’ phenomenon became more prominent and came into wide use after Hector Ceballos Lascurain published an article in 1987 with definition of ecotourism. He described ecotourism as nature based travel to relatively undisturbed areas with focus on education. It was then formally recognized by the 1989 Hague Declaration on Tourism that advocated rational management of tourism to contribute to the protection and preservation of the natural and cultural environment. Since then ecotourism has increasingly become a popular word for academics, professionals, and businessmen.

The decade of the 1990s saw a remarkable growth in ecotourism. Various countries adopted and started ecotourism projects. In an attempt to emphasize the importance of ecotourism, the United

Nations declared 2002 as the ‘International Year of Ecotourism’, which with 18 preparatory meetings in Asia, Europe and Australia finally concluded in Quebec, Canada with a 15-point declaration. (www.ecotourism.org)

2.2.4 Other Forms of Tourism

Mass tourism remained dominant in the world tourism market for a long time. But with changes in times, tourism too has taken various forms, some of which are described hereunder:

Alternative Tourism

Alternative tourism can be defined as ‘forms of tourism that set out to be consistent with natural, social and community values and which allow both hosts and guests to enjoy positive and worthwhile interaction and shared experiences’. Therefore ecotourism can be assumed to be one form of alternative tourism (Zurick, 1992 cited in MoPE, 2004).

Sustainable Tourism

Although tourism has the potential to become an agent of development and change, due to the way it uses resources, it should not be considered an environmentally harmless industry as such. Therefore, only with careful planning it has the potential to operate and contribute in a sustainable manner (Butler cited in MoPE, 2004).

According to WTO “sustainable tourism development meets the needs of present generation tourists and host regions while protecting and enhancing opportunities for the future”. It is expected to lead to management of all resources in such a way that economic, social and aesthetic needs are fulfilled while maintaining cultural integrity, essential ecological processes, biological diversity, and life support systems (WTO, 2001).

Community Based Tourism

More recently, community based tourism has been recognized as another form of tourism. “Community based tourism occurs when decisions about tourism activity and development are driven by the host community. It usually involves some form of cultural exchange where tourists meet with local communities and witness aspects of their lifestyle. Many such remote ethnic communities may be vulnerable to outside influences and decisions about the way tourists are hosted must be owned by the community for successful and sustainable tourism” (SNV, 2003).

Community based tourism can generate a sense of pride in the local population and make funds available for maintaining or upgrading cultural assets e.g. archeological ruins, historic sites, traditional crafts production (World Bank, 2000 cited in UNEP, 2001).

Responsible Tourism

Responsible tourism refers to the type of tourism where tourism organizations take care of tourist destinations while providing visitor satisfaction. As a result, the resources and attractions – both natural and cultural- are not spoiled for local people or future visitors. Further, it denotes care for the environment and cultural resources, and opportunity for locals in terms of employment or other kinds of involvement, sufficient information regarding local resources for visitors, and implementation of the policy of Corporate Social Responsibility (Gyawali et al., 2003 cited in MoPE, 2004).

Pro-Poor Tourism

Pro-poor tourism is another form of tourism where the benefits to the poor are greater than the costs that tourism entails to them. This approach emphasizes the need to extend tourism opportunities for people living on less than US \$ 1 per day. This category of people should be involved in tourism for realizing poverty reduction through tourism. By definition, it is obvious that not all community based tourism is pro-poor tourism (Goodwin, 2000). Pro-poor tourism strategies emphasize on unlocking opportunities for the poor with tourism, rather than expanding the overall size of the tourism business (WTO, 2001).

Village Tourism

Village tourism denotes tourists visiting villages and staying in or near the villages. Successful cases have shown that the village should have special features to attract visitors. This is also associated with tourist behavior in that they stay in a village and explore the surroundings (McIntyre, 1993). The special feature of this kind of tourism is that the visitors become part of the village for the period of their stay. Such visitors normally do not expect the kind of accommodation and food that they are accustomed to. In other words, they rely on locally available accommodation and food.

Evidence from Sirubari revealed that, village tourism has high potential for bringing resources to the villages which eventually becomes an important tool for poverty alleviation. However, since cultures are subject to influence by visitors, there is the possibility that village tourism

destinations are affected by the influx of visitors. Therefore, special care is needed to minimize the social and cultural impacts of tourism.

Cultural Tourism

Cultural tourism is regarded as a “force for cultural preservation”. It is also defined as “the absorption by tourists of features resembling the vanishing lifestyles of past societies observed through such phenomena as house styles, crafts, farming equipment, dress, utensils and other instruments and equipment that reflects the lifestyle of any particular community during a particular time” (Smith cited in Kunwar, 1997). Further, (Zins cited in Kunwar, 1997) identified handicrafts, language, traditions, art and music, paintings and sculpture, history, work and technology, architecture, religion, educational system, dress and leisure activities as elements of cultural tourism. As cultural tourism also involves education for visitors and promotes sensitivity towards cultural environment, provides direct benefits to host communities and helps in preservation of culture, it is closely linked with ecotourism.

2.3 Global Scenario of Ecotourism

Tourism is one of the fastest growing sectors of the global economy and developing countries are attempting to cash in on this expanding industry in an attempt to boost foreign investment and financial reserves. While conceding that the uncontrolled growth of this industry can result in serious environmental and social problems, the United Nations contends that such negative effects can be controlled and reduced.

The growing size of global ecotourism is summarized below:

-) Beginning in 1990s, ecotourism has been growing 20% - 34% per year (Kunwar, P.R. 1997).
-) In 2004, ecotourism/nature tourism was growing globally 3 times faster than the tourism industry as a whole (The Ecotourism Society (2009).
-) Nature tourism is growing at 10%-12% per annum in the international market(Mintel, 2004)
-) Sun-and-sand resort tourism has now “matured as a market” and its growth is projected to remain flat. In contrast, “experiential” tourism—which encompasses ecotourism, nature, heritage, cultural, and soft adventure tourism, as well as sub-sectors such as rural and community tourism—is among the sectors expected to grow most quickly over the next two decades (WTO, 2001)

- J United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Conservation International have indicated that most of tourism's expansion is occurring in and around the world's remaining natural areas (Costas Christ, 2005)
- J Sustainable tourism could grow to 25% of the world's travel market within six years, taking the value of the sector to £250 billion (US\$473.6 billion) a year.
- J Analysts predict a growth in eco-resorts and hotels, and a boom in nature tourism — a sector already growing at 20% a year — and suggest early converts to sustainable tourism will make market gains.

The growing worldwide efforts on conservation have resulted in an ever-growing number of protected areas. This has facilitated the growth of ecotourism. Experience from other countries, particularly from the developing world, suggests that ecotourism has grown with the growth in number of protected areas. While these protected areas provide a safe heaven for flora and fauna, they also serve as catalyst for ecotourism.

The future growth of ecotourism has been further influenced by the “Earth Summit” (UNCED) held in June 1992, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It sought agreement of world leaders on the concept of “sustainable” use of resources. The declaration by Earth Summit compelled the mass tourism operators to think about their activities so that they become environmentally sustainable. Operators now realize that the environment is not an opportunity that comes twice and that the ecology of a place once destroyed cannot be recreated. This is core concept put forward to boost the idea of ecotourism.

Ecotourism, a travel whose foci is natural areas and the enjoyment of landscapes, animals and plants, is becoming increasingly popular and is one of the growth areas in the tourism industry internationally.

The World Ecotourism Summit was the principal event to mark 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism. It was successfully held in Quebec City, Canada from 19 to 22 May, 2002, with the participation of 1,169 delegates from 132 different countries, representing public, private, NGO, academic and research institutions, intergovernmental, national and international

development and aid agencies, as well as local and indigenous communities and individual experts. The main outcome of the Summit is the Quebec Declaration on Ecotourism, a document that was prepared through wide consultation at the Summit and contains general guidelines, as well as stakeholder-specific recommendations for the sustainable development of ecotourism (www.world-tourism.org).

2.4 Ecotourism in Nepalese Context

Nepal - a country of amazing extremes is the home of the world's highest mountains, varieties of biological resources and culture. This is very crucial as Nepal, though a small in size, has immense cultural and natural diversity and is one of the most beautiful countries in the world (HMG, 1989).

Since ecotourism is related with nature travel in rural, remote and protected areas, tourism in Nepal is often viewed from an ecotourism perspective. The varied natural resources, towering mountains and World Heritage Sites and Ramsar Sites, and the famed hospitality of the Nepali people, blend to make Nepal a world-class ecotourism destination. Nepal is ranked among the top ten ecotourism destinations in the world. The diversity of geographical belts has made Nepal useful and attractive to tourists. The uniqueness of physical features of the country has given a wide range of tourist activities from visiting jungle resort to the snow-capped mountains (HMG, 1989).

Since tourism in Nepal is in one or the other way associated with nature and natural areas, some estimates have shown that about 80% of the country's tourism market is linked with nature tourism or ecotourism (MoPE, 2004). Therefore ecotourism is of crucial importance to the nation.

Not surprisingly, the local communities and their concerned governments interested in the economic benefits of tourism began formulating their own strategies to keep tourism environmentally and culturally sensitive while bringing much needed income to their regions. This led to the evolution of community-based ecotourism. As such, the more recent efforts in defining ecotourism is taking holistic approach and recognize grass root level involvement of local community in the planning and management of ecotourism. (Shrestha and Walinga, 2003)

The National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) in Nepal is perhaps the leader in this direction. This NGO is working closely with local communities to integrate ecotourism in the environment conservation and overall sustainable development of the Annapurna Conservation Area (Ghurmi, 1997 cited in Shrestha and Walinga, 2003) and Baghmara village in the buffer zone of Chitwan National Park (Rijal, 1997 cited in Shrestha and Walinga, 2003). In both these areas, the NTNC has emphasized local peoples' participation in the planning and management of natural resources, ecotourism development and overall local development plan of the area.

Besides the major trekking routes in the Annapurna, Khumbu and Langtang areas, protected areas have a major role in ecotourism. With more than 18% of the country's land being covered by protected areas, and more than 50% of the tourists to Nepal visiting at least one of these areas, the protected area network plays an important role in ecotourism development in Nepal (MoPE, 2004).

The extent and scope of ecotourism development depend on natural and cultural qualities of the destination areas. Ironically, the various resources on which ecotourism are based have been under threat. The concern for environmental degradation in ecotourism destination areas, integrated approach in programme design and formulation, interests and supports of various national and international agencies in environmental and community development issues, involvement of local people and locally formed groups and organization in conservation and development process are some examples of positive indications that are favorably contributing ecotourism development in the country.

On the occasion of International Year of Ecotourism 2002 and International Year of Mountains 2002 "The National Ecotourism Strategy and Ecotourism Marketing Programme of Nepal" has been published in 2001. This aims to provide principle strategies and marketing programme for the development of ecotourism in Nepal.

It is intended that this strategy will serve as a guide for local communities, ecotourism operators, natural resource managers, development agencies, planners and all level of government towards achieving a coordinated approach to the future development of ecotourism.

Realizing its importance The Tenth Plan (2002-2007) and current Interim Three Year Plan (2008-2010) has also emphasized on the promotion of ecotourism in the country and development of the country as one of the major destinations for ecotourism.

2.5 Identification of Ecotourism Potential

Before ecotourism development in an area will be planned, it must be analyzed if there is any potential for such development. First the area must have resources that are interesting from a tourist perspective. When such resources are available it is important that there is also a market that could be interested in the resources the area has to offer. Only when resources and markets are present, then the private sector will probably show commitment. For identifying ecotourism potential three sets of criteria can be used which was proposed by Shrestha and Walinga, 2003.

Supply side criteria

The area has to be able to offer tourist attractions in both naturally or culturally. These attractions must have a certain level of quality so that tourist would come to the area because of those attractions and can the attractions deal with (large amount of) visitors? Moreover, the attractions must be (easy) accessible (Shrestha and Walinga, 2003).

To identify those tourist attractions the organizations and people that are present in the area are most likely to be consulted. If there are already small-scale tourism-related organizations these can be of value in order to obtain information. Local inhabitants of the area will probably know a lot about their surroundings but less about the tourism business and all related subjects. Nevertheless, they are of great value to get in touch with the area. Moreover, if the area will show any potential it is important that those local people are involved from the early stages, also with the identification of tourism potential. One way to get the desired information is with help of a so-called opportunity spectrum. With this spectrum various aspects, categorized under business, resources and community, are analyzed. These aspects are presented in the area and in

its quality are analyzed. In this spectrum the aspects can be qualified on a scale from 1 to 10, with 1 as low performance/quality and 10 very high (Shrestha and Walinga, 2003).

Demand Side Criteria

When resources and attractions are available there must also be a suitable market. A market that is interested in the attractions offered. To search for appropriate markets the easiest way is to assess the current tourist markets. But besides the current markets it is important to look at future demand for the offered attractions. To gain insight in the future markets, market trends have to be assessed and the directions of likely future growth identified (Shrestha and Walinga, 2003).

Sustainability Criteria

When ecotourism will be developed in the area, it must fulfill the criteria to be sustainable. There should be potential for capacity building initiatives, local capabilities to acquire opportunities and benefit from tourism. When these requirements are met, ecotourism can have an opportunity to be developed (Shrestha and Walinga, 2003).

2.6 Review of Previous Studies Regarding Tourism and Ecotourism

The history of tourism in Nepal is not so long. After the advent of democracy in 1951 Nepal followed an open door policy. On May 29, 1953 late Mr. Tenzing Norgay and Mr. Edmund Hillary scaled Mt. Everest and World's attention was focused to Nepal and subsequently a tourism industry began to develop. When the Department of tourism was established in 1966, under the Tourism Development Act 1964, the systematic recording of tourism started in Nepal. Although the tourism administration machinery has existed since 1956 tourism sector was further promoted only after the former Royal Nepal Airlines Corporation (now known as Nepal Airlines Corporation) came into being in 1958 (Pradhan, 1995).

Systematic tourism in Nepal started from 1966 with the establishment of a few hotels. The industry was further strengthened and established after the formation of Tourism Master Plan in 1972. The master plan gave emphasis to tourism market development, sightseeing, trekking, ecotourism, recreational and adventure tourism (Oli, I.K, 1998).

Because of its natural beauties, Nepal has attracted world. In Nepal, tourism mostly involves traveling to relatively undisturbed natural areas. This is what has been defined as nature-tourism. The great diversity of natural and cultural resources is very attractive for ecotourism in a Nepal. Tourism activity, however, should be carefully assessed with regard to its impact on the resources. Certain essential tasks must be accomplished for a successful tourism management. One set of the management focused directly on the dynamic elements, which represent the origin of tourists and their movements to and from the destination. The second set of management deals with the static elements involving the tourist stay, which include the on-site tourist activities. The final set of tasks concentrates on the consequential elements, which consists of tourist satisfaction drawn from the visitation of the area and various impacts on destination environment (Mathieson et.al. 1982).

Bhaju (1987) has made a comparative study on tourism in Nagarkot and Dhulikhel. In this study she has analyzed the situation of tourist inflow and its environmental and socio-economic impact in the study area. This study shows that the numbers of visitors in Nagarkot and Dhulikhel has been in increasing trend. She also found that development of hotel in these places is directly related to tourism and tourism has provided job opportunity to the local peoples.

Enigma Consultant Pvt. Ltd. (1989) has studied on recreational tourism in Nepal. This study found that the climate, landforms, wildlife and sports are the important attractions for recreational tourism in Nepal. It has analyzed the recreational facilities such as sight-seeing, and bird watching in the Central, Western and Eastern hills. It also shows the possibilities of back-packing and hiking, adventurous treks, birds and other animals watching and other types of recreational tourism in Nepal.

Regmi (1991) had made a study on the prospects of tourism development in and around Tansen. From the study he found Tansen as a prospective tourism centre in Nepal. Natural beauty of Tansen and surrounding areas were found to be quite favorable for tourism development. Tourists were mainly found to visit Tansen for sightseeing and recreation; and majority of them were between 16-45 years in age. Art and architecture of old temples are also found equally important for promotion of tourism. Beside this, the study also found the potentiality of Tansen as a base camp for trekkers in future.

Pradhan (1995) made a study to examine tourism planning in Nepal and conducted a case study of tourism in Nagarkot. Specifically, the study examined the concepts and theories of tourism, the efforts made by the Nepalese planners for the development of tourism, the legal framework and institutional arrangements for the tourism development in Nepal, and the growth of tourism in Nagarkot. The study shows that tourists generally visit Nagarkot for mountain viewing, sightseeing, peace and relax, viewing sunrise, visiting tribal village, ecotourism trekking and bird watching. Thus this study reveals potentiality to develop tourism in Nagarkot due to these different tourist attractions.

Shrestha (1995) argued the concern of the level of use is related to the carrying capacity of the local tourism resources and congestion for the locals and tourists as well. Over use of an area may result in several adverse effects on local environment, thus reducing user's satisfaction. One implication of the information on use level is that it facilitates managers to take necessary steps to maintain a balance use so that the users draw optimum satisfaction from their trips.

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

Nyaupane (1999) has made a comparative evaluation of ecotourism conducting a case study of the Annapurna Conservation Area, Nepal. This study compared an officially designated ecotourism area with an established trekking area in terms of environmental, economic and socio-cultural costs and benefits and tourists' experiences. The study shows the designated ecotourism area has experienced slightly less marked negative impacts on the natural and socio-cultural environment, and fewer negative economic impacts than the established trekking/tourism area. However, the designated ecotourism area also found to experience slightly fewer positive impacts on the natural and socio-cultural environment, and significantly fewer positive economic impacts in terms of employment generation than the established trekking area.

In addition, the study shows that tourists visiting the ecotourism area indicated more positive experiences from their visits to the ecotourism area than in the established trekking area.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Rationale of Selection of the Study Area

The study was carried out in the Nagarkot area which covers Nagarkot and Naldum VDC of Bhaktapur and Kavrepalanchowk Districts respectively. The following factors were taken into the consideration while selecting the Nagarkot as the study site:

-) the area is located in the few kilometers far from capital district of Nepal, which can be frequently visited.
-) as Nagarkot has massive numbers of tourist flow and situated in the panoramic place at the top of the hill which has great ecological and social importance.
-) the information and statistical data about the Nagarkot can easily be accessible.

3.2 Research Design

Mainly the quantitative information was collected to analyze major objectives. Evaluating the quantitative data into qualitative description was done to interpret the data. Furthermore diagnostic research design was applied to describe for the findings of the study.

3.3 Nature and Sources of Data

The study was conducted on the basis of both the primary and secondary data. In order to collect primary data qualitative and quantitative information were obtained from the field work using various research tools which are described below. Questionnaire survey was conducted to derive the various information regarding the tourism and social status of the area. The secondary data and information were collected from Nepal Tourism Board (NTB), Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), Tribhuvan University Central Library (TUCL), Ministry of Environment (MoEnv.), Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation (MoCTCA), and various web-sites.

3.4 Universe and Sampling

The resident of Nagarkot and Baluwapati Deupur VDCs are considered as the universe of this study. The household selected on the basis of simple random system is the sample unit. The study area covers Baluwapati Deupur VDC and Nagarkot VDC. The population of Baluwapati Deupur VDC is 6365. Among them 3262 are males and 3103 are females. While the population of Nagarkot VDC is 4247 and among them 2125 are males and 2122 are females (CBS, 2001). Out of the whole population of Nagarkot VDC and Baluwapati Deupur VDC 55.61% are Tamangs, 22.08% are Brahmans, 6.19% are Chhetris, 5.57% are Newars and the remaining 10.5% are other castes (CBS, 2001).

The sample size collected on the basis of 10% of precision lives of to fall of population level (among the total households) of the villages. Sample size is determined on the proportion of population by following formula.

$$n=N/(1+Ne^2)$$

From the analysis following were the variable taken for sampling,

For Sampling of local people:

$$N = \text{total number of population} = 10612$$

$$n = \text{sample size} = 30$$

For Sampling of Hotels:

$$N = \text{total number of hotels} = 49$$

$$n = \text{sample size} = 20$$

3.5 Methods of data Collection

3.5.1 Research Tools

Surveys, semi-structured interviews and observations were used in this study. The data collection was done from February 2010 to April 2010.

3.5.1.1 Questionnaire Survey

Three different sets of questionnaires were administered to three groups of people which are listed on the appendices:

-) Local Residents (Appendix I),
-) Hotel Owners (Appendix II), and,
-) Tourists visiting the area (Appendix III).

Before finalizing all these types of questionnaires, pre-test was conducted.

3.5.1.2 Local People

Questionnaire interview were conducted with local people. Because of the lower literacy rate and to achieve a higher response rate, most of the questionnaire interviews were conducted in the respondents' houses. In some cases, questionnaires were left to the people requesting them to fill in the questionnaire and were collected later on.

A total of 30 questionnaires were completed by the local residents. The number of household of study area was available from the respective VDC offices and CBS data. In most of the households, the household head took part in the survey. In many cases, if the household head was not available or another member was more knowledgeable and had more education, the other member was used as a respondent.

3.5.1.3 Hotel Owners

A total of 20 questionnaires were completed by hotel owners. In most of the cases direct interview was taken with the hotel owners, whereas in some cases questionnaires were left to fill in and were collected later.

3.5.1.4 Tourists

A total of 20 questionnaires were filled up from the tourists (international) visiting the area. In majority of the cases, the questionnaires were left in the hotel requesting the hotel staff to give it to the visitors visiting their hotel with a request to fill it and return back to the reception after completion. Only about 10% of questionnaires were filled by direct interview with the tourists. The direct interview with majority of tourists could not be conducted due to limited time availability from the tourists for interviewing. In this case the response rate was only about 50%. This was due to the language problem, interest of tourists and hotel staffs, time availability of tourists. All the tourists available were selected to participate in the survey.

3.5.2 Interview

Fifteen semi-structured interviews were conducted during the study period. The interviews were conducted with local residents, hotel staffs, school teachers, V.D.C. officials and tourist guides. The length of interview ranged from 10 minutes to half an hour. The procedures of the interviews were different for each group of people. This was conducted to get the in-depth information about the social, economic, and environmental condition of the study area. The important points raised during the interview were noted down.

3.5.3 Non-participant Observation

Non-participant observations were conducted in various situations to enrich the qualitative and quantitative data. In this method, the researcher observed the daily life of people by watching and listening to their conversation. This was done during interviewing people, talking with them, during walking along the routes and traveling in the bus. This was done to know the actual condition of respondents, the condition of landscape, kind of flora and fauna, awareness of people, roads, income from tourism, economic status of the local people, condition of tourism and social impact of tourism.

3.6 Data Analysis and Interpretation

The quantitative data obtained from questionnaires were analyzed using statistical tools. After the field survey, the data and other information are arranged in tabular form according to the needs of research design. The collected qualitative information is presented in descriptive way. The various information obtained are presented in appropriate tables and figures. They are categorized and tabulated according to the objective of the research.

3.7 Limitations of the study

-) The study time is relatively shorter which may not exactly reveal the real world situation of the study area.
-) As Nagarkot area do not have Tourist Information Centre in the study area, the data and records from hotels and Naldum Tourism Development Board were taken as the major source of information for tourist arrival and duration of stay.

-) The survey could not be conducted along all the trekking routes from Nagarkot.
-) Though there is domestic tourism in Nagarkot, this study concentrates only on international tourists.
-) The study would have give more real information if participatory approach methods were followed which could not be done because of financial constraints.

CHAPTER IV

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREA

4.1 Introduction:

The study area, Nagarkot, occupies the Bhaktapur and Kavrepalanchok districts of the Nepal. Nagarkot is a popular Hill Station in Nepal and is situated at about 32 kilometers east of Kathmandu. It is situated at an altitude of 2175 m. above the sea level. The study area lies between the latitude 27^o 41' N and 27^o 44' N and longitudes 85 29' E to 85 32' E.

During the Coronation of the Late King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev (1975 AD), the road to Nagarkot was asphalted, so that the Royal guests coming from more than 100 nations would witness the most spectacular sunrise and sunset over the Himalayas, from the best vantage point. So Nagarkot is reintroduced after the Coronation. Now it is an important destination for world tourists.

Nagarkot offers the best view of the Himalayan panorama. Many excursions are made from Nagarkot, to Sankhu, to Changu Narayan, Gokarna and other places. Nagarkot is a better location than any other view points for an unsurpassed view of Mt. Everest and the surrounding peaks and unobstructed panorama of the Snow Mountains. Nagarkot, a round the year holiday resort, offers a view of peaks of the Himalayas stretching from the Dhaulagiri in the West to Kanchanjangha in the East. It is a popular point to watch the breathtaking sunrise over the

gorgeous Himalayas and equally glorious sunset behind the beautiful valley of Kathmandu. It also offers an excellent view of the Indrawati River Valley to the East and Kathmandu Valley to the west. Not only from the tourism point of view but also from the point of view of religion, the Nagarkot area is very important; the numerous temples and historical buildings are important from religious and tourism point of view. Some of these religious and historical places of interests on Nagarkot area are: Mahadev Pokhari, Mahakal Temple, Kalidevi Temple, Lhodim Khasyor Chhyorden

Remborche Gumba, Panchakanya Temple, and Jalpadevi Temple. Overall, this hill resort is equally popular among the tourists, dignitaries, diplomatic and Nepalese as well. (Pradhan, 1995)

Nagarkot is bounded by the Himalayan chain to the North, mountains to the East and

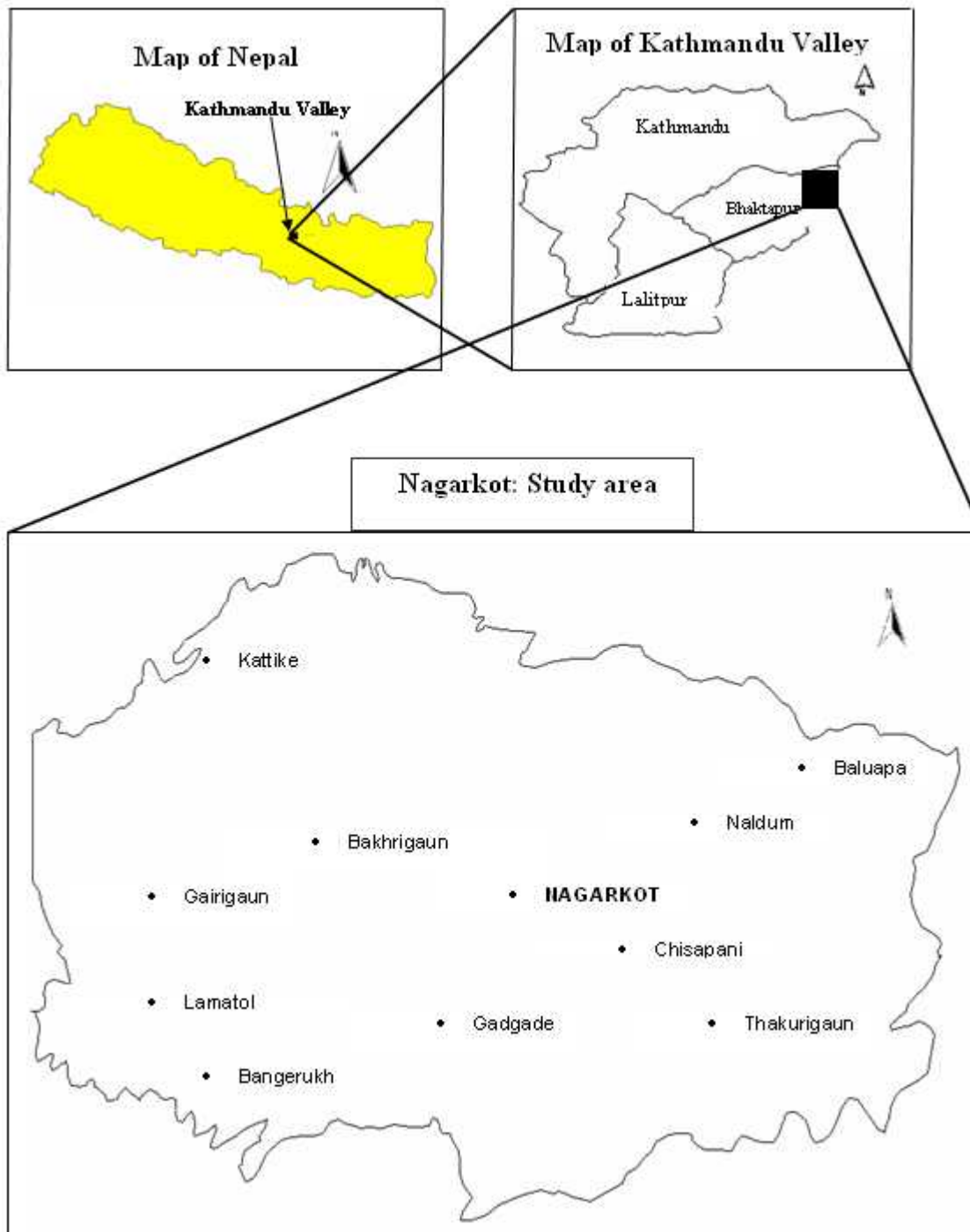


Fig 4.1: Location Map of Study Area

South, the compact valley settlements to the West. Scattered hills of different heights are located under these barriers. The soil of Nagarkot is rocky and porous, little suited for cultivation. Geographically this area falls within the middle hills (300-5600 m.) region.

4.2 Climate

Generally, Nagarkot has sub-tropical to warm-temperate climate for four seasons. The spring or pre-monsoon (mid February to May) is windy, dry but pleasant with little or no precipitation. Summer or monsoon starts from June and ends around mid of the September. It is humid and hot with heavy rainfall. The autumn or post-monsoon starts from mid-September and ends the November. It is dry but sunny. The winter, November to mid-February is cool and foggy with short but sometimes precipitation. Sometimes the temperature drops below 0° C and high peak Nagarkot is covered with snow for short period. The mean annual temperature is 18° C. Normally the temperature of this area ranges from 2.6° C to 12.0° C in winter and 15.4° to 23.3° C in summer (DHM. 2008).

Nagarkot is at higher altitude than Kathmandu city area so the temperature is lower than the city area. As this area stands in front of a mountain, wind blows in the morning and evening. In the winter season, sometimes snow falls for short period in Nagarkot. In the winter, temperature rarely drops below 0° C with short but heavy precipitation. Even in the hot season one does not feel hot.

4.3 Flora and Fauna

There are different types of vegetation found in this place. Some of the important plants are Utis (*Alnus nepalensis*), Chilaune (*Schima wallichii*), Katus (*Castanopsis indica*), Chanp (*Michelia champaca*), Okhar (*Juglans regia*), Bakaino, Chestnut, Rhododendron (*Rhododendron barbatum*), Sallo (*Pinus roxburghii*), Deodar (*Cedrus deodara*), Dhupi Salla (*Cryptomeria japonica*). The forests in this area belong to the Community Forest Users' Group and Nepali Army. The trees useful for industrial raw materials like lokta, bamboo (*Dendrocalamus strictus*) are also abundant. Medicinal plants such as Harro (*Terminalia chebula*), Barro (*Terminalia bellirica*), Amala (*Emblica officinalis*), Asuro (*Adhatoda vasica*), Pipala (*Piper longum*), etc are available in plenty.

Different types of wild animals are also found in these forests. The common wild animals are barking Deer (*Mutianus mutijak*), Hare (*Lepus ruficaudatus*), Leopard (*Panthera pardus*), Jackal (*Canis aureus*), Boar (*Sus scrofa*), Dumsi (*Hystrix indica*), squirrel. Birds like Kalij (*Lophura leucomelana*), dove, koel etc are found.

4.4 Population

The study area covers Baluwapati Deupur VDC and Nagarkot VDC. The population of Baluwapati Deupur VDC is 6365. Among them 3262 are males and 3103 are females. While the population of Nagarkot VDC is 4247 and among them 2125 are males and 2122 are females (CBS, 2001). Out of the whole population of Nagarkot VDC and Baluwapati Deupur VDC 55.61% are Tamangs, 22.08% are Brahmans, 6.19% are Chhetris, 5.57% are Newars and the remaining 10.5% are other castes (CBS, 2001). As most of the people of this place are Tamang, the number of inhabitants who follow Buddhism is the largest. As people of different caste and religion inhabit this area, it has various cultures. Agriculture is the main economic activity of these peoples. Most of the people are economically poor and illiterate. Only 44% of the total population is literate. Among them, female literacy rate is very low (CBS, 2001).

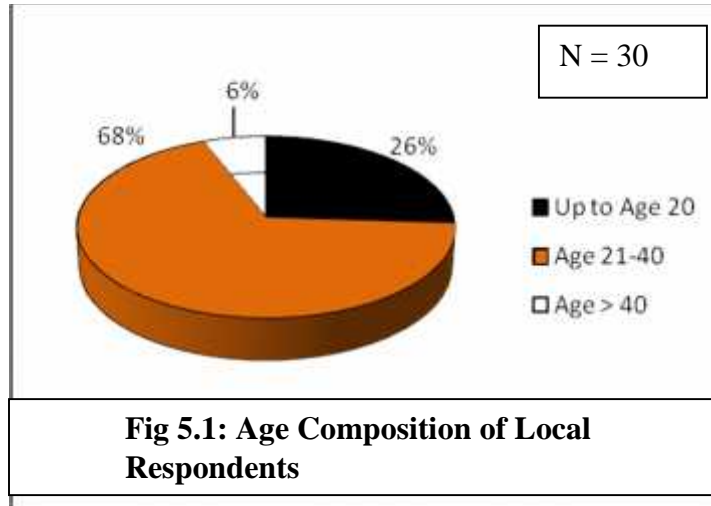
CHAPTER: 5

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

5.1 Demographic Variables of the Local Residents

5.1.1 Age

Among the 30 numbers of respondents, age covered all age groups. Above 40 year age group represented less (only 6%) compared to a middle age groups between 21-40 years (68%) and age group below 20 years (26%). This can be related to the selection of respondents.



the

Fig 5.1: Age Composition of Local Respondents

However, in some cases, younger household member were selected as respondents if the head asked them (as they were seem more educated and knowledgeable), or the household head was not available.

5.1.2 Gender

Male family members responded more (84%) compared to female members. Because of selection of head of household for questionnaire fill up and since mostly males are

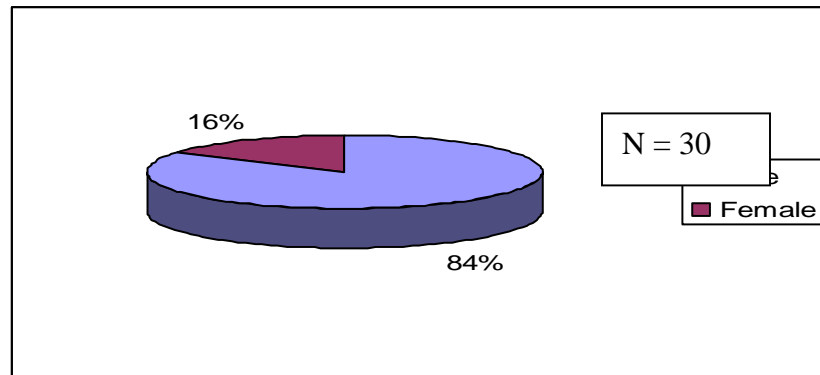


Fig 5.2: Percentage of Respondents (villagers) by gender

the

head of household in Nepal, the participation of female is less compared to males in this study. It was also due to the educational attainment and exposure level.

5.1.3 Occupation

The total of 30 numbers of respondents (Local people) was asked about their occupation and its link with tourism. The response is shown as:

N = 30

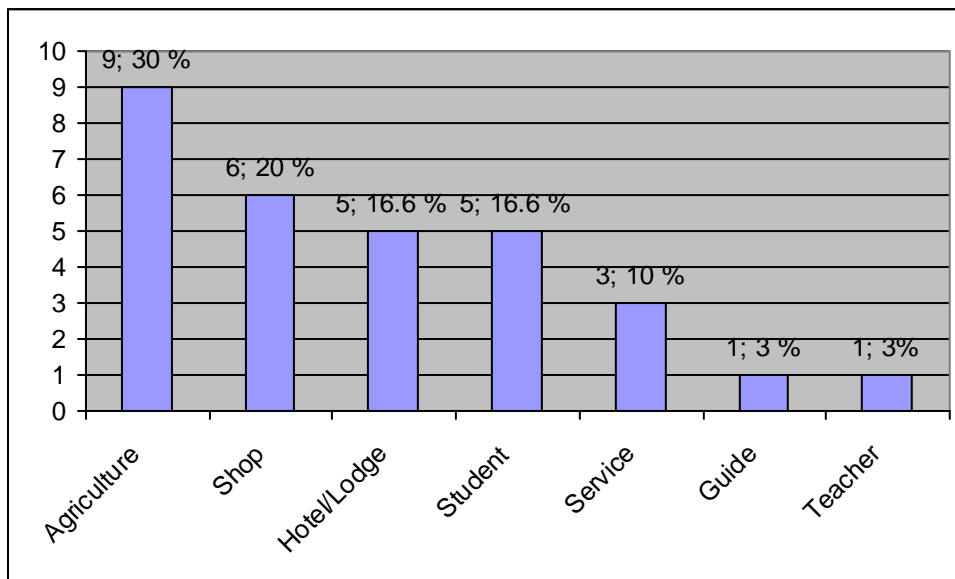


Fig 5.3: Percentage of Occupation of Local Respondents

Fig no. 3 shows that agriculture is the main occupation of the respondents, which is 30 % followed by shop-keeping (20 %), and hotel lodge business (16.6 %). It was also experienced during the study that if a respondent was unemployed, s/he chose his/her occupation as an agriculture as a last option. The percentage of agricultural occupation, therefore, is much higher among the respondents.

There are also significant numbers of respondents who are found to involve in hotel/lodge business. Only 3 % of the respondents were involved in teaching occupation. As the occupation pattern varies, their jobs related to tourism also varied accordingly. The 44% percent (N =30) of the respondents said that their job is directly or indirectly related to tourism where as 56% have not. Jobs directly related to tourism are mostly hotel/lodge businesses, guide, and souvenir shops. Partially tourism related jobs include other shops and few agricultural activities.

5.2 Status of Tourism in Nagarkot

5.2.3 Socio-cultural costs and benefits

Tourism has the potential of bringing about changes in people's ideas, behavioral patterns, lifestyles, social systems, values and norms, expectations, and other manifestation of material and non-material culture (ICIMOD, 2008). In this study, various statements were asked with the respondents to know their perception about the socio-cultural costs and benefits of tourism.

The impact of tourism on local cultural traditions and values is difficult to assess. Not only tourists but also other factors such as local people traveling for education, trade, and other purposes may bring in new ideas and attitudes those in turn may result changes in local cultural practices. Changes in people's behavior, dress, lifestyle, family and social structure, values and expectations, decline in local support for local traditions and institutions, people's preference for tourist-related jobs over education, pollution at sacred places, changes in traditional architecture, and so on are generally argued to be the negative impacts of tourism on culture. Economic impacts are also important in bringing cultural change, though it can also be debated whether such socio-cultural impacts are caused by tourism or by some others factors too (Lama and Sherpa, 1995, cited in Kamal, 2002).

5.2.3.1 Negative Impacts of tourism on social and cultural values

The negative effects would occur by tourism on social values and norms and its consequences for traditional lifestyle including food, customs, folk dances, way of living and festivals, and disruption of traditional kinship and community bonds. It was found that there are fairly minor perceived negative effects of tourism on the social life of the community.

The main impacts people reported are that the young people copy tourist behavior, food and outfits. The older people are concerned with the young peoples' response towards tourists. They reported that having long hair and an ear-ring among local boys, and also wearing foreign clothes, smoking, drinking beer and over-familiarity between local boys and girls are the most common imitations. The main reason for such is that people, particularly youngsters, give more value to western culture, without being conscious to own religion and culture. They think that westerners are more civilized and that what they do is right. Therefore, rather than feeling negative impacts, young people consider such matters as social improvement.

In addition, local values have changed. People are becoming increasingly oriented to earn money. Traditional folk dances are gradually disappearing and have been replaced by modern songs. The value of money has also led to the disruption of traditional kinship and community bonds. Money is now more important than kinship. Some respondents viewed that the development of tourism may make their village unsafe. However, tourism was not found solely responsible for these social changes. Other driving forces for that include: Radio, T.V., people going overseas and the closeness of major cities like Bhaktapur, Banepa and Kathmandu.

The 65 % of local residents (N= 30) do not perceive that tourism has increased crime in the area. But 35% of respondents argue that tourism has increased crime in the area. The most common form of crime according to local people are robberies, prostitution and so on.

Only 23% of hotel owners said that there is increase in incidence of crime. Majority of them have perception that solely tourism is not responsible for that. Among all the local respondents, 8% have perception that the incidence of prostitution has slightly increased whereas 6% said that it is highly increased, in contradiction to 86% people who have the opinion that the increase in the incidence of prostitution is 'not applicable' in the area due to tourism. In this regard, 27% hotel owners said that it is slightly increased and 73% that it is not applicable.

It was found that tourism has no significant impacts (positive as well as negative) on the local arts, crafts, and cultural activities. People said that tourists are not much familiar with the local

culture. They also blamed to the tourist guides and hoteliers in this regard and said that tourist guides, hoteliers and Nagarkot-Naldum Tourism Development Committee (NNTDC) should make efforts for making tourists familiar with local cultures, religions and festivals.

One of the statements was put to know whether tourism has adverse impact on the religious belief of local people or not. The responses were as follows:

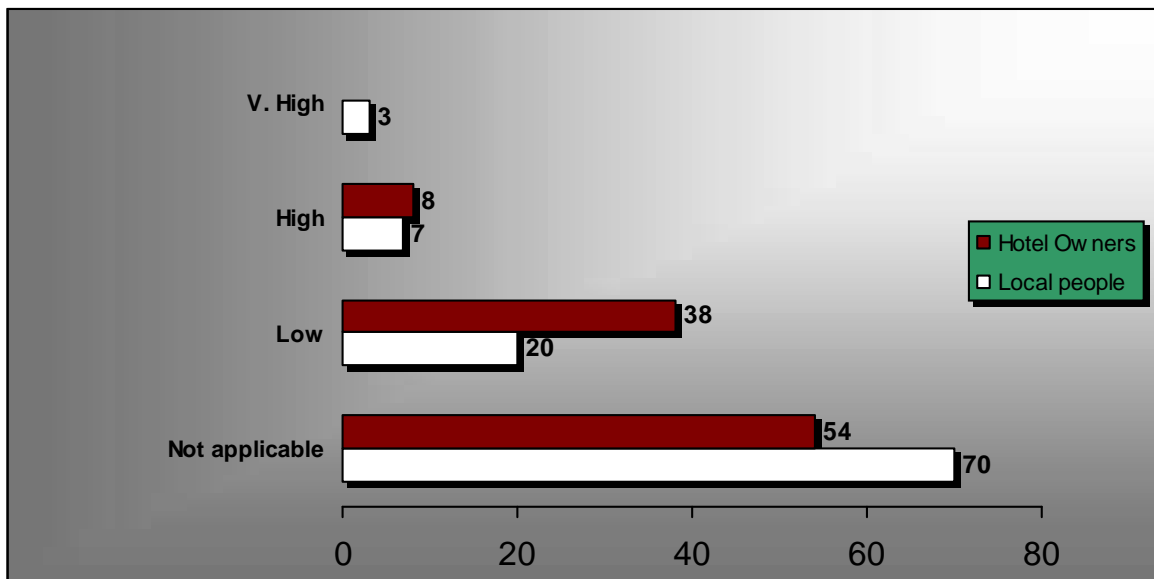


Fig 5.4: Perception about the impact on the religious beliefs of local people

It is interesting to note from the above figure that hotel owners perceive more adverse impact on the religious belief of the people in Nagarkot than local people themselves. But in opposite, 3% of local people said that there is very high adverse impact of tourism on the religious belief whereas none of the hotel owners supported it. This reflects the availability of people having diverse perception about the impact on religious belief in Nagarkot.

Regarding the quality of life of local peoples, majority of local respondents and hotel owners perceived that tourism helps to enhance the quality of life of local residents. Although the quality of life has been improved, it is hard to separate the role of tourism from that of other agents. Education, health and associated factors such as sanitation and way of living are all important elements of quality of life.

5.2.2 Economic Impacts of tourism

Tourism is considered to be a strong factor to change economic condition of people in rush tourist destination. In some cases, the development of tourism may be the only means of promoting the economic advancement of less-developed areas. The underdeveloped areas of the country can greatly benefit from tourism development. Tourist expenditure at a particular tourist area may greatly help to minimize area specific imbalances in employment, income and development.

To assess economic costs and benefits in Nagarkot due to tourism various questions were asked to the respondents. The economic costs were grouped as inflation, unequal income distribution, and additional costs whereas economic benefits were grouped as job opportunity, income generation by selling various products and financial support for infrastructure development.

5.2.2.1 Prices of Goods

Respondents were asked about their perception on inflation of the price of goods. Majority of respondents have opinion that there was high (49% respondents) and very high (9% respondents) rise in the prices of goods due to tourism.

Poor villagers who have no linkage in one or other way with tourism have opinion that the rise in price has become much more problematic to them. They expressed their anger citing tourism as the main cause of price inflation of products. Local farmers do not care much about hoteliers having higher incomes but they do care about the price of the goods that affect their daily life.

The perception of inflation, however, is related to the respondents' occupations relative to tourism. Respondents whose jobs are not related to tourism perceived more inflation than the respondents whose jobs are partially or directly related to tourism. The main reason for this may be that those respondents whose job is related to tourism receive economic benefit from tourism so they tend to overlook its negative economic consequences. In addition, they can bear the inflation more easily than the respondents whose income is independent on the tourism.

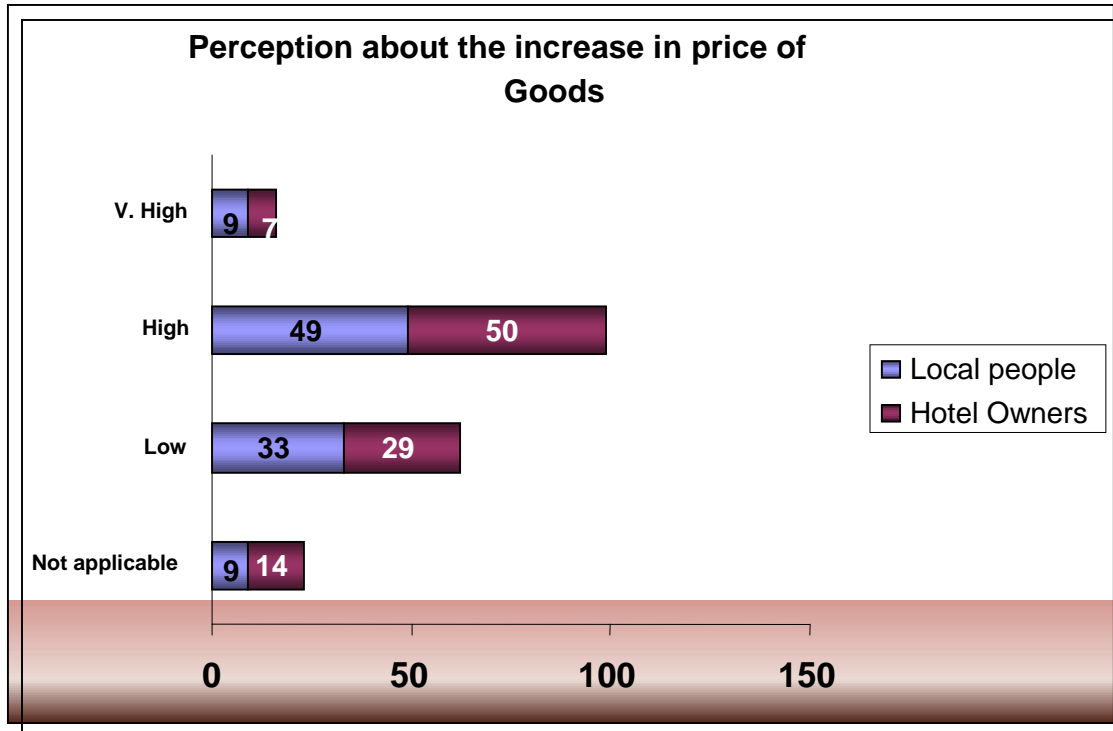


Fig 5.5: Perception about the increase in price of goods

Hotel owners are also found to be agreed with the statement that the price of goods have been increasing in the area. But they have less perception of price rise than that of local peoples.

Although all the respondents agree that there is high increase in the price of goods, they have opinion that solely tourism is not responsible for that. This becomes clear from the saying of the some of the respondents. They said that:

“It can not claim that the increase in price is only due to tourism. The increase in price is a country wide problem and not only the problem of this area. So tourism might have insignificant impact on it.”

5.2.2.2 Employment Opportunity

Since tourism industry is a labor intensive industry, it may provide a large number of employments to the people of different levels. Generally, there are two types of employment in tourism industry: direct and indirect. Direct employment in tourism constitutes employment in hotels, travel, trekking, airlines, souvenirs sellers and other types. Indirect employment includes farming and food supply, construction, furnishing and equipment industries, entertainment

industry etc. Thus, tourism as a source of employment is important for areas where employment is either not available or limited.

It was found that tourism has created some job opportunities for the locals in Nagarkot. The primary employment generated by tourism is from hotel and lodge business, cooks, helpers and waiters employed to these hotel and lodges; porters; and guides. Other secondary jobs generated by tourism include carpenters, builders, and laborers for constructing hotels and lodges; shopkeepers etc. Among all the respondents 44% were found to be directly or indirectly related to tourism related occupation.

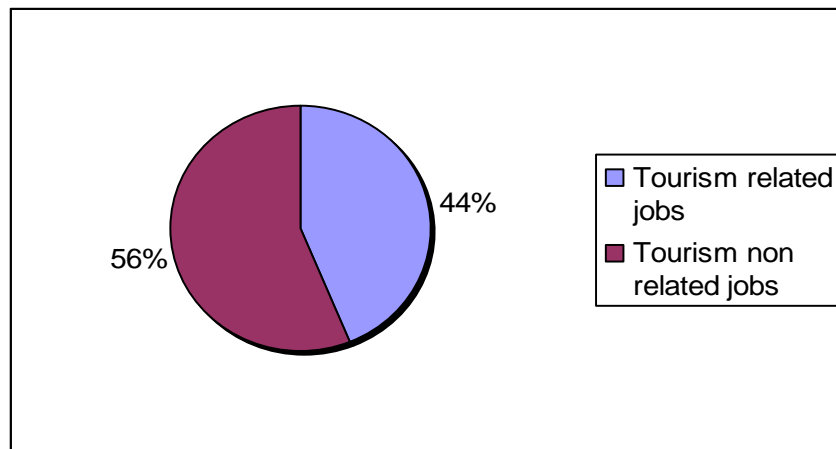


Fig 5.6: Percentage of People involving in Tourism Related Jobs

Hotel owners also agree that the tourism has created job opportunity. But regarding the view about the low and high probability of job opportunity, they have different view with the local residents which can be made clear from following figure 5.7:

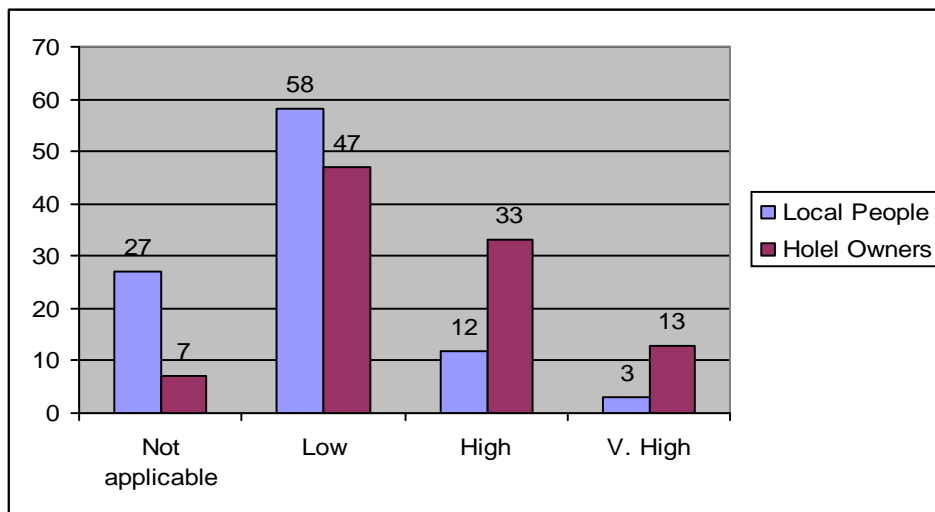


Fig 5.7: Creation of job opportunity to the local people due to tourism

From above figure, it can be concluded that hotel owners perceived more job opportunity due to tourism than local peoples.

Table 5.1: Employment provided by Hotels in Nagarkot

No. of Employee	No. of Hotels	Percentage
Up to 5	3	20
6-10	5	33
11-20	3	20
>20	4	27

Table 5.1 shows that out of 15 hotels sampled, 20% of them have employed up to 5 persons whereas another 20% percentage of hotel have employed in the range of 11-20 number of people. Only 27 % of hotels have employed more than 20 persons. Thus it shows that most of the hotels in Nagarkot are small in terms of employment offered. This result is also similar with the result obtained by Pradhan in 1995 in Nagarkot. In the study 58% of the hotels had found to be employed up to 8 persons only.

It was also found that due to unavailability of skilled and educated people majority of the employees are found to occupy lower posts in these hotels. Also the extent of shift from other occupation to the tourism related occupation is found to be very low.

According to the record taken from the President of NNTDC and Hotels, only about 30% of the employees in the hotel were found to be locals. The president, who is also a hotel owner, added that the work performance of local employees in the hotels is not satisfactory compared to outsiders, thus hotel owners feel reluctant to preference while appointing their hotel employees.

In this study mainly three reasons were found for the low involvement of local people in tourism related jobs. The first reason is the lack of skills, especially for skilled jobs such as guides and

cooks, and secondary jobs such as carpenters and builders. The second reason is those tourists bring their guides and porters from Kathmandu. The last one is that local residents are not interested in working in their own village as a low paid guides and cooks/hotel staffs. The locals also showed their dissatisfaction towards hotel owners and Nagarkot-Naldum Tourism Development Committee members for not organizing trainings and other programs for locals to make them skilled in tourism related jobs such as guide and cook.

5.2.2.3 Income distribution from tourism

Respondents were asked to report their perception for the statement “income distribution from tourism in the area”. 98% percent of the respondents agreed that the income distribution from tourism is unequal in the area. In another response, 60% of respondents had opinion that income generated from tourism is not remained in the areas at all. Whereas 38% expressed the view that it remained in the area in very low amount. Hoteliers are getting directly benefit from tourism and consequently their standard of living has been lifted through tourism, but locals are hardly getting benefits from tourism.

In this context, one of the statements was asked to the local people regarding the increase in average income of the local people. Their response is as below:

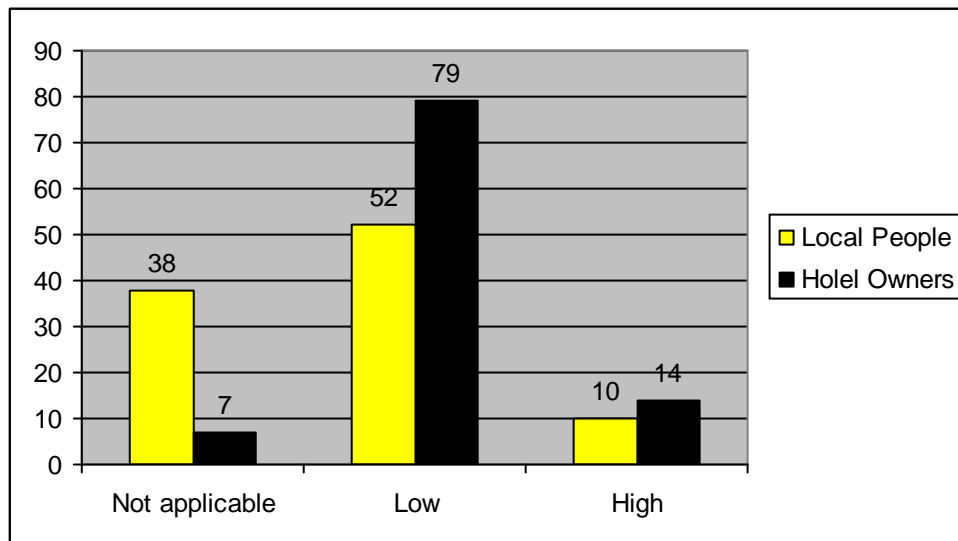


Fig 5.8: Perception of Local people and Hotel owners about the average increase in income of local peoples.

From above figure it can be summed up that, 52% of the local people and 79% of the hotel owners responded that there is very less increase in the average income of locals due to tourism, whereas 38% of local people and 7% hotel owners said that there is no increase and 10% local people and 14% hotel owners that there is high increase in average income of locals due to tourism.

There is association between involvements in tourism related occupation and perception of increase in average income. That means the people involved in tourism related occupation getting more increase in income of locals due to tourism than people not involved in it.

Thus it becomes clear that the average income of locals have increased slightly only. This was also expressed by most of farmer respondents when they were asked about the benefits and costs of tourism. One of them said:

“Don’t ask me anything about tourism and its benefits, we have not got anything from it. Go and ask the hoteliers”.

According to local people, all the hotels except 5 (in total of 38) belong to the owners who are from outsiders of Nagarkot. Thus they are found to be concerned only for making maximum profit themselves rather than the economic growth and development of the area and locals.

Hoteliers, however, mostly argued that the income from tourism is more or less shared between all the villagers. They reported that local villagers can sell their products to tourist groups and hotels such as vegetables, fruits, milk and its products, and handicrafts.

Although 71% of the respondents agree that the locally produced goods are consumed in tourism, they are not ready to agree that the income distribution from tourism is equal. However, the respondents, to some extent, perceived that tourism has diversified the economic activity by injecting some new money into the local economy through the selling of local products, providing employment and fostering tourism-related businesses, hotels, lodges, teashops and retailers.

5.2.2.4 Infrastructure Development

Facilities and services play vital roles in facilitating tourists by bringing them to the attractions and allowing them to use the attractions. The facilities and services also contribute largely to magnify the value of attractions.

With the increase in the number of tourists visiting Nagarkot, investment in infrastructure development such as water supply, road construction, electricity distribution, communication etc. have increased, although the increase is not in direct proportion.

In this regard to know the perception about the various facilities available in Nagarkot, respondents were asked to choose from the scale which they think is the actual situation in the place.

Table 5.2: Response of local people (in %) about the facilities available in Nagarkot

S.N.	Factors	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Bad</i>	<i>Very Bad</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>
1.	Road condition to Nagarkot	13	71	13	3	--
2.	Security	43	46	5	6	--
3.	Communication facilities	18	67	9	3	3
4.	Water supply	13	56	25	6	--
5.	Electricity supply	31	58	8	3	--

Table 5.3: Response of Hotel owners (in %) about the facilities available in Nagarkot

S.N.	Factors	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Bad</i>	<i>Very Bad</i>
1.	Road condition to Nagarkot	--	73	27	--
2.	Security	13	80	7	--
3.	Communication facilities	--	86	14	--
4.	Water supply	--	33	47	20
5.	Electricity supply	--	87	13	--

Tables 5.2 and 5.3 show that above mentioned facilities are good in Nagarkot. Although security is being a country wide problem in Nepal, this problem was not reported during interview. 44

percent of local people and 13% of hotel owners think that the condition of security is excellent in the area, whereas 43% local people and 80% hotel owners perceive that its condition is good.

The water supply is found to be problematic in the Bhatte Danda Bazaar area and hotels located there but it is satisfactory in the villages lying in the lower parts. This also becomes clear from the response of Hotel owners and local people. 13 percent and 56% of local people replied that water supply is excellent and good, whereas 47% and 20% hotel owners said that it is bad and very bad respectively. However the infrastructure development such as road facility, telecommunication, electricity etc is not the same for the whole Nagarkot area. Only a few villages have such benefits, others do not. Every villager therefore, wants to have such facilities for utilizing them.

5.2.3 Environmental Impacts

The willingness to expose natural and cultural treasures to the general public by means of tourism and recreation may adversely impact the resource themselves. Such damage may be caused by such factors as infrastructure overload, building and accessibility, air/water/noise pollution, solid waste problem, damage to land resources, flora, fauna and archeology sites, and visitors' density or overload.

This section describes, analyses and discusses the environmental impacts perceived by the local residents and hotel owners mainly due to tourism in the study area. It includes sanitation, solid waste disposal, deforestation, air/noise pollution, landslides, and wildlife population and behavior.

5.2.3.1 Sanitation and Solid Waste Problem:

Respondents were asked to give their opinion about the cleanliness of the place and solid waste problem in the area due to tourism.

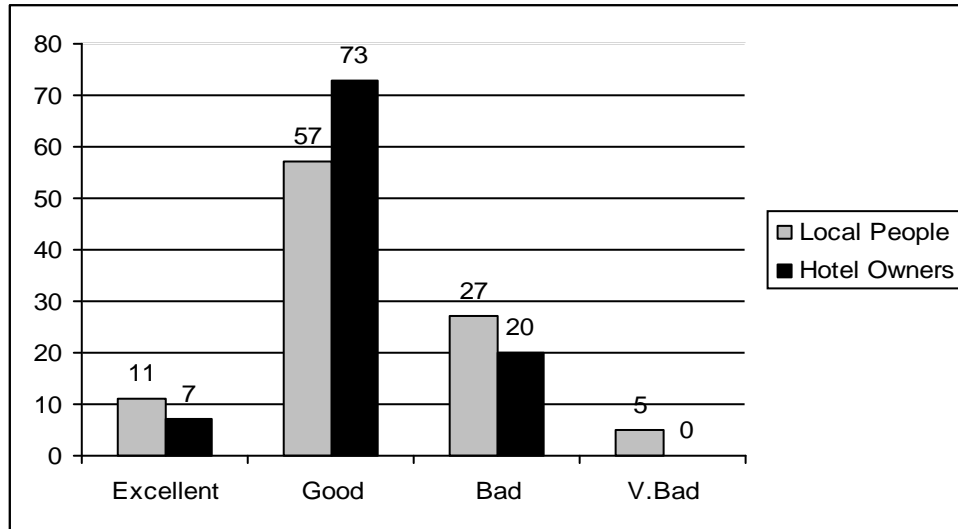


Fig 5.9: Responses about the cleanliness of the place

In response to cleanliness of the place, majority of the local people agree that sanitation of the area has been improved due to tourism. The hotel owners perceived more environmental sanitation and cleanliness than the local residents. In contrary to such responses observation by the researcher was a bit different. Waste water generated from majority of the hotels is emptied on to the trails so that trails are dirtied like sewers, however the hotels have maintained cleanliness in their premises.

Regarding solid waste disposal problem, majority of local respondents did not perceive it as a big problem. However, some of the respondents agreed that tourism adds to solid waste disposal problems. The response about it is as shown in the following figure.

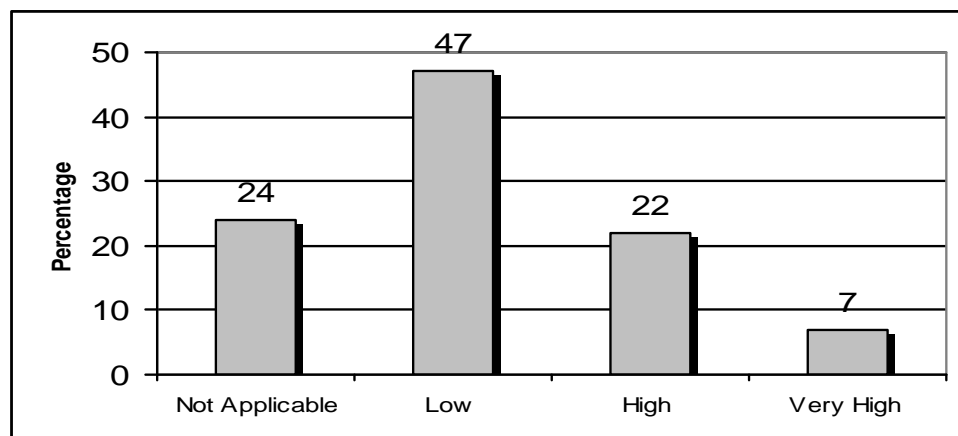


Fig 5.10: Responses of Local Peoples about Solid Waste Problem in Nagarkot

The solid waste problem was more in areas such as View-tower area, Bhatte danda bazaar area, and some of the trekking routes. There have been few efforts to maintain cleanliness, but that is not sufficient, and most of the people ignore to refuse the waste in allocated location. As there are waste bins put along the major roads and foot trails but visitors and locals do not properly using them. People coming for sightseeing, trekking, picnicking just do not care for leaving behind dumps of tins, cans, plastic items, toilet papers etc in the spot of major interest in Nagarkot. The absence of public toilets is also helping ecological health hazards. It may not be a problem immediately at present but in due course of time it may become a serious one.

Hotels, restaurants were found to be the major sources for producing solid waste in the area. Regarding the composition of waste generated from them, about 70% of the waste is biodegradable and remaining non-biodegradable. Although the valuable soil conditioner compost can be prepared from such biodegradable waste, it is not in practice. Hotels are managing the wastes generated in their own way and no effective waste management system is found.

According to local people, the amount of non-biodegradable waste has been increasing day by day due to tourism. This is supported by the view of one of the respondent:

“Non-biodegradable rubbish has increased because of tourism. Locals had other rubbish but they did not have canned food, mineral water bottles and so on. So, I would say tourism has increased the rubbish. In the long term, the problem may be more serious.”

5.2.3.2 Deforestation

In overall view it was found that tourism did not have a major role in causing deforestation. Only 16% of the local people expressed the view that deforestation problem has been serious in the area, whereas majority of them said that tourism has none or very less contribution in it. One of the respondent added that this problem is mainly due to the increasing need for fuel wood, timber and others to the local people and rather not from the tourism. They also had opinion that due to the availability of many alternatives such as electricity, kerosene and LPG, there are none or very nominal negative impact of tourism on the forest due to firewood use.

Some of the respondents added that there is improvement in the forest condition in the area rather than degradation. According to them the main reasons for this are the use of alternative energy to some extent, better forest management through local communities and increasing environmental awareness.

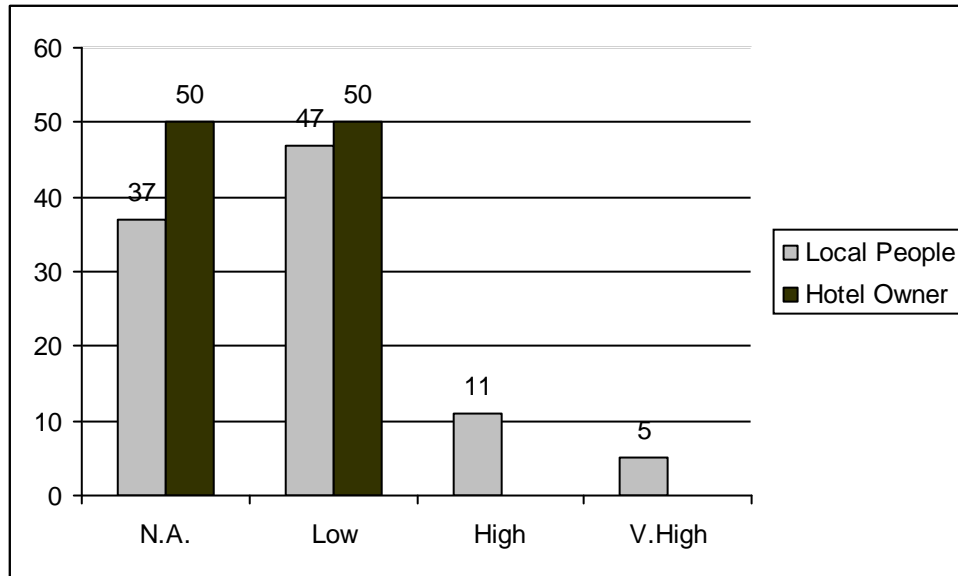


Fig 5.11: Percentage of Responses of Local people and Hotel owners regarding deforestation

Since the forest around the area is either reserved forest or community forest, it is protected from destruction. However, the evidences of forest destruction can be vividly seen. Few hotels has encroached the community forest of the area, as per the President of the community forest. It was found partly due to local people and partly by tourism development in the area. The major reasons that were found responsible for deforestation are construction of roads, buildings, domestic and commercial use of firewood and extension of new agricultural areas. Increase in population and construction of new hotels has increased the demand for fuel wood and timber. Since the major attraction to tourists in Nagarkot is natural sceneries, it is necessary to preserve existing natural beauties in that area. To achieve it first of all existing forests need to be preserved and reforestation should be done wherever possible.

Both the types of respondents were also asked about the impact on wildlife population and their behavior living in the forest. Almost all the respondents denied that the wildlife population has

decreased and that wildlife behavior has changed due to tourism. One of the respondents who were a tourist guide said:

“Tourists coming to this area are not much interested in watching wildlife and birds, unlike the tourists visiting the Terai parks. It is not very easy to watch animals and birds in the mountains. While some of the tourists want to watch birds. Most of the tourists’ main aim is trekking, sightseeing and others rather than watching birds. So, I don’t think there is any impact on the wildlife numbers and their behavior.”

5.2.3.3 Air Pollution/Noise Pollution

Regarding the question about air pollution and noise pollution problems in the area, majority of local residents said that there are no such problems at all.

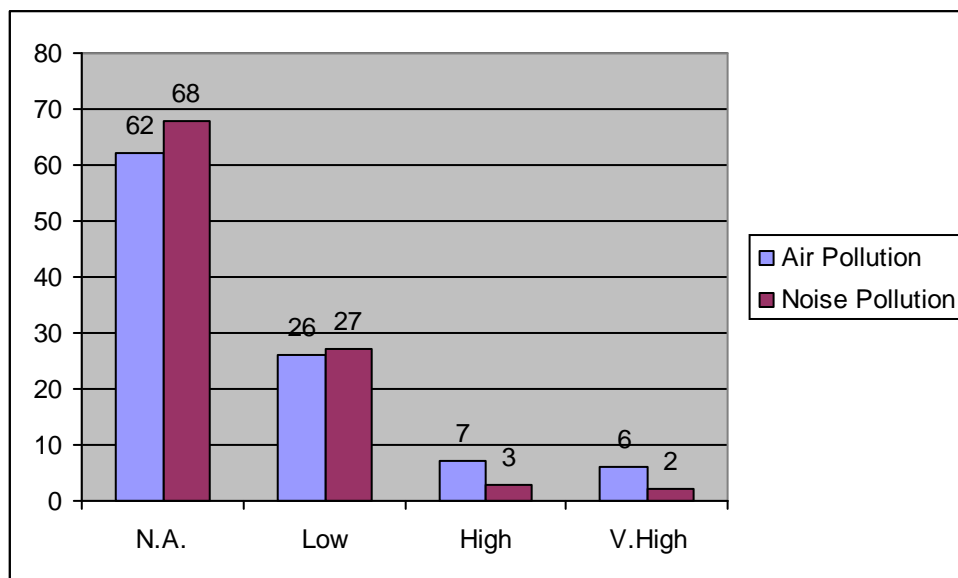


Fig 5.12: Response of Local people regarding air and noise pollution

Due to absence of industries and heavy traffic, the area has no problem of noise and air pollution. However, sometimes loud speakers and vehicles were found to create noise pollution. This is also found to confine only in Bazaar area and not in other areas.

5.3 Tourists’ Experience

5.3.1 Age and Sex Composition

Tourists visiting Nagarkot are found to be of different age groups. The totals of 20 questionnaires were filled up from tourists. These tourists include only foreigners and Nepalese tourists were

excluded in the study. For simplicity, tourist visitors are classified into three age groups such as up to 20 years, 21-40 years and > 40 years. The age and sex composition is as shown below:

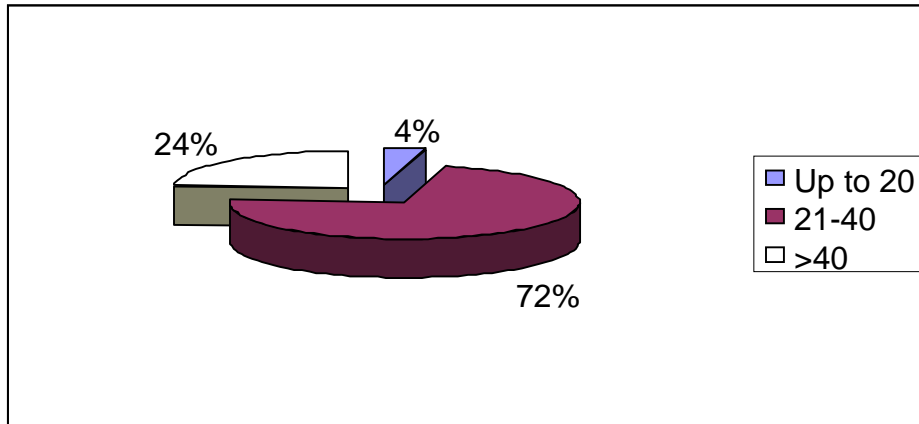


Fig 5.13: Age composition of Tourists

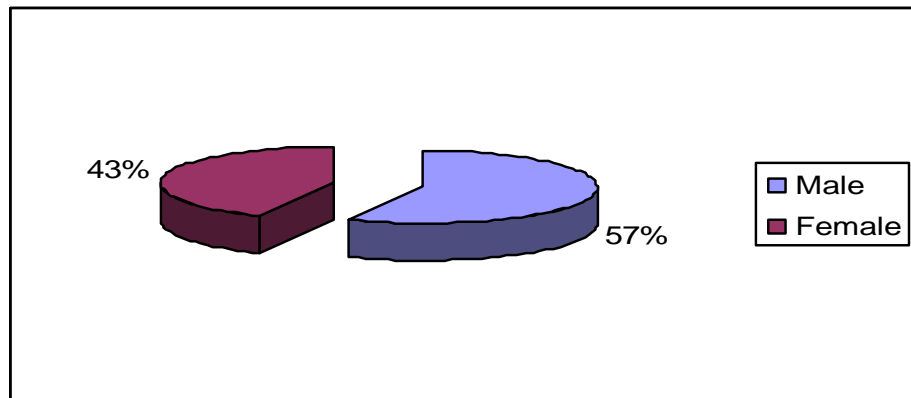


Fig 5.14: Sex composition of Tourists

Figure 5.13 reveal that majority of tourists visiting Nagarkot are between the age group of 21-41 years (72%) followed by age group of above 40 years (24%). This shows that tourists of middle age group are more interested to enjoy the natural and cultural beauty of Nagarkot. So far sex differentiation of tourists is concerned, the males (57%) exceeds females (43%).

5.3.2 Tourist arrival by major regions

It was found that majority of tourists visiting Nagarkot were from Europe (48%) followed by Asia (31%). It was interested to note that none of the tourists from Africa and South America were found to fill up the questionnaire.

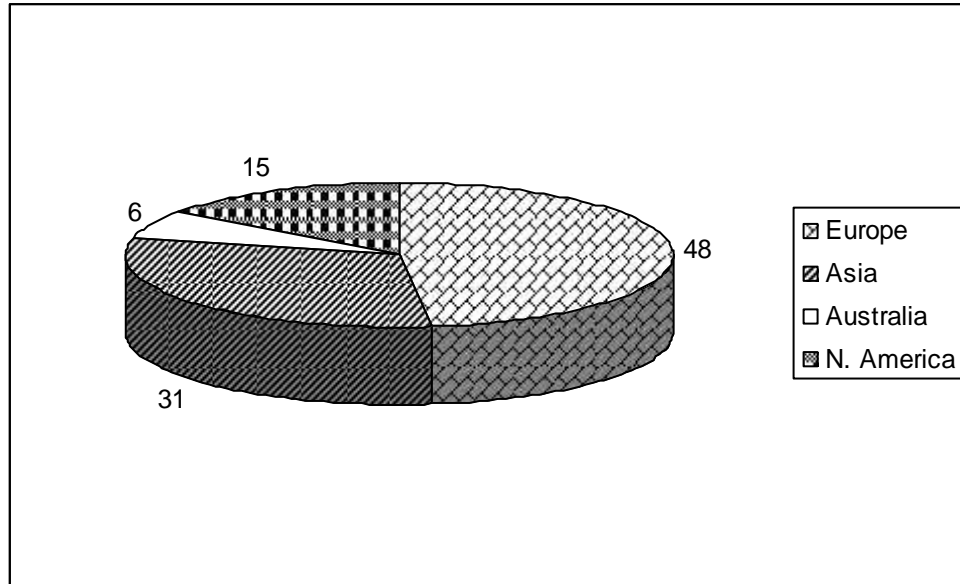


Fig 5.15: Tourists Visiting Nagarkot from Different Regions

5.3.3 Occupation

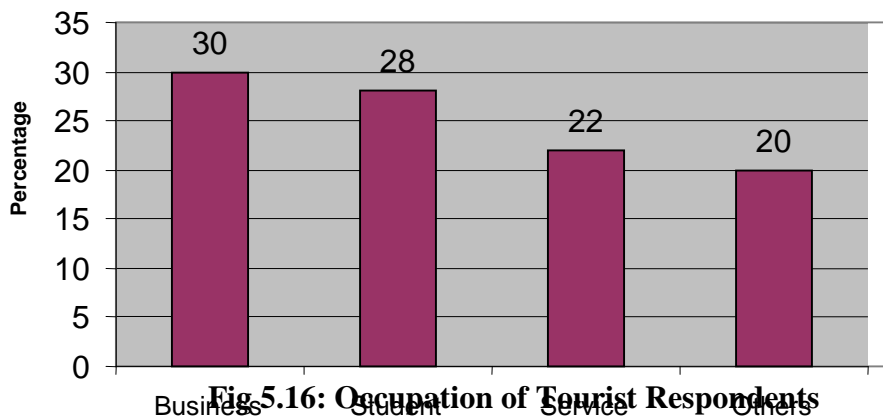


Fig 5.16: Occupation of Tourist Respondents

Majority of tourist respondents (30%) were found to involve in business followed by students (28%) and service (22%). The occupation mentioned others are researcher, computer network administrator, gardener, teacher, engineer and housewife.

5.3.4 Purpose of visit

Tourists were asked to about the purpose of their visit in Nagarkot. It was found that majority of tourists visit Nagarkot for sightseeing (45%) followed by sunrise and sunset view

(27%), entertainment (10%) and trekking (14%). Least of the tourists were found to visit for study (2%) and business purpose (2%).

Although majority of tourists responded that their main purpose of visit to Nagarkot is for sightseeing, after visiting Nagarkot they were most satisfied from the view of sunrise and sunset view and secondly from sightseeing and thirdly by peaceful environment.

5.3.5 Average level of Satisfaction

Visitors' satisfaction is the principal measure of quality in outdoor recreation (Manning, 1986, cited in Shrestha and Walinga, 2003). The elements that are seen as most important by the visitors have the most influence on their satisfaction. To know whether tourists are satisfied or not after visiting Nagarkot, they were asked to indicate the average level of their satisfaction. In response to this 44% tourists responded that they were fully satisfied, 54% moderately satisfied and only 2% dissatisfied. They mentioned that this dissatisfaction was not due to the lack of adequate beauty of the place and others but only due to the weather i.e. they visited the winter season, thus could not enjoyed the beauty of the place due to disturbances by fog on visibility.

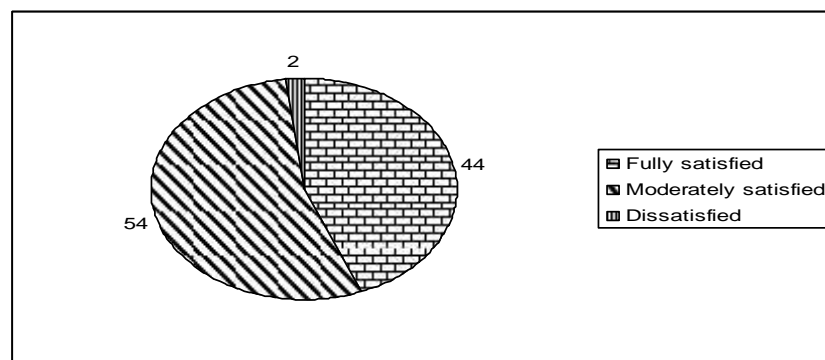


Fig 5.17: Average level of satisfaction of tourists after visiting Nagarkot

5.3.6 Length of Stay

The length of stay is a crucial factor in tourism development. In order to develop tourism industry, it is necessary not only increase the number of tourist inflow but also increase their length of stay. The length of stay varies from tourist to tourist. It depends upon time, money and purpose of visit of tourists. The average length of stay of tourist in Nepal was 9.6 days in 2003.

The duration of stay as responded by the tourists visiting Nagarkot is as shown in the table below:

Table 5.4: Duration of Stay of Tourists in Nagarkot.

Duration of Stay	Number	Percentage
Few Hours	2	10
One Night	11	58
Two Nights	4	20
Three Nights	2	8
More than Three Nights	1	4

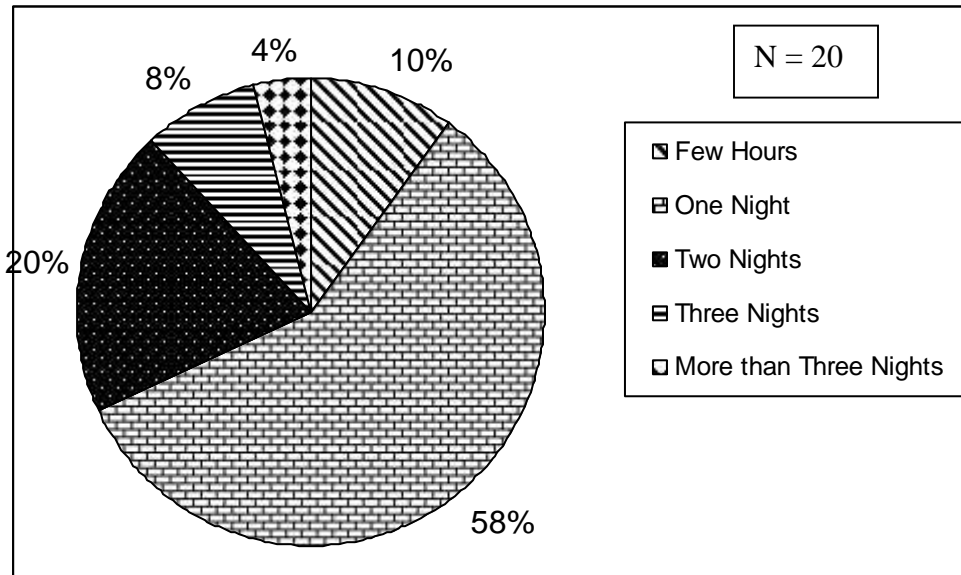


Fig 5.18: Duration of Stay of Tourists in Nagarkot

In the present observation the duration of stay varied from few hours to more than 3 nights. Most of the tourists prefer to stay for only 1 night (about 58 %) followed by 2 nights (20 %), 3 nights (8 %), few hours (10 %) and more than 3 nights (4 %).

The duration of stay may be related with the purpose of tourists' visit at Nagarkot. Since most of the tourists visit Nagarkot for the purpose of sightseeing and sunrise/sunset view, the 1 night stay

reported by most of the tourists (58%) seems to be rationale. However, in the future if other more entertaining activities could be provided then their duration of stay may be lengthened.

5.3.7 Expenditure Pattern

The available statistics shows that there has been an increase in average income per visitor per day in Nepal. The average income per visitor per day was US\$ 42.1 in 1995, US\$ 79.1 in 2003 and US\$ 105.6 in 2009 (MoCTCA, 2009). This increase not only reflects the effect of price rise in Nepal but also shows the increase in our capacity to induce tourists to spend more in the country. However, such a comparison is not possible in Nagarkot in the absence of data. This section simply shows the expenditure pattern of tourists visiting Nagarkot as presented in the table:

Table 5.5: Expenditure pattern of Tourists in Nagarkot

Amount spend (in US \$)	Percentage of Tourist Respondents
Up to 40	33
41 – 60	44
> 60	23

The table shows that majority of tourists in Nagarkot spent below US \$ 40 per day (33%), this is followed by above US \$ 60 (23%) and US \$ 41-60 (44%). Thus this indicates that efforts are to be made to induce tourists visiting Nagarkot to spend more.

5.4 Potentiality of Ecotourism in Nagarkot

The prospect of tourism development in Nagarkot is determined by different physical and cultural factors. The physical factors are location, landform, climate, natural sceneries, etc. The cultural factors are – cultural landscape, customs and traditions of different community groups, accessibility, accommodation, hospitality etc.

Nagarkot has its own scope for tourism development. The fundamental attractions of tourism in Nagarkot are – natural sceneries, pleasing weather, short trekking, colorful different communities such as Tamang, Bhote, hill Brahman, hill Chhetri, and Newar, their customs and way of life,

terraced landscape, and curio village, peaceful environment and so on. Detail explanations of the some of these tourist attractions or ecotourism resources of Nagarkot are given below:

5.4.1 Scenic Attractions:

Nagarkot is a great natural catchment area with outstanding scenic beauty and graceful charm. The top of Nagarkot offers exhilarating views in all directions. The hills, mountains, and Himalayan ranges, rivers, sunrise-sunset, forests, view of compact valley settlements etc. are strong forces attracting tourists. Nagarkot is a vast natural amphitheatre. Natural beauty exerts a strong fascination for the tourists. Nagarkot offers the panoramic view of Himalayas stretching over 300 Km. Breathtaking aerial view of the Himalayan peaks like Manaslu (8463m.), Ganesh (7111 m.), Langtang (7246 m.), Sisa Pangma (8013 m.), Mt. Everest (8848 m.) are seen very close at sight from Nagarkot. It is an excellent base for hiking and sightseeing. Each side view from the top of Nagarkot has its own wonders. There is also a view tower to observe the surrounding sceneries.

The natural beauty of Nagarkot varies from time to time. In the early morning sunrise from the eastern mountain is the main attraction. The sun spreads orange color over the sky; and getting its light, the northern Himalayan peaks become startled. In the winter morning, Nagarkot hill is fogless while Kathmandu Valley covered by dense fog looks like sea. At noon, the land becomes warm with daylight. In the evening, the view of sunset becomes another attraction. The village of Nagarkot is beautifully situated between the sunrise and sunset. The dense Kathmandu Valley settlement can also be seen clearly. At dark night, the burning masses of electrical bulbs look like diamond sheet from Nagarkot.

There are number of small rivers flowing to different directions. The magnificent vivid natural sceneries provide an atmosphere of peace and tranquility. Apart from these tourists can take pleasure of bird watching, wild-animals viewing and horse riding.

5.4.2 Pleasant Climate

Climate is a basic primary element for the development of tourism in any tourist destination. Nagarkot has very pleasant and healthier climate throughout the year due to altitude. The pleasant climate is ideal for holiday. There are four well defined seasons- Spring (March to May), Summer/Monsoon (June to August), Autumn (September to November) and Winter

(December to February). In winter, particularly in late December or early January, frost free night and fogless mornings and misty evening are almost the rule in the up hill of Nagarkot. In mid-summer, Nagarkot is less hot than Kathmandu Valley due to its height. Travelers coming to Nagarkot were more satisfied with the feeling of pleasant, fresh, and cool hilly climate. Most of the months in a year have bright sunshine and cloudless sky which attract tourists. Tourists want fine weather and warm sun-shine. A good weather is important because it plays an important role making holiday a pleasant. If surrounding sceneries are not clearly visible then it will minimize the sightseeing tourists. The best season for a good view of snow covered Himalayas is October till March.

5.4.3 Trekking

Nagarkot offers some of the most unusual and delightful trekking. Tourists who come to Nagarkot can make their tour more exciting and pleasant through such trekking. For this there are some of the major trekking routes through which they can enjoy. These are as follows:

5.4.3.1 Nagarkot to Changunarayan:

Nepal's the oldest temple; Changunarayan is one of the most historical temples known in the world as a cultural heritage. Changunarayan temple, which was built by King Mandev, is famous not only historically but also from the point of view of place of tourist visit. It lies in the west of Nagarkot.

One can easily reach Changunarayan through the Tamang settlements in the middle of Nagarkot and across the jungle of Telkot. This place which can be covered in about three hours of walk passing through Bhatte Danda, Lamatol, Pipalbot, Telkot. Many strange sights can be observed while reaching Changunarayan.

5.4.3.2 Nagarkot to Bhaktapur Durbar Square:

Bhaktapur is well known all over the world in one of the cultural heritage site. In this place there are temples, palaces, and things of historical importance. Apart from this, one can know the custom, tradition and culture of Newari people. The tourist can reach this historic place by walking for about three hours from Nagarkot.

5.4.3.3 Nagarkot to Indrawati:

Indrawati is one of the sacred rivers of Nepal which flows through Nagarkot. One can reach to this place enjoying the wonderful scenes created by nature, after walking for four hours. One can reach to Dolalghat by rafting for about half an hour enjoying the delights of the place.

5.4.3.4 Nagarkot to Sankhu Bajrayogini:

Sankhu is picturesque Newari town having a different historical identity and a famous Bajrayogini temple. This place can be visited by crossing Kartike Bhanjyang or Telkot Bhanjyang. It takes about three hours to reach this place on foot.

5.4.3.5 Nagarkot to Banepa Dhulikhel

The trek in this route starts from the tower at the southern part of the ridge. There is a steep descent to the valley in the east from Nagarkot through Nala to Banepa. One can reach to this place enjoying the sight of scenery of pine forest, and through Ghimire Gaun on foot in about three and half hour's walk.

5.4.3.6 Visit of Nagarkot Village

One can enjoy Nagarkot Village after walking for five hours by enjoying the scenery like the natural beauties of ever green forest, snow capped mountains, streams arising from the hills etc. One can also know the life style of people, their culture, customs while going across the flat plains and zigzag beltline path in Nagarkot. Because of the interesting sights, the journey/trip of five hours seems to be very short. When one descends crossing Bhatte Danda of Nagarkot, one comes across Bakhri Gaun, Gairi Gaun, Bensitol and reach again to Jalpadevi temple, which has historical importance. After visiting this temple one can return visiting the places like Dandatol, Pipalbot, Lama Gaun, Bange Rukh, Naya Gaun, and again to Nagarkot. This trekking will give completeness in the incomplete treks of the tourists.

5.4.4 Cultural Attraction

Tamang, hill Brahman, hill Chhetri, and rural Newar are the main dwellers of Nagarkot. The religion customs, and traditions and the way of life vary from one community group to another. The diversified cultures, the curios villages, and terraced farmlands are attractions for tourists.

As in other sites of the country, special festivals and ceremonies are performed and celebrated in the area during Baisakh Sakranti, Baisakh Purnima, Nag Panchami, Janai Purnima, Gai Jatra,

Krishnasthmi, Teej, Dashain, Tihar, Maghe Sakranti, Basanta Panchami, Shivaratri, Phagu Purnima, Chaite Dashain, and Ram Navami.

Nagarkot could also be a common destination for the pilgrim tourists especially for the followers of Hinduism and Buddhism. Following are the religious places in Nagarkot:

-) Mahadev Pokhari
-) Mahakal
-) Kalidevi Temple
-) Panchakanya Temple
-) Jalpadevi Temple and
-) Lhodim Khasyor Chhyorden Remborche Gumba

Besides, there are also two historical caves in Nagarkot - Chamero Gupha and Raksi Gupha. The Chamero Gupha is located in Gairi Gaun. It is said that this cave has a long passage and if fire is lit, the smoke comes out near Mahadev Pokhari. Raksi Gupha is located in ward no. 4 of Nagarkot. If these caves are conserved and well managed, they could be very important from the point of view of tourism.

Thus, the future of ecotourism in Nagarkot relies heavily on who is responsible for marketing, setting the planning, initiating the entry fee, involving the locals and establishing the infrastructures needed for ecotourism development.

5.5 Constraints for Tourism Development in Nagarkot

Although Nagarkot is a beautiful place to visit nearby Kathmandu, there are found some of the constraints for tourism development. There lacks some facilities for tourism development and promotion. Every day a large number of tourists arrive there but very few of them stay for more than one night. Nagarkot lack recreational facilities (man-made facilities). If there would have been these facilities, tourists will have stayed for a longer period of time. Some of the constraints in Nagarkot are given below:

5.5.1 Transportation and Communication:

Transportation is considered to be the backbone of the tourism industry. It has a vital role in tourism business. It is a primary service needed for the tourists in order to reach their destination.

In any area tourist products or potentialities would be of little importance if the locations are inaccessible. The destination should be accessible by means of conducive transport system.

Although the road facility is available to Nagarkot from Kathmandu, the transportation service to Nagarkot from Bhaktapur is unreliable and inadequate. There is no direct bus service to Nagarkot from Kathmandu although Kathmandu is the main tourist supplier to Nagarkot. No doubt, travel agencies conduct direct tour from Kathmandu to Nagarkot, but the charge is so high that only the high budget tourists can afford it and is not regular also. The local bus from Bhaktapur is usually very crowded, congested, slow and inconvenient. It is inconvenient because the bus service is used not only for passengers but also for transporting varieties of goods along with passengers. So the local bus service is very uncomfortable.

Moreover, the road from Bhaktapur to Nagarkot is very narrow and turnings are very risky especially in rainy season. There is also no identified bus park in Nagarkot.

The communication facilities like Telephone, Internet etc are available in Nagarkot but it is not reliable in all the time, not adequate to fulfill the demand and the internet is very expensive. Therefore, adequate efforts should be made to this aspect by the government and other stakeholders.

5.5.2 Water Supply

There is a problem of water supply in the Bhatte Danda Bazar area of Nagarkot, which is the main place for the tourists to enjoy and stay. Almost all the hotels are using water directly from wells, streams etc for drinking and other purposes. The sources of water are also unprotected.

5.5.3 Recreational Facilities

Growth of tourism largely depends on the development of recreational facilities. There is no provision of recreational facilities such as parks, swimming pools, sports, bird watching, jungle safari, cultural program show in Nagarkot. The available forest could be well managed for educational, recreational purposes such as bird watching, wildlife viewing, biodiversity study and trekking. By taking entrance fee from that further management and conservation of the forest and infrastructure development in the area can be enhanced. Thus the new sources of pleasure

are to be explored in the area so as to attract more and more tourists and to lengthen their duration of stay.

5.5.4 Information Centre and Publicity:

Information is an important aspect of any business activity. In the context of tourism business, it also plays an important role to develop and promote the tourism industry.

Most of the tourists in Kathmandu lack knowledge about Nagarkot. There is no tourist information centre in Nagarkot. There is no system to show and communicate about the facts of Nagarkot such as the culture, religion, customs of different races, trekking routes, hotel facilities available and their price, etc. There is no sign post in the area and trekking routes showing the direction of hotels, temples, villages etc. Effective advertisement and brochure, pamphlet etc distribution and affixing on information board about Nagarkot should be done through travel agencies and hotels in Kathmandu.

5.5.5 Sanitation

Sanitation is found to be a remarkable problem in the area. Garbage, cans, plastic pieces, and other wastes are found to be scattered in the picnic areas, streets and jungles. There is no effective mechanism of solid waste collection from hotels and other households and its proper dumping. All the hotels are dumping the waste in their own way. There is also the problem of public toilets and the sewerage system. The villagers are less conscious about hygiene and cleanliness which had a bad impression upon the travelers. Carelessness of Hotels, VDC officials, Local people and government are creating such sanitary problems in the area.

5.5.6 Trained Manpower

Besides natural beauty, cultural heritage and hospitality of the people, skilled manpower is another aspect of tourism industry. Being a service oriented and labor intensive industry, tourism needs skilled and professional manpower for quality service. Skilled manpower such as tourist guides and their hospitable behavior is a precondition for quality tourism (Sigdel, 2004)

During the study it was found that there is a lack of trained guides who can explain in detail about Nagarkot to tourists. The available guide facility is not satisfactory. Majority of local peoples are illiterate, backward and poor. The increasing number of beggars harassing the

travelers is being a problem. The training on how to deal with guests should be given to those who come into contact with tourists.

CHAPTER: 6

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

6.1 Summary

This study mainly emphasizes on the present status of tourism, and to assess the potential for the development of Ecotourism in an environmentally sustainable manner in Nagarkot. This study was mainly based on the primary data collected through questionnaires from 30 local peoples, 20 tourists and 20 hotel owners as well as interaction with them, and the secondary data collected from various sources.

According to records from NNTDC and Hotels of Nagarkot area, about 40 % of tourists visiting Nepal visit Nagarkot. Now the tourism is growing gradually in Nagarkot area as compared to the past years, which may be due to the political conflict during those years. During the study it was found that Nagarkot is visited mostly by the tourists from Europe, Asia, Australia and North America. Potentiality of the area is evaluated on the basis of number of tourists visiting the area, their purpose of visit and other natural as well as cultural assets of the area.

The economic impacts on the area due to tourism are broadly studied under following headings: employment opportunity, expansion of market, support for infrastructure development and price of goods. Although the price of goods is found to be increased in a high extent, tourism was not found to be solely responsible for it. Tourism has found to create some primary and secondary job opportunities to the locals and outsiders. Among the total respondents, 44% were found to be directly or indirectly involved in tourism related activities (occupation). In totality about 30% of the hotel staffs were found to be local and remaining are outsiders. Mainly, three reasons were

found for the involvement of low number of local people in tourism related jobs: lack of skills; lack of coordination among locals, hotel owners and Nagarkot-Naldum Tourism Development Committee; and low amount of salary paid for the local employees in hotels.

6.3 Conclusion

The impacts on the environment are grouped as sanitation and solid waste disposal, deforestation, impacts on wildlife, and air/noise pollution. Overall it was found that the area has experienced few negative environmental impacts and these impacts are seen to be within the control limit. But no significant impact was observed in the wild animals present in the nearby forests. Tourism is found to be responsible for increasing the solid waste problem, especially non-biodegradable wastes, in the area since it is linked with the production of solid waste from hotels, restaurants and tourists themselves on the way.

Some of the other positive economic impacts found due to tourism during the study were increase in the land value, increase in the number of small scale industries such as hotel industry, fruit farming, poultry farming, livestock farming etc. Local farmers of surrounding villages are on the way to commercialize their agricultural products like vegetables, meat, eggs, milk and milk products and other animal products.

Overall, the perceived negative social impacts of tourism are at a minimum and the main tourism induced social changes include young people's attitude in imitating tourists' behavior and to some extent disruption of community bonds through the economic differentiation. However, some of the problems exist in the area regarding tourism such as lack of recreational facilities, trained manpower, and to some extent transportation and communication problems. All the stakeholders thus need to be united to solve the problems regarding tourism development and thus making the area as an ecotourism destination. All the above reasons reflect the very favorable prospects of ecotourism in the area.

6.3 Recommendation

Based on the above study following recommendations are given for sustainable ecotourism development in Nagarkot:

-) Efforts should be made from relevant academic institutions to develop trained and skilled manpower at local level in order to provide efficient services up to the satisfaction of tourists.
-) Tourism study centre should be established to assist in further research for future researcher so to easy accessibility in literature review.

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Appendix I

Questionnaires for Local People:

Name:

Age:

Date:

Gender: Male/ Female

Occupation:

1. Are you native to the place or migrant?

2. Does your family benefit from tourists visiting this area?

Yes () No () Don't know ()

3. What are your income sources?

.....

4. In your opinion what things attracts the tourists?

Sightseeing () Trekking () Forest () Sunrise and sunset ()
Local culture () All () Others (specify).....

5. Does local goods and other items are consumed in tourism and if yes, what are these and to what extent?

6. Do you feel that the number of hotels and restaurants are sufficient in this place for tourism development?

7. What is your opinion about the satisfaction of tourists after visiting this place?

a. Fully satisfied () b. Satisfied ()
c. Dissatisfied () d. Don't know ()

8. In your opinion, what facilities are sufficient and what are not for increasing tourists in this area.

Sufficient

Not sufficient

.....
.....

.....
.....

9. Do you have any expectations from tourism? If yes, what are these?

.....

10. In your opinion, can eco-tourism contribute to the ecology and future economy of the place? And how?

.....

11. What do you feel about the number of tourists visiting this area?
 a. Sufficient () b. Insufficient () c. Don't know ()

12. Have you done anything for tourism profession?
 a. Trekking ()
 b. Administration of hotel ()
 c. Establishment of any institution on tourism development () d. Curio goods or hand made goods ()
 e. Work on preserving/ protecting the environment ()
 f. Nothing ()

13. Have you noted any adverse impact or negative effect of tourism to the local residents? If yes, what are these?

14. Have you reported any complains from tourists after visiting this place and what are these?

15. How do you evaluate the following facilities in Nagarkot?

S.N.	Factors	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Bad</i>	<i>Very Bad</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>
1.	Cleanliness of the place					
2.	Road condition to Nagarkot					
3.	Sanitation					
4.	Security					
5.	Communication facilities					
6.	Water supply					
7.	Electricity supply					

16. In your opinion, what is the status of following factors in Nagarkot?

S.N.	Factors	<i>Not applicable</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Very High</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>
1.	Nagarkot has gone dirtier (Solid waste problem)					
2.	There has been an increasing deforestation.					
3.	Air pollution.					
4.	Landslides					

5.	Noise pollution					
6.	Price rise.					
7.	Adverse effect on the life of people.					
8.	Local people have become more selfish.					
9.	Creation of job opportunity to the local people.					
10.	Increase in the average income of the local people					
11.	The extent of income from tourism that has remained in the area?					
12.	Enlargement of market and increase in production					
13.	The extent of shift from other economic sectors (farming, forestry etc) to tourism-related professions in the area?					

S.N.	Factors	<i><u>Not applicable</u></i>	<i><u>Low</u></i>	<i><u>High</u></i>	<i><u>Very High</u></i>	<i><u>Don't Know</u></i>
14.	Improvement in the quality of tourism facilities and infrastructure.					
15.	Increase in the incidence of prostitution.					
16.	Increase in the incidence of crime.					
17.	Adverse impact on the religious beliefs of local people.					

17. In your opinion, what things could be the obstacles for eco-tourism development in this area?

18. What are your suggestions for increasing number of tourists and increasing benefits from tourism in this area?

Thank you

Appendix II

Questionnaires for Hotel owners:

Namaste! My name is **Sunita Adhikari** and I am a student in the **Central Department of Sociology** at **Tribhuvan University**, Kirtipur, Kathmandu. This survey is part of my Master's thesis research. You are invited to participate voluntarily in this research entitled "**Overview of Socio-economic changes brought by Tourism and Prospects of Promotion of Ecotourism on Nagarkot Area**" by completing the following questions.

Your help in this research work is highly valued.

Date:

Name of the Hotel:

1. When was the hotel established? ()

2. How many hotels were there when you established the hotel? -----

3. What are the peak months and off-season period of tourist visit?
Peak months.....toand off-seasons to

4. What is the average number of tourists visiting your hotel ?
Normally -----per day. Peak season-----per day. Off season-----per day.

5. What do you feel about the numbers of tourists in this area?
a. Sufficient () b. Insufficient () c. Don't know ()

6. Generally for how many days do the tourists stay in your hotel?
a. Few hours () b. One night () c. Two nights ()
d. Three nights () f. More than 3 nights()

7. How much a tourist normally spends per night (except room charge)?
.....

8. Are you satisfied with your income from the hotel?

Yes () No ()

9. Is your business in profit at present?

Yes () No ()

10. How many rooms and beds are there in your hotel?

Rooms-----, and Beds-----.

11. How many employees are there in your hotel? ()

12. How much do you charge for the room?

Rs -----for single bed room and Rs.-----for double bed room.

13. How much percentage of your income do you have to pay for tax? ()

14. How do you feel about the tax rate?

a. Reasonable () b. Unreasonable ()

15. Where from do you buy your daily necessities such as groceries?

a. Kathmandu () b. Bhaktapur () c. Banepa ()
d. Local market () e. Others (Specify).....

16. What is your plan in business?

a. To achieve growth () b. To maintain the present position ()
c. To leave it () d. To undertake another business in Nagarkot()

17. Do you think that the inflow of tourists has made tourist center dirty?

Yes () No ()

18. If yes, which place has gone dirty?

19. How do the local people behave the tourists?

- a. Well behaved () b. so-so () c. Misbehaved ()

20. What is your opinion about the satisfaction of tourists after visiting this place?

- a. Fully satisfied () b. Satisfied ()
 c. Dissatisfied () d. Don't know ()

21. How do you evaluate the following facilities in Nagarkot?

S.N.	Factors	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Bad</i>	<i>Very Bad</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>
1.	Cleanliness of the place					
2.	Road condition to Nagarkot					
3.	Behavior of local people					
4.	Sanitation					
5.	Security					
6.	Tourist guides					
7.	Tourist information					
8.	Hotel facilities					
9.	Communication facilities					
10.	Trekking facilities					
11.	Water supply					
12.	Electricity supply					
13.	Street lighting					
14.	Drainage					

22. What kind of changes do you notice with the increase in the number of tourists visiting Nagarkot?

S.N.	Factors	<i>Not applicable</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Very High</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
1.	Nagarkot has gone dirtier.					
2.	There has been an increasing deforestation.					
3.	Adverse effect on the life of people.					
4.	Increased pollution of the environment.					
5.	Price rise.					
6.	Local people have become more selfish.					
7.	Creation of job opportunity to local people					
8.	Increase in the average income of the local people.					
9.	Enlargement of market and increase in production.					
10.	Improvement in the quality of tourism facilities and infrastructure.					
11.	Increase in the incidence of prostitution.					
12.	Increase in the incidence of crime.					

13.	Adverse impact on the religious beliefs of local people.					
-----	--	--	--	--	--	--

23. Have you reported any complains from tourists after visiting this place and what are these?

.....

24. In your opinion, what facilities are sufficient and what are not for increasing tourists in this area?

Sufficient

Not sufficient

.....

.....

25. What are your suggestions for increasing number of tourists and increasing benefits from tourism in this area?

Thank you

7. How much on an average, you are spending per day in Nagarkot?
 a. US \$ < 10 () b. US \$ 10-20 () c. US 20-30 ()
 d. US \$ 30-40 () e. US \$ 40+ ()
8. Based on your expenses, what is your opinion about cheapness in Nagarkot?
 a. Expensive () b. Moderate () c. Cheap ()
9. What do you think about the standard of lodging and fooding in Nagarkot?
 a. Excellent () b. Good ()
 c. Moderate () d. Bad ()
10. In your opinion, the peoples of Nagarkot are.....
 a. Very friendly () b. Friendly ()
 c. Not friendly () d. Don't know ()
11. What do you think about the future prospect to eco-tourism in Nagarkot?
 a. Very favorable () b. Favorable () c. Don't know ()
 d. Unfavorable () e. Very unfavorable ()
12. How do you evaluate the following facilities in Nagarkot?

S.N.	Factors	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Bad</i>	<i>Very Bad</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>
1. 1.	Cleanliness of the place					
2. 2.	Road condition to Nagarkot					
3.	Transportation facilities					
4. 3.	Behavior of local people					
5. 4.	Sanitation					
6. 5.	Security					
7. 6.	Tourist guides					
8. 7.	Tourist information					
9. 8.	Hotel facilities					
10. 9.	Communication facilities					
11. 10.	Trekking facilities					

13. In your opinion, what is the status of following factors in Nagarkot?

S.N.	Factors	<i>Not applicable</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Very High</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>
1.	Environmental pollution					
2.	Air pollution					
3.	Solid waste problem					
4.	Wood cutting and forest destruction					
5.	Landslides					
6.	Noise pollution					
7.	Extent of infrastructure for tourism development					

14. What is the average level of your satisfaction after visiting Nagarkot?
a. Fully satisfied () b. Satisfied () c. Dissatisfied ()

15. Do you have any comments regarding the tourism facilities and others in this place?
.....
.....
.....

16. What are your suggestions to develop Nagarkot as an Eco-tourism center (If any)?
.....
.....
.....
.....

Thank you

Appendix IV Photographs



Photo 1: Arrival of Mass Tourist at Nagarkot Area



Photo 2: Panoramic Landscape View of Nagarkot Area



Photo 3: Picturesque view of Himalayan Range from Nagarkot Area



Photo 4: Village of Naldum Area Representing Rural Infrastructure

