

**A STUDY ON RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ECOTOURISM
(A CASE STUDY ON BESISHAHAR VDC, LAMJUNG DISTRICT)**

**A Thesis Report
Submitted to the Central Department of Rural Development,
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in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of
MASTER OF ARTS
in
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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This thesis entitled "**A Study on relationship between Economic Development and Ecotourism (A Case Study of Besishahar VDC, Lamjung District)**" has been prepared by Mr. Rajendra Adhikari under my supervision. I hereby recommend this thesis for examination by the Thesis Committee as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of MASTER OF ARTS in Rural Development.

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(Thesis Supervisor)

APPROVAL SHEET

We certify that this thesis entitled "**A Study on relationship Between Economic Development and Ecotourism (A Case Study of Besishahar VDC Lamjung District)**" submitted by Mr. Rajendra Adhikari to the Central Department of Rural Development, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of MASTER OF ARTS in Rural Development has been found satisfactory in scope and quality. Therefore, we accept this thesis as a part of the said degree.

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ABSTRACT

Ecotourism is growing rapidly in the world today particularly in developing countries on the assumption that there will be minimum negative impacts, maximum benefit for local people and their environment, and first hand natural and cultural experiences for visitors.

The history of ecotourism is not very long in Nepal. The ecotourism activities started only after the inception of Chitwan National Park in 1973. Nepal is a natural ecotourism destination. In true sense, ecotourism in Nepal is the hybridization of adventure tourism, trekking and culture tourism.

Popularly known as a beautiful in nature and rich in culture, Lamjung district lies in Gandaki zone under the Western Development Region of the country. Lamjung has great potential for the development of ecotourism. So, to explore Lamjung as a model ecotourism destination researcher selected the Lamjung as a study area with specific objective of analyzing the economic and cultural impact of ecotourism in Lamjung.

This study is based on the primary data collected through questionnaire from 30 local people, 10 tourists and 10 hotel operators and secondary data from various sources.

This study identified that there is fewer negative impact on culture due to ecotourism in Lamjung. The economic impacts on the area due to eco tourism are broadly studied under following headings; employment, income, price of goods, occupation etc. There is positive economic impact on employment generation, earning income and occupation due to eco tourism in Lamjung. Although, the price of goods is found to be increased in some extent. Religious and cultural activities is found to be changed due to ecotourism in Lamjung. Opportunities to learn language, cultural interaction with the rest of the world, learning about dress, clean etc. are listed positive cultural impacts.

The study concluded that Lamjung offers a high value ecotourism attraction in terms of the natural and cultural attributes. Most of the tourists visiting Lamjung for natural beauty and for peaceful environment.

Although a number of constraint to further development of ecotourism were identified as lack of information centre and trained manpower, poor transportation and communication facilities etc.

Thus, the future of ecotourism is very bright in Lamjung. All the stakeholders need to be united to solve the problems regarding ecotourism development and thus making the area as an unique ecotourism destination.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACA	—	Annapurna Conservation Area
ACAP	—	Annapurna Conservation Area Project
AD	—	Anne Domino
ADB	—	Asian Development Bank
AT	—	Alternative Tourism
CEDA	—	Centre for Economic Development and Administration
DDC	—	District Development Committee
DNPWC	—	The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
GDP	—	Gross Domestic Product
GOs	—	Government Organizations
ICIMOD	—	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
IYE	—	International Year of Ecotourism
KCAP	—	Kanchanjunga Conservation Area Project
KEEP	—	Kathmandu Environment Education Project
KMTNC	—	King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation
LDCs	—	Least Developed Countries
M.A.	—	Master of Arts
MCAP	—	Manaslu Conservation Area Project
MDCs	—	Most Developed Countries
MOPE	—	Ministry of Population and Environment
MOCTCA	—	Ministry of Cultural Tourism and Civil Aviation
NACCRT	—	North American Coordinating Centre for Responsible Tourism
NGOs	—	Non Government Organizations
NPC	—	Nepal Planning Commission
NTB	—	Nepal Tourism Board

NTTR	—	Nepal Travel and Trade Reporter
Ph. D.	—	Doctor of Philosophy
RNAC	—	Royal Nepal Airlines Corporation
SPCC	—	Sagarthamatha Pollution Control Committee
TED	—	Tourist Education Programme
TEEN	—	Tourism European Ecumenical Network
TGDB	—	Tara Gaon Development Board
TIES	—	The International Ecotourism Society
TRPAP	—	Tourism for Rural Poverty Alleviation Project
TU	—	Tribhuvan University
UMCDP	—	Upper Mustang Conservation and Development Project
UN	—	United Nations
USA	—	United States of America
VDCs	—	Village Development Committees
WTO	—	World Tourism Organization
WWF	—	World Wildlife Foundation