

An Assessment on Prospects of Religious Tourism in Nepal

(A case study of Lumbini in Rupandehi District)

**A Thesis Submitted to
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Central Department of Rural Development for the
Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Master of
Arts in Rural Development**

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

It is with great pleasure that I recommend the approval of the thesis entitled *An Assessment on Prospects of Religious Tourism in Nepal (A case study of Lumbini in Rupandehi District)* under my supervision for the partial fulfillment of the Degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development. Therefore, this thesis is recommended for its evaluation.

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LETTER OF APPROVAL

This Thesis entitled *An Assessment on Prospects of Religious Tourism in Nepal (A case study of Lumbini in Rupandehi District)* submitted by Parbata Khanal has been accepted as the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development.

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This Thesis entitled *An Assessment on Prospects of Religious Tourism in Nepal (A case study of Lumbini in Rupandehi District)* has been undertaken into study of the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master's Degree in Rural Development. Due to the lack of space, it is impossible to include the name of all people who helped 'in my research work.

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ABSTRACT

*For the partial fulfillment of the course designated for central department of rural Development, the student has carried out the thesis work entitled **An Assessment on Prospects of Religious Tourism in Nepal (A case study of Lumbini in Rupandehi District)**. So, the main objectives of the study is to find out the prospects of religious tourism in Lumbini having specific objectives are : to analyze the inflow of tourists arrival. To identify the potentiality of religious tourism in study area. To analyze the programmes and institutional arrangements related to religious tourism in study area.*

In order to fulfill these objective, descriptive as well as exploratory and descriptive research design have been applied. The study has been under taken through survey and interviewing with tourist, hotel owners. Tourism related institution, hotels lodge and direct observation. Altogether 55 tourists were selected among 200, 25 hotel owners among 70 & 20 local people for focus group discussion. And both simple random sampling and judgmental technique had been applied.

The study has related with very interesting results. The number of tourist visiting in Lumbini was increased by 43.26% in 2007, most of the tourist visited Lumbini from Asian countries (42.74%) because of faith in Buddhism and mainly visited in winter season, the staying period of tourist in for 1-3 days (54.54%) visited Lumbini with the purpose of going on pilgrimage, as an attraction (36.36%) tourists love to see its historical monuments and then good archeology, temples (Maya Devi) because of its religious value, Lumbini is facilitated by every kind of facilities but it lacks proper management. Still local people are not getting benefit from tourism in Lumbini. There is high prospects of religious tourism in Lumbini in term of natural attractions and man-made attractions. Extra religious activities should also be done to lengthen the tourist stay in Lumbini with proper implementation of integrated tourism development, policies, plans and programmes.

Despite having a huge prospects for tourism development, there are still so many areas in Lumbini that are lagging behind in one or other way and we are in a urgent need of vigilance and promotion. In this regard, the researcher has suggested some measures, To be taken into consideration to capitalize tourism promotion in Lubmini. The following recommendations can be put forward to increase the overall attraction of Lumbini: Need for better and more comfortable access to the site, Need of more publicity and advertisement, Master plan designated by Kengo Tango should be completed in time without any delay. Improvement in security condition is needed for development of package tour program. Last but not least local people around the Lumbini area should be aware of properly in conserving the valuable area.

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ABBREVIATIONS

A.D.	Anno Domini
B.C.	Before Christ
CBS	Central Bureu of Statistics
CO	Cultural Organization
DoA	Department of Archaeology
GO	Government Organization
HMG	His Majesty's Government
INGO	International Non Government Organization
LDT	Lumbini Development Trust
NG	Nepal Government
NGO	Non- Government Organization
NTB	Nepal Tourism Board
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Production
TRPAP	Tourism for Poverty Alleviation Programme
TU	Tribhuvan University
UN	United Nation
UNDP	United Nation Development Programme
VDC	Village Development Committee
WFB	World Fellowship of Buddhist