

# **PROSPECT OF ECO-TOURISM IN NEPAL**

*(A Case study of Dakshinkali VDC, in Kathmandu District)*

**A Thesis Submitted to  
Faculty of Humanities and Social Science  
Central Department of Rural Development for the  
Partial fulfillment of the Requirements for the Award of the  
Degree of Masters of Arts in Rural Development**

**Submitted By**

**Dorendra Bahadur Basnet**

**Roll No: 2869**

**T.U .Reg.No:35183-95**

**Batch: 5th (2062-064)**

**Central Department of Rural Development  
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Tribhuvan University Kirtipur,  
Kathmandu, Nepal.**

**April, 2009**

## RECOMMENDATION – LETTER

It is my pleasure to recommend that **Mr. Dorendra Bahadur Basnet** has carried out the thesis entitled "" PROSPECT OF ECO-TOURISM IN NEPAL: A Case study of Dakshinkali VDC, in Kathmandu District under my supervision and guidance. It is the candidate's original work and present useful information in the concerned field. Is strongly recommended that the thesis be accepted for the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master in Rural Development.

.....

Prof .Dr .Pradeep Kumar Khadka

Thesis Supervisor and Head of Department

Date: .....

# APPROVAL SHEET

The thesis work entitled “**Prospect of Eco-Tourism in Nepal: A Case Study of Dakshinkali VDC, in Kathmandu District**” done by **Mr. Dorendra Bahadur Basnet** is prepared for the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts (M.A.) in Rural Development.

## Evaluation Committee,

-----

Prof. Dr. Pradeep Kumar Khadka  
(Head of the Department and Thesis Supervisor)

-----

Prof. Dr. Mangala Shrestha  
(External Examiner)

Date: .....

## Acknowledgement

This thesis entitled Prospect of Eco- Tourism In Nepal( A Case Study of Dakshinkali VDC of Kathmandu District) has been undertaken into study of the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master's Degree in Rural Development.I am very sorry to, due to the lack of space, it is impossible to include the name of all people who helped in my research work .

First of all I would like to express my deep gratitude and sincere respect to my research supervisor, Head of Department **Prof. Dr. Pradeep Kumar Khadka** for his proper and constructive guidance. This study would not have come in this format without his constant supervision and support. I would also like express my heartfelt thanks to my Thesis External Supervisor Prof. Dr.Mangala Shrestha for her valuable suggestion & comments in my thesis draft. I respectfully acknowledge to all my teachers and staffs of Central Department of Rural Development for their co-operation and help.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the all respondents and key informants who directly & indirectly assisted me to collect relevant information for the study, without which this dissertation work would not have been completed.

My deepest sense of gratitude goes to my parents whose affection, encouragement & support helps me to push up in this stage of education.

My special thanks goes to my friends Mr. Krishna Prasad Gyawali, Mr. Amrit Bahadur Khirshina, for their insistent effort for making my work homely & enjoyable till its completion.

At last, but not least, I would like to acknowledge those who directly or indirectly provided me with materials, information and suggestions.

**DORENDRA BAHADUR BASNET**

## ***Abstract***

*The concept of eco-tourism started from Costa-Rica in 1987 by a Tour Operator. Principally ecotourism needs natural areas especially unspoiled natural areas. Nepal as a naturally beautiful country having huge bio-diversity contains great potentiality of eco-tourism. Dakshinkali as a hilly natural area with magnificent Himalayan ranges on the east, south and northern side also contains one of the huge potential areas of eco-tourism in the country. The main objective of the study is to explore the prospect of eco-tourism in Dakshinkali VDC of Kathmandu. The specific objectives are as follows.*

1. To explore the socio-cultural aspect of tourism.
2. To analyze the sustainability aspect of eco tourism in study area.
3. To identify the important ecotourism of Dakshinkali and expose it.

*The study is based on primary data from 60 respondents and mainly has revealed that there is great potentiality of ecotourism and essentiality of environmental conservation for the sustainable income from tourism sector. To maintain the tourism business with future prospect the values and principles such as 'Take only photographs leave only foot prints' are essential to apply. The existed beauty of the place such as heart-touching hilly ranges, cool fresh air, wide coverage on natural forest and topographical scenario etc are the key elements of ecotourism potentiality of the place. The study area is an appropriate site for eco-tourism. The sources of tourist attractions like scenic attraction 18%, natural resources 8% and religious prospect 42% and rest of are abundant there. In spite of huge potentiality of tourism in general and eco-tourism in particular there are various constraints like poor transportation and communication facilities, poor recreational facilities, a limited season, lack of trained manpower, lack of marketing, poor solid waste management system, limited number of educated people.*

*Thus, the future of ecotourism in Dakshinkali is found to be very optimistic and relies heavily on who is responsible for marketing, setting the planning, initiating the entry fees, involving the locals and establishing the infrastructures needed for ecotourism development.*

# Table of contents

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION	i
LETTER OF APPROVAL	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iii
ABSTRACT	iv
CONTENTS	v
LIST OF TABLES	
	ix
LIST OF FIGURES	x
ACRONYMS/ ABBREVIATIONS	xi

## CHAPTER –ONE

### INTRODUCTION

1.1	General Background	1
1.1.1	Nepal at a Glance	
1.1.2	Concept of Tourism	2
1.1.3	Ecotourism	3
1.2	Statement of the problem	4
1.3	Objectives of the study	5
1.4	Rational of the study	5
1.5	Limitation of the Study	5
1.6	Organization of the study	6

## CHAPTER- TWO

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1	Theoretical Perspective	7
-----	-------------------------	---

2.2	Development of Tourism	9
2.3	Tourism in Nepal	11
2.4	History and concept of Ecotourism	13
2.5	Historical Scenario of Eco-tourism in Nepal	17
2.6	Benefits of Eco-tourism	18
2.7	Principle of Ecotourism	20
2.8	Scope of Ecotourism	21
2.9	Methods of Ecotourism	22

## CHAPTER- THREE

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1	Research Design	23
3.2	Rational for the Selection of the Study Site	23
3.3	Sampling Procedure	24
3.4	Natures and Source of Data	24
	3.4.1 Primary Data	24
	3.4.2 Secondary Data	24
3.5	Tools and Technique of Data Collection	24
	3.5.1 Questionnaire Survey	25
	3.5.2 Key Information Interview	25
	3.5.3 Field Visit and Observation	25
	3.5.4 Focus Group Discussion	25
3.6	Data Analysis	25

## CHAPTER- FOUR

### PHYSICAL SETTING OF THE STUDY AREA

4.1	The Dakshinkali VDC, The study area	26
4.1.1	Physical Setting	26

4.1.2	The Mother of Goddess of Dakshinkali	27
4.1.3	Worshiping (the pooja)	27
4.1.4	Population Distribution	28
4.1.5	Occupation	29
4.1.6	Educational Status	29
4.1.7.	Health Facility	30
4.1.8	Culture	30
4.1.9	Cast & Ethnicity	30
4.1.10	Mother Tongue & Religion	31
4.1.11	Climate	31
4.1.12	Infrastructure Setting	32
4.1.13	Natural Resource	32
4.2	4.2.1 Impact of Ecotourism in Dakshinkali	33
	4.2.2 Social-Cultural Impact	33
	4.2.3 Environmental Impact	33
	4.2.4 Negative Impact	34
4.3	Constraint for Tourism Development in Study Area	35
	4.3.1 Transportation & Communication	36
	4.3.2 Water Supply	37
	4.3.3 Recreational Facility	37
	4.3.4 Information Center & Publicity	37
	4.3.5 Trained Manpower	37
4.4	Tourist Arrival in Nepal	38
	4.4.1 Pattern of Tourist Arrival in Nepal	39
	4.4.2 Tourist Arrivals by Purpose of visit (2006/07)	39
	4.4.3 Tourist Arrivals by Age & Sex Group	40
	4.4.4 Tourist Arrivals by major nationality (2006/7)	41
	4.4.5 Contribution of Tourism Sector	41
	4.4.6 General Guidelines to Conserve the Potentiality	42

**CHAPTER-FIVE**  
**PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA**

5.1	Structure of the Respondents	44
5.1.1	Age Structure	44
5.1.2	Education Level of Respondents	45
5.1.3	Occupation	46
5.1.4	Occupational Satisfaction of the Respondents	47
5.1.5	Livestock population of the Local People	48
5.2	Prospect of Tourism in Dakshinkali	48
5.3	Major Sources of Tourist Attraction	49
5.4	Dakshinkali as a Tourist Site	50
5.4.1	Beginning of the Tourist Flow	50
5.4.2	Readiness of Respondents to Increase Tourists' Flow	50
5.4.3	People Participation to Enhance Eco-tourism	51
5.4.4	Culture of the Locality	52
5.4.5	Purpose of Visit	53
5.6	Potentiality of Ecotourism in Dakshinkali	53
5.6.1	Scenic Attractions	54
5.6.2	Pleasant Climate	54
5.7	Present Situation of Ecotourism in Dakshinkali	54
5.8	Issues of Sustainability	56
5.8.1	Using Pattern of Fuels for Cooking Food	56
5.8.2	Issues on Forest	56
5.9	Sanitation and Solid Waste problems	57
5.9.1	Deforestation	58
5.9.2	Air Pollution/Noise Pollution	60

## CHAPTER - SIX

### SUMMARY CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1	Summary	61
6.2	Conclusion	63
6.3	Recommendation	64

### **REFERENCES**

### **ANNEXES**

## **List of Tables**

<b>Table No.</b>		<b>Page No.</b>
4.1	Households & Population of Dakshinkali VDC	28
4.2	Population by 5yr age group &sex	29
4.3	Literacy Status of Dakshinkali VDC (above 6yr)	30
4.4	Populations by Religion of the VDC	31
4.5	Arrivals of Tourist in Nepal	38
4.6	Tourist arrivals by purpose of visit	40
4.7	Tourist arrivals by sex and age groups	40
4.8	Tourist arrivals by Major Nationalities (2006/7)	41
4.9	Foreign Exchange Earning From Tourism	42
5.1	Age Composition of Respondents	44
5.2	Education of Respondents	45
5.3	Occupational distributes of the respondents	46
5.4	Livestock population of local people	48
5.5	Prospect of tourism in Dakshinkali	48
5.6	People's ideas on History on Tourist Flow at Dakshinkali	50
5.7	People's General Interest on Eco-tourism	51
5.8	Emphasis Highlighted for promoting Eco-tourism	51
5.9	Purpose of visit of respondents	53
5.10	Respondents present situation of this area	55
5.11	Using pattern of fuels for cooking food	56
5.12	Respondents about the cleanness of the place	57
5.13	Respondents Response with Regard to deforestation	58
5.14	Perception of respondents about air/noise pollution	60

## **List of Figures**

<b>Figure No.</b>		<b>Page No.</b>
5.1	General composition of the Respondents	45
5.2	Satisfaction with current occupation of Respondents	47
5.4	Respondents of local people and hotel owners regarding deforestation	59

## **Abbreviations/Acronyms**

ADB	=	Asian Development Bank
CBS	=	Central Bureau of Statistics
GDP	=	Gross Domestic Product
ICIMOD	=	International Center for Integrated Mountain Development
IUCN	=	The World Conservation Union
MoCTCA	=	Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation
MoF	=	Ministry of Finance
NGO	=	Non-Government Organization
NPC	=	National Planning Commission
NTB	=	Nepal Tourism Board
SNV	=	Netherlands Development Organization
SoE	=	State of Environment
STN	=	Sustainable Tourism Network
TIES	=	The International Ecotourism Society
UNDP	=	United Nations Environment Program
UNEP	=	United Nations Environment Program
VDC	=	Village Development Committee
WTO	=	World Tourism Organization