**Socio-Economic Status of Women Participating in Tourism Industry**

***(A Case Study of Women of Lakeside-6, Pokhara)***

**A Dissertation**

**Submitted to** **the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

**Department of Sociology/Anthropology, Prithwi Narayan Campus, Pokhara**

**in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Master Degree in Anthropology**

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**November, 2008**



# Letter of Recommendation

This is to certify that Mrs. Jamuna Pahari has prepared this dissertation entitled **“Socio-Economic Status of Women Participating in Tourism Industry: A Case Study of Women of Lakeside-6, Pokhara”** under my supervision and guidance. I, therefore, recommend this dissertation for final approval and acceptance.

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This dissertation submitted by Mrs. Jamuna Pahari entitled **“Socio-Economic Status of Women Participating in Tourism Industry: A Case Study of Women of Lakeside-6, Pokhara”** has been approved by the undersigned members of the Evaluation Committee**.**

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**Letter of Recommendation by Editor**

This is to certify that I have read through the Draft of Dissertation entitled **“Socio-Economic Status of Women Participating in Tourism Industry: A Case Study of Women of Lakeside-6, Pokhara”** by Mrs. Jamuna Pahari as Language Editor and made necessary corrections and improvements there in. I have been impressed by her intelligible presentation of the facts through the medium of plain and correct English.

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**November, 2008 Jamuna Pahari**

|  |
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| **Abstract :** |

**Socio-Economic Status of Women Participating in Tourism Industry**

***(A Case Study of Women of Lakeside-6, Pokhara)***

 Tourism can be a key to the success and sustainability of the socio-economic empowerment of women in Nepal. So women’s involvement in the tourism sector should be kept in mind as it is a fast growing industry and there are many opportunities for women within it.

The general objective of this study is to find out the “Socio-economic status of women participating in Tourism Industry of Fewa Lakeside of Pokhara city”. The specific objectives of this study are: to prepare a demographic profile of women working in tourism industry, to analyze the socio–economic status of women participating in tourism industry and to identify the problems faced by women involved in tourism industry.

This study is based on the “Gender Perspective.” The field of this study is the Fewa-Lakeside, located in the ward no 6 of Pokhara sub-metropolitan city, which is one of the largest tourist destinations in Nepal. The universe of this study is about 660 various business spots on the main road side of Fewa Lakeside. This universe has covered the area from the Kharare Chowk on the North to Fishtail Gate on the south of Main Street of Lakeside. For the sample size, 70 informants were selected purposively. The first sample was selected on the basis of first come first business spot where women were involved and others were selected then by selecting each 10th business spot from the previous spot where women were involved. Both primary as well as secondary data were used as the raw materials for research. Questionnaire schedule, observation and interview techniques were adopted for the collection of primary information and data. Secondary data were collected from various tourism related offices, organizations, published books, articles and internet websites. The analysis of data was performed by using popular computer software SPSS (11.0). Various tables, figures, charts and statistical techniques were used for the analysis and presentation of the data.

Among the total 70 respondents, the economically active age group (25 to 40 yrs) women were involved in tourism industry. In the study area there was the dominancy of migrated people. Among the respondents, most of them were found to be Hindu and Brahmins. Women who were involved in tourism industry were somehow literate. It was found that majority of married women involved in tourism industry. Among the respondents, most of them were from nuclear family. The participation of women with high fertility was found to be comparatively low.

 The main income source of respondents' family was tourism. Most of the respondents involved in this sector were as family member because their male counterpart proprietor of this business. Women from family business spent more hours in their working place. Most of the respondents rented house for their business and most of them realized that the house rent was too much. Most of the respondents were not satisfied with their present business/job because of low income in recent year, long working hours and over load to work. This study shows the sufficiency level of income of the respondents that is generated from their business/job which is still low, so they had to manage the required economy from other sources like bank loan and previous stock. In this study some respondents wanted to close their business because of heavy loss in business. Women's involved in tourism industry, were found socially and politically backward in the study area.

Among the respondents, most of them were motivated in tourism industry for making money. The major problem faced by them was economic problem. Thus, women realized difficulties to play dual roles: household work and business/job together. Most of the respondents agreed that there was high gender discrimination in this field. Most of them realized that they had to work longer hours than men and felt that they had fewer opportunities in various fields. They were paid low salary and even faced sexual harassment or assault from tourists as well. People had both positive and negative insights towards women involved in this sector. Hence, women had very less decisive role in and outside the home.

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**ACRONYMS:**

**ACAP : Annapurna Conservation Area Project**

**ADB : Agriculture Development Bank**

**CBS : Central Bureau of Statistics**

**CEDA : Center for Economic Development and Administration**

**GAD : Gender and Development**

**ERA : Equal Rights Amendment**

**ILO : International Labor Organization**

**NESAC : Nepal South Asia Centre**

**NOW : New Opportunities for Women**

**NRB : Nepal Rastra Bank**

**NTB : Nepal Tourism Board**

**NGO : Non-governmental Organization**

**PCCI : Pokhara Chamber of Commerce and Industry**

**SAARC : South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation**

**SLC : School Leaving Certificate**

**SPSS : Statistical Package for Social Science**

**UN : United Nation**

**UNDP : United Nations Development Programmme**

**USA**  **: United States of America**

**WAD : Women and Development**

**WID : Women in Development**

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**WTO : World Tourism Organization**