

ECO-TOURISM IN NEPAL:

A CASE STUDY OF NAGARKOT

A Thesis

Submitted to:

Central Department of Rural Development
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in
partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of
Master of Arts
in Rural Development

By

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November- 2008

Acknowledgement

I wish to acknowledge and extend my gratitude and appreciation to many individuals for their invaluable support, co-operation and various forms of help the course of my research work.

I would like to express my deep gratitude and since respect to my research supervisor Associate Professor Dr. Chandra Lal Shrestha for his proper and constructive guidance. This study would not have come in this format without his constant supervision and support.

I also acknowledge head of Department Prof. Dr. Pradeep Kumar Khadaka for providing with his valuable support during my work.

I respectfully acknowledge to all my teachers and staffs of Central Department of Rural Development for their co-operation and help.

I don't have appropriate words to express my gratitude and indebtedness to my parents and Capt. Tek Bahadur Limbu for their encouragement and support.

I am indebted to Mrs. Carolyann Hoy and Mr. Doug Scott to support me for their valuable suggestions and unflagging support at various stages of my study period.

I am also grateful to my friends Mr. Bhumiswar Sharma, Mr. Gyanu Raja Maharjan, Mr. Bhim Karki, Mr. Kul Prasad Giri, Mr. Deepak Prasad Subedi, Mr. Ramchandra Adhikari and Mr. Dorendra Basnet for their support.

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

- Amrit Bahadur Khirshina

Abstract

The concept of ecotourism 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 ecotourism. Nagarkot as a hilly natural area with magnificent Himalayan ranges on the east, south and northern sides also contains one of the huge potential areas of eco-tourism in the country.

The study based on primary data from 80 respondents; 35 local people, 20 hotel owners and 25 tourists 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 Himalayan 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 has found that tourists come to Nagarkot, 32 percent for sightseeing, 22 percent for holiday purpose, and 18 percent for the sunset / sun rise, 14 percent for the picnic and equally for the convention purposes.

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 Nagrkot 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.

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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