CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Background

1.1.1 Tourism

Tourism is one of the fastest growing industries as well as the major source of foreign exchange earning and employment for many developing countries and nowadays it is increasingly focusing on natural environment. Tourism activity in an area offers the economic development and increase in other related social and environmental activities. Besides the mass tourism, the well managed small rural tourism activities can also be helpful for the rural people in rural areas. According to the WTO, tourism is one of the most important economic, social, cultural and political phenomena of the 20th century (Nepal, 2002).

Recent years have seen a growing interest in ecotourism as more and more people look for destinations with unspoiled natural and cultural manifestation. The ecotourism industry can contribute to sustainable development as it links tourism with conservation of nature and bring about benefit for both local people and nation. In spite of good theoretical development of the strategy and management policy of ecotourism, in many cases, it does not work in practice. The reason for which might be the lack of research and practical data in this activity (Nepal, 2002).

A tourist survey of December 1996 reveals that Nepal is perceived as an independent tourist destination**,** with more than two thirds of tourists deciding to visit Nepal as a holiday destination without considering any other. It shows that Nepal has something to offer which is different from what is offered by other countries. Nearly half of the tourists considered scenic beauty and mountains as the most important factor for visiting the country. Twenty percent considered trekking as their primary reason for selecting Nepal. Over 80% of the interviewed tourists associated Nepal with a good adventure travel destination and friendly and hospitable people (over 90% among Europeans and Americans). The survey was conducted amongst almost 1,600 tourists from main

generating markets in Asia, Europe and the USA (MARG, 1997). Even if these figures are taken only as an indication of why tourists are coming to Nepal, it is clear that many of them visit Nepal for its unique natural and cultural resources.

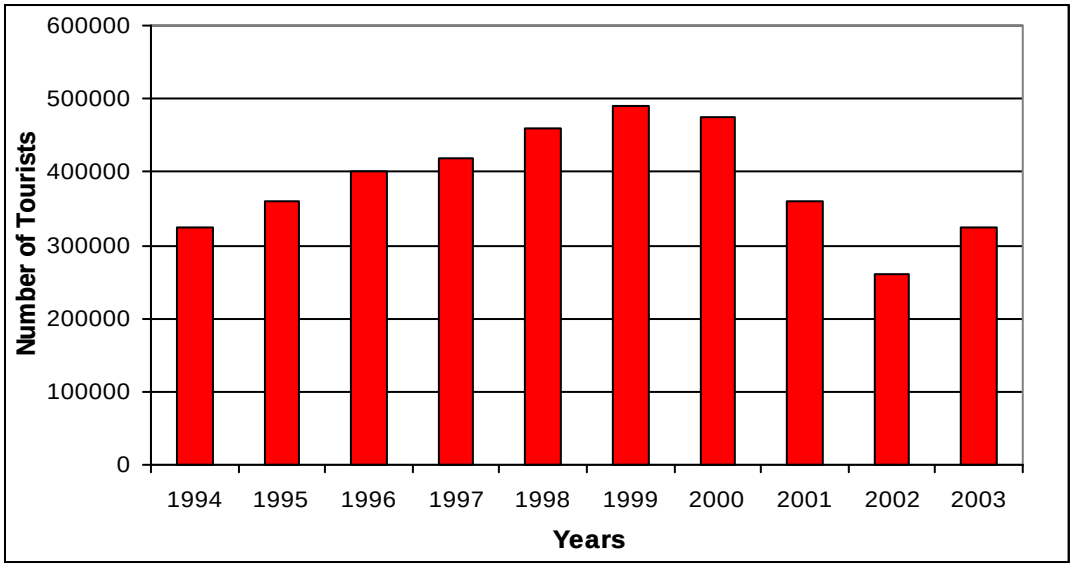
Nature tourism is supposed to attract foreign investment in the "smokeless" tourist industry; bring national and international tourist to visit natural and cultural sites; provide local employment for rural population; preserve ecosystems and cultures; and generally solve the ecological, economic, social, and political woes that hinder sustainable rural development (www.ecotourism.org, 5th March, 2007).

For tourism and in Natural areas, recently a new concept, eco-tourism is introduced the use of this concept is not unambiguous. In the past few years, many definitions of eco-tourism have been introduced. The definition varies from description of nature tourism to a broader definition whereby not only the activities of the tourist are involved but also elements such as the conservation of ecosystems and sustainable development (Kunwar, 1997).

1.1.2 Status of Tourism in Nepal

The scenic beauty of Nepal is complicated by the richness of flora and fauna. Nepal has an unequal ecological and natural environmental variations ranging from High Mountains to low land Tarai, for exploring richness in biological and cultural diversity.

Tourism, in context of Nepal, has been recognized as the second major potential industry in the country. The development of the tourism is playing a key factor in the economic development and environmental conservation of Nepal. In 2003, total foreign currency earning from tourism was 190 million US dollar, which has given contribution of 2.6% of GDP to country (HMG/MOCTCA, 2004).



Source: HMG/MOCTCA, 2003/4

Fig.1.1: Tourist Arrivals Trend in Nepal

1.1.3 Ecotourism

Ecotourism was first defined as traveling to relatively undisturbed or uncontaminated natural areas with the specific objective of studying, admiring, and enjoying the scenery and its wild plants and animals, as well as any existing cultural manifestations (both past and present) found in these areas (Ceballos-Lascurain, 1987; 1991a, b).

Ceballos-Lascurain's (1993a, 1993b) definition viewed ecotourism in the light of experiential and 'educational factors of the protected natural areas'. He claimed that ecotourism is a multi-dimensional philosophical concept, which is a component of eco-development and requires planning based on strict guidelines and regulations that will enhance the sustainable operation suggested that ecotourists profile characteristics attest an awareness and knowledge about the natural environment and cultural aspects, in such away 'that will convert him or her into somebody keenly involved in conservation issues'. Ceballos-Lascurain drew the comparison between mass tourists and ecotourists over the natural-based utilizations. Both groups are keen to go to the natural areas but the mass tourist has amore passive role with nature, participating in activities which do not relate to the true concern over nature or ecology such as water sports, jogging, and biking (Ceballos-Lascurain, 1991a, b). On the other hand, ecotourists are attracted to a natural

area and have amore active role through a non-consumptive use of wildlife and natural resources, through activities such as nature photography, botanical studies, and observing wildlife.

It is evident from Ceballos-Lascurain's definition of ecotourism that activities which ecotourists participate can only exist in well-preserved or protected areas. Here, it was claimed that ecotourism's association with protected areas is valid as it enhances the conservation element (Norris, 1992 and Warner, 1991). However, the definition did not mention the responsibility of the ecotourism industry for environmental conservation (Wen & Tisdell, 1995). Neither does it address the economic impacts which this form of tourism can generate, the resource degradation, visitor satisfaction, and positive impacts on the wildlife. On the other hand, it has been proclaimed that it does not ignore the indigenous people who often inhabit such natural settings, who are both part of the environment and their culture enhances the visitors' interests (Figgis, 1993). Further, Ceballos-Lascurain's definition was also viewed as being situated in the passive position towards the low responsibility pole, mainly highlighting the characteristics of the destination such as the natural settings

In this setting, Ziffer (1989) viewed ecotourism from an active stance highlighting 'the conservation, natural-based, economic and cultural components of ecotourism'. The concept not only enhances the increased pattern of visits to the natural environment, but serves as an ethic of how to turn to the natural environment ensuring a minimum impact on its resource base. Further, Ziffer highlighted that ecotourism requires planning or a managed approach which balances economic, social and environmental goals. However, she distinguished between the concepts of ecotourism and nature tourism. She claimed that ecotourism is a more comprehensive concept based on a planned approach by the destination authorities, whereas nature tourism is more consumer-based and not ecologically sound.

Further, suggestion was marked that ecotourism requires the destination to establish a program based on a multi-faced conservation and development approach in order for the destination to qualify as an ecotourism destination (Ziffer, 1989; Ceballos-Lascurain,

1996). The immediate limitation of such a proposal however, is which authority or organization is going to assess the destination program and grade the eco- label for the destinations. This is at the center of the debate not only for the concept of ecotourism but it is also applicable to the sustainable development concept. The difficulty to implement such a program is grounded in the definition of ecotourism. Ziffer (1989) points out that perhaps one of the reasons why ecotourism has eluded a firm definition is because of its multi-purpose in that it attempts to describe an activity, set forth a philosophy, and while at the same time espouse a model of development. Nevertheless ecotourism claimed to provide economic benefits through natural resources preservation, offering potential benefits for both conservation and development (Boo, 1990; 1991a; 1992).

In particular Boo (1990) defined ecotourism similarly to the definition given by Ceballos-Lascurain, emphasizing the natural-based component of the concept. Here, ecotourism not only encompasses the natural and conservation components, but also the economic and educational elements. In all the cases, similar to Ziffer's approach, Boo suggested that for ecotourism to reveal its benefits it requires effective planning strategies so that conservation of resources could address the sustainable management of such resources (1991a, 1992).However, it is further stressed that the benefits of ecotourism to the destination largely depend on the scale of tourism, the country size and the interconnected parts of their economies. Additionally, benefits can be increased if visitors extend their vacation due to the natural aspects of the destination, thus the so-called 'add-on' feature to visitors through ecotourism could be applied (Boo, 1990).

'Nature-based tourism that involves education and interpretation of the natural environment and is managed to be ecologically sustainable'. This definition recognizes that natural environment includes cultural components, and that ecologically sustainable involves an appropriate return to the local community and long-term conservation of the resource (ADT, 1994).

By the definition, ecotourism is a sustainable form of tourism. To be sustainable, the sets of goals: environment, economic and social must be fulfilled and balanced (Wright, 1993).

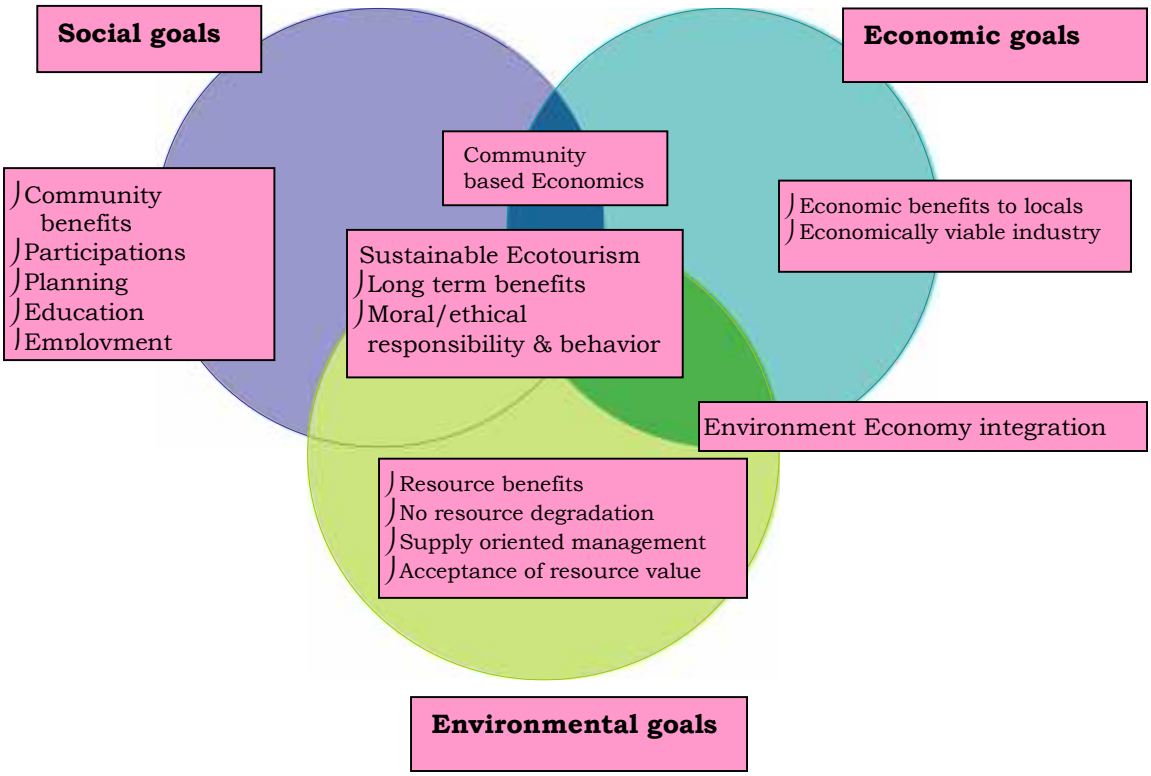


Fig1.2: Sustainable forms of Ecotourism (Wright, 1993).

1.1.4 Status of ecotourism in Nepal

Nepal is a natural ecotourism destination. Its pristine mountain peaks, impressive biodiversity combine with its rich ancient culture make it a natural ecotourism destination. It is among the six most popular ecotourism destinations in Asia and pacific. South Asia is the most popular ecotourism destination on the Asia continent next to south East Asia. In south Asia too major interest line in the Himalayan region and Nepal occupies the central Himalayan position in the Himalayan region. The region as a whole comprises 2720km. long arc of alpine terrain (Weaver, 2001).

Mountain trekking is the main tourism activity in the region. Trekking is synonym to ecotourism in south Asia and same is true for Nepal too, since Nepal is leader in trekking in south Asia. The other tourism types which are equivalent to ecotourism, comprises visit to national parks and protected areas for wild life viewing. However, whole tourism scenario is dominated by mountain tourism and wildlife viewing. Trekking is the activity concentrated along the Himalayan range and Tarai protected areas.

In regard to ecotourism, Nepal has relatively large ecotourism industry. It constitutes trekker, mountaineers, wild life tourist and other market riches. But the formal destinations between "trekkers" and "mountaineers" have not been made. Clearly trekkers and their, alters constitute a critical force in the landscape and biodiversity. These two constitute the main resource base of nature tourism in Nepal (Weaver, 2001).

1.1.5 Eco-tourism strategies in Nepal

Country's Ninth Plan's, Policy and Implementation Strategies include promotion of Eco-tourism. Programs such as development of model tourist villages, development of new trekking areas comes under these strategies. Whereas, the Tenth Plan focused on tourism policies, assessments of net contribution to economy from tourism, review of institutional performance, Nepal's tourism policy, regulation and institutional arrangements. It also focused to develop tourism infrastructure in remote areas which ultimately helped to develop domestic tourism in Nepal. Nepal is always supportive not only on policy level but it provides grant assistance for the environment protection activities. Under Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation there is an Eco-tourism project in Rolwaling Region with the Austrian assistance. Eco-Himal an Austrian NGO is implementing the project. With the Asian Development Bank's assistance second Tourism Development Project is going on. Under this project an Eco-tourism development activity in Manaslu region is in implementation. Nepal Government realizing increasing stress on the natural environment has introduced a legislation that requires tourism service providers to compile Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report to be submitted mandatory. This is to keep an eye on the environmental degradation, if any, transpiring in these areas. Private institutions regularly conduct training courses on Eco-tourism. Their policy is to protect and make environment clean. Apart from these the NGOs involved in tourism

promotion have great commitment to conserve environment. It is believed that through Eco tourism development employment generation and wealth distribution can be possible. Nepal will use its experiences in developing sustainable tourism, associated with mountain trekking, where Eco-tourism is an appropriate development strategy for poverty alleviation and conservation (K.C, 2002).

1.2 Statement of Problem

Chhekampar is probably the least heard of and least visited place in Nepal because of its remoteness, inaccessibility and dangerous trails. It is for these reasons that it is called **"The Hidden Valley"** of Gorkha District. Besides these, there are also problems of fuel wood, drinking water, lodging, communication, safety and security, and health and out migration (Bhandari, 1997).

1.3 Objectives

1.3.1 Broad Objective

The main objective is to study of the potentiality of Ecotourism in Chhekampar VDC.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

1. To explore the opportunities for ecotourism in the area of Chhekampar VDC.
2. To analyze the carrying capacity of the delineated area based on the Minimum Data Set
    (i) Minimum Data Set- for a Natural System
    (ii) Minimum Data Set- for a Human System
    (iii) Minimum Data Set- for Tourist Activities

1.4 Rationale of the Study

To maintain the vigor research gap to find out the Eco-tourism (Nature-based tourism) potentiality of that area, it is necessary to observe the natural status of the biodiversity, cultures, scenic beauty, sacred landscape of that area, and on impacts. Besides these, it helps to aware the impact on natural resources and tourism. The main purpose of the

study is to promote ecotourism with the help of its potentiality and rural economic status with special emphasis on the natural condition, culture, historical monuments, and scenic beauty of that area.

1.5 Limitation of Study

- Every research work has its own limitation. No research work can encompass all aspects of the study area, due to the limited time and resources the study is carried out within the boundaries.
- The study is based on the field survey. Questionnaire sampling study was done as a representative of the households of the study area, hence the result of finding are based on response of sample household and field observation.

CHAPTER 7

LITERATURE REVIEW

Literature and research paper are not abundantly available particularly about the ecotourism in Chhekampar. Instead of many journals, magazine, articles, books and various dissertation papers has provided information of ecotourism. Available related materials have been reviewed.

2.1 Review of Previous Ecotourism Activities in Nepal

Because of its natural beauties, Nepal has attracted people of the world. In Nepal, tourism mostly involves traveling to relatively undisturbed natural areas. This is what has been defined as nature- tourism. The great diversity of natural and cultural resources is very attractive for ecotourism in Nepal. Tourism activity, however, should be carefully assessed with regard to its impact on the resources.

Tourism is a good option for uplifting the economic condition of a developing country like Nepal. Ageless traditions, festivals and shrine like everlasting mountains make Nepal a living museum, a tourist's paradise (Nepal Traveler, 2005).

In 1995, one of the studies was conducted to assess the potential for environmentally sustainable ecotourism development in the Khanas Lake Nature Reserve of Xinjiang Autonomous Region, China. The study concluded that the Khanas Lake Nature Reserve offers a high value ecotourism attraction in terms of natural, biological and scenic attributes combine with the culture and lifestyle of its indigenous people. The rich cultural diversity of the local Kazak, Mongolian and Hui people and their sustainable farming systems which maintain a delicate balance with their environment, provide a unique ecotourism attraction which compliments the biological and scenic values of the reserve (Shrestha, 1995).

Nepal exhibits enormous natural beauty. So, properly managed ecotourism practice may change status of the society. For the development of ecotourism in Nepal different

strategies are implemented which has emphasis on expanding the existing spectrum of ecotourism products and services aiming for a wide range of high quality products from village tourism to world-class wildlife and premier adventure products (NTB, 2001).

Koirala, Ramakrishnan, & Saxena (2007) stated that there was a decrease in ‘indicator species of undisturbed habitat’ and increase in the ‘indicator species of disturbed habitat’ with the increase in tourism activities. Shifting from traditional cereal crops to cash crops and shift in cultivation to the wild herb are the communicable indicators as impact of tourism over forest and agro ecosystems.

Shrestha (1995) argued the concern of the level of use is related to the carrying capacity of the local tourism resources and congestion for the locals and tourists as well. Over use of an area may result in several adverse effects on local environment, thus reducing user's satisfaction. One implication of the information on use level is that it facilities managers to take necessary steps to maintain a balance use so that the users draw optimum satisfaction from their trips.

Nyaupane (1999) has made a comparative evaluation of ecotourism conducting a case study of the Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA), Nepal. This study compared an officially designated ecotourism area with an established trekking area in terms of environmental, economic and socio-cultural costs and benefits and tourists experiences. The study shows the designated ecotourism area has experienced slightly less marked negative impact on the natural and socio-cultural environment, and fewer negative economic impacts than the established trekking / tourism area. However, the designated ecotourism area also found to experience slightly fewer positive impacts on the natural and socio-cultural environment, and significantly fewer positive economic impacts in terms of employment generation than the established trekking area. In addition, the study shows that tourists visiting the ecotourism area indicated more positive experiences from their visits to the ecotourism area than in the established trekking area.

Around the Globe, ecotourism is quickly becoming one of the most popular forms of vacationing and comprises about 50% of the total tourist worldwide annually and the

growth rate is in increasing trend. The United Nations had declared the year 2002 as the year of ecotourism (WTO, 2002).

Kamal (2002) has made study on the potentiality of ecotourism in the Chittangeng Hill Tracts of Bangladesh. This study focused on the enormous potentiality of ecotourism in Chittangeng Hill Tracts, as the area is famous for its multifarious tribal culture and wonderful natural beauty.

2.2 Historical Accounts of Chhekampar

The first foreigner to have visited the region of Tsum was Britis Tibetologist, David Snellgrove, in the late 1950s. He described the area as Tsum, which he defined as fallows (Snellgrove, 1961):

The villages of the upper waters of the Budhi Gandaki represent one cultural unit, but there are two main streams. The western part is Nup-ri, and the eastern is known as Shiar (Shiar meaning East) as well as by its proper name of Tsum.

Gurung (1989) used the word "Tsum" for Kutang, not for the Shair valley and interpreted the western region of the Budhi Gandaki as Nubri (Nup-ri for snellgrove), the eastern region as Tusm and Middle region as Kutang.

Sharma (1988) mention Shiar as meaning "east". Based on the place's name, the people of the Shair valley are called "Shiar people" by outsiders. Bista (1987) writes that Shiar is a Tibetan word meaning "east" and that the high valleys along the two streams are inhabited by Tibetan- type Himalayan people called Bhotes, who speak the Tibetan language. He also mentions Nupri and Tusm as follows:

Larke includes the upper reaches of the Bhudi Gandaki Khola, and is locally known as Nup-ri; Tusm is the local name of the Bhudi Gandaki's tributary valley of the Shiar Khola, the "East River". These upper valleys are as high as the Kali Gandaki above the Thak Khola, with the one difference that here monsoon rains are not blocked and as a consequence the landscape is lush and green, and the fields support good harvests of corn in addition to the staple grains.

The spelling "Shiar" (for Shar) appears on the map of the British Survey of India (Snellgrove, 1961). In its report, we have chosen "Shiar" and "Nupri" as the correct spellings. We define chhekampar as the region of Tusm; the area between Dyang and Larke is called Nupri and the area north of the Bhudi Gandaki between Nupri and Tusm is called Kutang.

Chhekam is also known by the names *Chho Khang* in the Tibetan language. Chho Khang Par is a hybrid term made up of the Tibetan word, Chho Khang and the Sanskrit word Par. This word, over a period of time, becomes Chhekampar in the Nepali language. Kunchhyo Dolma, a local resident of Nyile, told us that Chho Khang means "the house of religious texts"; Chho is interpreted as religious texts or scriptures, and Khang means "house". Brihat Sabdakosh, a Nepali comprehensive dictionary, mentions Par as a Sanskrit word meaning "the extreme end of the area" or the end of the mountain, or beyond". The Tibetan meaning of the term Chho Khang was also confirmed by two other residents of Chhekampar. It was reported that Chhoi Khang is also the Tibetan names for a big lake that possibly covered the area in ancient times, until it was drained by the Shiar Khola during the period of alpine orogeny. Despite the variety of meaning, Chho Khang was probably a landmark which traders in ancient tines used to cross to reach Bhot and perhaps the word Par has been used to denote the area beyond Chho Khang.

It is important to acknowledge that tourism is an industry, a form and agent of development and change. It includes low use of resources and operates on a sustainable basis with proper control and management. The Annapurna conservation area project of Nepal has promoted mass tourism on a sustainable basis by managing both tourism and tourist commodities with help of local inhabitants. the prime objectives of this management approach is to inject revenues received from tourist entry fees back to the region to promote its socio- cultural and environmental conservation values and economic growth (Gurung, 1993).

Bhandari (1997) stated that, considering sustainability, equity, community involvement and intersectoral cooperation, the development of ecotourism appears to be the most viable approach for raising the living standards of the local communities.

Shrestha (1993) argued that the concern of the level of use is related to the carrying capacity of the local tourism resources and congestion for the locals and tourists as well. Over use of an area may result in several adverse effects on local environment, thus reducing user's satisfaction. One implication of the information on use level is that is facilities managers to take necessary steps to maintain a balance use so that the users draw optimum satisfaction from their trips.

For tourism and in natural areas, recently a new concept, ecotourism is introduced the use of this concept is not unambiguous. In the past few years, many definition of ecotourism have been introduced. The definition varies from description of nature tourism to a broader definition whereby not only the activities of the tourist are involved but also elements such as the conservation of ecosystems and sustainable development (Kunwar, 1997).

'Nature-based tourism that is focused on provision of learning opportunities while providing local and regional benefits, while demonstrating environmental, social, cultural, and economic sustainability' (Forestry, 1994)

'A responsible nature travel experience, that contributes to the conservation of the ecosystem while respecting the integrity of host communities and, where possible, ensuring that activities are complementary, or at least compatible, with existing resource-based uses present at the ecosystem.' (Boyd & Butler, 1993, 1996).

When tourists temporarily visit on destination area their physical presence, expenditure and use of local resources cause several desired and undesired impacts on host environment. These impacts results from a complex process of interchange between tourists host communities and destination environment. As whole, the impacts of tourism can be classified into (i) socio-cultural (ii) economic and (iii) physical (Shrestha, 1993).

Eco-tourism seems to be catch word that means many things to many people. To some it means ecologically sound tourism. To others, it is synonymous with nature tourism. Eco tourism is both these things but it must go a step further. It must be a force for sustaining natural resources. Eco tourism is nature travel that advances conservation and sustainable

development efforts. it seems that the development of the ecotourism concept has led to a concept based on the desire to have ideal tourism terms like must be and should be in these definitions indicate this desire. There is however almost no indications on what ideal is and how the development of this ideal solution should be organized (Kunwar, 1997).

"Eco-tourism is a form of culturally and environmentally sensitive travel which fosters environmental ethic among travelers and also contributes to the conservation and management of natural areas for long term sustainable economic development" (D'Amore, 1990: As cited in Gurung, 1993). He further emphasizes that ecotourism is particularly advantageous to developing countries. It attracts persons who are tolerant even interested in experiencing small scale, locally operated accommodations, built by local people with local materials. Eco- tourism emphasizes the employment of local people as managers, interpreters and custodians of protected areas because of their experience and knowledge accumulated and handed down over countries.

According to father of Eco-tourism, Prof. Lars Eric Indblad (1993) "Eco- tourism is a multidisciplinary equity approach where all disciplines can be allies rather than inevitable adversary and can avoid negative dimension" like where,

"The fisher man becoming a trinket sale man.
The pretty young girl becoming the prostitute.
The beautiful estuary the garbage dump"

Such an approach can explore the possibilities of looking at quality as a strategy rather than quantity. All the disciplines involved in eco-tourism planning should give each other enough strength to fight off the merchants of quick optimum profit and exploitative politicians. In the world there are some examples which can serve as inspiration and many more can serve as a crystal ball of disaster.

The "Father of Eco-tourism" concept is simple, more global and wide. Therefore this concept and definition are used. According to him the meaning of eco-tourism in a single

world is Respect". Respect is the root of anything worthwhile and good. Respect to nature, local people, culture, history, community, aspirations and tourist themselves.

2.3 Concept of tourism Carrying Capacity

Carrying capacity is the ability of the resource based to support and provide for the needs of humans without being depleted (Keating, 1993). To access carrying capacity one has to envisage the situations in which a particular habitat can no longer support the growth of a population. Carrying capacity is determined by a numbers of biotic/ abiotic factors that create environmental resistance or impose limits on the growth of a population. The capacity of a mountain ecosystem to support healthy population, while maintaining its productivity, adaptability, and capacity of renewal, is drastically affected by the rapid growth of tourism. This force is readily weakens and breaks the closed circuit of the traditional economic circle of remote mountain societies and links them with the market economy and more affluent societies. The notion of carrying capacity is not only the measure of how many individuals (tourist) a particular habitat can sustain at a given time but also the measure of maximum optimum impact that a particular habitat can absorb or retain. Thus critical levels of resources degradation stand out as key elements in discussing carrying capacity (Shrestha, 1995).

Carrying capacity of any particular site or area may be seen as a function of a number of variables: the quantity and variety of tourist resources; the nature of " mountain specificities", particularly the tolerance and fragility of resources to use; the numbers and frequency of visitors, their activities types and intensity of resources use; provision and maintenance of infrastructural facilities; monitoring and management of resources use sites; and the expectations; attitudes and behavior of visitors as well as manager of resources and local communities. This approach highlights the fact that carrying capacity is a relative and dynamic concept (Sharma, 1995).

The framework for assessing tourism carrying capacity should be constructed on the basis of the natural human systems of the environment interacting through tourism activities (Figure 2.1). A minimum data set for each of these three interactive components should

be established as a baseline through a process of inventory with the active participation of the host community, on the one hand, and of the gust community (tourist/travel agencies/support staff) on the other.

Tourism development follows a process of initiation, growth, and limitation in terms of both temporal and spatial dimension. Policy interventions, program implementation, and evaluation should pass through a process of Carrying Capacity Analysis (CCA) in order to arrive at sustainable tourism development. The CCA has to be linked to the process monitoring of tourism activities and their effect/ impacts on the environment. It would then be necessary to discover and identify environmental indicators as monitoring tools for practical application of the carrying capacity concept (Shrestha, 1995).

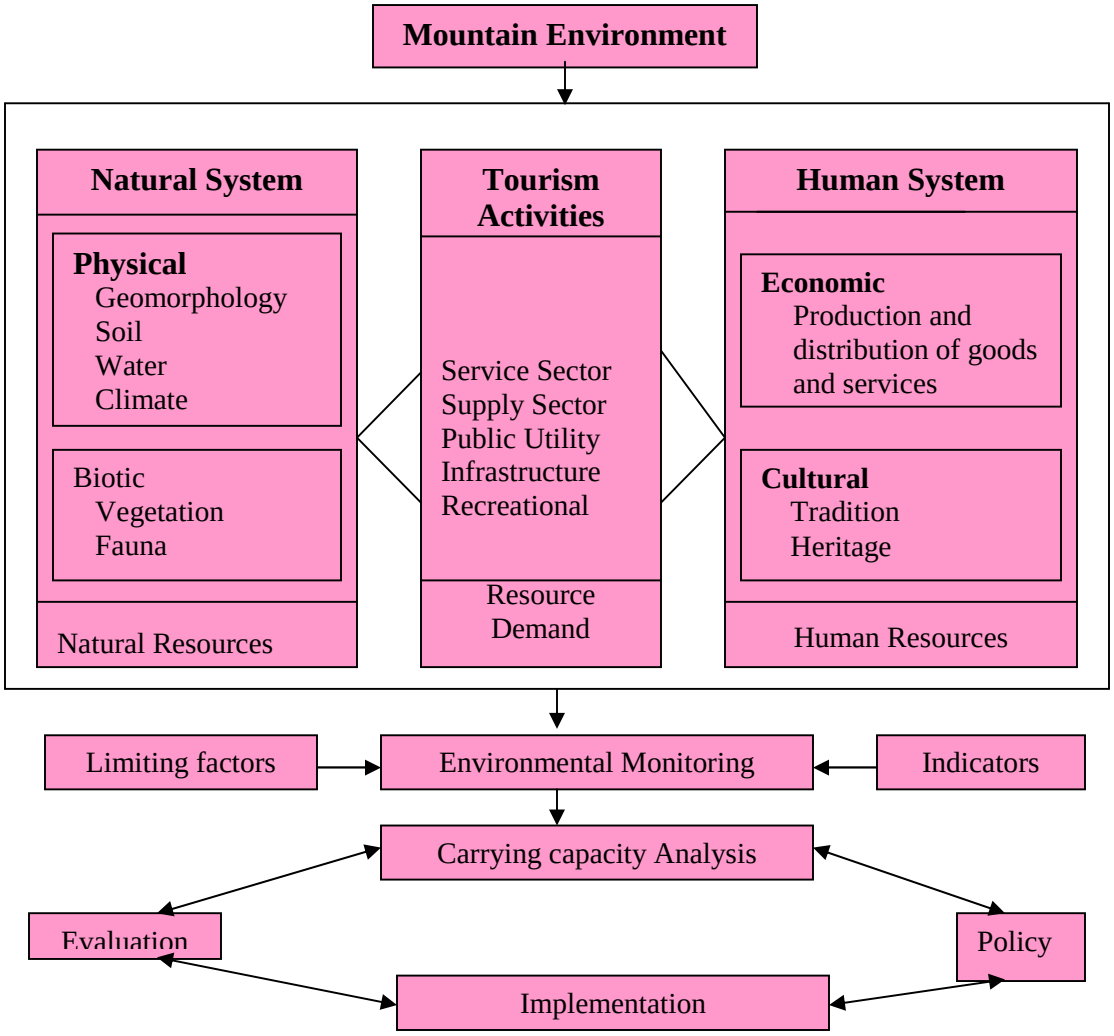


Figure 2.1: A Framework for Environmental Carrying Capacity Analysis in Mountain Tourism (Shrestha, 1995).

The determination of carrying capacities of the tourist area and facilities are stressed because tourism often threatens natural environment of over use and over development. It is essential a high level of environmental quality to ensure sustainability of tourism. A suitable environmental planning is necessary to meet the growing demand for the area. Both regional environmental principals and tourism environmental ethics must be applied to minimize tourism's negative impacts (Inskeep, 1992).

Carrying capacity is a key concept in planning for sustainable tourism development the concept refers to the maximum use which can be made of a site with out causing detrimental effects on its resources diminishing tourist's satisfaction travels or generating socio- economic problems for the local community. As mention above carrying capacity refers to the maximum use of any site without causing negative effects on the resources reducing visitor's satisfaction or exerting adverse impact upon the society, economy and culture of the area. In another sense it can also be said that carrying capacity is a well established concepts in the general field of resources management and in the particular subject of recreational resources describe the various carrying capacity as,

- Physical carrying capacity: the limit of site beyond which wear and tear will start talking place or environmental problems will arise.
- Psychological (or perceptual) carrying capacity- the lowest degree of enjoyment tourists are prepared to accept before they start seeking alternative destinations.
- Social carrying capacity- the level of tolerance of the host population for the presence and behavior of tourist in the destination area, and/ or the degree of crowding users (tourists) are prepared to accept by others (other tourists).
- Economic carrying capacity- the ability to absorb tourism activities without displacing or disrupting desirable local activities (Kunwar, 1997).

2.4 Eco- tourism potential criteria

Before ecotourism development in an area will be planned, it must be analyzed if there is any potential for such development.

2.4.1. Supply side criteria

The area has to be able to offer ecotourism attraction, natural or cultural. These attractions have certain level of quality; will tourist come to this area because of these attractions and can the attraction deal with (large amount of) visitors. Moreover the attractions must be (easy) accessible.

To identify those attractions the organizations and the people that are present in the area are most likely to be consulted. If there are already small scales tourism related organizations these can be of value in order to obtain information. Local inhabitants of the area will probably a lot about their surroundings but less about the tourism business and all related projects. Nevertheless, they are of great value to get in touch with the area. More over, if the area will show any potential it ia important that those local people are involved from the early stages, also with the identification of tourism potential. One way to get the desired information is help of a so called opportunity spectrum. With this spectrum various aspects, categorized under business, resources and community, are analyzed. Are these aspects present in the area and in what is the quality of it. In this spectrum the aspects can be qualified on a scale from 1 to 10, with one as low preference/quality and 10 very high.

2.4.2. Demand site criteria

When resources and attractions are available there must also be a suitable market. A market that resulted in the attractions offered. To search for appropriate markets the easiest way is to access the current tourist markets. But besides the current markets it is important to look at future demand for the offered attractions. To gain insight in the future markets, markets trends have to be assessed and the directions of likely future growth identified.

2.4.3. Sustainability criteria

When ecotourism will be developed in the area, it should, of course, be sustainable. There should be potential for capacity building initiatives, local capabilities should be present households should have opportunities to benefit from tourism. When these requirements

are met, ecotourism can have an opportunity to be developed. (Shrestha & Walinga, 2003).

2.5 Current Status of Eco-tourism projects in Nepal

Nepal has long experiences in Eco-tourism. So it desires to develop this as a vehicle for supplementing other similar programs in poverty alleviation of the country. With the technical assistance of Asian Development Bank a comprehensive project document for Eco-tourism project development is completed. This proposed ADB funded project will help to support the infrastructure development namely, for reconstruction of the airfields in various parts of Nepal which is an essential component to develop ecotourism. Similarly, this project will also help in capacity building of various ecotourism related software components, such as, development of trekking, trails, skill development training etc. In the near future HMG of Nepal will be implementing this project to strengthen eco-tourism activities in Nepal. Tourism for Rural Poverty Alleviation program (TRPAP) is already in operation with the financial assistance of UNDP, DFID & SNV. The main objective of this pilot program is to support for the review and formulation of tourism development policies and strategic planning. The program will focus disadvantaged, approved and discriminated section of Nepal's rural women and men, lower casts and ethnic minorities. The program will develop strong backward and forward linkages and will bring grass root participation in decision making process so that the benefits can reach the poor in rural communities. It is expected that his program will demonstrate tourism models for sustainable tourism development in Nepal. The policy outcome of this project guides to develop Eco-tourism policies in the future. Finally, Nepal is in the process of developing its Tourism Master Plan with technical support of World Tourism Organization (WTO). We hope a comprehensive plan will help to streamline the long pending issues related with ecotourism (K. C, 2002).

CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY

1. Research Design

The research was carried out to study the potentiality of ecotourism in Chhekampar VDC. The extensive field work for the research was carried out from September to October, 2006. The flow chart of the research design is diagrammatically presented below.

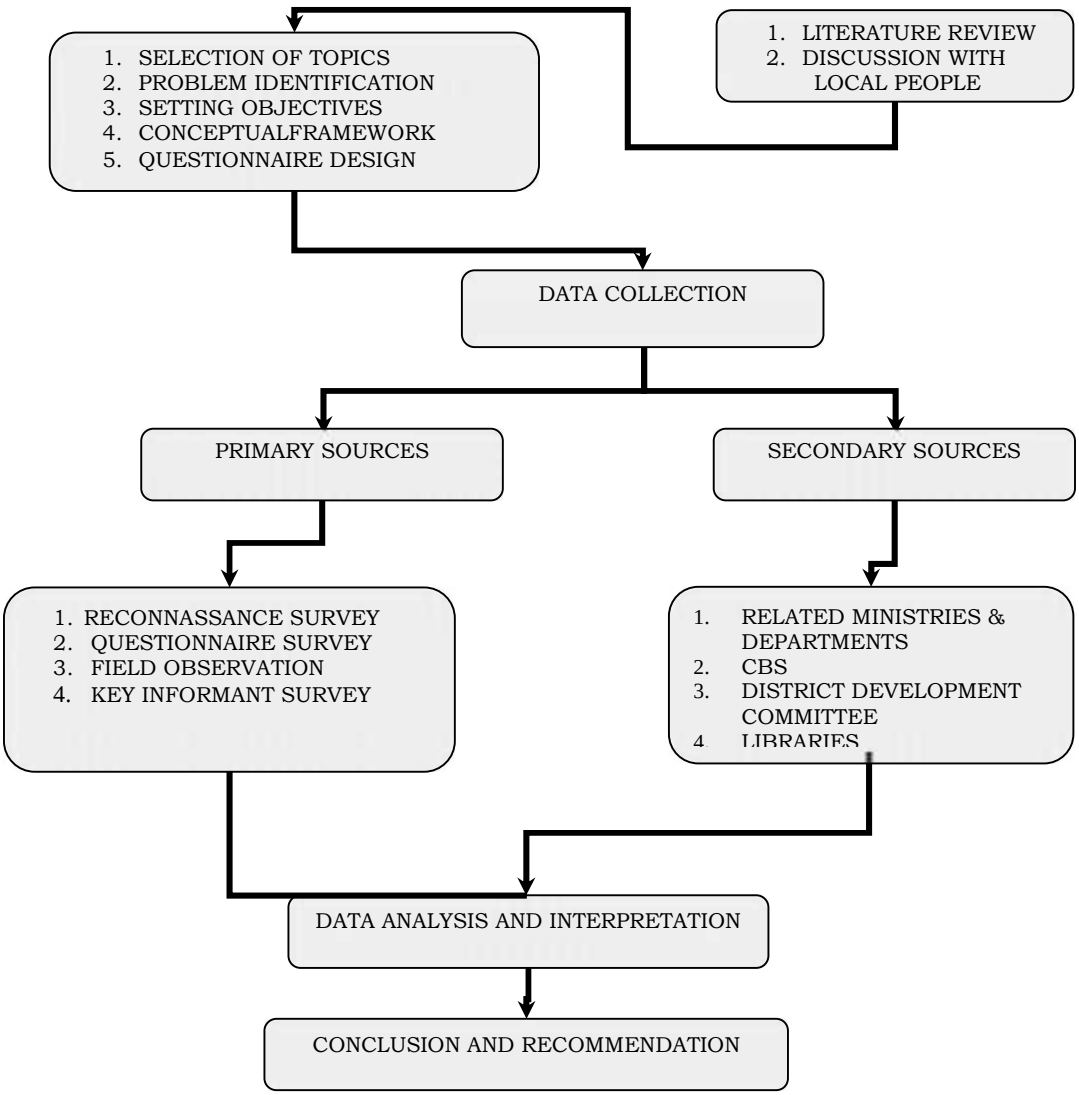


Fig 3.1: Diagrammatic Representation of Research Design

2. Site selection criteria

Site for the study areas was ascertained after the consultation with thesis supervisor and Manaslu Conservation Area Project (MCAP). Furthermore, remoteness, suitability of trekking, natural and cultural beauty as well as discussion with community members and the reconnaissance survey of the site were made.

3. Data collection procedure

Both primary and secondary data were collected. Primary data were collected from the study area while secondary data were collected from published and unpublished documents regarding this research.

3.1 Primary data collection

Primary data collection were done by following ways-

3.1.1 Reconnaissance survey

Preliminary survey of the study was carried out prior to the in depth field study in order to gain general information about the research site by consulting with community and MCAP members of Gorkha so as to match the research objectives of the proposed field.

3.1.2 Questionnaire Survey

The semi structured questionnaire, mostly with open-ended questions was developed for questionnaire survey. The questionnaire was applied to collect the basic information of the vegetation type, existing wildlife and their current status, socio-economic condition of the populace living within Chhekampar VDC, their attitude and perception about Ecotourism. Qualitative data were gathered by interviewing the local people, porters, and school teachers of the delineated area.

3.1.3 Field Observation

Field observation was carried out with especial preference and priority of collecting information about the field situation. Snowcapped Mountain peaks, situation of the arable lands, cultural and tradition of the people and their living standard were aspect of consideration of the field observation.

3.1.4 Key informant survey

It was carried out with elderly people, local leaders, social workers and teachers. The information about natural resources and their existing conditions was obtained from key informants.

3.2 Secondary Data collection

Secondary data were collected from various related Ministries & Departments, CBS, District Development Committee, libraries and books. Relevant articles and literatures were gathered from the different website.

CHAPTER 4

STUDY AREA

Gorkha is situated 131 km west of Kathmandu at an altitude of 1135m, north of the Kathmandu – Pokhara Highway at Abu Khaireni. Manaslu, a mountainous region in north Gorkha district, has a fragile natural and cultural environment. Its 1663 sq. km. Area is expanded in 7 Village Development Committees (Chhekampar - 317 sq. km. Area), Chumchet, Bihi, Sirdibas, Prok, Lho, Samagaun) and inhabited by 9061 people. This area provides habitat for more than 2000 species of plants in 19 forest types of which 50 are economically important species. This area also provides home for 33 species of mammals, 110 species of birds, 4 species of amphibians, about 8 species of reptiles and many non-flowering plants and insects. In order to conserve the unique environment and rich biodiversity, Manaslu area is included in the protected areas system *(www.welcomenepal.com/stn.)*

Their main occupation is agriculture, animal husbandry and seasonal migration for trade and labor during winter months. Due to the prolonged isolation from contact with urban civilization, the major ethnic groups the Gurung (Bhotiyas) still have a strong sense of attachment towards their traditional Tibetan cultural heritage.

4.1 Location and size

The study is to explore the opportunities for ecotourism in the area of Chhekampar (317 sq. km. Area) Village Development Committee (VDC), Gorkha District, in the Western Development Region. It is a pleasant, flat and wide valley situated at an elevation of 2959m. It is located at 28^0 29’ 22.8’’ N latitude and 85^0 03’ 08’’ E longitudes on the north side of Boudha Himal and on the west side of the Ganesh Himal range, along the Shiar Khola, about 6-days walk from Arughat Bazaar. The Chhekampar VDC area is bounded by Chhurke Ghang, Tibet to the east, Thalpato to the west, Tibet to the north and Chumchet VDC to the south. Settlement pattern in the Chhekampar VDC is cluster type with 262 households having about 1196 population. Average figure of population of the household is 4.6 persons (CBS, 2001).

4.2 Land form

Physiographically, Chhekampar VDC belongs to the Inner Himalayan Region because it is part of the extensive valleys that are popularly called the Inner Himalaya, which lies between the Great Himalaya and Trans - Himalaya (K.C, 1989; Gurung, 1989). The Chhekampar region is called Bhot. Bhotes are elevated valleys that generally exceed 3600m in elevation.

4.3 Climate

Climatologically, the area is divided into three regions: a cool temperate region, a sub-alpine region, and alpine region. The cool temperate region lies between 2000m and 3000m. Summer temperature range between 22^0 C and 25^0 C and winter temperatures range between -2^0 C and 6^0 C. Frost and snow fall are common in winter. The sub-alpine region lies between 3,000m and 4,000m. During the winter, temperature falls and snowfall occurs for about four to six months of the year. Summer temperatures are between 6^0C and 10^0 C. The alpine region, which has a cold winter, lies between 4000m and 5000m and is mostly open meadows. It is rich in biodiversity, cultures, scenic beauty (Bhandari, 1997).

4.4 Accessibility

After 6 days walk The Chhekampar VDC consists of seasonal trails. Most of the trails are connected to the small villages and international boundaries of China.

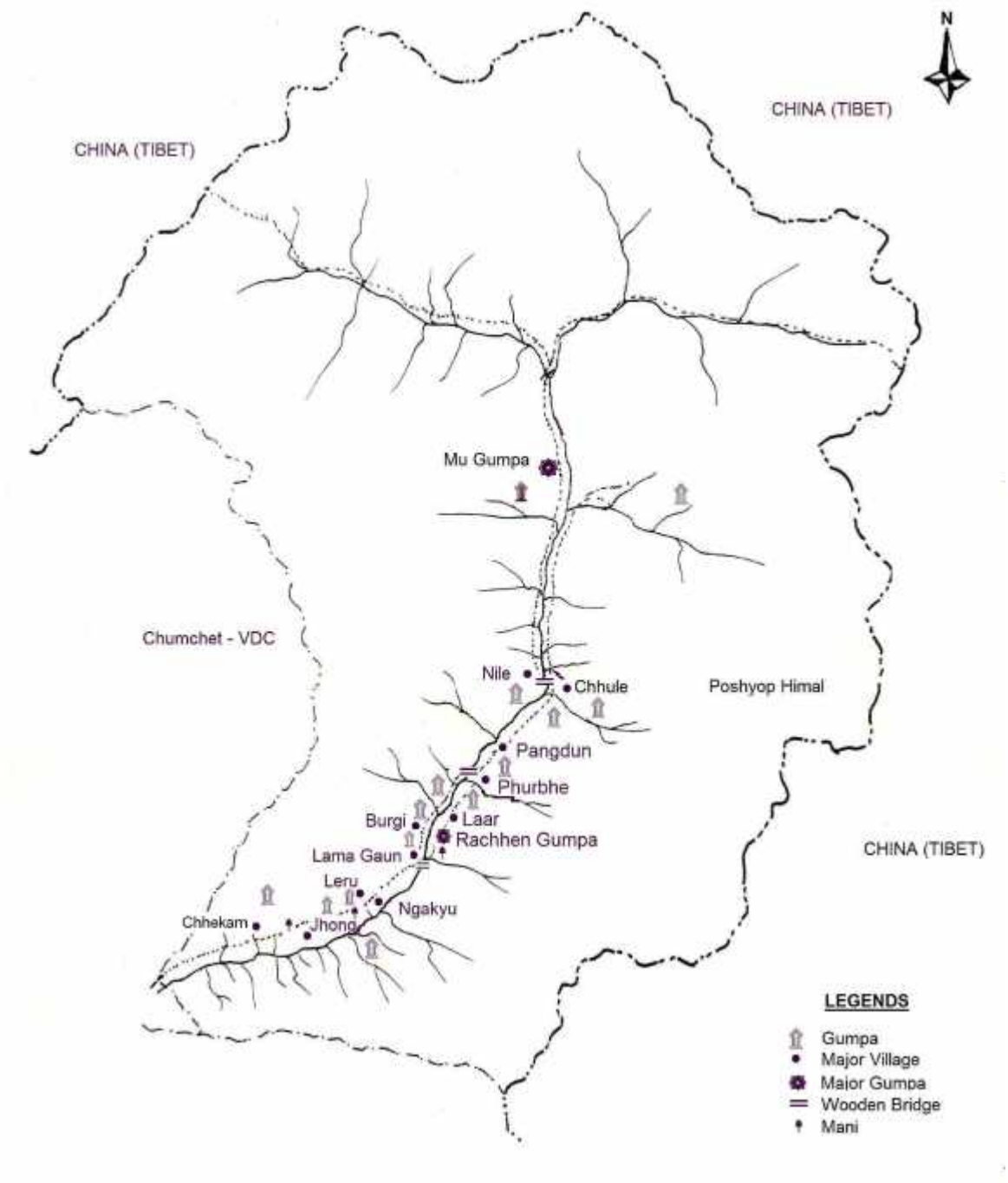
Table 4.1: VDC profile of Chhekampar

Area (sq km)	317
Total Household	262
Total Population	1196
Female	648
Male	548
Density/sq km	3.77
Height of the Village	2959m
Average family size	4.6
Main Settlement Area	11

Cast	Tibetan lama
Religion	Buddhist
Domestic Animal	Yak, Chauri, Jhopa, Cow and Horse
Main Crops	Potato, Faper, Wheat, Maize, Karu.
Festivals	Lossar, Nara, Wange, Faning, Tupchesi.
Main Gumpas	Rachhen, Chipu, Mu Gompa Gong, etc

Source: Population Census, 2058(CBS, 2001)

4.2 Map of Study Area



Major settlement and Gumpas

Drafted By: Sonam Lama (Junior Architect), 26th September, 2001.

CHAPTER 5

RESULT

5.1 Tourism Facilities and Tourist influx

Accommodation facilities for tourists such as hotel and lodges were not established in and around the Chhekampar VDC. Only one communication center was found in Rachhen Gompa and facilitated the community people. It was reported that even government officials have not visited the site due to the conflict situation.

Few people have visited Chhekampar due to its restricted status, remoteness and inaccessibility. Only a few expatriates and foreigners have visited Chhekampar for their study, trekking and tour purposes. The mountain peaks of the Manaslu, Chamar (Shringe) and Ganesh Himal ranges and the large number of glaciers are the natural assets. Chhekampar is the one of the VDC of Manaslu Conservation Area.

MCAP is one of the tourist destinations within the country. The influx of the tourist in the MCAP from 2002 to 2005 has been represented graphically in figure 5.1. Tourist arrival in MCAP slightly increased from 2002 to 2004 and gradually decreased in year 2005. The highest numbers of tourist visited to MCAP in 2004 with the number of 572 tourists were recorded in that year.

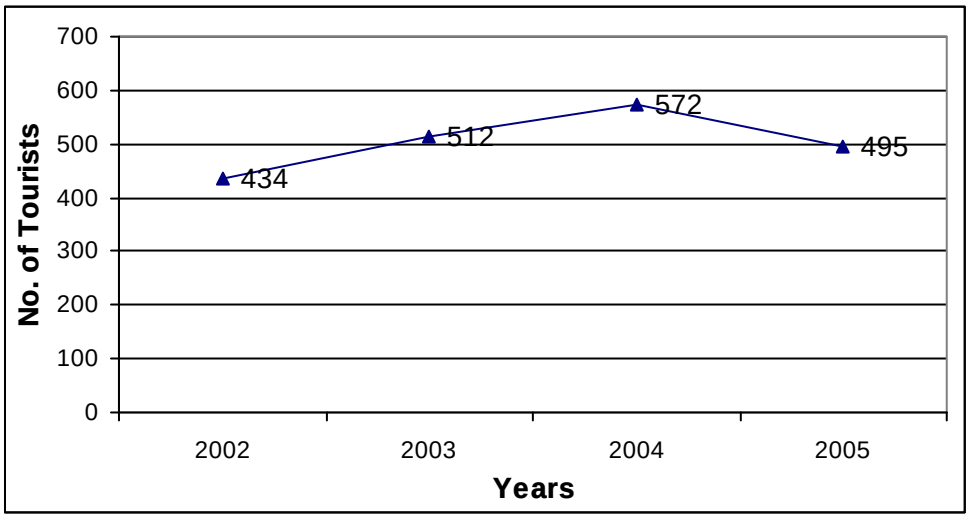


Fig 5.1: Tourist Influx in MCAP Areas

Source: Manaslu Chetra Samrachan Pariyojana, Gorkha, 2063.

5.2 Religious & cultural Assets

The valley of Chhekampar also called Tsum, which came from the Tibetan word "Tsombo" means vivid. A sacred, virgin Himalayan pilgrimage valley, situated north east of Nepal, Gorkha District.

The Chhekampar area is extremely rich in cultural assets such as, manis (The mantra 'Om Mane Padme Hum'), chortens (Small Buddhist temple containing religious images), and Gompa (Tibetan monastery or lamasery). There was about 21 community monasteries and uncountable private monasteries. These monasteries were belongs to Ngak-pa-sect. The most renowned monastery was Rachhen and Mu Gumpas. Mu Gumpas was the oldest monastery in the area, situated at the elevation of 3510m. Rachhen Gumpa is the first nunnery in the area, with 50 resident nuns. Name of the major monasteries of Chhekampar VDC are shown in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1: Name of Monasteries in Chhekampar VDC

Name of Monastery	**Village**
Ghaldang	Chhekam
Umbago	Chhekam
Paro Lhagang	Chhekam
Nuro Lhagang	Chhekam
Mane Ghyungur	Chhekam
Dzong Lagang	Dzong
Choura Gompa	Ngakyu
Nakyu Mani Gompa	Ngakyu
Luru Lahagang	Leru and Ngakyu
Nga Gompa	Lamagaon
Perunphu Gompa	Lamagaon & Bhurji
Chipu Gompa	Lamagaon & Bhurji
Rachhen Gompa	Lamagaon
Phurpe Lhagang	Phurpe
Gompa Gong	Chhule
Gampa wa	Chhule

Mu Gompa	Nyile
Nyile Lhagang	Nyile
Nyile Mani Gompa	Nyile
Rikang Gompa	Nyile
Dheron Gompa	Nyile

Source: Field Survey, 2006

Physiographically, the area is called Bhot, and its inhabitants are called Bhotes. Bhotes speak the Tibetan language, and their culture and lifestyles resemble those of the Tibetans. The people of the Himalayan region bases their faith and beliefs on Buddhism. Major festivals celebrated in Chhekampar were tabulated in Table 5.2.

Table 5.2: Festival celebrated in Chhekampar VDC

S.N	Festival	Time
1.	Loshar	February
2.	Mainchayang	January/February
3.	Dumje/ Aaja Tumpa/Mani Dumpa	November/December
4.	Nara	April
6.	Phanning	Mid July
7.	Tupchesi	July
8	Nyungne	Mid April

Source: Field Survey, 2006

5.3 Physical Environment

5.3.1 Water Bodies and its importance of Chhekampar

The water bodies were quite frequently available in Chhekampar, due to the presence of snowcapped mountain peaks around the VDC. The water bodies like sprout and spring have cultural important and these water sources are worshipped in Buddha and Nag Puja. Types of eater resources were tabulated in Table 5.3.

Table 5.3: Types of water resources

S.N	Types of resources	Ward No
1.	Lake	8,4
2.	Spring	6,9
3.	River	1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9
4.	Other (Tap)	1,7,9

Source: Field Survey, 2006

5.3.2 Availability of Drinking Water

Wide valley of Chhekampar is surrounded by mountain peaks. Main sources of the drinking water are tap, spring, sprout and small streams. The people living in Chhekampar VDC depend on these sources for the water needed for daily activities. The local people perception on water availability in Chhekampar VCD is tabulated in Table 5.4. The availability of water was quite high as 47.5% responded that water availability was high. 37.5% responded that water availability was medium and only 15% responded that water availability was low. Percentages of availability of drinking water were presented in Table 5.4.

Table 5.4: Availability of Drinking Water

Categories	Percentages
High	47.5
Medium	37.5
Low	15

Source: Field Survey, 2006

5.3.3 Soil

The Shiar Khola passes through Chhekampar VCD creating a wide, fertile, flat agricultural land on which the people living there in depend upon for their food stuffs. The soil composed of black soil with much humus contents making them more productive. However, less sunshine hour is one of the constraints on productivity of land. The productivity of Chhekampar area could double if traditional farming practices were supplemented by modern agriculture technology, accompanied with irrigation.

5.3.4 Climatic Condition

Geologically, mountainous areas have fragile structures, steep slopes and hanging cliffs. But there is no any geological and climatic disaster in the area. The area is quite pristine and unspoiled. Therefore, there are not any geological disturbances triggering the geological mishaps in the region. The people of Chhekampar responded that there was no event of lightening in the area they could remember. Major climatic condition of Chhekampar was tabulated in Table 5.5.

Table 5.5: Climatic Condition of Chhekampar VDC

Variables	Maximum Month	Minimum Month	Starting Month	Ending Month
Snow fall	January-February	Last of February	November-December	March-April
Rainfall	June- July	Mid of August	May- .June	September-October
Temperature	March-April	September-October		

Source: Field Survey Conducted on 1st September, 2006

5.4 Biological Environment

5.4.1 Pasturelands of Chhekampar

Pasturelands (Kharkas) are the main areas for the ruminant animals, especially in summer season. The available data on pasturelands showed that the largest pasturelands in Chhekampar VDC are Milambakong and Dilasyahawa Kharkas, each covering an approximate area of 212 ha. The smallest kharkas is Poparma Kharkas, covering an area of 10 ha. All of these pasturelands are used by the local people. Pasturelands of Chhekampar were listed in Table 5.6.

Table 5.6: Major Pasturelands in Chhekampar Area

S.N	Pasturelands	Area in Hectors
1.	Khunjiru Kharka	26
2.	Milambakong Kharka	212
3.	Dilasyshawa Kharka	212
4.	Pakar Kharka	130
5.	Pyu Kharka	34
6.	Langdang Kharka	124
7.	Paseb Kharka	125
8.	Poparma Kharka	10
9.	Marup Kharka	-
10.	Namche Kharka	-
11.	Chunje Kharka	-
12.	Kharka	-

Source: HMG, 1990. Annual Progress Report, Fiscal Years 2046/47

5.4.2 Forest type

In general, the north facing slopes are dense forests; where as the south facing slopes are open, steep meadows. The east side of Shiar Khola, facing north, is characterized by dense tall forest, as is common in the area. The temperate and sub alpine vegetation included an abundance of chirpine, juniper, blue pine, spruce, chestnut and walnut.

5.4.3 Major tree species

People of Chhekampar were more conscious about conservation of forest. People of ward no.1, 2, 3, and 4 were found to be involved in community forestry for the protection and management of the forest. These forests meet basic need of fuel wood and fodder of these people. The major tree species of the Chhekampar area are fir, Nepal pepper, juniper, chirpine, blue pine, spruce, chestnut, walnut, maple, cypress, alder, rhododendron and Himalayan bamboo and the major fuel wood and fodder trees species for the people of Chhekampar are tabulated on Table 5.7 and Table 5.8.

Table 5.7: Fuel Wood Trees

S.N	Local Name/English	Scientific Name
1.	Gobre salla/ Fir	*Abies spectabilis*
2.	Timur/ Nepal pepper	*Zanthoxylum armatum*
3.	Bhoj patra/ Birch	*Betula utilis*
4.	Dhupi/ Juniper	*Juniperus indica*
5.	Khote Sallo/ Chir pine	*Pinus roxburghii*

Source: Field Survey, 2006

Table 5.8: Fodder Trees

S.N	Local Name Of fodder	Scientific Name
1.	Gobre salla/ Fir	*Abies spectabilis*
2.	Velo	Unidentified
3.	Nigalo	*Arundinaria falcata*

Source: Field Survey, 2006

5.4.4 Medicinal Plants

Mountainous areas are most renowned for the medicinal (herbs) plants. Several species of medicinal plants were found on the study area which was used for Ayurvedic purposes by the local people. Frequently available medicinal plants were listed on Table 5.9.

Table 5.9: Commonly Available Medicinal Plants in Chhekampar

S.N	Local Name of Species	Scientific Name
1	Nirmashi	*Aconitum orochryseum*
2	Jimmu	*Allium hypsistum*
3	Yarshagumba	*Cordyceps sinensis*
4	Panchaunlae	*Dactylorhiza hetagiera*
5	Nirmasi	*Delphium denudeneri*
6	Amla	*Emblica officinalis*
7	Dhupi	*Juniperous sp.*

8	Jatamashi	*Nardostachys grandiflora*
9	Kumaki	*Onosma maharangee*
10	Kutkee	*Picroriza Scrophuleriiflora*
11	Padamchal	*Rheum webbianum*
12	Chiraito	*Swertia chirayita*
13	Gurjo	*Tinospora cordifolia*
14	Timur	*Zanthoxylum armatum*

Source: Field Survey, 2006

5.4.5 Mammals

The people of Chhekampar follows Buddhism and therefore they are against the killing of animals for meat. Due to this, the populations of the mammals found in and around the Chhekampar were preserved. Nobody hunted the wild mammals and birds. Almost all mammals found in this areas were listed on CITES Appendix. Mammals of Chhekampar were listed in Table 5.10.

Table 5.10: Mammals of Chhekampar

S.N	Local Name Of Mammals	Scientific Name	Appendix CITES
1.	Habre	*Ailurus fulgens*	I
2.	Langure Bader	*Semenopithecus entellus*	I
3.	Kasturi Mirga	*Moschus chrysogaster*	I
4.	Kalo Bhalu	*Ursus thibetanus*	I
5.	Nayan (Argali)	*Ovis ammon hodgsonii*	I
6.	Thar	*Hemitragus jhemalicus*	-
7.	Himalayan Goral	*Naemorhedus sumatraensis*	I
8.	Himchituwa	*Panthrea unica*	I
9.	Thople Chituwa	*Panthera pardus*	I
10.	Dhwase Chituwa	*Panthera nebulosa*	I
11.	Chari Bagha	*Prionailurus bengalesis*	II
12.	Bwaso	*Canis lupus*	I

13.	Jangali Chauri	*Bos grunniens*	I
14.	Assamese Monkey	*Macaca assamensis*	II
15.	Blue sheep	*Pseudois nayaur*	-

Source: Field Survey, 2006

Fig: Conservation status of the reported species of mammal in Chhekampar area.

CITES Threat Categories

Appendix I = Species threatened with extinction

Appendix II = Species not yet threatened but which could become endangered if trade is not controlled

Appendix III = Species that are protected by individual countries within their borders and for which co operation of other convention signatories is sought

5.4.6 Common wild Birds

CITES listed birds were frequently observed on this study area, which shows the conservation status of Chhekampar VDC. Common birds observed in Chhekampar VDC were listed in Table 5.11.

Table 5.11: Common wild Birds

S.N	Local Name of Birds	Scientific Name	Appendix CITES
1.	Daphe	*Lopophorus impejanus*	*I*
2.	Cheer	*Catreus wallichii*	*I*
3.	Monal	*Tragopan satyra*	*III*
4	Giddha	*Gyps spp.*	-
5.	Baaj	*Spizaetus nipalensis*	-

Source: Field Survey, 2006

5.5 Socioeconomic Environment

5.5.1 Population Structure by Age and Sex

Population composition of Chhekampar showed that the proportion of male population was slightly higher than the female population in all the age groups as shown in the fig.5.5. The highest proportion of the total population of Chhekampar was in the age group (0 – 15). The population gradually decreases with the least proportion of

population in the age group (60 above). Population structure of Chhekampar VDC by age and sex were presented in Fig. 5.2 below.

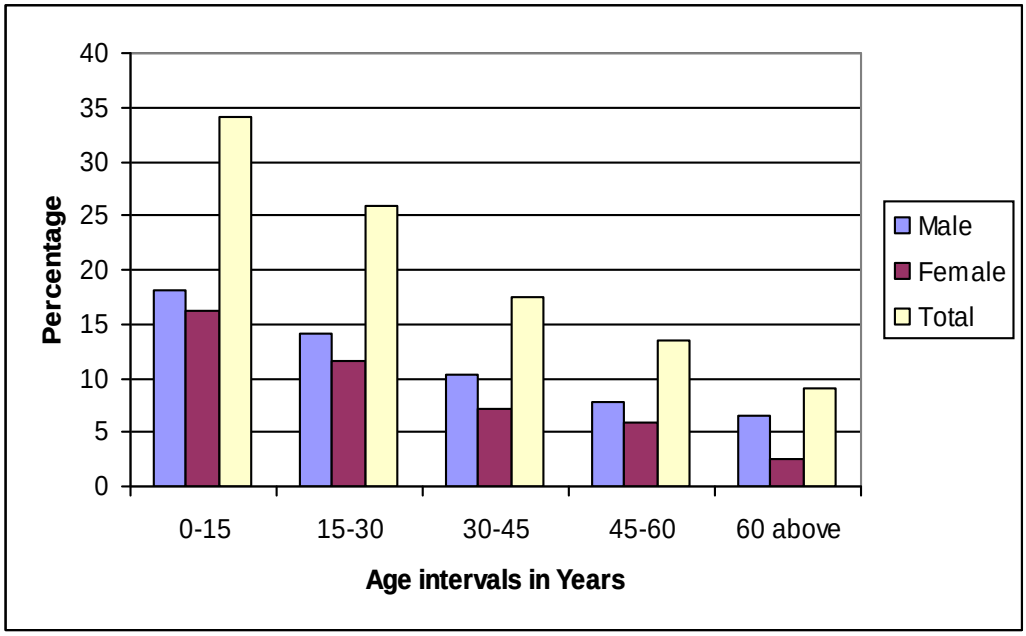


Fig 5.2: Population Structure by Age and Sex

Source: Field Survey, 2006

5.5.2 Status of Food and Fruit Production

Agriculture is the mainstay of the Chhekampar area, besides this transhumance and trade as their main source of income. Even though, they grew only one crop a year. The wide, fertile, and flat land with black soil consists of maximum capacity for crop production. Major crops, vegetables and fruits, and its cropping pattern of the Chhekampar are tabulated on the table 5.12. Productivity of land, according to the respondent (High- 32%, Medium- 60%, Remain same- 8% and Low-0%) were observed. Farmers of chhekampar don't use the chemical fertilizers for their crop production. They have followed traditional method, with crop rotation. Status of food production and cropping pattern of major crops in Chhekampar was presented in Fig. 5.3 and Table 5.12

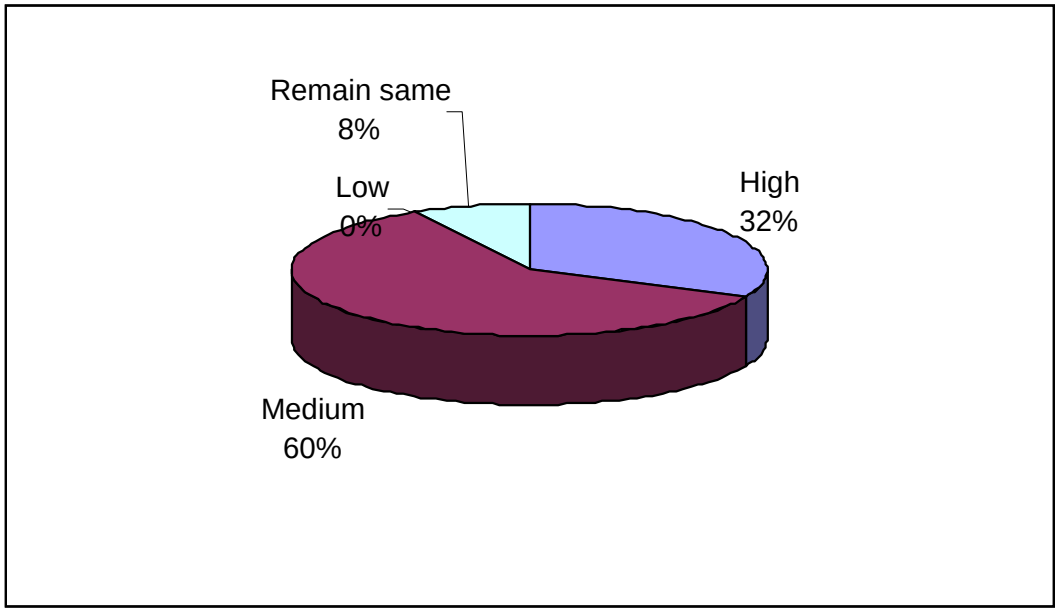


Fig 5.3: Status of Food Production in Chhekampar VDC

Source: Field Survey 2006

Table 5.12: Cropping Pattern of Major Crops & Vegetables

Seasons	Crops	Vegetables	Fruits
Summer	Wheat, Naked barley, Buckwheat,	Cabbage, Cauliflower, Radishes, Potato, Turnips, Carrots, Onion, Garlic	Apple, Peaches and Walnuts
Winter	None	None	

Source: Field Survey, 2006

5.5.3 Food sufficiency

The nature of food sufficiency in the Chhekampar is the theme of figure 5.2. Out of the total respondent, 57.5% of the households have enough grains produced from their farmland for 6-9 months whereas 22.5% households have food sufficient for less than 6 months of the year. For the rest of the year, they have to buy food stuffs from outside. Only 20% of the households said that they have food sufficient for 9 to 12 months of the

year. Food shortages are compensated by bringing grains from Tibet. Food sufficiency in Chhekampar was presented in Fig. 5.4.

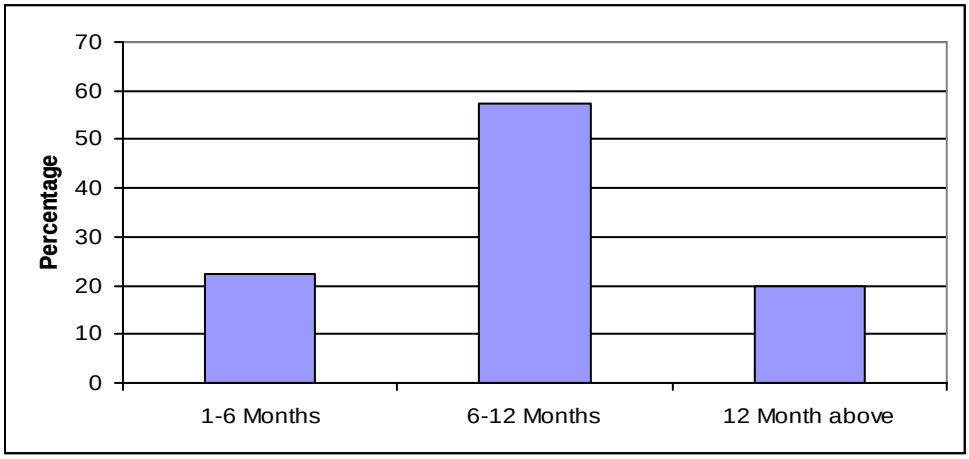


Fig 5.4: Food sufficiency in Chhekampar VDC

Source: Field Survey, 2006

5.5.4 Work and Services Opportunity in Chhekampar VDC

Due to the geographic remoteness and difficulties in accessibility to this area, people of Chhekampar were away from the mainstream development of the country. Large number of people i.e. 70% was involved in agricultural activities for their sustenance. Remaining 15% of the people were teacher in schools in their VDC, 12.5% businessman and 2.5% were engaged as a postman. Work and Services Opportunity in Chhekampar VDC was presented in Fig. 5.5.

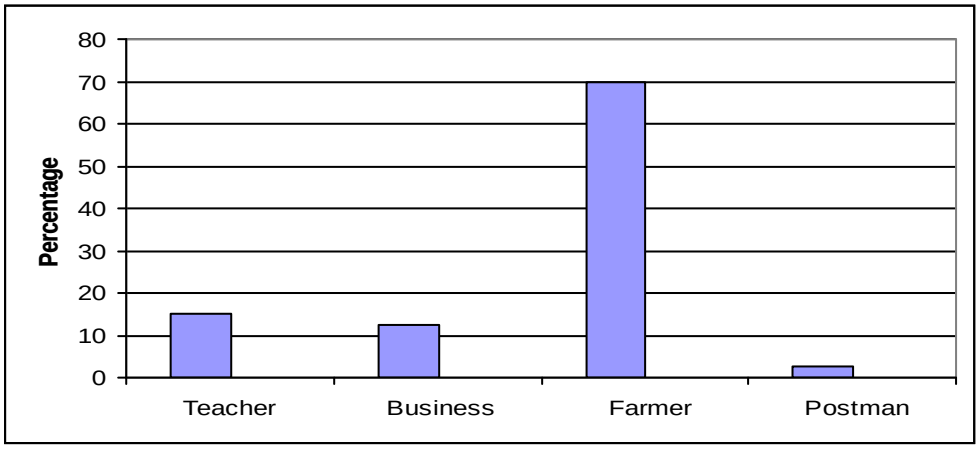


Fig 5.5: Work and Services of Local people of Chhekampar

Source: Field Survey, 2006

5.5.5 Educational Status of Chhekampar

The educational status of Chhekampar is represented on Fig: 5.5. Illiteracy percentage was higher than the literacy percentage. From the primary level to the secondary level, population of students gradually decreased, which further decreased for higher secondary level. Large proportion of the population (14.2%) was motivated Buddhist (monk) education. Literacy condition of Chhekampar people were shown in Fig. 5.6 below.

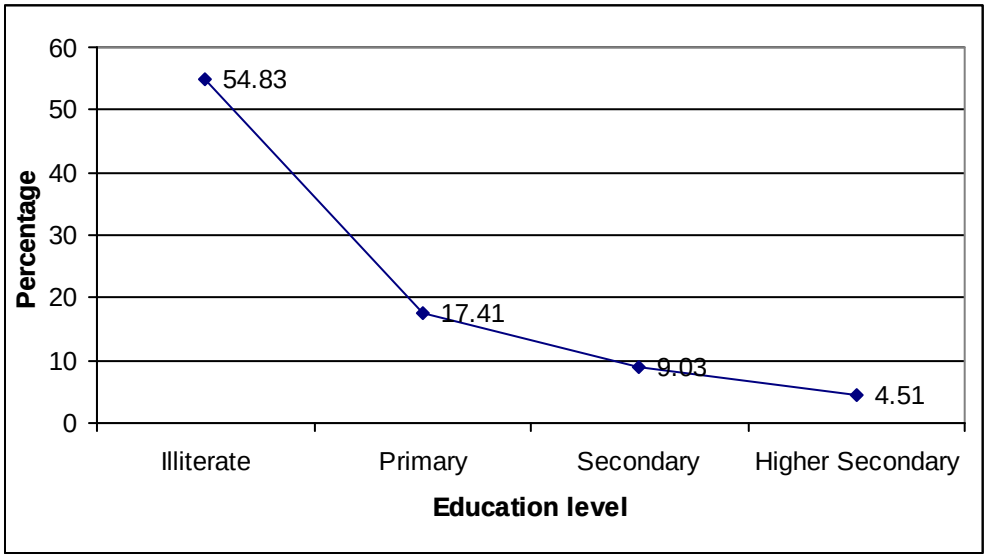


Fig 5.6: Educational Status of Chhekampar

Source: Field Survey, 2006

CHAPTER 6

DISCUSSION

Tourists come to Nepal from different countries to experience the spectacular natural beauty and traditional cultures. In addition, peaceful environment attracts thousands of tourists in Nepal. The nature of most of the tourism activity being practiced in Nepal makes nature tourism or ecotourism (MOPE, 2004). The tourists mainly come here with the purpose of trekking and mountaineering, adventure wilderness, and experience unique Himalayan culture, natural beauty and research. Chhekampar VDC lies within Manaslu Conservation Area Project, Gorkha, which was declared a "Conservation Area" in December 1998. MCAP has seven VDC's i.e. Chhekampar, Chumchet, Bihi, Sirdibas, Prok, Lho and Samagaun.

The tourist influx to Chhekampar area is completely nil due to the restricted status of the area. Where as in other MCAP Areas, tourist influx was in increasing trend up to the year 2004 and slightly decreased in 2005. The unstable political situation might be reason behind the fluctuation of tourism influx. Only few numbers of tourist are visited the Chhekampar for their study, trekking and tour purposes. The number of tourist flowed into the area was not recorded due to the absence of check post.

Due to the remoteness, inaccessible and dangerous trekking trails; and national conflict, there is no any accommodation facilities like; hotel, lodge, communication, security, even government office to the area.

Chhekampar area is rich in natural beauties and cultural uniqueness to attract the tourists. The VDC is surrounded by the Himalayan ranges; Manaslu Himal, Ganesh Himal and Shringe Himal which made the area glorious place to look at. Natural springs and lakes, rocky relief and green plains are scenic beauties of the Chhekampar VDC. Wild mammals listed on the CITES Appendix I & II (Chaudhary, 1998) are also found in the study area. These species of mammals fall under the category of “threatened animals with extension” and could become endangered. Common birds like Danphe (*Lopophorous*

impejanus), Cheer (*Catreus wallichii*) and Monal (*Tragopan satyra*) were observed frequently, which show the current status of mammals and birds in Chhekampar. The presence of the threatened and endangered mammals and birds are the main attraction for tourist. These beautiful wildlife are the area upon which the tourists would look forward and visit the area.

Chhekampar is culturally and naturally rich, having greater numbers of mani, chortens and monasteries. Among the VDC's of MCAP, Chhekampar has the highest number of monasteries. Almost the whole populations of Chhekampar VDC are Buddhism culture and are of Buddhist religious belief. The unique features of their religion include the worship of Gautam Buddha, Padmasambhava (Guru Rinpoche), burning of butter lamps in monasteries, acceptance of reincarnate lamas, decoration of monasteries with prayer flags, the building of mani walls along paths, visiting Buddhist pilgrimage places and playing instrument loudly. Buddhist Lamaism is widely practiced in Chhekampar region. The widespread construction of mani walls and chortens along the main trails to Mu Gompa and beyond are manifestations of the deep faith people in Buddhism. Typically, Tibetan Buddhist sends their second son and daughter to the monastery to become monk and nun.

Inhabitants of this area called as “Bhotes”, speaks Tibetan language and their culture and life style resemble to those of Tibetans. People of this area had deep faith and belief on Buddha. Major festivals celebrated by the people of Chhekampar are Loshar, Mainchayang, Dumje / Aaja Tumpa / Mani Dumpa, Nara, Wang, Phanning, Tupchesi.

There were 21 monasteries and several mani along the trekking trails. Beside these, numbers of private monasteries also exist. Among these 21 monasteries, Rachhen Gumpa and Mu Gumpas are found to be main Gumpas. Mu Gumpas was the oldest monastery and Rachhen Gumpa is the first nunnery in the area.

Abundance of the mani, chorten and monasteries are the religious importance of the local people. These types of infrastructure, natural landscape and typical mountainous culture and festivals attract the eco-tourists of that area. Negative effect of tourism on social

values and norms and its consequences for traditional lifestyle including food, customs, flok dances, way of living and festivals and disruption of traditional kinship and community bonds (Nyaupane, 1999). But such types of problems are not present on the study area.

Manaslu Conservation Area is relatively far from Kathmandu, yet the number of tourists visited was far less compared to the other conservation areas because of poor condition of trekking trails. Determination of carrying capacity should be pre-requisite for the development of any ecotourism destination. Carrying capacity is the maximum number of tourists allowed to visit the destination without disturbing the integrity of the ecosystem. It helps in assessing the likely impact of visitors not only on focal species but total ecosystem. In other word the concept of carrying capacity is "matching sensitivity analysis of various species with the potential impact analysis of visitation". Generally, it has three main components physical, social and ecological (Bhattacharya and Kumari, 2004).

Carrying capacity of any particular site or area may be seen as a function of a number of variables like the quantity and variety of tourist resources such as the existence of flora and fauna, the air and water quality, the nature of "mountain specificities" particularly the tolerance and fragility of resources to use the intensity of resource use, the provision and maintenance of infrastructural facilities, etc. For simplicity, let us suppose that our sole concern is with the ecological carrying capacity of a site and that ecological damage function can be identified which depends on the number of visitors to these sites (Tisdell, 1997).

Communicable indicators of vegetation, as seen through decrease in epiphyte density and increasing invader plant species within the forests, and shift from traditional crops to cash crops like tea in agro ecosystems show declining carrying capacity of the area (Koirala, et. al, 2007). The carrying capacity of Chhekampar area was evaluated. The forest resources were still intact and further protected by the formation of forest user groups. Since there was negligible flow of visitors the wild birds and animals were not under the circumstances of threat. The animals and birds like Himalayan Goral, Thople Chituwa,

Chari Bagha, Monal, Daphe etc. were found in the area indicating the undisturbed habitat. However, the foot trails of the area were not in a good condition and should be taken care of. The cultural and religious beliefs of the people were unique things to look forward and people were not influence by any modern activities in the country.

People of the Chhekampar believed on God and worship different resources to pray God like sprout and spring water, which is culturally important for those people. Water resources like Lake, spring, River, Other (Tap) were observed which meet the need of local people of Chhekampar VDC. These are the water sources upon which they depend upon for their daily water requirements. According to the respondent drinking water availability in this area is higher in percentage i.e. 47.5%.

Mountainous areas are fragile in nature with steep slopes and hanging rock cliffs. Climatic condition of Chhekampar is characterized by cool temperate region as the altitudinal range varies from 2000 - 3000m. Summer temperatures ranges between 22^0 C and 25^0 C and winter temperature ranges between -2^0 C and 6^0 C. Frost and snowfall is common in winter seasons. The sub- alpine region lies between 3000 – 4000m. During the winter, temperature fall and snowfall occurred for about five months of the years. Summer temperature lies between 6^0 C and 10^0 C. The alpine region, which has a cold winter, lies between 4000 – 5000m and mostly opened meadows. The life becomes quite struggling during winter as heavy snowfall generally occurred in the months January & February. Some snowfall continued till the end of February and ended in March - April. Temperature and rainfall events are shown. The soil of this area composed of black soil with humus contain, which made land more productive. Despite of the fragile nature of high lands, not any geological (landslide and mass movement) and climatic (extreme rain fall and lightening prone areas) events were recorded in the area till date.

Pasturelands of the area were important for the grazing animals, which fulfill the demands of the grazing animals in the summer seasons. The numbers of the pasturelands were situated at the upper part of Chhekampar. There were about 12 pasturelands, among these the largest pasturelands are Milambakong and Dilasyahawa covering an area each

of 212 ha. At the higher altitude with plane landscape having pasturelands and meadows shows the glorious bloom of that areas in summer season.

Forest type of the area was divided into three regions based on the bioclimatic zone. They are cool temperate region, sub-alpine region and alpine region. The cool temperate region east of the Shiar Khola, on the route to Chhekampar, is a dense forest of coniferous trees. The temperate and sub- alpine vegetation had different species of the coniferous plants. The major plants species like Fir (*Abies spectabilis*), Nepal pepper (*Zanthoxylum armatum*), Chir pine (*Pinus roxburghii*), Juniper (*Laryx himalayan*), Spruce (*Picea smithiana*), Chestnut (*Castanopsis indica*), Blue pine (*Pinus wallichiana*), Walnut (*Juglans regia*), Birch (*Betula utilis*), Cypress (*Juniperus communis*), Maple (*Acer caesium*), Cedar (*Cedrus deodara*), Alder (*Alnus nepalensis*), Lokta (*Daphne bholua*) were observed. Based on the accessibility, local people use these tree species for their daily need of fuel wood and fodder.

Valuable medicinal plants were also observed on those areas which meet the need of the medicine of the local people. The health post of the area was not functional due to the absence of the health assistance and remoteness of the area. However, presences of the greater number of the medicinal plants serve the local people of Chhekampar. Due to the medicinal plants, people of the Chhekampar are healthy.

Population composition of the study area showed that highest proportion of the population on the age group of (0 -15) and gradually decrease in increase the age groups. The proportion of the male population is slightly greater than the female population. Maximum numbers of dependent on young population are found on the area. Young population of that area can serve the tourist as potter and guide. This can help the tourists for their visit.

Agricultural activity like farming is the major component for the survival of the local people. Besides this, trade and transhumance are the main sources income of the people. Due to the climatic condition of the Chhekampar, they grow only one crop in a year. The major crops includes, wheat (*Triticum aestivum*), naked barley (*Hordeum vulgare*),

buckwheat (*Fagura esculentum*), potatoes (S*olanum tuberosum*), cabbage (*Brassica oleracea*), radish (*Raphnus sativus*), turnip (*Brassica rapa*), carrots (*Daucas carota*), onion (*Allium cepa*), cauliflower (*Brassica oleracea*) and garlic (*Alluim sativum*). Fruit crops, such as apple (*Malus pumila*), peach (*Prunus persica*), and walnut (*Juhlans regia*) are also grown in the Chhekampar.

Presence of wide fertile land has made food sufficient for 57.5% of the total population for 6-9 months and 22.5% has food sufficiency for less than six months and remaining population i.e. 20% has it sufficient for a year. Inadequate food is fulfilled by the other activities like services and business.

Transhumance or herding is common practice in the mountain areas. That is the second most important economic activity in the Chhekampar region after the agriculture. People take their herds to higher elevation in summer when the temperature rises, and come down as it gets cold. Common herded animals include Yak, Nak, Chauri, Sheep horses etc. Yak and Nak provide wool and milk products which are sold in the lower belts or Tibet to earn money. Horses and Chauri are the main transporting animals, besides these animals they could not trade with Tibet.

Educational status of the local people depended on the availability of the schools and economic conditions of the parents. Only three primary schools are observed in the VDC and are not properly functional. Rachhen Gompa has given more facilities to the students and motivated them to learn lama education. The result shows the decreasing number students with the increase in level of education. The main reason behind such trend is the absence of secondary level schools and economic status of the household. Therefore, more parents willing to send their child to Gompas rather than schools.

Growth of ecotourism occurs simultaneously with increase recognition of the area. Together with ecotourism growth come the growth and development of the area. The social and economic development of the area and the people living there in fully contributes to the rural wellbeing. Benefits arising from ecotourism include foreign exchange revenue, employment opportunities and improving awareness of conservation

objectives and can in the long run stimulate tangible economic development (Chhettri, 2004).

Promotion of ecotourism of the potential area is important from both national and international view point. Presence of natural beauties and sacred landscape, typical culture and religious monasteries are main attraction for the eco-friendly tourists. In addition, the presence of threatened and endangered species of wild mammals and birds show peaceful environment of the area. CITES mentioned species of mammals and birds could be under serious threat due to the excessive numbers of tourist flow. Therefore, carrying capacity of the area should be taken into consideration in ecotourism and promotion of the area for tourism. So, preservation and promotion of the area is responsibility of all concerned parties including MCAP authorities, local residents and local tourists.

CHAPTER 7

CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Conclusion

Chhekampar VDC is remote and situated on the higher altitude of the mountains region i.e. connected with Tibet. Despite of prominence opportunity of being a tourism hot spot the Chhekampar area is lagging behind other tourism destinations. The study is precisely addressed to the opportunity of ecotourism in the Chhekampar area and analyzing the carrying capacity of the tourism in the area. Beside these, the study also alight upon socioeconomic benefits of ecotourism to the local people that area living a miser life in the area.

Chhekampar has great opportunity to be developed into a tourism destination due to its enrichment in natural beauty, climate, cultural and religious and uniqueness, and social lifestyle. Himalayan ranges of the Ganesh Himal, Manaslu Himal and Shringe Himal and snowcapped areas had created the scenic beauty of the delineated area. Natural springs and lakes were observed in the area. Larger numbers of the pasturelands, dense forests along the stream is attractive enough to take a joy of. Occurrence of birds and mammals included the CITES also increased the importance of the place and showed that Chhekampar is enriched by the wildlife as well. Surprising landscape and geography of the area had always been the centre of attraction.

The cold and shivering climate of the area had always been impulsive to the nature loving tourists. The climate of Chhekampar is very challenging with short sunshine hours and snowfalls in the winter. The cultural uniqueness was another prospect to look after for the potentiality of tourism in the area. Many monasteries, manis, chortens existing in the area reflects their cultural and religious uniqueness. All the people of the delineated area strongly followed the Buddhism and their social life was lead by the religion. Local people worshipped the water bodies like springs, streams, and sprout water which was culturally important. Loshar and Nyungne (Buddha birthday) are the main festival of the

people living therein. Most people depend upon agriculture and their food habits are quite different as well. Valuable medicinal plants were also observed on the areas which meet the medicinal needs of the local people. Community forestry was developed by the community members which provides the fuel wood and fodder need of the local peoples.

The carrying capacity for the tourism in Chhekampar was quite satisfactory. Despite such a prominence and definitive possibility of ecotourism in the area as it lies within MCA, the area had always lagged behind other area of MCA. The minimum tourist influx in the area up to negligible counts per year can be addressed by the reason that the area was restricted for the visitors by the government as illegal trade used to take place through this route to Tibet.

7.2 Recommendation

People always have a problem in upliftment of their socioeconomic status due to the remoteness and isolation of the area like those of Chhekampar. But the Chhekampar area had a definite advantage as it has much potential for tourism that could be taken into consideration to raise the living standard of the people.

Considering sustainability, equity, community involvement and intersectoral cooperation, the development of ecotourism appears to be the most viable approach for raising living standards of the local communities. Some of the recommendations should be carried out over both the short and long terms periods which are listed as below:

- Chhekampar is a part of the Manaslu Conservation Area Project which should be derestricted for the tourism.
- Any tourism plan that is envisioned for the area should be community and broad-based.
- Priority should be given to the institutional and income generating sectors. Institutions should be created to distribute the benefits of tourism to the communities.

- Undertake social marketing of ecotourism in the area, especially in Kathmandu, and Pokhara, and through embassies and consulates abroad. Informative materials such as brochures and posters should be published and widely distributed.
- Campsite should be established at reasonable distance from each other.
- Encourage the local people to run lodges and hotels for tourist. Credit facilities should be provided with reasonable interest rates.
- Police posts should be set up for the safety and security of tourists as well as the local communities along the trail.
- Communication centers (visitors/ information centre) should be established.

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Useful Sites

http://divcom.otago.ac.nz:800/tourism/current- issues/homepage.htm

http://www.nepal-guide.com/nepal_eco_tourism.htm

www.ecotourism.org.

www.welcomenepal.com/stn

ANNEXES

Annex 1:
Photos of Study Areas (Chhekampar)

Plate 1: Natural Spring observed on the trekking trail

Plate 3: Primary School of Chhekampar

Plate 4: Rachhen Gumpa of the Chhekampar

Plate 5: Scenic Beauties of the Himalayan range

Plate 6: Natural spring of Chhekampar VDC

Annex: 2

Questionnaire for Tourist

Note: Dear gust you are kindly requested to help me for the research work by filling the questionnaire which is mention below. This information would help my research, which would be used only for my research purpose.

KESHAB RAJ KHANAL

1. General information
   - Nationality/city:
   - Religion:
   - Male/Female
   - Age <15 yrs, 16-30yrs, 31-45yrs, 46-60yrs, 61 and over
   - Married /Unmarried
   - Single/ Joint family
   - Education- Primary/ Secondary/ University/ Technical/ Uneducated
   - Employment/ profession

2. Nature of tour (Please tick ✓ mark)

   (A) 1. Alone 2. With spouse 3.Whole family
   4. With potters/ guide 5.With friends 6. with others

   (B) Whether the tour/ visit
   1. Holiday 2. Sport 3. Trekking 4.Mountaineering
   5.Visit to friends/ relatives
   6. Health 7. Business 8. Pilgrimage 9.sight scene
   10. Any other……..,

3. Mode of travel you have used arrived to chhekampar VDC.
   - By Road(1)……, (2) ……., (3) ……...
   - On foot (1)……, (2) ……., (3) ……...

4. Duration of your journey to chhekampar.

5. How many days do you spend/ planned to stay in

   (a) Nepal ……., (b) Chhekampar ……

6. Place you visited in Nepal, please in order

   1. 2. 3. 4. 5.

7. How many times do you visit chhekampar?

(a) One (b) two (c) three (d) more than three

8. What are the main attractions for you in chhekampar, please in order.

1. Cultural heritage 2. Flora 3. Fauna

4. Natural beauty 5. Others please mention

9 Which of the following factors important for attraction in chhekampar to you? Mention the most important to least important

A. Natural beauty	B. Cultural beauty	C. Flora and fauna
1	1	1
2	2	2
3	3	3
4	4	4
5	5	5

D. Peace and healthy environment	E. Others
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

10. How much money on average do you spent per day during your stay at chhekampar (in NRs.)

11. Will you visit chhekampar again?

a. Yes b. No c. May be

12. In your opinion, how do you fell about eco-tourism of the chhekampar regarding the Problems and suggestions for eco-tourism development?

Questionnaire for Hotel Business

1. Introduction (detailed) Sex/Age:
   - Name of the respondent:
   - VDC ward no: Local/Outsider:
   - Male/Female:
   - Religion: Single /Joint family
   - Family members: Male… Female…
   - Education: Uneducated/ Literate/ Primary/ Secondary/ Higher Education
   - Name and types of business:
   - On rented house/ own house

2. What is your main business?

3. Are you involved in any tourist business? If yes what type and when did you established?
4. What is your average sell in a day?

5. Please mention the no. of employees in your hotel/ as listed below,
   a) Permanent: Male …. Female …..
   b) Temporary: Male …. Female …..
   c) Their address, District……, VDC……
6. Mention the no. of employees by nature of job
   a) Managerb) Cooking c) Restaurant d) Security
   b) Account/ Store e) Others
7. Please mention the capacity/ facility charge of your hotel.
   - Bed room: single/ double/ Common
   - Facility: Attach bath/ common bath
8. What do you think about the capacity?
   a) Sufficient, b) Insufficient, c) More then Sufficient
9. Your future plan regarding the business?
   - Planning to increasing the capacity
   - Planning to increasing the facility
   - Change the business condition
   - Continue the same
10. What is your daily expenditure of a tourist in your hotel?

a, b, c, d,

11. In average how many night tourist stay in your hotel?

a).1-2 b. 3-4 c. 4-5 d. a week e. > week

12. What are your general option regarding the chhekampar management?

13. Would you please suggest measure to promote tourist in better way in chhekampar?

Questionnaire for local people

Introduction (detailed)

- Name of the respondent:
- VDC ward no: Local/Outsider:
- Male/Female: Age/ Sex:
- Occupation: Religion:

Physical Environment:

1. What are the major sources of water in your locality?

2. What is the water bodies present in this VDC? If present, how many and name them.
   a. Lake …… b. Springs ….. c. River ….. d. Others …..
3. What are the cultural importances of the water bodies?

4. Water availability of this area
   a) High b) Medium c) Low
5. What types of soil found in your locality?

6. Climatic event:

Variables	**Maximum Month**	**Minimum Month**	**Starting Month**	**Ending Month**
Snow Fall				
Rainfall				
Temperature				

7. Are there any lightening prone areas in this VDC? If yes, name them

Biological Environment:

1. What are the major trees species found in your VDC?
2. What are the main tree species used for fodder and fuel wood?
   Fodder: **Fuel wood:**
3. What type of forest is there? (pristine)
   a. Natural b. Planted
4. Is there any community forest in your VDC? If yes please name …….
   and its number ……
5. Is there any grassland areas? If yes please mention it.

6. Name the locally available medicinal plants
7. What are the common wild mammals have you seen in your VDC?

S.N	Local Name of Mammals	English Name	S.N	Local Name of Mammals	English Name
2.	Habre	Red Panda	10.	Himchituwa	Snow Leopard
3.	Langure Bader	Hanuman Langur	11.	Thople Chituwa	Common Leopard
4.	Kasturi Mirga	Musk Deer	12.	Dhwase Chituwa	Clouded Leopard
5.	Khairo Bhalu	Brown Bear	13.	Chari Bagha	Leopard Cat
6.	Kalo Bhalu	Himalayan Black Bear	14.	Bwaso	Grey Wolf
7.	Nayan (Argali)	Great Tibetan Sheep	15.	Sunaulo Biralo	Golden Cat
8.	Thar	Himalayan Serow	16.	Jangali Chauri	Wild Yak
9.	Himalayan Goral	Goral	17.	Assame Rato Bandar	Assamese Monkey
			18.	Pahan Biralo	Lynx

If any, please mention the name of them.

8. Name the animal species that have reduced in number in the five years period and its natural habitat.

9. What are the common wild birds have you seen in your VDC?

S.N	Local Name of Birds	English Name	S.N	Local Name of Birds	English Name
1.	Daphe	Impeyan Pheasant	3.	Cheer	Cheer Pheasant
2.	Kalo Vudiphor	Black Stork	4.	Monal	Crimson Horned Pheasant

Please mention the others birds name.

10. Name the bird's species that have reduced in number in the five years period?

Socioeconomic:

11. What are the major crops in your Khet and Bari land?

Seasons	Khet (Wet land)	Bari (Dry land)
Summer		
Winter		

12. What is the status of Productivity of the land?

    a. High b. Medium c. Low

13. Do you apply any chemical fertilizer in your cultivated land for crop production?

    a. Yes b. No

14. How many months are they sufficient food?

15. What are the fruit trees found in your locality?

16. Are you involved in any other works and services for livelihood?

17. What is your means of transportation/ Transport animals?

Socio-Cultural:

18. Mention the ethnic composition of your locality?

19. Name the historical Gompas and temples and its condition.

20. Population compositions

Age class	Male	Female	Total
0-15			
15-30			
30-45			
45-60			
60 above			

Education Level of the Household:

Education	Male	Female	Total
Illiterate			

Primary level (1-5)			
Secondary (6-10)			
Higher Secondary			

21. Please mention the immigrants of households……. and out migrants of households……

22. In which season (in months) tourist flow occurs?

23. How many number of tourist visit that season?

24. Why tourists come in this VDC?
    a. Visiting b. Mountaineering c. Trekking d. Nature study

25. Tourist Facilities:

Types of facilities	Available	Not available
Hotel		
Lodge		
Both hotel and lodge		
Communication		

26. In your opinion which factors affect to attract tourist in Chhekampar VDC.

Annex: 3

Medicinal Plant Species Observed in MCAP Area

S.N	Local Name of Species	Scientific Name
1.	Atis	*Aconitum heterophyllum*
2.	Nilo Bish	*A. spicatum*
3.	Bojho	*Acorus calamus*
4.	Jimbu	*Allium przewalskianum*
5.	Titepati	*Artemisia subia*
6.	Ban Kurilo	*Asparagus filicinus*
7.	Ban Kurilo, Satabari	*A. racemosus*
8.	Chutro	*Berberis aristata.*
9.	Chutro	*B. asiatica*
10.	Pakhanbet	*Bergenia ciliata*
11.	Pakhanbed	*B. purpurascens*
12.	Bhojpatra	*Betulus utilis*
13.	Ganja	*Cannabis sativa*
14.	Amla	*Emblica officinalis*
15.	Tejpat	*Cinnamomum tamal*
16.	Yarshagumba	*Cordyceps sinensis*
17.	Mothe	*Cyperus rotundus*
18.	Panchaunle	*Dactylorhiza hatagirea*
19.	Nirbishi, Nilo Bish	*Delphinium denudatum*
20.	Githa	*Dioscorea bulbifera*
21.	Bhyakur, Kukur Tarul	*Dioscorea deltoidea*
22.	Kalodna	*Eulophia dabia.*
23.	Somlata	*Ephedra gerardiana*
24.	Kakuli	*Fritillaria cirrhosa*
25.	Dhasingare	*Gaultheria fragrantissima*
26.	Allo	*Girardinia diversifolia*
27.	Tara Chuk	*Hippophae salicifolia*
28.	Chuk	*Hippophae. tibetana*
29.	Okhar	*Juglans regia*
30.	Eklebir	*Lobelia pyramidalis*
31.	Nagbeli	*Lycopodium clacatum*
32.	Jatamasi	*Nardostachys grandiflora*

33.	Nepali ginseng	*Panax pseudo-ginsing.*
34.	Jhyau	*Parmelia nepalensis*
35.	Laghupatra	*Podophyllum hexandrum*
36.	Bisfez	*Polypodium vulgare*
37.	Laligurans	*Rhododendron arboreum*
38.	Majitho	*Rubia manjith*
39.	Rithaa	*Sapindus mukorossi*
40.	Gamdol	*Sapindu .nepalense*
41.	Gamdol	*Swertia angustigolia*
42.	Chiraito	*Swertia chirayita*
43.	Launth salla	*Taxus baccata*
44.	Barro	*Terminalia bellirica*
45.	Harro	*T. chebula*
46.	Sugandawal	*Valeriana jatamansi*
47.	Timur	*Zanthoxylum armatum*

Source: Checklist of Medicinal Plant species recorded from Manaslu Conservation Area, Sakti Chowk, Gorkha.