**PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF RELIGIOUS TOURISM IN THE KHAPTAD REGION**

**PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF RELIGIOUS TOURISM IN THE KHAPTAD REGION SIDDHA RAJ PHULARA 2009**

**A THESIS submitted To the faculties of humaninties**

**and social sciences, central department of Economics  
 in the partial fulfillment of the requiredment for the degree of masters of**

**arts in economics**

**BY**

**SIDDHA RAJ PHULARA**

**ROLL NO-148/2062/063**

**CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS**

**TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY, KATHMANDU**

**February 2009**

**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

The thesis entitled "Problems and Prospects of Religious Tourism in Khaptad Region" has prepared by Siddha Raj Phulara under my supervision in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Economics.

I forward it with recommendation for approval

………………………

Dr. Rudra Prasad Upadhyay

Associate Professor

Central Department of Economics

Tribhuvan University

Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal

Date: 08/ 02/ 2009

**APPROVAL LETTER**

This thesis entitled "Problems and Prospects of Religious Tourism in Khaptad Region" Prepared by Siddha Raj Phulara has been accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Economics.

Thesis Committee:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chairman

Prof. Dr. Madhavi Singh Shah

(Head of the Department)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Prof. Dr. Madhavi Singh Shah

External Examiner

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Research Supervisor

Associate. Prof. Dr. Rudra Prasad Upadhyay

Date: 15/ 02/ 2009

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ii

I would like to express my sincere and hearty gratitude to my thesis supervisor Dr. Rudra Prasad Upadhyay, Associate Professor, Central Department of Economics, Tribhuvan University, who guided me throughout the study. His patience, enthusiasm, co-operation, suggestions and keen interest in this study are memorable. His vigorous efforts made me present this research work in this form.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to Prof. Dr. Madhavi Singh Shah Head of the Central Department of Economics, Tribhuvan University, for her invaluable suggestions and regular inspiration to continue this study. Similarly, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Mr. Hari Datt Pandey, Joint Secretary of Ministry of Labour and Transport Management, Mr Hikmat Air, director, Nepal Tourism Board, Mr Man Bahadur Shahu Assistant Lecturer, Padma Kanya Campus and other faculty members of central Department of Economics, Tribhuvan University, for their encouragement and valuable suggestions, time and again.

Similarly, my special thanks go to my colleagues Narayan Balayar, Chet Raj Bhandari, Govinda Upadhyay, Heramba Adhikari, Lalita Joshi, Keshab Phulara (Joshi), and Bhubaneshowri Pant (Joshi) for their direct and indirect co-operation and regular encouragement in course of performing this task. Similarly, I would like to thank all my family members for their economic support, encouragement, valuable suggestions and inspiration.

Finally, I would like to thank Ramesh K.C. of Nature Computer Centre Kirtipur for excellent Computer work. I would like to thank all of the respondents who responded all the questions curiously during my fieldwork. I am equally thankful to Central Library, ICIMOD Library and Nepal Tourism Board Library.

Siddha Raj Phulara

February 2009

Kirtipur

### CONTENTS

### RECOMMENDATION LETTER i

### APPROVAL LETTER ii

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT iii

### CONTENTS iv-vii

### LIST OF TABLES viii

### ABBREVIATION ix

### GLOSSARY x

[CHAPTER ONE 1](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149753)

[INTRODUCTION 1](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149754)

[1.1.1 Background 1](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149755)

[1.1.2 Religious Treks and Tours 2](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149756)

[1.1.3 Tourism in Nepalese context 3](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149757)

[1.2 Statement of the Problem 3](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149758)

[1.3 Objectives of the Study 5](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149759)

[1.4 Rationale of the study 5](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149760)

[1.5 Limitation of the Study 5](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149761)

[**CHAPTER TWO** 6](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149762)

[**LITERATURE REVIEW** 6](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149763)

[2.1 Theoretical Framework 6](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149764)

[2.1.1 Concepts of Tourism 7](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149765)

[2.1.2 who is Tourist? 8](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149766)

[2.1.3 Characteristics of Tourism 9](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149767)

[2.1.4 Features of Tourism 10](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149768)

[2. 2 Some Empirical studies in context of Nepal 11](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149769)

[2. 2.1 Development of Tourism in Nepal 12](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149770)

[2.3 Religious Tourism 15](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149771)

[2.4 Literature Review on Khaptad 17](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149772)

[**CHAPTER THREE** 22](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149773)

[**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY** 22](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149774)

[3.1 Rationale for Selection of the Study Area 22](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149775)

[3.2 Research Design 22](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149777)

[3.3 Nature and Sources of Data 22](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149778)

[3.4 Techniques of Data Collection 23](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149779)

[3.4.1 Observation 23](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149780)

[3.4.2 Key Informants Interview 23](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149781)

3.5 Tools of Data Collection 23

3.6 Method of Data Analysis 23

**CHAPTER FOUR 24**

[**GEOGRAPHICAL AND PHYSICAL SETTING OF STUDY AREA** 24](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149784)

[4.1 Geographical and Ecological Setting 24](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149785)

[4.2 Social Setting of the Study Area 25](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149786)

[4.3 Population Distribution 26](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149787)

[4.4 Tourism Attraction 26](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149789)

[4.5 Economically Active Population in Khaptad Region 27](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149790)

[4.6 Religious Belief in Khaptad Region 28](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149792)

[4.7 Religious Centers of Khaptad Region 29](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149793)

[4.7.1 Shaileshwori (Silgadhi – Doti) 30](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149794)

[4.7.2 Holy Places in Khecharadi Parbat 31](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149795)

[4.7.3 Upper Tribeni 31](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149796)

[4.7.4 Hermitage of Khaptad Baba 32](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149797)

[4.7.5 Kedareshwor 34](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149798)

[4.7.6 Naga Dhunga Lokhada 34](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149799)

[4.7.7 Buki Daha 35](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149800)

[4.7.8 Kedar daha and Kedar masto 35](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149801)

[4.7.9 Ganesh Temple 37](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149802)

[4.7.10 Sahastralinga and Danphe ko Kot 37](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149803)

[4.7.11 Baijya Nath (Baidya Nath) 39](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149804)

[4.7.12 Ramarosan (Pancha Pura Area) Achham 40](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149806)

[4.7.13 Badimalika (Great Goddess Malika or Mallika) Bajura 40](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149807)

[4.7.14 Surma Devi and Surma Sarobar 41](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149808)

[**CHAPTER FIVE** 44](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149810)

[**DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION** 44](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149811)

[5.1 Tourist Arrivals in KNP 44](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149812)

[5.2 Flow of Indian tourist in Nepal. 45](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149813)

[5.3 Age structure of hoteliers 46](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149814)

[5.4 Education status of hoteliers 47](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149815)

[5.5 Hoteliers attitude own Hotel Number Destination 47](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149816)

[5.6 Employment pattern in hotels 48](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149817)

[5.7 Expenditure Pattern of the Visitors 48](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149818)

[5.8 Hoteliers opinion for the development of Tourism in KNP area 49](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149819)

[5.9 public opinion for Employment generation from Tourism in and Khaptad Region 50](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149820)

[5.10 Public Opinion for the Development of Religious Tourism 50](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149821)

[5.11 Significance of folk culture to promote religious tourism 51](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149822)

**CHAPTER SIX 52**

[**PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF TOURISM IN KHAPTAD REGION** 52](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149823)

[6.1 Problems for sustainable tourism development in Khaptad Region 52](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149824)

[6.1.1 Weak Natural resource base 52](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149825)

[6.1.2 Inadequate Physical Infrastructure 52](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149826)

[6.1.3 Shortage of Skilled Human Resources 52](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149827)

[6.1.4 Inadequate Inter–sectoral Linkages 52](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149828)

[6.1.5 Lack of Local cottage and handicraft products 53](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149829)

[6.1.6 Insufficient Attention to Enhance the Tourism Product Quality and Facilities 53](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149830)

[6.1.7 Late Start of Development in the Region 53](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149831)

[6.1.8 Market Limitation 53](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149832)

[6.1.9 Weak role of Government 53](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149833)

[6.2 Prospects for Tourism Development in Khaptad Region 55](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149834)

[**CHAPTER SEVEN** 58](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149835)

[**SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION** 58](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149836)

[7.1 Summary 58](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149837)

[7.2 Conclusion 59](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149838)

[7.3 Recommendation 60](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149839)

ANNEXES

[References](file:///D:\thesis%20b\3874\Siddha%20Raj%20Phulara.doc#_Toc222149840)

LIST OF TABLES

### Table 1: Population and sex ratio

Table 2: Economically active population ten years of age and over by major industry division for Khaptad Region

# Table 3: Population by Religions in Khaptad Region

Table 4: Tourist arrival in KNP 1993 – 2007

Table 5: flow of Indian tourist in Nepal

Table 6: Age structure of hoteliers

Table 7: Education status of hoteliers

Table 8: Hoteliers attitude on available accommodation facility

Table 9: Employment pattern in hotels

Table 10: Expenditure Pattern of the Visitors

Table 11: Hoteliers opinion for the development of Tourism in KNP area

Table 12: Employment generation from the Tourism

Table 13: public Opinion on the Development of Religious Tourism

Table 14: Significance of folk culture to promote religious tourism