**PROSPECTS AND PROBLEMS OF TOURISM IN GULMI WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO TOURISM IN THE RESUNGA REGION**

**A Thesis**

**Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Award of the Degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development**

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**Recommendation**

It is with great pleasure that I recommend the approval of the thesis entitled **"PROSPECTS AND PROBLEMS OF TOURISM IN GULMI WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO TOURISM IN THE RESUNGA REGION"** submitted by Mr. Kunjarmani Gautam under my supervision for the partial fulfillment of the requirements for Master of Arts in Rural Development. Therefore, this thesis is recommended for its evaluation.

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**APPROVAL CERTIFICATE**

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## December, 2008 Kunjarmani Gautam

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***Abstract***

*All the countries of the world including Nepal have accepted tourism industry as a major source of earning foreign currency along with generation of new employment opportunities. It is the fastest growing industry among market and sustainable future of the country. Nature has gifted Nepal with many pristine places which need to be kept as they are and add to their beauty and attritions, so that Nepal might be a dream destination for the world forever.*

*There are so many places of attraction in Nepal which draw global attention. The Himalayas, hills, rivers, lakes, falls, streams, caves and flora and fauna. Resunga is one of the unexplored region in Gulmi district, Lumbini Zone, Western Development Region. It is a land of memorable, historical, cultural and religious heritage overlooking the mighty Himalayan range Dhaulagiri and Annapurna, the natural scenery, the rich flora and fauna, peaceful environment, ethnic simplicity, rich and diverse culture, clean and fresh mountain air are the sources that enchant the world in the Resunga Region.*

*This region has high potential for tourism, particularly it is potential for village tourism, pilgrimage tourisms, research, educational tourism, eco-tourism, adventure tourism etc.*

*Despite its high potentially, currently domestic tourists are the only tourist with the Indian and foreign tourist as an exception. Even local people have not started tourism in real sense but they are looking for initiations and programmes that promote tourism. The local production like coffee, oranges and herbal medicine need to be advertised stressing on their unique quality and health friendly features.*

*The study is based on the interaction with the people of the vicinity. It finds out the necessity of integrated efforts for the exploration, advertisement (publicity, conservation and development of the region). It makes authentic tourist mapping of the potentialities and development of the sites.*

*The data shows that 526704 tourists visited Nepal in 0207 excluding the Indian tourist. Resunga region is close to Indian border and Lumbini, the birth place of Lord Buddha. If infrastructures are developed for Buddhist to attract in the Resunga region it is sure that more than 50% of Lumbini visitors can visit Resunga during summer. Hence, it becomes the center for both Buddhist pilgrims and Hindu pilgrims.*

*Field observation and review of the text on Resunga indicate that it is potential for tourism. It is still in so many problems which need to be eradicated through joint effort.*

*The region is full of resources which needs to be mobilized to make the region a center of attraction with its outstanding natural beauty and diversity that promote tourism*

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## Abbreviations & Acronyms

|  |
| --- |
| CBS = Central Bureau of Statistics |
| CBT = Community Based Tourism  RWC = Resunga Welfare Committee |
| CFUG = Community Forestry Users' Groups |
| DDC = District Development Committee |
| DEO = District Education Office |
| DFO = District Forestry Office |
| GARDEP = Gulmi-Arghakhachi Rural Development Project |
| HAN =Hotel Association of Nepal |
| JV = Joint Venture |
| MOTC = Ministry of Tourism and Culture |
| NBT = Nature Based Tourism |
| NTB = Nepal Tourism Board |
| PP = Public Participation |
| RCC = Resunga Conservation Committee |
| RRRCDB = Ruru Resunga Conservation and Development Board |
| RTDMP =Resunga Tourism Development Master Plan |
| TAAN= Trekking Agents' Association Nepal |
| VDC = Village Development Committee |
| VT=Village Tourism |