

**RURAL TOURISM POTENTIAL IN NEPAL:
A CASE STUDY OF PHEWA LAKE WATERSHED AREA**

**A DISSERTATION
SUMMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND
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THE REQUIREMENT OF THE MASTER'S DEGREE OF
ARTS IN NEPALES HISTORY, CULTURE AND
ARCHAEOLOGY**

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RECOMMENDATION LETTER

I hereby recommend that **Mr. Indra Prasad Timsena** has completed his dissertation entitled "**Rural Tourism Potential in Nepal: A Case Study of Phewa Lake Watershed Area**" for the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Master's Degree of Arts in Nepalese History, Culture and Archaeology. I therefore recommend this dissertation for evaluation.

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APPROVAL LETTER

The dissertation entitled "**Rural Tourism Potential in Nepal: A Case Study of Phewa Lake Watershed Area**" prepared by **Mr. Indra Prasad Timsena** for the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Master's Degree of Arts in Nepalese History, Culture and Archaeology of the faculty of Humanities and Social sciences.

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ABSTRACT

Recreation is human character which brings movement of the individuals then it creates travel. Tourism is essential for the leisure and pleasure motivated by pulling and pushing factors according as human nature of seeking and escaping. Tourism is foremost economy change all over the world, that growing awareness of the direct, indirect effects of tourism one employment value added personal income, government income and so on.

Rural tourism is relatively, new phenomenon, which means tourism development in local setting at the stage of rural belief, values, norms, and religious practices, their daily home practices, family relation, agriculture etc. It makes their own world and a kind of circuit where people round around and create new interest to recreation and leisure in natural environment.

Beautiful country Nepal situated in the lap of Himalayan located in between 26°04' E to 30° 27' E latitude and 80° 08'N to 88° 12' N longitude. It is very rich in natural, cultural historical assets and ethnical and cultural diversity. There are diversity in language and cultural alive, people harmony and unity, people friendly with smiling faces in Nepal.

Nepal has occupied only 0.1 percent land of the mars of the earth which is home of 2 percent of all the flowering plants in the world, 8 percent of the world population of the bird (More than 848 species), 4 percent of mammals, 11 percent of the world families of butterfly (more than 500 species), 600 indigenous plants families and 319 species of exotic orchid.

The study area includes two VDCs, Kaskikot VDC and Sanangkot VDC of Phewa Lake watershed area which lie on Southern part of the Kaski District. Geographically study area is located at 28°14' N to 28°16'

N latitude and 83° 39' E to 83° 58' E longitude, on the north-west part of the Pokhara Sub-metropolitan city. Its elevation ranges from 793m to 1786m Kashap Hill the highest Summit point of the study area. The total area of the study is 42.68km². The average maximum temperature and Minimum temperature of the area is 30°C and 7°C. The average rainfall of this study area is 300mm. The total household and total population of the study area is 2666 and 13152 according to Census Report 2001. There are recorded 21 ethnic caste groups and Literacy Rate is 53.7 percent. The main occupation of this area is agricultural and some are linked with other services. A little bit physical and social infrastructures are built on the study area but they are only in satisfactory condition and among them drinking water condition is in the poor condition. There are twenty-four educational institutions including one higher secondary school. There are some institution, both government institution and non-government which are help and work for the development the study area.

The main aim of this study was to explore the natural, cultural and historical assets of the study area. This study was also focused to introduce the geographical location, to access the socio-cultural status and to assess the tourism impact of the study area too.

Both qualitative and quantative method were employed for this study. This study was based on both the primary data and secondary data. This secondary data were from census reports, journals, books, DEO reports, Village profiles, etc. related to the study area and tourism. Similarly, the primary data were collected from interview with local people, and field observation of the study area. There was taken 80 sample from two VDC. This study is limited to examine rural tourism potential of the study area and to assess impact of tourism on the study area. The main findings of this study are as follows:

1. Nepal is the ultimate tourism destination of the world.

2. Nepal has highly potential rural tourism resources.
3. Study area is historical place which was the habitant of the pre-historic men.
4. Study area has potential for adventure tourism for example rock climbing, mountain bike, and paragliding.
5. Natural attractions, like view of Phewa Lake, Phewa-plant, view of Pokhara valley, view of sun-rise and sun-set are natural beauty of the study area.
6. Mostly, cultural practice and activities of the study area performed according to Hindu cultural practices.
7. In term of infrastructure development tourism has played curial role on the study area.
8. The foreigners have donated for the development of the different sector of the infrastructure development onthe study area.
9. Tourism has brought change into settlement pattern, housing pattern and family structure of the study area.
10. Lack of well management system of the waste material, pollutant, garbage, litter damage the scenic beauty of the study area and has brought stress on the environment.
11. Tourism has helped to preserve and promote the culture in the study area, uplift economy condition of the local people and it has brought awareness to the local people.

Finally this study was recommended that:

1. Master Plan should be prepared for the rural tourism development of study area.

2. The government should be considered decentralizing tourism administration by involving the local community.
3. It should be conserved and preserved from vandalism and theft of items of cultural and natural assets then should be strictly controlled.
4. Advertisement of the study area should be focused.
5. Local people should be provided the knowledge about positive and negative impacts brought by tourism through the training and seminar.
6. Phewa Lake is not only important assets of the study area, but it is important asset of the nation. To keep it alive, Phewa-Lake watershed area should be included as a protected area.
7. Trails, view tower, etc should be constructed at necessary place.
8. Development plan and programs should be directed toward women and disadvantaged groups of the study area

At last to improve of the socio-economic condition of local people, we should remember and act above recommendation as our belief, value and tradition such that study area may comes to be model rural tourism destination.

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Acknowledgement | |
| Glossary | |
| List of Abbreviation | |
| List of Tables | |
| Chapter I: Introduction | 1- 6 |
| 1.1 General Background | 1 |
| 1.2 Statement of the Problem | 3 |
| 1.3 Objective of the Study | 4 |
| 1.4 Rational of the Study | 4 |
| Chapter II: Methodology | 7-15 |
| 2.1 Research Design | 7 |
| 2.2 Selection of the Study Area | 7 |
| 2.3 Nature of Data | 8 |
| 2.3.1 Primary Data Collection | 8 |
| 2.3.1.1 Field Study/Observation | 8 |
| 2.3.1.2 Interview | 8 |
| 2.3.2 Secondary Data Collection | 9 |
| 2.4 Analysis and Interpretation of Data | 9 |
| 2.5 Definition of Term | 10 |
| 2.6 Limitation of the Study | 10 |
| 2.7 Organization of the Study | 10 |
| 2.8 Review of Related literature | 11 |
| Chapter II : Tourism Potential in Nepal | 16- 32 |
| 3.1 Tourism | 16 |
| 3.2 Rural Tourism | 16 |
| 3.3 Tourism Potentiality in Nepal | 22 |
| 3.4 Potential Attraction of Phewa lake watershed area | 27 |
| 3.4.1 Phewa Lake Watershed Area | 27 |
| 3.4.2 Phewa Lake | 28 |

| | | |
|---|---|---------------|
| 3.4.3 | Peace Stupa | 29 |
| 3.4.4 | Phewa-Phat (Wetland) and Harpankhola | 29 |
| 3.4.5 | Panchase | 29 |
| 3.4.6 | Sarangkot | 31 |
| 3.4.7 | Kaskikot | 31 |
| Chapter IV: Brief Introduction Study Area | | 33- 46 |
| 4.1 | Geographical Location of the Study Area | 33 |
| 4.2 | Demographic Situation | 34 |
| 4.2.1 | Population and Household | 34 |
| 4.2.2 | Major Settlements | 35 |
| 4.2.3. | Sex Composition and Sex ratio of the Study Area | 35 |
| 4.2.4 | Population Growth | 36 |
| 4.3 | Social Aspect of Study Area | 37 |
| 4.3.1 | Caste and Ethnic Composition | 38 |
| 4.3.2 | Religious Composition | 39 |
| 4.3.3 | Literacy Status | 39 |
| 4.3.4 | Economic Aspect | 40 |
| 4.4 | Physical and Social Infrastructure | 41 |
| 4.4.1. | Health Facilities | 41 |
| 4.4.2. | Electricity/Communication | 42 |
| 4.4.3. | Drinking Water & Irrigation Facilities | 42 |
| 4.4.4 | Accessibility | 43 |
| 4.4.5 | Educational Institutions | 44 |
| 4.4.6 | Existing Institutions for the Development of the Study Area | 45 |
| Chapter V: Analysis and Presentation of Data | | 47-72 |
| 5.1 | Tourism Potential in Nepal | 47 |
| 5.2 | Structure of the Respondents | 50 |
| 5.2.1 | Age Group | 50 |
| 5.2.2 | Gender Structure | 50 |
| 5.2.3 | Ethnic/Caste Group | 51 |
| 5.2.4 | Occupation of Respondents. | 51 |
| 5.2.5 | Economic Status | 52 |

| | | |
|-------|---|----|
| 5.2.6 | Size of the Family | 52 |
| 5.3 | Major Sources of tourist Attraction | 53 |
| 5.4 | Study Area as a Tourist Site | 53 |
| 5.4.1 | Beginning of Tourist Movement | 53 |
| 5.4.2 | Places or sites for Tourism | 54 |
| 5.5. | Use of Energy | 55 |
| 5.6 | Land Holding | 56 |
| 5.7 | Livestock Population of the respondents | 57 |
| 5.8 | Tourism Attraction of the Study Area | 57 |
| 5.8.1 | Historical Significance of the Study Area | 58 |
| 5.8.2 | Cultural Significance of the Study Area | 59 |
| 5.8.3 | Flora and Fauna of the Study Area | 62 |
| 5.9 | Analysis of the study area according to Appendix-3 | 64 |
| 5.10 | Impact of Tourism in Study Area | 65 |
| 5.11 | Other Impacts | 69 |
| 5.12 | Approach to rural tourism development on the study area | 70 |

**Chapter VI: Summary Conclusion, Finding and Recommendation
of the Study**

| | | |
|-----|-----------------|---------------|
| | | 73- 83 |
| 6.1 | Summary | 73 |
| 6.2 | Findings | 76 |
| 6.3 | Conclusion | 79 |
| 6.4 | Recommendations | 80 |

| | |
|------------|----|
| REFERENCES | 84 |
| APPENDIX I | 87 |
| APPENDIX 2 | 91 |
| APPENDIX 3 | 94 |
| APPENDIX 4 | 95 |
| APPENDIX 5 | 98 |

List of Tables

| Table | Page |
|--|-------------|
| 4.1 Population and household Ratio-2001 | 34 |
| 4.2 Prominent settlement of the study area | 35 |
| 4.3 Study area sex composition and sex ratio of the VDCs | 36 |
| 4.4 Population growth of the study area | 37 |
| 4.5 Population growth 1991 to 2001 | 37 |
| 4.6 Ethnic / caste composition-2001 | 38 |
| 4.7 Religion composition of population 2001 | 39 |
| 4.8 Literacy population status 2001 | 40 |
| 4.9 Livelihoods of the household having | 41 |
| 4.10 Schools and students of Study Area | 44 |
| 5.1 Respondents Classification according to Age group | 50 |
| 5.2 Respondents Classification according to Sex | 50 |
| 5.3 Ethnic/Caste composition of Respondents | 51 |
| 5.4 Occupational Distribution of Respondent | 51 |
| 5.5 Annual income of the Respondents | 52 |
| 5.6 The Respondents Distribution as size of Family | 52 |
| 5.7 Source of Tourist Attraction | 53 |
| 5.8 Respondent's knowledge on the History of Tourist Movement in Study Area | 54 |
| 5.9 The use of forest Distribution of Respondents | 55 |
| 5.10 The Use of Energy of the Respondents | 56 |
| 5.11 The Respondent Distribution use of Firewood | 56 |
| 5.12 Respondents Landholding | 57 |
| 5.13 Livestock population of the Respondents | 57 |

List of Abbreviation

| | | |
|--------|---|---|
| SMD | : | Sustainable Mountain Development |
| EIA | : | Environment Impact Assessment |
| FNNP | : | Federation of Nature and National Parks |
| MRD | : | Mountain Research and Development |
| MOCTCA | : | Ministry of Culture Tourism and Civil Aviation |
| CBS | : | Central Bureau of Statistics |
| NTB | : | Nepal Tourism Board |
| VDC | : | Village Development Committee |
| DDC | : | District Development Committee |
| DEO | : | District Education Office |
| IUCN | : | International Union for Conservation of Nature |
| WWF | : | World Wildlife Fund |
| UNDP | : | United Nations Development Programme |
| T.U. | : | Tribhuvan University |
| NeHCA | : | Nepalese History Culture and Archaeology |
| TGDB | : | Tara Gaon Development Board |
| PTMP | : | Panchase Tourism Master Plan |
| MDO | : | Machhapuchre Development Organization |
| NGO | : | Non-Governmental Organization |
| INGO | : | International Non-Governmental Organization |
| CF | : | Community Forest |
| CBO | : | Community Based Organization |
| CA | : | Conservation Area |
| NPC | : | National Planning Commission |
| ICIMOD | : | International Centre for Integrated Mountaineering Development |
| WTO | : | World Tourism Organization |
| UNEP | : | United Nations Environment Programme |
| WDR | : | Western Development Region |
| DFO | : | District Forest Office |
| GON | : | Government of Nepal |
| TGDB | : | Tara Gaon Development Board |
| MOF | : | Ministry of Finance |

GLOSSARY

- Bibaha : The marriage ceremony.
- Barahi : Name of deity in the temple in the middle of Phewa Lake named after Hindu God Bahara, the third incarnation of Vishnu.
- Batulo-Chaur: Round, one of the well known village of Pokhara.
- Chautari : Platform along road and trails.
- Chaur : Meadow.
- Chhang : Home made rice beer.
- Dal Bhat : Most common food eaten by Nepalese hills.
- Dhoka : Gate
- Dhindo : Porridge, like food eaten by many Nepalese, traditional meal of barley and mill ate
- Doko : Conical shaped basket used to carry load in Nepalese village, in their back using a handle rope.
- Gaine : Traditionally professional singers living in hills around Kaski.
- Pode : Traditionally professional minstrels living near lake and river and catch fish.
- Gurung : Ethnic group living in hills around Kaski.
- Ghale : Ethnic group closer to Gurung.
- Sarangi : Nepali musical instrument.
- Magar : Ethnic group living in hills of Nepal traditionally.
- Raksi : Distilled Nepali liquor.
- Tapari : Leaf plate.
- Duna : Small Tapari.
- Teej : Women singing dancing and fasting day also devoted to Lord Shiva and their own husbands' good health.
- Shiva : A major God of the Hindu.

| | | |
|------------|---|--|
| Shakti | : | Goddess of power (Durga, Kali etc.) |
| Sanyasi | : | A caste of Hindu. |
| Nach | : | Dance, of different patterns to observe different occasions |
| Mandir | : | Temple |
| Damais | : | Occupational caste traditionally they playing Panche Baja and Sewing clothes. |
| Navaratri | : | Nine nights, a festival in honors of the Goddess Durga beforehand Dashain, main Hindu festival. |
| Jamara | : | Yellow plant of corn barley wheat etc, which is grown at dark room for Dashain festival used with Tika. |
| Chaitra | : | A month of Hindu on March-April. |
| Bhajan | : | The cultural song related God of Hindu. |
| Ganesh | : | The God of prosperity and learning. |
| Rishi | : | A Sage |
| Gobar | : | Animal dung, especially of cow-dung for rituals. |
| Tulsi | : | Small basil plant considered as scared and worshipped by the Hindu planted in front of every home. |
| Homa | : | Offering obligation to God by throwing ghee, barley etc. on scared fire. |
| Janti | : | The invited man/women to visit girl's house at boy's marriage ceremony, organizers of the marriage work. |
| Kali | : | The Goddess of power. |
| Pitri | : | Dead ancestors. |
| Prasad | : | Blessing the remains of food offered idols. |
| Murti | : | Idols, Statue of God. |
| Pujari | : | Assistant to the scared specialists. |
| Panchami | : | Fifth day of every fortnight. |
| Peepal/Bar | : | Name of tree universally considered as scared. |
| Purnima | : | The full-moon day. |

| | | |
|--------------|---|---|
| Upanayan | : | The sacred thread ceremony making a male ritual. |
| Veda | : | Name of the religious text, primary document of Hindu Religion. |
| Vishnu | : | One of the three major deities of the Hindu usually noted as protection and conservation of the universe. |
| Panche Baja: | | Collective name of five musical instruments which is popular in Nepalese festival and ceremony. |
| Narsinga | : | Long curved pipe of copper |
| Damaha | : | Big drum played by a stick. |
| Sani | : | Musical instrument similar to flute in structure played with mouth and fingers. |
| Tempu | : | Small Drum played by two sticks. |
| Jhali | : | Two metal plates, played by striking one another. |
| Khainjadi | : | A small rounded shaped wooden ring covered by leather. |
| Mujura | : | Small bell like Jhali. |
| Ratauli | : | Women Singing and dancing on marriage ceremony of son presenting different symbolic meanings. |
| Srawan | : | A month of Hindu calendar (July - August) |
| Phant/Khet | : | Wetland planted the grains including rice. |
| Bari | : | Terrace/Grassland |
| Push | : | A month of Hindu calendar (December - January) |
| Pokhari | : | Pond |
| Durga | : | Goddess (Shakti or Kali) |
| Danda | : | Hills |
| Gaon | : | Village |