

CHAPTER-I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Background

Nepal is a landlocked mountainous Himalayan Kingdom located between the people's Republic of China along the northern border and India to the south, east and west. It has a total area of 147,181 sq km. Nepal is extended from east to west with a length of 885 km and with a width of 145 km from north to south. It comprises of three parallel ecological regions– the high mountain or Himalayan, middle hill belt and the southern plains the Terai. Each region respectively represents 35, 42 and 23 percent of total land. Nepal is a multi-ethnic multi-cultural, multi-religious and multi-lingual nation. Pluralism and Diversity are its unique and notable features. Nepal has more than 61 ethnic groups and 70 spoken languages. A prominent factor in a Nepali's everyday life is religion. The natives of Nepal still follow age-old customs of Hindu and Buddhist religious practices. It is said that Nepal has more number of festivals than the days in a year. Besides the above, Nepal is one of the richest countries in the world in terms of natural and cultural heritages. The country is known as one of the richest countries in bio-diversity of different species of flora and fauna.

Nepal one of the most unique exotic and remote destinations in the tourism map of the world is unquestionably a country deemed with countless natural wonders and exhilarating tourism products. The treasury of its product potentiality is endless. Its not only the highest peak Mt. Everest and the deepest gorge Kali Gandaki but there are other

innumerable natural cultural and never-to-be found elsewhere features in this land. Once visited, one is tempted to visit Nepal again. This is a country of old historic monuments and heritage sites. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say tourism potentiality of Nepal, if harnessed properly and with a little seriousness on the part of the planners and policy makers. It would prove itself like the hen we read about in fairy tales that used to lay golden eggs.

Nepal is a hotplate for such type of tourism that can offer the visitors an opportunity to experience the closeness of nature and traditional culture with unique life style of the local people. Besides all of that, it can be important source of foreign exchange earning industry creating employment opportunities and generating economic growth of the country. Nepal's economy is generating US\$ 170 million annually and attracting just under half a million foreign visitors -463,-646 in 2000 (MOCTCA 2001). Tourism providing direct and indirect employment to over 300,000 people is Nepal's major earner of foreign exchange and represents 15% of total export earning (Nepal Tourism Board, 2001). In this scenario, there is no doubt that expansion of tourism to villages will contribute more to the economic development for the country like Nepal.

Rural tourism product is anything that can be offered to a tourist for attraction, acquisition or consumption. Nepal's unique geographical setting and outstanding natural beauty has created an exceptional tourist attraction.

Present need of tourism is sustainable rural tourism. The term sustainable in tourism implies that the natural, cultural and other resources of tourism are conserved for continuous use in the future, while still bringing benefits to the present society.

Rural Tourism means located in rural areas, functionally rural built upon the rural world's special features of small scale enterprise, open space, contact with nature and the nature world, heritage, traditional societies and traditional practices, rural in scale both in terms of buildings level settlements and usually small scale, traditional in character, growing slowly and organically, and connected with local families.

Rural tourism as a phenomenon is concerned with river, sun, environment, rural society and household. It represents conservation, life style, experience, adventure and above all the nature and adventure oriented benefit to the local people. The objectives of rural tourism include helping tourists to plan a trip, choose a tour and minimize ecological impact. Rural tourism is a planned and balanced industry. Its dimension is very broad. Benefits are shared by all in equitable distribution pattern. Those who live in tourism regions are considered as participants in tourism activities. Rural tourism in which the villagers are not left as creatures but always graded as superior beings of their own circumstances. Above all rural tourism must address innovative transfer of technology, economic development, and the socio-cultural environment. Rural tourism is the best tourism in all type of tourism.

Nepal has long experience in sustainable tourism particularly eco-tourism. So it desires to develop this as a vehicle for supplementing other similar programmes in poverty alleviation of the country.

Rural tourism, being the key strategy for economic growth leads rural economy by generating income, employment and industry. No doubt village tourism, in fact, is a powerful weapon to poverty alleviation as well as unemployment problem. If appropriate and relevant policies and measures are adopted with adequate resources exploitation and profound researches, rural tourism could be a miracle to enhance the economic condition of the poor and underprivileged locals.

Nepal is predominantly rural country in nature. Eighty five percent of the total population reside in rural areas of Nepal. Thus, more focus need to be given towards rural Development.

Without rural development, national development process is unlikely to take place.

Tourism is potential economic sector for rural development. The rural parts of Nepal with rich cultural and national heritages have tremendous possibility for developing tourism (TRPAP, 2002).

Tourism as we know is phenomenon of the modern times. From a simple travel of yesteryears this phenomenon today has become a very complex activity encompassing a wide range of relationships. Simply defined, tourism can be considered to be movement of people away from their normal place of residence.

In promoting the tourism of a particular place, such study needs to be carried out to explore the potential areas of that place.

Hence, for the development of rural places, potentiality of the tourism is needed to be studied to turn into sustainable rural tourism which becomes vital force for all round economic development.

1.2 Introduction of the study Area

Birendrangar, Surkhet, the regional headquarter of mid-western region is located at the attitude of 665m. from sea level and is surrounded by Banke, Bardia, Dailekh, Jajarkot, Salyan, Achham and Kailali districts. It is 600 km. far to the north west from the capital city Kathmandu. The total area of Surkhet is 2451 sq.km, and the total population of the district is 269870 (CBS, 2058) out of this 133941 are male and 135929 are female and the total households are 50691 (CBS, 2058). The district has 50 VDCS and 1 municipality.

The district is also inhabited by mixed casts people like Brahman, Chethri, Magar, Gurung, Tharu, Newar and Raji. Different tradition and cultures of different ethnic people are its unique features. Casual appearance and temporary settlement of Raute (The nomadic tribe) in Surkhet is another feature of Surkhet district.

Besides, different feast and festivals such as Dashain, Tihar, Janai Jani purnima, Maha Shivaratri parva, Gai jatra, Lakhe jatra and Lohsar parva are also celebrated in Surkhet which are other cultural features of Surkhet district. Surkhet being rich with the blessing of nature and culture has huge potentiality of Sustainable rural tourism.

Apart from above, Surkhet district is not only regional headquarter of mid western region but also and lies at the Gateway centre of entire Karnali region.

Karnali region, the most backward region of the country has also huge potentiality of rural tourism. This region is rich both in nature and culture. In Karnali there are 5 districts: Humla, Jumla, Muga, Kalikot and Dolpa.

Humla has potentiality of rural tourism. Since being this district rich in natural and cultural resources. It is also the gateway to 'Mansarover' the famous Hindu pilgrimage which is in Tibet the autonomous region of China.

Jumla is another district of Karnali region with natural scenes and sceneries, the famous temple chandan Nath, Origin place of Nepali language which is spoken today and the place where first Asain rice was grown. This is the place of ancient civilization.

Mugu where lies the biggest and famous lake of Nepal Rara Lake and Rara National Park.

Dolpa has huge potentiality to attract number of visitors because of its richness in nature and culture. The beautiful sceneries, panoramic view of the landscape, the deepest lake of Nepal Phoksundo lake and park. Ancient Bon religion of Tibeton, only one place of pure Tibetan cultural in the world are major attractions and unique features of Dolpa.

Hence, Surkhet can be benefited from the rural tourism of Karnali Region because of being Gateway to that region. The visitors

visiting Karnali Region may stay for few days in Surkhet and they can support to make rural tourism of Surkhet sustainable. In such a way rural tourism of surkhet can highly be promoted and become sustainable.

1.2.1 Major Attractive Places of Surkhet

1.2.2 Kankrebihar

wondering/wallowing within and around Kankrebihar

-) Jungle walk/hike
-) Bird watching
-) Glimpse of ruins of ancient monastery
-) Study of ancient architecture/history
-) study of biodiversity
-) Catching eyes on Samber deer and Several other animal while hiking around
-) Mind shoothing panorama of reach paddy fields
-) Eye sight to Tharu village and familiarize with ethnic, Tharu culture and tradition.
-) Tharu museum, glance to indigenous Tharu culture.
-) Great sight of Green plane valley from the top of Kankrebihar hillock.

1.2.2.1 Introduction

Kankrebihar, a unique landscape with archaeological cultural and ecological value, derives its name from Kankre (meaning seed of cumber) due to its shape, it stands tall amidst the flat rounded Surkhet valley. The elevation ranges from 624 to 724 metres from sea level. The artefacts of so believed Buddhist monastery lies at the pinnacles of this tiny hill surround by sal and pine forest. It is located in Latikoili VDC of Surkhet district, 4 km southeast from Birendranagar Municipality and covers 167.16 hectares of land.

1.2.2.2 Within Kankrebihar

The ruins of sacred and cultural monuments presumed to be Buddhist Monastery of reveal silent features of Kankrebihar. The artefacts consists of beautifully carved stone images and large sculpture disclosing ancient art and craft. After a short walk of 15 minutes from main entrance, we can catch the sight of the ruins of exquisite Manastery.

1.2.2.3 Historical Background

The historic saga of Kankrebihar is still mystery. The artefacts excavated reveal the silent history of ancient times. The beautiful ruins only show its existence and lot of prediction with no conclusions.

According to Ghimire, Kankrebihar was built in between 1264 and 1375 B.S. by one of the descendent of Renowned khas king of 12/13 the century.

The excavation of Kankrebihar led by National Department of Archaeology with the co-ordination of local people, NGO and VDC in

2057 reveal that it was "shkhar style" temple which resembles the stone temple in Kumau/Gadhwal of India.

After the excavation in 2057, 2026 exquisite pieces of beautifully carved stone images of Hindu and Buddhist Gods and Goddesses, monkey, lion, elephant chandra, Surya, chakra have been found. Some icons found in Kankrebihar have lost facial parts while others lack appendages. Most historians blame Gayasuddin Tuglok, the Bangli Envader for demolishing the monuments and images of artefacts.

Kankrebihar is not only archaeological ruins but is also a rich biodiversity resources existing within a small landscape is another best appeal of Kankrebihar.

Kankrebihar forest is dominated by wide varieties of plants (250) and bird (150) species.

Apart from above the wild animals like shamber deer, deer, jackal, rabbit and varieties of reptiles can be spotted in Kankrebihar. Encountering deer during strolling around dusk and dawn is regular phenomenon. Similarly it also harbours wide varieties of birds nearly 150 birds. Bird watching in Kankrebihar is one of the wonders for the nature lovers.

1.2.2.4 Other sites around Kankrebihar

Tharu village

Down below and around the splendour Kankrebihar hillock, the Tharu settlement cover the area making the pleasant landscape.

Rambling through the village can be a great passion for the village aficionado.

Ehnic Tharu culture/custom

Local Tharu Communities are highly concerned about their culture/customs and feel the need to conserve the threatened culture.

Tharu female weave a unique peculiar clothing. Their whole day to day activities are guided by their culture/custom.

Guruwa (Local Traditional Tharu Healer)

One of the oldest member of community with indigenous knowledge on medicinal plants (Traditional Healer). He inherited the traditional healing practice from his fore father.

Tharu Museum

Established solely by community based organisations. A depiction to community and adoration for culture conservation. A visit to the museum at Kalimati just a minute walk from Kankrebihar entrance gate will give a ethnic glance to Tharu culture.

Latikoili Shiva Temple

Just after 2 minutes walk to the west side from Kankrebihar main entrance gate we can arrive at Latikoili Shiva Temple which has been built in artistic 'gumbaj style' by Atmanath the desciple of king pratap shahi and man Shahi during 1582 which can be known from the stone plate kept above the main door of the temple. This temple is of unique feature built with stone like sliced bread occupies 10sq m. and has height of 4.5 m. The temple has half moon shaped "gumbaj and gajur"

at the top. Inside the temple there are statues of Shiva Lingi, Parvati and Ganesh. This is only one art built in 'gumbaj style' in west Nepal. The visitors in large number visit this temple especially during shivaratri festival.

1.2.2.5 Ongoing Management Practice of Kankrebihar

The management of Kankrebihar is dual. the archaeological site is under the management of Archaeological Department and other forest area is under the forest division office Surkhet. Due to the dual management, the development of Kankrebihar area seems to be ineffective. Proper management and preservation of cultural heritage is lacking in and around Kankrebihar. Neither the central government nor concerned agencies are showing proper attention and interest for the development of this Kankrebihar which has huge potentiality for the promotion of rural Tourism in Surkhet. If proper attention and interest is given from all sectors, it is believed to be second Lumbini of Nepal. This place can be developed as cultural tourism. Sustainable Development Facility (SDF), a local NGO funded by UNDP with the coordination of DDC Surkhet and other agencies has been implimenting Kankrebihar Biodiversity and culture conservation project and taking initiation to develop Kankrebihar and its neighbouring area as an eco-tourism site.

1.2.2.6 Settlement Pattern

Most of the people inhabiting around Kankrebihar are Newar, Tharu and Muslim. Total population of the people around Kankrebihar is 3239.

1.2.3 Deuti Bajai Temple

The famous temple of Deuti Bajai is located at ward no 2 (Pipira village) of Latikoili VDC of Surkhet. The visitors can reach Deuti Bajai temple after 2-3 minutes vehicle ride from Birendranagar Bazar. It is nearly 2.5 Km from Birendranagar Bazar. Local vehicles are regular to Deuti Bajai temple from Birendranagar Bazar.

There are different sayings of Deuti Bajai. A Virjin lady found in the fishing net of Raji at Bheri river, a Brahman Virgin lady, the spirit of an old Brahmin lady got suicide in the accusation of witch, a Devi established by Rajis (The ethnic tribe) is the name of Deuti Bajai. The spirit of the lady is being worshiped since the time of 'baise choubise state'. She is regarded as the symbol of belief of local people. The people give the name "Surkhet KI Deuti Bajai" (goddess of Surkhet). The temple has been famous in and around Surkhet district. The Domestic visitors visiting Surkhet once use to go at Deuti Bajai temple to worship. Especially domestic visitors visit this temple. During New year and Dashain festival the visitors are found in large number. Deuti Bajai temple area covers total area of 0-2-5 bigha of land with beautiful garden. It was old styled temple with one roof before 2058. Now, this temple has been reconstructed with two roofs at the cost of rupees 35,00000 with artistic style. The artistes of Patan and Bhaktapur have decorated this temple. The art and material of Bhaktapur and Lalitpur can be observed in this temple. It has 3 artistic door and 4 eye window.

There are other small temples of Shiva and Ganesh around the temple. A sacrificing house has also been built where goats are sacrificed near by the temple. The main feature of the Deuti Bajai

temple is that the Raji (ethnic tribe) has only rights to be priest. Another feature of this temple is that female Raji women can also be priestess.

To the south side of the temple is a pepal tree where we can find the weapons of Gorkhali soldiers. It is said that the Gorkhali soldiers who had defeated Tibet had rested their weapons at Deuti Bajai temple.

So, Deuti Bajai, temple has potentiality to be pilgrimage tourism if more attention and interest is given from all sides.

1.2.3.1 Ongoing Management Practice of Deuti Bajai Temple

For the development and management a committee has been formed under the chairmanship of VDC head person. That committee maintains rules and regulation for the maintenances and development of temple. Though the temple has management committee, it is not functioning in proper way. The income that the temple earns from visitor has not rightly been utilized for the development of the temple. The temple earns approximately 100000 per year but it is equally devided between priest and the committee. There are 2 priests and 2 employees of the temple.

1.2.3.2 Settlement Pattern

Surounding of Deuti Bajai temple we find the different castes and tribes of people inhabiting. There are Brahman, Chetri, Tharu and Mushim people. The total population inhabited around the temple is 1141.

1.2.4 Bulbule Tal and Park

Bulbule Located at ward no.9 of Ltikoili VDC of Surkhet (named after its water bubbling character) is nothing but water spring that has been very famous for picnic cum bathing/washing spot.

Visitors can enjoy the bath in the warm spring, relax in green natural floor, go for a picnic, and enjoy bathing. Bulbule is 15 minutes walk from Birendaranagar Bazar. It has covered 31-11-8.8 bighas of land.

Bulbule has 10 tapes. 5 for male, and 5 for female which are consistently flowing. There is another pond which is used for boating for the visitors. the floral garden is another attraction of Bulbule. Different species of flora and fauna can be watched inside the park. The park has beautifully planned garden which can be wonders for the nature lovers. Chautaras have also been built within the park where visitors can get relaxed. A rich paddy field can also be eye sighted around the park. Bulbule was for the first developed in 2023 B.S with only 4 bighas of land and now has been extended to 31-11-8.8 bighas, of land. The domestic as well as international visitors use to visit this park. Especially agro-forest students are highly attracted to visit this park. the best visiting time in this park is oct-march.

1.2.4.1 Ongoing Management Practice of Bulbule Park

From the beginning of 2033, Bulbule was under direct government control. The government use to allocate budget for its development. In 2050 B.S., it became fully autonomous. From 2057 it

was given in contract for five years for the management and development. From 2063 chaitra it came under Department of urban Development and Building Construction Division office Surkhet. In this way Bulbule park is facing various fluctuations in its management and Development. Till 2062 approximately 1 (one) crore of rupees have been spent for its planning and development. No any amount has been allocated by local organization for its development. Hence, if serious attention is given and effective policies are formulated it can be one of the highly attractive places for the visitors in Surkhet.

1.2.4.2 Settlement Pattern

Around Bulbule different castes of people are settling. Brahman, Chhetri, Muslim and Tharu are major inhabitants around Bulbule park. The total no of population inhabited around Bulbule is 4290.

1.2.5 Mangal Gadhi

Mangal Gadhi is located at ward no 8 of Latikoili VDC of Surkhet district not far than 200 metre from Birendranagar Bazar under the army protected area.

A Mangal Gadhi is believed to have been built during 22/24. Principalities by Dhulikote King (according to archaeological department). it is also believed to be fort of that period. Inside mangal Godhi. There is slightly elevated land surrounded by water. Which is believed to be the fort of that period. Inside it there is a stone carved statue of half sized women. The statue of half sized women can be compared with the maya Devi statue of Lumbini.

A Part from above, there we find different species of flora and fauna which can be wonder for the visitors. Though this place has historical and cultural importance, it has been strictly prohibited for the visitors. If this Mangal Gadhi fort is opened, it has potentiality to attract visitors in more number and local people can also be benefited from it.

1.2.5.1 Ongoing Management Practice of Mangal Gadhi

Being inside the army protected area its management has been made by army. No any concerned agency and local bodies have shown initiation and interest for the management and development of this place.

1.2.5.2 Settlement Pattern

Different castes of people like Brahaman, chethri, khampa and Dalits have been found settled arund Gadhi fort. The total population inhabited by the people around mangal Gadhi fort in 4631.

1.3 Statement of the problem

Tourism is a leading sector of economic development and an important source of foreign exchange, which contributes to generate employment and government revenue. Tourism industry plays a significant role in generating additional employment opportunity. For long run development of tourism new area should be opened for tourists with maximum facilities and entire securities. The flow of tourists may also have negative impact upon the local people. It needs to be properly planned and managed.

Surkhet is regional headquarter of mid-western region. It has many natural as well as cultural attractions. Eventhough the place has natural as well as cultural attractions, the development of those attractive areas has been shaded over or neglected. Kakrebihar, historical temple, Gadhi fort have not been preserved properly. The government and concerned agencies need to show interest and initiate to fulfill the requirements in order to promote sustainable rural tourism in Surkhet.

1.4 Significance of the study

Nepal being a less developed country depends on agricultural economy. In the export trade of Nepal, primary and raw goods production from agricultural sector plays dominant role. But it is necessary to import machinery, fertilizer, luxurious goods and goods for everyday needs from other countries. In such situation, Nepal always has to face deficit problems on its trade and balance of payment.

In this situation tourism is accepted as the most important industry of Nepal. Unfortunately key facilities like transportation, communication, accommodation, recreation, securities and other facilities are not properly developed in new and potential tourist destinations. As a result, on one hand the situation of the tourist stay in the country has been the same since the beginning and on the other hand the inhabitants of different places are not benefited from this sector. In order to increase the length of the tourist-stay and diversify its flow into different parts of the country, it is necessary to identify and develop new potential tourist destinations.

Surkhet is one of the potential tourist destinations located at the Gateway center of Karnali region. In spite of its huge potentiality, the

flow of tourists in and around Surkhet is very limited. In this context present study will be helpful in several ways. Some of them are mentioned here as follows:

-) The findings of the study will be helpful to the government organizations, NGOs, private sector and civil societies directly concerned or working to promote tourism in Nepal and particular to Surkhet district.
-) The findings of the study will be helpful to the policy makers to make appropriate policies, strategies regarding promotion of tourism in Nepal in general and Surkhet in particular.

1.5 Objectives of the study

The overall objective of the study is to analyse the potentiality of sustainable rural tourism in Surkhet. While the specific objectives are as follows:

-) To highlight the potentiality of touristic destinations in Surkhet
-) To investigate the flow of tourists in Surkhet
-) To identify the problem of tourism in Surkhet
-) To analyse socio-economic impact of tourism in Surkhet
-) To study the future prospects of tourism development in Surkhet and to recommend policies to develop it.

1.6 Limitation of the study

The study is general study of sustainable rural tourism confined within Surkhet. The study covers major attractive places named

Kankrebihar, the famous temple of Deuti Bajai, Bulble Tal, other some temples and tourist destinations.

1.7 Organization of the Study

This chapter is divided in six chapters, which are as follows:-

Chapter I: The chapter introduction includes the major attractive places, statement of the problem, significance of the study objectives, limitation and organization of the study.

Chapter II: The Chapter Literature Review, focuses on national as well as international perspectives of tourism.

Chapter III: Research Methodology parts shows the methods of collecting data and process of data analysis.

Chapter IV: This chapter includes other attractive sites and future prospects of tourism including man made and nature gifted assets for the future prospects of tourism.

Chapter V: This chapter contains the information on available facilities and infrastructure development for the development of tourism, socio-economic impact of tourism and problems of tourism.

Chapter VI: Presentation and analysis of the data are included in this chapter. This chapter presents the overall findings of the study in the form of figure, tables and graphs.

Chapter VII: This chapter presents the summary conclusion of the study and recommendations and also recommended some points for further research.

CHAPTER-II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In course of Preparation of this study, numerous books, booklets, articles, bulletins and research documents were most favourite. Out of these materials I like very much the book entitled "Nepal, The Kingdom of Himalaya" by Dr Toni Hagen the geologist from Switzerland born; 17 August 1917, Lucerne, Switzerland. B.P. Koirala wrote foreword to the first edition 'Hegen will assuredly be a good eye opener not only to our foreign, but to our less traveled compatriots too. Hagen has traveled widely all over Nepal. He is a gifted observer and patient analyst. Hagen, a true friend of Nepal, is the only foreigner who has seen so much of it.'

Hagen said that when the door of tourist open in Nepal from that period increasing number of tourists have borne witness to Nepal's extremely varied attraction and also contributed to growing hard currency income for the country (Hagen 1998: 227")

According to Hagen cultural heritage, natural build up scence and diversity are important for underdeveloped country because now the concept of globalization need to huge invest to compete with international market. For example and expedition team is being charged US\$ 70,000 to climb the Mount Everest. (Hagen 1998:227)

According to Richter, tourism is not always an unmixed blessing. Tourism policies frequently fail, especially in developing nations it terms of contributing to genuine development of the country. (Richter: 1989,18)

Nepal has the cultural and religious heritage as it has the combination of elements to attract the attention of visitors and provoke a visit by them. This combination represents the supply of Nepal tourist market. Nepal is not only a geological mosaic but also a human mosaic. (Yajna Raj, 2000,65)

International tourists want a change visiting any destination, quite different from their own home country. So, it is the traditional architecture, arts, ideas and products that the foreign tourist are searching for. So tourism industry has become a positive factor in the protection and preservation of indigenous culture. (Yajna Raj, 2000,121)

There was no plan and policy regarding tourism in Nepal till 1950 AD. For the first time, written study on tourism of Nepal was made on the late 1950s. in Nepal "general plan for organization of tourism in Nepal" prepared by French national George Lebrec in 1959 AD was the first tourism plan. In this plan Lebrec had recommended to make brochures, poster postage stamps depicting the Himalayan peaks and flora and fauna and to the use of films and documentaries prepared by the mountaineering expedition for promoting in Nepal and establishment of separate Nepal tourism office. Later, George Lebrec visited Nepal in 1964AD and 1966AD and prepared two reports on tourism entitled "Report on development of tourism" and "Report on Tourism in Nepal" respectively, in these reports Lebrec recommended that tourism in Nepal had started growing at faster place (shrestha, 1998, 38)

Tenth plan's objective of the cultural tourism in conservation and preservation of historical, cultural, religious and archaeological heritages and enhancing their practical utilization. And strategy is to encourage involvement of non government sectors, in management, preservation and utilization of cultural, religious, archaeological and natural heritage in accordance to decentralization policy. Study, conservation and preservation of literature, art, and culture will be done. (Tenth Plan, 228-229)

Tourism is a phenomenon established in this country ever since the dawn of human civilization. No records are available to explain how it went on during the course of past centuries except of few inscription that tell as about the historic visits of some monks from the friendly countries of north and south. Nevertheless, when we talk about the modern tourism, we refer to the early fifties of the last century when Nepal was officially made open of their foreign visitors. This was one of the achievements of the political changes that had taken place bringing and end to the autocratic regime of the Ranas.

Tourism in Nepal found a good soil to grow and it laid its strong foundations during the later twenty five years. The process was so spontaneous and invisible. Everything went on in an unplanned manner and without any heed of the government yet the economy began to be generated evermore vigorously with the increasing number of foreign tourists coming into the country seeking either peace or some adventures pastime of their choice. They explored Shangrila here by being on the laps of the screen and Majestic Mountains, in the open air of the calm hills in the open fields of Terai and under the roofs of

centuries old temples and monasteries. Though after the unification of Nepal at the end of the 18th century of Prithivi Narayan Shah few westerners dared to venture into this country as the route demanded then to walk through the malarial jungles of the southern Terai. However it was 1816 that western world got to hear about the existence of Nepal although the information was limited to Kathmandu valley.

Although Nepal followed an open door policy after the advent of democracy in 1951. It was the conquest of Mt. Everest on the may 1951 by the late Mrs. Tenzing and Mr. Edmund Hillary that focused the words attraction in Nepal subsequently a tourism. Industry began to develop of Nepal. Nepal was further expanding the diplomatic relations with the other world organization such as UNESCO, WHO, FAO etc. After getting the membership of the UNO in 1955, Nepal gradually becomes known to the outside world.

Modern-day tourism in Nepal started only from 1972 after the first ten-year tourism master plan was introduced which provided a clear direction on policy reforms and tourism development in Nepal. This master plan was amended for a period to two year in 1984 underlying tourism promotion and organizational issues as prime subjects. Tourism Act in 1978 broadly guides the tourism sector. This act clearly lays down the various codes of conducts for operating the tourism business in Nepal. To streamline the development of tourism whilst keeping with the globally changing scenario of tourism under more liberalized economy Tourism Policy-1995 was promulgated. This policy specially focuses on more aggressive role of the private sector and local stakeholders and recognizes the importance of community

based village tourism. The establishment of Nepal Tourism Board and Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal in 1999 by then Government of Nepal has been taken in commensurate with policy measures envisioned for the overall development of tourism in Nepal.

The department of Tourism was established in 1966 under the tourism development Act 1964. Even though tourism administration machinery had existed since 1956 and also established tourist development board in 1957 and a tourist information center was established in 1959. Nepal further succeeded to get the membership of different international tourism development institutions such as international Union of Official Travel Organization (IUOTO), Pacific Asian Travel Association (PATA) and the American Society to Travel Agents (ASTA). At first the national flag carrier Royal Nepal Airline Corporation (RNAC) came into being 1958. A few good hotels were built in the late 1960s.

Systematic tourism in Nepal started from 1966 with the establishment of a few hotels. The industry was further strengthened and established after the formation of tourism master plan in 1972, which gave emphasis to tourism market development sighting, trekking, eco-tourism and recreational and adventure tourism.

Village Tourism is a relatively new concept as well as must be an integral part of the whole tourism effort, which is of interest not only to those in the tourism industry but also the developed professions policy makers and local communities as a potentially-uncreative mechanism for conserving the natural resource base. The objective of village tourism despite: often ambiguous is to attract tourists to natural areas

and use to revenues for local conservation and economic development activities.

Government of Nepal keeps an eye on the rural base tourism in the rural areas by making special policy and strategy at the national level. The concept of village Tourism has been developed and priorities are given to promote the village Tourism, so that the village people will get direct benefit from tourism. In order to enhance this sector the following policies and strategies have been formulated. Tourism activities will be promoted in the village that can benefit to the village people directly as well as indirectly. Resource rich village for tourist attraction will be developed in to tourist centers. One village in each of the 14 zones is developed as a model village during this plan period.

The tourist areas of cultural, natural, historical, and religious heritages will be preserved by local VDC and municipalities. Non-government organization that work for upliftment of design and implement various projects than can generate income for the ethnic groups by utilizing their ethnic cultural heritage. His Majesty the Government Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation had declared Sirubari Village Syangja as a first model tourist village in 1998.

Eleven model tourist villages were proposed to be spread out among the various geographical division of country. Only a few tourist villages have come up including Sirubari Syangja district, Ghale Gaun at Lamtant district, which has been practicing as community based village Tourism like Sirubari as taken 13 households as sampled since 20 Bashakh 2058 and also Khasur and Bhujung Villages are being practice ass model tourist village at Lamjung District. Likewise Thulo

persel and Kartic Deurealigaon in Kavre, Gandruk and Siklesh in Kaski, Parbat, Mustang, Manang, Dang, Pyuthan Illam and Taplejung.

Since the beginning of the ninth plan, it is to promote rural tourism of the rural areas by private sector as well as government sector had encouraged. In order to develop tourism industries and achieve the targets, the 9th plan has aimed to achieve the objectives like as to establish the backward and forward linkage of the tourism sector with the national economy so as to develop it as an important sector for the overall economic development. The second objectives was to established Nepal as a premium destination, the third one was to enhance employment Spurt unity, income generation and foreign enhance earning from the tourism sector and spreads these benefits down to the village levels.

Nevertheless, Nepal Tourism Board has adopted a policy of expanding village Tourism all over the kingdom, and plans to develop Village Tourism as an industry for poverty alleviation. Likewise Nepal Village Resort Private Limited has taken ass sample. Sirubari village Tourism at Solukhumbu, Dhankuta, Lamjung and Tehrathum. The next private NGO SNV/NEPL has been involved to develop sustainable tourism in the rural areas, like Ilam and Taplejung. Tourism)

Private sectors and local agencies will be involved and encouraged in the sector so that more revenue can be generated investment of the public and private sector will be gradually increased to create basis infrastructure solely on the basis of per planning and zoning of few feasible tourist sports. Temple's monasteries, building national sites of historical religious and cultural significance will be

preserved, well develop and utilized as tourist sports. They will registered as national heritage, participation of general and local people for these conservation.

Robert W. Nicintosh and Charlies R. Goeldner, *Tourism: Principles practice, philosophies*, copyright by John Wiley and Sons, inc. 1984, P.15. Rural Tourism is a complex multi-faceted activity. It is not just farm based tourism. It includes farm based holidays but also comprises special interest nature holidays and eco-tourism walking, climbing and raring, adventure, sports and health, short rural trekking and angling educational travel arts and heritage tourism and in some areas pilgrimage and ethnic tourism. There is also a large general interest for lens specialized farms of rural tourism.

Banskota, K. 1974. "Rural Tourism in Nepal" thesis submitted to the institute of Humanities and social science, T.U., Kathmandu, Nepal. This study's main aim was to estimate the income and employment generated b trekking tourism in rural areas. The study argues that significant employment and income in generated through rural tourism despite the low investment made in rural tourism infrastructure.

Bhattari S. (1985). "Environmental impact of tourism as the mountains econytem" International workshop on the management of National park and Protected areas in the Hindu Kush Himalayan. This paper outlines some of the problems of tourism and present a strategy for improved tourism management in the mountain environment with regards to policies on tourism, alternative energy sources, improved wastage disposal, assessment of carrying capacity, expended

researcher, appropriate training and enhanced opportunities for rural people to benefit from tourism.

Environmental Resources Limited (1989). "Natural Resource Management for sustainable development." Environmental Resources Ltd. London. A study of feasible policies institutions and investment activities in Nepal with special emphasis on the hills. Only the section that concerns tourism has been summarized. It deals with managing the impacts of tourism and infrastructure development on the hill resource base of Nepal. Tourism and infrastructure developments are considered to be till two chief sources impacting the hill resources base. Natural resources tourism, which is growing annually in Nepal, imparts the resources base vial the demand created upon fuel wood, environmental pollution and conflict with resource needs of the local people. The demand for firewood created by natural resources tourism in about 0.14% of the total annual demands of the hills, but this demand concentrated in specific pockets. In monetary terms it is worth US\$ 640000 and this is likely to grow to US\$ 20.4 million in the future. Tourism has benefited local people economically and hens also created incentives for local resource management. If steps are taken to manage the incentives, better resources management has occur. To manage the impact of tourism the study suggests management and monitoring of natural areas; regulatory mechanisms; user charges and pricing; local incentives and diversification currently management has occur. To manage the impact of tourism the study suggests management and monitoring of natural areas; regulatory mechanisms; user charges and pricing; local inventives and diversification currently management and

monitoring activities are under funded. Except in the case of Kerosene use, regulating mechanism are not prevalent user charge and pricing mechanisms are not being used as tools to manage the environment. Incentives for local people have been provided in the parks in terms of energy management, infrastructure and conservation education. But even so, the process of involving local people in policy, project planning and implementation has not been effective enough the Annapurna conservation area project has heard relatively more success than others in this regard.

(Moahnty, 1992:43). Tourism grew gradually over the years as easier and faster means of travel became available. Mass tourism started in Europe only in late 19th centruy but today it is a worldwide reality. "Today tourism revolution is sweeping the globe, a revolution promising much and delivering a great deal. It has emerged as the most lucrative business of the world, having tremendous potentiality for earning foreign exchange, yielding tax revenue, promoting growth of ancillary industrially backward region through its various linkge effects (Singh, 1975). In concise form<we can say that travel is rooted in the anciend past but toursim is a recent phenomenon of modern origin (Tewari, 1994: 14).

Tourism has been defined in different ways by various authors and concerned organizations and, yet, there is no universally accepted definition of Tourism. Herman Von Schullard (1910), the Austrian Economist gave the first definition of Tourism. He defined tourism as the 'sum total of operations, mainlyof economic nature, which directly

related to the entry, stay and movement of foreigners inside and outside a certain country, city or region.

The most widely used and popular definition of tourism is one prepared by the United Nations conference on International Travel and Tourism held in Rome in 1963. This definition was recommended by international Union of Official Travel Organizations (IUOTO) in 1908. Again, in 1993 the United Nations Statistical commission adopted Rome definition of tourism in revised form prepared by world Tourism Organization (WTO) as a follow up to the Ottawa international conference on Travel and Tourism statistics, jointly organized by WTO and the government of Canada in June 1991. In this definition WTO has developed a schematic breakdown of all Travelers. A traveler is defined as "any person on a trip between two or more countries or two or more localities within his/her country of usual residence" (WTO, Framework for the collection and publication of Tourism Statistics, Madrid).

World Tourism Organization has defined 'tourist' in precise terms as "Any person who travels to a country other than that in which he/she has his/her usual environment for a period of at least one night but not more than one year and whose main purpose of visit is other than the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the country visited. This term includes people travelling for: leisure, recreation and holidays; visiting friends and relatives; business and professional; health treatment; religion/pilgrimages and other purpose" (WTO, 1996:24).

Thus, tourism comprises "the activities of persons travelling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes" (WTO, Recommendation on Tourism Statistics)

According to Webster new international dictionary, 1975, tourism is "Traveling for Recreation". Similarly the term tourism was first defined as the sum total of operations, mainly of economic nature which directly related to the entry, stay and movement of foreigners inside and outside a certain country, city or region. The function of tourism is to import currency from foreign resources into country. Its impact is what tourism expenditure can do to the hotelkeepers.

Thomas Cook developed the first concept of modern tourism. "Thomas cook" father of travel 1841 started tourism while as the first steamship was invented 1830 (CTEVT, 1997). He is respected as a father of modern tourism. The industrial revolution and mechanism increased the wealth and surplus time and developed the attitude of out going because of which such tourism became organized and established institution.

According to Swiss professors Huziker and Krafts "Tourism is the totality of the relationship and phenomenon arising from the travel and stay of strangers, provided the stay does not imply the establishment of a permanent residence and is not connected with a remunerated activity." (Bhatia: 1995:34)

Frederick, (1992) Tourism has many potential benefits for rural areas. Tourism can be an important source of jobs for non-metro communities, especially for those that are economically

underdeveloped. Because jobs in the tourist industry often do not require advanced training, local residents with few skills can readily work as food servers, retail clerks, and hospitality workers. Tourism also not only offers business opportunities to local residents, but it can serve as a vehicle for marketing a place to potential residents and firms, as today's tourist may return later to retire or start a business locally.

Tourism can also enhance local quality of life. For example, tourism can serve as an important source of tax revenues for local jurisdictions. Some rural areas may be more willing to levy higher taxes on tourists because they are transitory, and, hence, may be perceived by local authorities as being more captive to user fees and other forms of taxation. This can lead to higher quality public services and lower local tax rates. Tourism can also support local culture in rural areas by encouraging restoration of local and regional historic sites. And tourism, which is generally considered to be a relatively clean industry, may foster local conservation efforts.

Weaver (1986) notes that tourism can not only result in enhanced employment opportunities, increased income potential for local residents, diversification of the local economic base, and additional tax revenues for rural areas, but it can also raise community visibility, and add cultural opportunities for residents. These non-economic benefits are also discussed by Jurowski (1996), who argues that tourism, if well planned, can enhance local environmental resources. (www.nal.usda.gov/ricpubs/rural_tourism.htm)

Tek Bahadur Dangi (2004) mentions that 'the mountains are a single entity with a multi-faceted utility. They are a home of the spirits,

protective frontier, origin for rivers, theatre of adventure, icon of national identity, a source for inspiration for a fit and health world and an engine of tourism attraction of Nepal.

Kamal Maiya Pradhan (1997) Nepal has many tourist attractions in the form of snow-capped mountain peaks, excellent trekking and rafting opportunities, interesting wild life, significant religious sites, and unsurpassed historical and culturally important sites. These have well-placed Nepal for tourism development.

This study examines the concepts and theories of tourism development in the context of Nepal. It looks into the effort made to develop tourism in Nepal and the consequences of the growth of tourism.

An article published in Sunday Dispatch (Jun 22-29, 1997) on 'taking tourists to village' by B.M. Dahal stated that village tourism is coming up as a new concept for promotion and development of tourism in Nepal and it can give as a appropriate momentum to the tourism sector. This concept is more relevant in the context of a country like Nepal which is made up of village and diverse ethnic groups with typical and unique culture and traditional life styles and diverse ethnic groups with typical and unique culture and traditional life styles apart from this village tourism is possible without building up any concrete infrastructures. So it is a meaningful position that can give a boost of the Nepalese tourism. According to the study more than 60 percent of the total tourist arrivals in the country are found interested in visiting different villages of Nepal. Most of the villages in Nepal are outlying areas where the local people have preserved their traditional cultures

and they can also be found adopting occupations like farming, fishing, weaving, knitting, pottery, basketry and such other traditional occupations. These occupations have been handed down to these people from their forefathers.

Dr. Surendra Bhakta Pradhanaga (2002) has to say that urban base alone is not enough for sustainable development of tourism. According to this opinion that village has its own place in the scheme of things. After all the villagers are the centers where the people through their day-to-day life exhibit their language, culture, relation and other facts. This is the place where the real Nepal can be found and observed.

Though the lack of balanced tourism sees that there is a mere 4 percent contribution from village tourism to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) but if the whole strategy is revised than village tourism can be able to contribute 40 percent to GDP.

According to Dr. Pradhanaga 60 percent of the Tourist visit villages, it is not in the way village tourism has been defined also based on the potentiality the projection is not mere conjecture. Village tourism must be an integral part of the whole tourism secondarily the whole effort. If the whole strategy is revised than village tourism can be able to contribute 40% to GDP.

Being a country made up mostly of villages and diverse ethnic groups, it can do much to make Nepal known in the world besides making the villagers themselves the beneficiaries.

He also says "there is no easier means of economic development than village tourism for this generation in my country, Nepal. Until we

start interlinked development in this country, which is known as a country of villages and make being of the people and the nation cannot progress".

Bhattarai. S. (1985) present paper that outlines some of the problems of tourism and presents a strategy for improved tourism management in the mountain environment with regards to policies on tourism, alternative energy sources, improved waste disposal, assessment of carrying capacity, enhanced opportunities for rural people to benefit from tourism.

For the country of its size, Nepal has more than its share of national wonders. It has highest peak on the earth as much as deepest gorge cutting into it (Malla, 1989). This may not be applicable to all forms of tourists' attractions. There are different definitions of tourism attractions given by different tourism specialists. Among them, Lundberg in 1985 defined tourist attraction as anything that attracts tourists (Pandey, 1995). The attractions are those elements in the tourist products which determine the choice of tourist to visit one destination rather than other (Shrestha, H.P. 2000). Nepal has yet to capitalize the uniqueness it possesses, especially the natural attractions of the mid and far western regions (Pandey, 2006).

Tourists attractions are found to be grouped into natural and made as two major sectors (Pandey, 1995). People are becoming more and more attracted to new destinations with advancement of time, all kinds of media technologies, easy accessibility of information with growth of the internet in late 20th century has further contributed to the development of tourism industries in new destinations (Shakya, 2004). Tourists looked

into flora and fauna, wildlife, scenic beauties, including snow capped mountains, agricultural farms, industrial complexes, craftsmanship, socio-religious sites, historical monuments, the milky waterways, the ethnic groups (Malla, 1989).

The natural landscapes, diverse cultural heritage, fascinating wildlife and brave people make Nepal unique-a small world in itself (Rai, 2002). Due to altitudinal variation, the climate varies from tropical, mesothermal, microthermal, microthermal, taiga and tundra type and so as the vegetation ranging from sub tropical to alpine to Trans-Himalayan and it is also home to varied bio-resources like 6,500 flower species, 175 mammals, and 175 reptiles. In Nepal one can travel from lowest elevation of 60 m to highest mountain villages at a height above 6000 m. likewise, highest Altitude Lake of Tilicho (4,419m), deepest and second largest lake of Nepal (Phoksundo Lake also known as lake of mystery), is also found in Nepal (Gautam and Adhikari, 2005; Joshi, 2005; Kanel, 2004).

Adventure in wildlife reserves provide rustic comfort in isolated lodge and tented camp. Canoe trips, nature walks, jungle trips, elephant back jungle excursions viewing rhino, sloth bear, deer, leopard, and variety of birds can be easily enjoyed. Nepal dreams adventure travel supervised holiday with excitement and novelty but relaxed enough to enable a visitor the magnificent scenery, rare wildlife, culture and way of life of the people. She presents wilderness amidst the great snowy mountains its own ecological and physical atmosphere (Satyal, Y.R. 2005).

Rafting has become another major type of adventure of adventure tourism in Nepal. Rafting trips on the Trishuli, Narayani, Marsyangdi,

Seti and Sunkoshi rivers can be scenic float trips down the calm shallow rivers or more adventurous "white water" rafting where one has to shoot the rapids. The combination trips consisting of trekking and rafting can be organized for viewing lovely views. Nepal has a rich and varied species of fauna and flora. Nepal has tropical, sub-tropical to alpine type of vegetation. Topography of Nepal is influenced by the climate of the country and the flora with the difference in the shapes and ranges of altitudes. Terai-tropical zone in the south adjoining India is Nepal's richest area for wildlife. A number of national parks, wildlife Reserves, hunting reserves and conservation areas have been designated because of fear that these rare animals will become extinct because of population growth and deforestation. The spectacular wildlife lies in the tropical Terai in which the Chitwan National Park is situated (Satyal, Y.R., 2005).

Tourism industry is the industry of tomorrow's Nepal. The truth of the day is that inefficiency, lack of vision and absence of commitment for implementations are major impediments to the success of tourism development in Nepal. Unfortunately Nepalese entrepreneurs do not run Nepalese Tourism but it is completely controlled by external forces (Upadhyay, 2000). Lack of infrastructure also hinders development of village tourism. Many villages are without basic infrastructural facilities like road, transport, electricity, telecommunication etc. There are no provisions of hotels on the one hand while on the other hand, the high price tourists have to pay for scarcely available goods discourages them. The traditional mentality of rural people is an obstacle to overcome (Gautam and Adhikari, 2005).

It seems that the tourism development has become just a nation but the implementation aspect is very weak (Khanal, 1986). In Nepal, 85% of its population lives in rural settings and its major part is covered with hills, mid hills and mountains. Tough topography, lack of infrastructure and political instability hindered the growth of rural economy for a very long time pushing people towards poverty (Gautam and Adhikari, 2005). Tourism in Nepal is like a sudden rainfall. It is not started with many national interests and efforts. Though the government taking a step to promote tourism in Nepal, however they are seemed as inadequate & unsatisfied (Ranjit, 1984).

These days promotion is mostly done through website. However, brochures and flyers are also used increasingly. Regular update on packages and offers is very important for correct dissemination of information about the country. Different tourism entrepreneurs have been offering various packages to attract tourists in the country. Promotions are also concentrated on local level. Based on season too promotion matters are changed. Targeting different markets different programs are organized by the hotels. These different medium of promotion has been considered effective too (K.C., 2005a).

NTB has developed its phase-wise Product Development Strategic Plan. Depending upon availability of resources, NTB has taken a partnership approach to identify and develop new tourism products in Nepal (NTB, 2058 B.S.). We should have inventory of the areas where tourism can flourish or tourists' interest areas (Malla, 1989). A concept of Heli-trekking and Heli-camping can be introduced to further enhance the prospect of adventure tourism. Heli-skiing is another product which has

been introduced but not been frequent practice because of expensiveness and inadequate promotion (Pradhan, 2005a). NTB should start shifting a greater part of promotional budget in China for research and further promotion (NTTR, 2006a).

Nepal offers to the world the natural beauty, the ruggedness of the mountains and the people, ancient temples, monuments and places with its national parks and rare wildlife. It is an established fact that Nepal is a country with fabulous cultural richness. The valley of Kathmandu is known as the living museums of ancient arts, monuments and architectural masterpieces, which eloquently speak of the rich urban culture of the past. Besides three cities of Kathmandu valley, there are several places of cultural attractions scattered throughout the country. Nepal is famous for its scenic grandeur and natural panorama. There are several quiet and beautiful spots in the proximities of Kathmandu for rest and relaxation. National parks and wildlife with its rare and endangered species of animals and birds offer quite an interesting tours and travel for tourist coming to Nepal (Satyal, Y.R., 2005).

There is a wider prospect of developing village tourism because all villages have something new and unique to offer tourists. At the time, when the world is converging into global Village, the impervious culture added by unique geographical location, altitudinal variation and rich biodiversity can offer unique experience for tourists who come to see adventure in Himalayn Kingdom of Nepal. Thus, we can develop model ecotourism, which would ultimately benefit the local people (Gautam and Adhikari, 2005).

Additional tourist destination and new tourism attractions should be developed on the basis of feasibility study. Similarly, internal tourism should be promoted to maintain economic and social balance between different development regions. For this local bodies should be encouraged to develop model rural tourism spot and minimum facilities in tourist spot (Rawal, 2004). Most of tourists revealed that the country should seriously work towards the development of proper infrastructure since 55% tourists emphasized on the improvement of the infrastructure (Pradhan, 2005b).

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

The study entitled 'Potentiality of sustainable Rural Tourism of Karnali Gateway Surkhet is based on exploratory and descriptive design. In this study qualitative analytical as well as descriptive have been employed together.

Besides above, some quantitative information has also been collected which has been described and analysed according to their nature.

3.2 Sources of Data

For the study, both primary and secondary source of information have been collected. The primary data was collected from interview with the visitors visiting Surkhet, Local people, tourism experts, DDC, VDC and Municipality heads of Surkhet. Secondary data was collected from DDC (Surkhet) Latikoili VDC, Birendranagar Municipality of Surkhet district, Tourism Board and Central Bureau of Statistics.

3.3 Sampling Procedure

Purposive sampling on the basis of quota sample method has been adopted to interview to select the respondents. Forty visitors including foreigners, sixty local people and nine tourism concerned people were selected for interview.

3.4 Data Collection Techniques / Instruments

Principally the structured questionnaire has been applied to collect the data. The questionnaire was interviewer assisted structured questionnaire. The questionnaire was in the form of English and was translated to the respondent in Nepali by the researcher. Visitors survey and observation were the techniques of data collection and questionnaire, checklist were the tools of data collection. Different types of books, related, research paper have been used as instruments.

3.4.1 Assessing the quality of Instruments

Content Validity/Reliability

All the questions containing in the questionnaire have been reviewed by the researcher himself under the guidance of internal supervisor to confirm the validity and reliability.

3.4.2 Data Collection

To achieve the goal of the study primary data have been taken from 40 visitors visiting in Surkhet 60 local People, 9 tourism experts living that place using interview and field observation. Secondary data have been taken from DDC Surkhet, VDC Latikoili, Birendranagar Municipality, Regional Museum Surkhet, Sustainable Development Facility Fund Surkhet, Tourism Board and Central bureau of Statistics.

3.4.3 Data Analysis

Description and simple mathematical interpretation procedure have been adopted in this study. The data and descriptive information have been analysed according to percentage. The table, figure and numerical have also been used.

CHAPTER IV

OTHER ATTRACTIVE SITES AND FUTURE

PROSPECTS OF TOURISM IN SURKHET

4. Other Attractions

Surkhet is easily accessible through a black-topped road of 3 hours by vehicle ride from Kohalpur (Banke district). On the way to Surkhet different attractive natural scenes and sceneries and ever green forest area can be eye sighted. The scenic beauty of Babai river valley is also on the way which can be over viewed from view points which have been built in different places. Different traditional villages located along the road side and life style are other major attractions of Surkhet. Before reaching to tradition villages a great spot of blue water flow with expression of great welcome through its hum of current has added the beauty of the place. Sightseeing to tribal villages, colourful festivals like Dashanin, Tihar, Holi, Janai Purnima, Lakhe jatra, Shiva ratri Parva add other attractions of Surkhet.

Thus we can say that Surkhet remains largely an unexplored area with a maximum potential for promotion of tourism which have been discussed in detail in following lines.

4.1 Man Made Assets

Surkhet is also rich in terms of man made products as follows.

Archaeological ruins

4.2 Main Bazar

Main Bazaar is the settlement of mixed castes of People. The houses in main Bazaar are both traditional and modern typed. Most of the streets have been black topped and pavement has been paved by slate stones. On the both sides of the road of the bazaar Ashok trees have been planted which have added the beauty of Bazar.

4.3 Regional Museum

Regional Museum Surkhet is located at ward no 9 of Birendranagar municipality of Surkhet district. It started its functioning in 2057 by making exhibition. The collections found in different parts of Nepal have been preserved for the exhibition. This museum consists stone covered statues found from the excavation of Kankrehihar. The statues collected in museum from Kankrehihar can be compared with the statues of Khajuraho India. The regional museum Surkhet also exhibits many masterpieces in stone, wooden and metal. The major attractions of Regional museum are 22 stone carved statues collected from Kankrehihar (of different gods and Goddesses like Buddha, Shiva, Ganesh, Saraswoti, elephant and others). Other attractions are wooden material of Raute (the nomadic people), picture of social life style of magar community, ornaments of Tharu community, ancient pots of different castes and tribes, Traditional Baja (dram), ornaments representing major and tharu ethnic people, Traditional cloth, Manpathi of mediaeval period, Diaroma, Coins of the great king Prithivinarayan Shah's period.

4.4 Temples

Shiva, Ram and Ganesh temple of Bazar, Shiva temple of Uttarganga, Kalika temple and Krishan temple.

4.5 Ghantaghar (Clock Tower)

With the assistance of Chinese government ghantaghar (clock tower) has been built in 2045 at the cost of Rs 70,79,540. It has adored the beauty of Birendranagar Bazar. It has four big clocks in all the four sides of the ghantaghar which work with the help of solar energy.

A children park has also been developed in and around ghantaghar with beautiful garden. An area occupying 30 bighas of land near to ghantaghar named Kuinepani is also being developed as a tourist destination by Birendranagar municipality by making park in it. If these areas are developed properly by making proper plan and policy, it will certainly attract visitors in more number.

4.6 Gothikanda

Gothikanda is situated at Gadhi VDC of Surkhet district at the hill top of Surkhet valley from where all the Surkhet valley and the river of Bhery can be viewed. This can be developed as a view point of Surkhet valley.

4.7 Jajura Daha (Lake)

Jajura Daha is located at ward no. 8 of Vidyapur VDC of Surkhet district. This Daha occupies 3 bighas of land with clean and pure water. It has depth of 18 ft. The level of water in the lake always remains the

same. A water mill has also been run with the water of south outlet of the lake.

This lake being situated in natural setting and panoramic view possesses potentiality of rural tourism. Two boats have also been used there for boating on the lake for the visitors.

4.8 Bheri River

Half on hour bus ride from Birendranagar will land at the great spot of blue water flow with expression of great welcome through its hum of current. We can catch the glance of Bheri on the way to Surkhet valley. the rafting tourists use this river for rafting purpose to reach to Karnali chisapani.

4.9 Confluence of Bheri and Karnali River

Watching the Synergy of big two river flow can be enthralling moment to nature lovers, three hours bus ride to Babiyachour and 3 hours walking will get from Birendranagar to reach the grand sight of confluence.

4.10 Baraha Tal (Lake)

Barah lake is situated at word no. 6 of Taranga VDC of Surkhet. It is the biggest lake of Surkhet districts occupying approximately 16 bighas of land. This lake has been named in the name of third incarnation of God Bishnu.

This Barah lake is fascinating and has panoramic view surrounded by hills in a natural setting.

It takes 3 hours walk from Hudke situated on the way of Karnali Highway.

4.11 Gupti Daha (Lake)

Gupti Daha (lake) is situated at ward no. 9 of Vidyapur VDC of Surkhet district. The water flowing under the earth can not be seen from outside. there is 15 m long tunnel at the entry point of the lake. After getting entry through the tunnel with the help of light the lake can be viewed. There is no any health problem in entering the tunnel. The lake has an area of 15×15m. with clean blue water.

If this lake is properly preserved and developed, it can also play additional role in promoting rural tourism of Surkhet.

4.12 Natural Assets

Surkhet is naturally gifted area having scenic beauty and others nature gifted assets which are not the results of human efforts.

4.13 Scenic Beauty

Surkhet is a naturally gifted area having outstanding scenic beauty and graceful charm. Scenic beauty exerts a strong fascination for the tourists.

4.14 View of Beautiful Mountains/Hills

Another attraction of Surkhet is the panorama scene of Beautiful Mountains. Mahabarat Range is the finest attraction for tourist, which is clearly seen from Surkhet valley.

4.15 Jungles

Surkhet is considered one of the richest districts of Nepal . All around the valley there are even green jungles. The forest has occupied 71 percent of the total land of Surkhet.

4.16 Pleasant and favorable Climate

Since Surkhet located between Mahabharat and chure rage at an altitude of 665 m., the weather is cool and dry all the year round. The average temperature in winter is 10 degree centigrade and in the summer season, the average temperature is 33 degree centigrade. Annual rainfall is 1500 m.m.

Because of favourable climate Surkhet can be attraction for international as well as domestic tourists. Basically, people from hot places like Nepalgunj can enjoy the summer vacation and people from cold places like Karnali can enjoy the winter vacation in Surkhet.

4.17 Wild Life

Tiger, bear, Leopard, deer, butterflies, birds and flowers are the prime attraction for tourists in Surkhet.

4.18 Colorful Festivals

People in Surkhet celebrate numerous festivals and festivals, which are very specific than other parts of Nepal are mentioned.

1. Gai-Jatra
2. Ropain Jatra
3. Bagjatra,

4. Lakhejatra
5. Tharu dance (Nach)
6. Gurung dance (Nach)
7. Magar dance (Nach)

Besides these, festivals of national character like Phulpati, Sivaratri, Holy, Teej, Krishnastami, Fagu Purnima, Dashain, Tihar etc also widely observed by the locals of Surkhet.

4.19 Traditional Ceremonies

Different type of traditional rites and rituals may be of great interest mainly for the foreign tourist as given below:

1. Childhood Ceremony: Birth, Naming, Feeding
2. Adulthood Ceremony: Bratabandh, Gufa, bibah
3. Marriage Ceremony
4. Old-age Ceremony: Chaurasi Puja
5. Death Rituals

4.20 Tribal Villages

Raji, Tharu, Magar and Gurung tribal villages of Surkhet may be of great interest for visitors. Their living-style, settlement pattern, culture etc are totally different from others.

4.21 Caste Group

Settlement pattern, culture, economic and other activities of different caste groups in Surkhet also attract tourists to observe them very closely. The following caste groups are found in Surkhet.

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| a. Cobbler | Tanning and Sewing activities (leather) |
| b. Black–Smith | Making tools and utensils from iron |
| c. Gold-smith | Making silver and gold items (jewelers) |
| d. Newar | Trade and business |
| e. Badi | Making living by dancing |
| f. Tailors | Sewing clothes and playing musical instruments i.e. |
| g. Damaha | Narsing, Tyamca, Jhyali, Sahanai etc |
| h. Bramhans | The priests worshipping various temples |
| i. Chettries | The warriors |
| j. Rajis | Making living by fishing in the river |

4.22 Specific Economic Activities

- a. Agriculture Farming
- b. Livestock Farming

Thus, we can see that Surkhet has a lot of things to attract the tourists

CHAPTER V

5.1 Tourism Infrastructure in Surkhet

5.1.1 Accommodation

Accommodation is an important ingredient as well as key and essential component of tourism. The demand of accommodation away from home has become an important function of tourism. It is comprehensive term and includes all the facilities such as hotel, motels, lodges, bungalows, camping sites etc. Tourism is to great extent, development on the types and quantity of accommodations available. The demand for accommodations varies according to the social class, price that the guest are willing to pay. Level of prices and similar other consideration expansion of tourism inevitably brings about the development of accommodations.

In Surkhet there is no any highly comfortable star hotel but the small affordable and medium standard with air conditioning hotels are also available in and around Birendranagar Bazar.

5.1.2 Catering Facility

Most of the lodges have restaurant facility in Surkhet. But these hotels and paying guesthouses commonly offer Nepalese dishes. Food like meat, fish, fruits and cold drinks are easily available in these hotels.

5.1.3 Security

Another factor needed for the promotion of Rural Tourism is security. Security is an essential factor for tourists. It plays a vital role in tourist flow. Nobody wants to go and stay there where security is lacking. Condition of insecurity is created by robber, thieves and also by wild animals. Event of Murder and disappearances of tourists would discourage the other travelers to visit such destination. Viewed in this way, Surkhet may be regarded as peaceful and fearless place.

5.1.4 Water Supply

It has an old water supply project. The water is supplied from Itram area of the north-eastern part of the main Bazar. It has a natural source of water. Brihat Jhupra water supply programme has launched a big project of more than 3,00,000,00 aming to bring drinking water from jhupra river to meet the need of whole Surkhet valley.

5.1.5 Transportation/Accessibility

Transportation is the key factor for the development of tourism. The transportation need must be meet. The transportation facilities make it possible the travel from one place to another. The means of transportation decides the volume of tourist. The tourist spends about half of their total holiday money on transport and travel and other half on accommodation and other activities. It is estimated that travel costs are typically about 40 percent of total holiday expenditure. It shows that the importance of transportation in tourism.

Daily regular bus and micro bus services are available from Nepaljung, Dang and Mahendranagar.

From Kathmandu daily one day and one night buses leave for Surkhet. 2 small medium sized micro-buses have also been recently started from Kathmandu to Surkhet.

For Birjung daily from Surkhet one night bus service is regular

5.1.6 Road

In surkhet there are different types of road in different condition surkhet is easy accessible area linked to East-west Highway. The road to Surkhet from Kaholpur (Banke district) is almost black topped. The road condition of Surkhet has been catagorised as black topped (50.23km) gravel (178.94 km) and Rough (101.32 km) (Bureau of statistics Surkhet, 2062/63)

5.1.7 Air Services

Surkhet airport is infact considered to be one of the busy airports of Nepal. The aeroplane and Helicopter services are almost regular to the districts of Karnali zone.

From Kathmandu there are two flights of RNAC in weak. Due to the rough runway of airport private airlines were not attracted.

From the year 2063 the runway of Surkhet Airport is being blacktopped. After the completion of black topping, it is hoped that the number of flights to Kathmandu will increase and the private airlines too may be attracted to start their services regularly in Surkhet.

5.1.8 Electricity

All the localities of Surkhet valley has almost been electrified. The district has been attached to national grid line. The electricity capacity of this district is 3/4 M.V.A (Mega Volt Ampere)

Till Jestha 2063 total 11289 electricity lines have been distributed in Surkhet (Electricity Authority Surkhet, 2063)

5.1.9 Communication

Communication facilities are in the state of progress in Surkhet. There are facilities of telephone, fax, E-mail and internet.

All total 2525 telephone lines have been distributed in Surkhet. since 2062 mobile phone service has also been started in the Place.

5.1.10 Health Service

Surkhet has a regional hospital with trained nurses and doctors. We can also find medical shops in the market area and every type of medicine is available there.

In case, if necessary there are 3 ambulances to take patients to Nepalgunj, Kathmandu and Lucknow (India).

5.2 Socio-economic impact of Tourism in Surkhet

Socio-economic impact generally means either positive or negative change in the locality from tourism.

Socio economic impact of tourism brings change in the social life structure like fashion, understanding, conflict, occupation, employment and living standard.

Tourism industry in Surkhet is not developed yet. Only very few number of visitors visit this place. Especially domestic visitors due to their official purpose use to visit this place. The international tourists are found in a very few number by the purpose of visit only. The potentialities of tourism of this place are not yet explored. Since tourism being in blooming stage in Surkhet, its socio economic impact could not have been studied till now. It has brought neither positive nor negative change upon the local people. Most of the local people can not easily understand the concept of tourism in Surkhet. Tourism has brought no any significant change in the life of Surkhet. Only few hotel entrepreneurs are benefited from limited number of visitors. The locals of tourists destination sites are very far from the benefit and cost of tourism. Hence, it can be frankly said that there is no any socio-economic impact of tourism in Surkhet since this place being in blooming stage of tourism.

5.3 Problem of Tourism in Surkhet

Proper management and marketing are necessary to increase tourist arrival in Surkhet. In spite of the huge potentialities of tourism in Surkhet it could not develop rapidly. Surkhet is located at the Gateway centre of Karnali region. Karnali region also has huge potentialities of tourism. Though Surkhet stands at the Gateway of Karnali, It could not have drawn the attention of tourists as in other places of Nepal. Very few number of tourists visit Surkhet. They stay

only for 2-3 days whereas average stay of tourists in Nepal is about 12.4 days. The major problems of tourism development in Surkhet are as follows.

It is necessary to give adequate attention towards infrastructure. The major problems of tourism infrastructure in Surkhet are supply of water, sanitation, facilities of local transportation, parks, recreation and health care facilities. In summer season there is always scarcity of water in Surkhet even for drinking. The problems are summarized as follows:

5.3.1 Local Transportation

Transportation is inevitable component of tourism. There is problem of local vehicles to reach conveniently to the archeological site and other destinations of Surkhet. It has been found necessary for the visitors to run vehicles to those sites.

5.3.2 Toilet

In and around market area, there is not a single public toilet, which makes tourists inconvenience feel during their rolling in Birendranagar Bazar.

5.3.3 Drainage System

The drainage system has not been properly managed. It has been left open which gives bad smelling of waste things.

5.3.4 Parks

There is no nice and attractive park in Surkhet. If there is such a park, visitors will stay longer and local people get benefits.

5.3.5 Star Hotels

There is not a single star hotel in Surkhet. The visitors have found inconvenience of comfortable accommodation. It has also been found that some visitors returned to Nepalgunj for better comfortable accommodation.

5.3.6 Lighting System

In and around the major attractive sites like Bulbule and Kankrebihar lighting system has not been managed. The visitors can be attracted in those sites till late night and business can be run if proper management of lighting system is managed.

5.3.7 Miscellaneous

5.3.7.1 Trained Manpower

To create the congenial environment for visitors, trained manpower should be available. It can satisfy the need of visitor visiting Surkhet. Unfortunately there is lack of trained manpower especially who have knowledge of archeological and cultural sites.

5.3.7.2 Trained Hotel Entrepreneur

To create the homely environment for the visitors, trained hotel entrepreneur are necessary. In the absence of this the visitors are not

getting hospitality from the entrepreneurs. The hospitality of the entrepreneur increases the length of stay of the visitors.

5.3.7.3 Effective Administration

The absence of improved, effectiveness and co-ordinated administration unit is another mentionable problem for making Surkhet better place for visitors.

5.3.7.4 Local Guide

Local guide is another problem for tourist. Due to the lack of trained local guide the visitors are not getting the free information about the archaeological, religious and cultural sites of Surkhet.

5.3.7.5 Security System

The security of the visitors in Kankrebihar and Bulbule park is lacking. In the absence of security, the visitors will not visit those places.

CHAPTER -VI

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

The study has been carried out with a view of developing Surkhet as a tourist destination. So, main focus of the study is given to different books, Surkhet mirror Published by DDC Surkhet, souvenir of Birendranagar Municipality and other Secondary information collected from central bureau of statistics.

The evaluation of the tourism scenario in Surkhet has been conducted on the perceptive basis as well as secondary data and information. In this chapter an attempt has been made to assess the potentiality of tourism development on the basis of views and perceptions collected through the questionnaire and by conducting depth interview with local people, visitors and tourism experts.

6.1 Findings of Survey on Visitors

In this section an analytical interviews have been conducted with visitors visiting Surkhet in June 2006. The component of interviews included the purpose of visit of the visitors, places visited by them, service and facilities provided, problem faced and other destinations 40 visitors of different fields and 9 tourism experts were taken for interview. To calculate this, simple percentages were computed to present and analyse the views and response of the tourist.

Table No. 6.1: Age and Gender of the Visitors

Age	Total No. of Respondents				Total	
	Male		Female		Number	Percentage
	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage		
Below 25	–	–	–	–	–	–
25-35	16	50	8	100%	24	60
35-45	14	43.7	-	-	14	35
45 above	2	6.3	-	-	2	5
Total	32	100	8	100%	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006

The table 6.1 has shown the age and gender of the visitors. The large portion (60%) of the total respondents were found between the age 25-35. Among male the large portion (50%) between the age 25-35 followed by between 35-45 (43.7%) and above the age 45 (6.3%) respondents have visited Surkhet. Cent percent respondent of female were found between the age 25.35 who visited Surkhet. To attract the more number of visitors new facilities and other attractions should be added.

Table No. 6.2: Nationality and Gender of the Visitors

Nationality	Total No. of Respondents				Total	
	Male		Female		Number	Percentage
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage		
Nepali	24	75	6	75	30	75
European	6	18	2	25	8	20
American	2	6.3	-	-	2	5
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	32	100	8	100	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006

The table 6.2 has shown the nationality and gender of the visitors who visited Surkhet during the period of field study were Nepali (75%) followed by European (20%) and American (5%). Among male visitors 75 percents were Nepali. Even among female visitors 75 percent were Nepali.

In the above table the number of female visitors have been noticed very low. To attract more number of female visitors well facilities accommodation with full security should be developed.

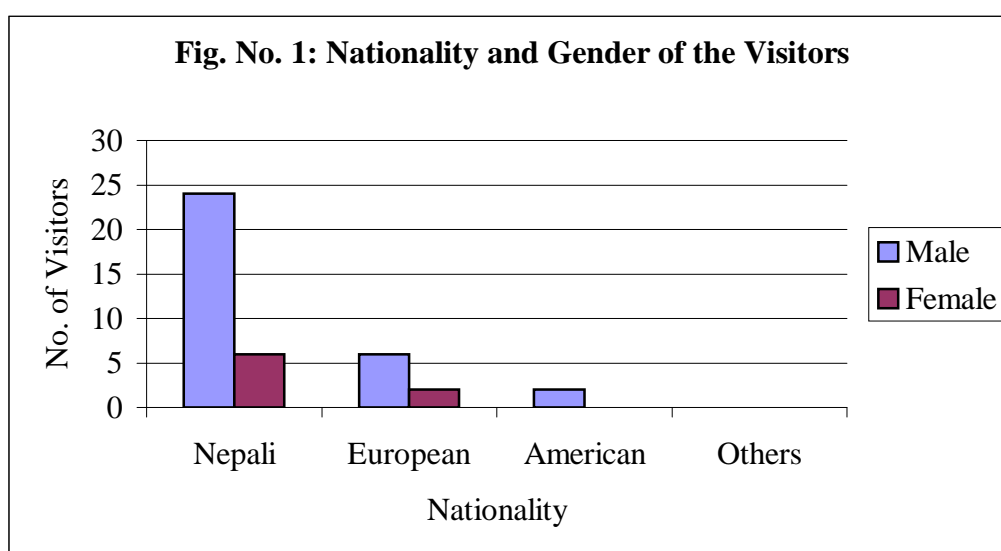


Table No. 6.3: Marital Status and Age Distribution of Visitors

Age	Total No. of Respondents				Total	
	Married		Unmarried			
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Below 25	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	14	50	12	100	26	65
35-45	12	42.8	-	-	12	30
45 above	2	7.2	-	-	2	5
Total	28	100	12	100	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006

The table 6.3 has shown the marital status and age of the visitors. Out of the total, 70 percent visitors were found married and rest 30% unmarried.

Among married 50 percent visitors were found between the age 25-35 followed by 42.8 percent between 35-45 and 7.2 percent visitors above the age 45.

From the study unmarried visitors have been found very low. To attract those type of visitors new facilities according to their needs and wants should be increased and develop homely atmosphere in and around the place.

Table No. 6.4: Expenditure of Visitors in Surkhet

Expenditure (in Rs)	Total No. of Respondents				Total	
	Domestic		International			
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Less than 1000	4	13.3	-	-	4	10
1000-3000	12	40	-	-	4	10
3000-5000	10	33.3	2	20	12	30
Above 5000	4	13.4	8	80	12	30
Total	30	100	10	100	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006

Table 6.4 has explained the expenditure of visitors in Surkhet. The major expenditure in Surkhet by the visitors were noted above

5000 (30%) followed by Rs 3000-5000 (30%), Rs 1000-3000, (305) and less than Rs 1000 (10%).

Among domestic visitors the major spending were found above 5000 (13.45) followed by 3000-5000 (33.3%), 1000-3000 (40%) and less than 1000 (13.3%).

Among international visitors the highest expenditure above 5000 were found by 80 percent visitors and the rest 20 percent visitors were found having expenditure between Rs 3000-5000.

To increase the expenditure of visitors hotel facilities, transportation and production of local cultural products should be developed. The visitors will buy the local cultural products and the locals will be benefited.

Table No. 6.5: Purpose of Visit of the Visitors

Purpose of visit	Total No. of the Respondent	Percentage
Official	34	85
Recreation	6	15
Study (Archaeology)	-	-
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006

The table 6.5 has shows the purpose of visit of the visitors in Surkhet. During the field survey the main purpose of visitors were found official (88%) and recreation (15%). The study has shown that

most of the visitors whether domestic or international use to visit Surkhet mainly by official purpose.

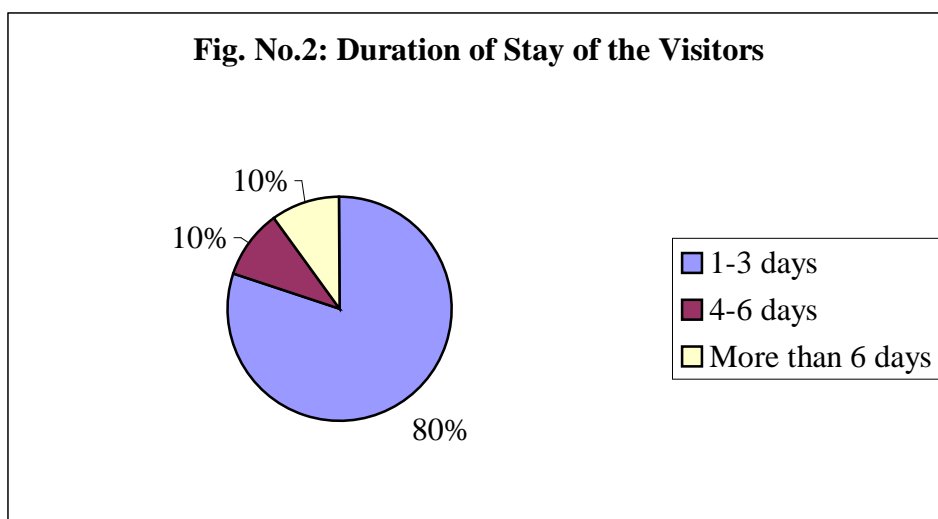
The visitors visiting in Surkhet except the official purpose are in very low in number. New recreational and entertainment facilities have been found necessary. To visit the recreational sites local vehicle facilities with security are essential.

Table No. 6.6: Duration of Stay of the Visitors in Surkhet

Duration of Study	Total No. of Respondent	Percentage
1-3 days	32	80
4-6 days	4	10
More than 6 days	4	10
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006

Table 6.6 has shown the duration of stay of the visitors in Surkhet. The duration of visitors who visited Surkhet during the field study were found 1-3 days (80%) followed by 4-6 days (10%) and more than 6 days (10%). Most of the visitors have been found to have very short stay in Surkhet. It is because of the lack of comfortable accommodation and facility of local transportation in Surkhet.



For increasing the duration of stay of the visitors comfortable accommodation with different dishes are necessary. The visitors should also be given clean information of different cultural, archaeological and recreational sites. For this an information centre should be developed.

Table No. 6.7: Places Visited by the Visitors

Places Visited	Total No. of the Respondent	Percentage	Remarks
Kankrebihar, Bulbale and Deuti Bajai Temple	32	80	Most of the domestic visitors visit 3 places where as International visitors visit specially Kankrebihar and Bulbule Park
Market Area	8	20	
Total	40	100	

Source: Field Survey, 2006

Table 6.7 has shown the places visited by the visitors. The visitors who visited major three places: Kankrebihar, Bulbule and Deuti Bajai temple were found 80 percent and the visitors visiting only market area were 20 percent. The visitors should also be clearly informed about different sites. In fact, the visitors who are visiting

Surkhet are not given clear information about other different cultural, historical and recreational sites. A Package tour program of different sites is most essential in and around the place.

Table No. 6.8: Response of the other Destinations of Visitors

Other Destinations	Total No. of Respondent	Percentage
Yes	14	35
No	26	65
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006

Table 6.8 has shown response of other destinations of visitors. From the study, it has been known that the visitors having other destinations were 35 percent. The visitors having no other destinations were found 65 percent. In fact, Surkhet stands at the Karnali Gateway centre. The visitors do not know about Karnali which has huge tourist attracting destinations. The visitors should be given clear and fact information of different attractive destinations of Karanli Region and the visitors visiting Surkhet can also make their destination to the different attractive sites of Karnali Region.

Table No. 6.9: Visitors Visit in Single/Pair or Group

Visit in Single/Pair or Group	Total No. of Respondent	Percentage	Remarks
	Number	Percentage	
Single/Pair	12	30	Pair signifies married or unmarried couples and friends in 2/3 numbers
Group	28	70	
Total	40	100%	

Source: Field Survey, 2006

Table 6.9 has shown the visitors visit in single/pair or group. During the field visit, the visitors visiting Surkhet were noticed 70 percent in Group and 30 percent in single/pair.

The visitors visiting in Surkhet whether single/pair or groups should be encouraged by providing various information, well facilitated accommodation, recreation facilities with security.

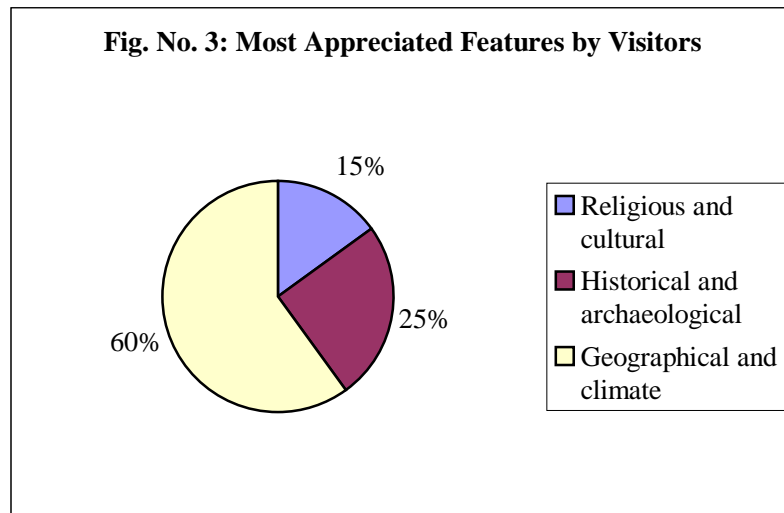
Table No. 6.10: Most Appreciated Feature by Visitors in Surkhet

Most appreciated features	Total No. of Respondent	Percentage
Religious and cultural	6	15
Historical and archaeological	10	25
Geographical and climate	24	60
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006

Table 6.10 briefly represents the visitors most appreciated features in Surkhet. During the field study the visitors had been asked about the most appreciated features in Surkhet, The major appreciated features response by the visitors were geographical and climate (60%) followed by historical and archaeological (25%) and Religions and cultural (15%). During the field study, especially international visitors were found appreciating geographical and climate as the main feature of Surkhet.

More number of visitors are found unknown about cultural, archaeological sites of Surkhet. They need to the given free flow of information of different castes, tribes culture and make them visit these sites.



6.2 Findings of Survey on Local People

In this section an analytical interviews have been conducted with local people in June 2006 of major attractive places. The component of interviews included the benefit and impact of tourism. 60 local people (Kankrebihar, Deuti Bajai and Bulbule Tal and park) were interviewed in course of this study. This chapter also includes socio economic characteristics of the local people of Surkhet. The outcome of which has been presented below. To calculate this, simple percentages were computed to present and analyse the views and response of the local people.

Table No. 6.11: Age and Gender Distribution of the local respondents

Age	Gender				Total	
	Male Number	Percentage	Female Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Below 25	-		4	22.2	4	(6.6)
25-35	2	4.7	8	44.4	10	16.6
35-45	20	47.6	6	33.3	26	43.3
45-55	12	28.6	-	-	12	20
above 55	8	19.1	-	-	8	13.3
Total	42	100	18	100	60	100

Sources: Field survey, 2006

Table 6.11 has shown age and gender of local respondents. All together 60 local respondents were taken as sample of the study of them 42 were found male and no. 18 female. According to the table the respondents below the age 25 were found only female i.e. 22.2 percent. The highest portion of respondents (male and female) were found 43.3 percent between the age 35-45. The respondents above age 55 were found only male (13.3%).

Table No. 6.12: Previous and Current Occupation of the Local Respondents

Occupation	Previous		Current	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Agriculture	22	36.6	18	30
Labour	4	6.6	-	-
Business	2	3.3	20	33.3
Study	22	36	-	-
Teaching	10	16.6	14	23.3
Official	-	-	2	3.3
Advocate	-	-	2	3.3
Photography	-	-	2	3.3
Watchman	-	-	2	3.3
Total	60	100		100

Source: Field Survey, 2006

Table 6.12 has shown that most of the respondents were engaged in agriculture (36.6%) and study (36.6%) in previous occupation. From the field survey it has been found that very few people were engaged in business (3.3%) in previous occupation. At current occupation 33.3 percent of respondents have been found engaged in business, followed by agriculture (30%) and teaching (23.3%).

The people who are in traditional occupation should be encouraged to adopt modern way of occupation.

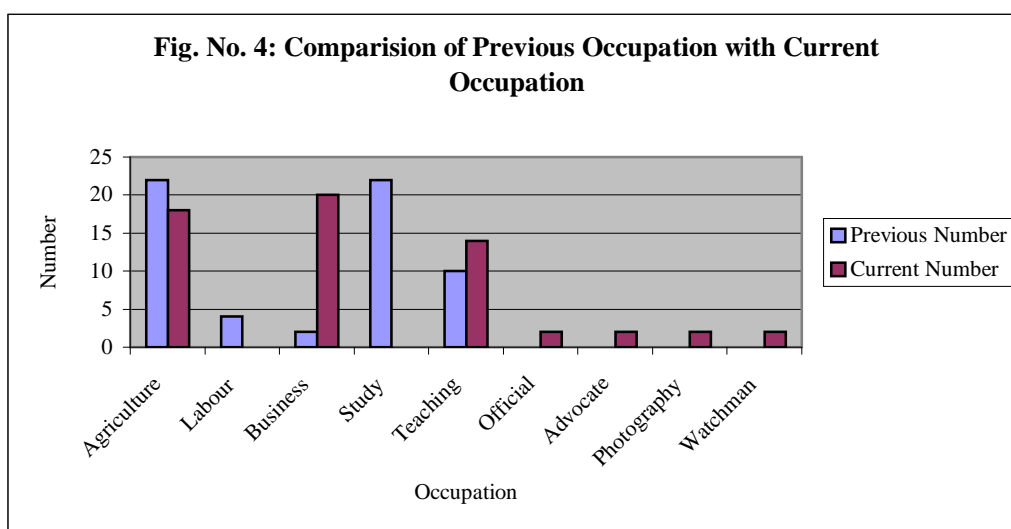


Table No. 6.13: Economic Status of the Local Respondents

Economic Status (Monthly Earning)	Total No. of Respondents	Percentage
Below 3000	12	20
3000-5000	28	46.6
5000-7000	6	10
7000-9000	6	10
Above 9000	8	13.3
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006

The table 6.13 has shows the economic status of the local respondents. In the above table, the respondents having monthly income below Rs. 3000 were found only 20 percent.

The respondents having the income between Rs 3000-5000 were found 46.6 percent followed by 13.3 percent above the income 9000, between 5000-7000 (10%) and 10 percent between Rs 7000-9000 as monthly earning.

The people who have low income should be taught and give incentives to adopt new way of earning to increase their income.

Table No. 6.14: Househols Benefited from Visitors

Household Benefitted	Total No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	18	30
No	42	70
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006

Table 6.14 has stated that only 30 percent of the total respondents were found benefited from the tourism while large portion of respondents (70%) were not found benefited from tourism in Surkhet.

Tourism in Surkhet is not yet developed. So, a large portion of people are still far from the benefits of tourism.

The people having no benefits from tourism are needed to give trainings and make their involvement in tourism so that they could ripe the benefits of tourism.

Table No. 6.15: Impact of Tourism on Local People

Impact	Total No. of Respondents	Percentage
Positive	56	93
Negative	4	6.7
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006

The table 6.15 has shown that only 6.7 percent of the total respondents responded negative impact of tourism while large portion of respondents (93.3%) have been reported responded positive impact of tourism. Since the tourism in Surkhet is not yet developed so its impact has not actually been found.

Whatever the impact has been seen in the initial stage should be tried to avoid them by giving proper management and developing appropriate system.

6.3 Findings of Survey on Experts

An attempt was made to present the survey findings of tourism experts hereunder. An in-depth interview was conducted with tourism experts, who included tourism professional, government officials and businessmen to identify present tourism situation and problems, weaknesses and the efforts made by DDC Surkhet and Birendranagar Municipality.

6.3.1 Present Situation in Surkhet from the Perspective of Tourism Development

An attempt has been made to assess the present situation of Surkhet from the perspective of tourism development in Surkhet. No any development has been done by any concerned agencies for the development of tourism in Surkhet. The district had to do a lot for fully exploiting the huge potential that the district has. The experts were of the view that the lack of vision among the policy-makers and the lack of awareness among local masses are the principal hindrances.

6.3.2 Efforts Made by Local Bodies

DDC Surkhet and Municipality had to play a vital role to promote tourism in Surkhet. Most of the experts and tourism related respondent were not satisfied with DDC and municipality when they were asked about the efforts made by DDC and Municipality. The DDC and Municipality should have a clear-cut vision and a strong commitment to translate its words into genuine works. But these local bodies have neither vision nor any systematic plans, strategies and budget allocation for the development of tourism in Surkhet. Slogan alone can do nothing, if it cannot do anything meaningful on its own for making Surkhet a tourist destination. The local bodies could have done nothing for the preservation of archaeological sites and the development of other destinations. These bodies should have encouraged the private sactor in developing necessary infrastructure for the purpose. In view of the experts, Surkhet is an attractive place with favourable climate and beautiful geographical location. But this place

has not been given emphasis by the local bodies as well as central government. So, for making Surkhet a tourist destination proper policies and strategies should be developed and the participation of the local people made.

6.3.3 Weakness

The respondents mentioned many weaknesses. They have lack of vision among the policy-makers, from the local to the highest levels, is the greatest drawback. The bureaucrats are neither sensitive nor serious on the matter. The lack of awareness among the local populace is the second major hindrance. The self-centered or selfish attitude of the political leaders is another obstacle on the way.

CHAPTER -VII

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Summary

The study has analyzed potentiality of sustainable rural tourism of Karnali gateway Surkhet. The study mainly based on data obtained from field survey 2006 provides with the different tourist, potential areas, infrastructure development, socioeconomic impact and problems of tourism. The study is based on primary data gathered from the local people, visitors, tourism experts and the local bodies through the random sampling based on quota sample method.

Altogether sixty local people of major attractive site, forty visitors were taken samples for this study. The study is of both qualitative and quantitative.

The findings of the study analysis has been summarized as follows:

- i. The local respondents engaged in agriculture as their main previous occupations was found (36.6%) decreased at current occupation i.e. 30%. and the respondents who were engaged in business in previous occupation (3.3%) was found increased to 33.3 percent in current occupation.
- ii. The economic status of the local respondents were found Rs. 3000-5000 (46.6%) followed by below Rs. 3000 (20%) above Rs. 9000 (43.3%), Rs 5000-7000 (10%) and 7000-9000 (10%).
- iii. From tourism sector only 30 percent respondents were found benefited in Surkhet.

- iv. Out of the total local respondents only 6.7 percent responded of negative impact of tourism.
- v. The major age groups of the visitors who visited Surkhet were found 25-35 (60%) followed by 35-45 (35%) and above 45 (5%).
- vi. The nationality of the visitors who visited Surkhet during field survey were found Nepali (75%) followed by European (20%) and American (5%).
- vii. Out of the total visitors 70 percent visitors were found married.
- viii. The highest expenditure of the visitors visiting in Surkhet were found above Rs. 5000 (30%). The highest expenditure above Rs. 5000 was found 80 percent among the international visitors.
- ix. Most of the visitors who visited Surkhet during this field survey were found only by the purpose of official work i.e. 85 percent and 15 percent by recreational purpose.
- x. Most of the visitors were found having very short stay in Surkhet. The visitors with 1-3 days of stay were found 80 percent.
- xi. The visitors visiting major attractive places were found 80 percent.
- xii. The visitors visiting Surkhet with other destination were found only 35 percent.
- xiii. 70 percent of the visitors were found visited in group.
- xiv. Most appreciated features by the visitors were found geographical and climate (60%) followed by historical and archaeological (25%) and religious and cultural (15%).

7.2 Conclusion

The finding has revealed that in the study that Surkhet has huge potentiality of tourism as in other destinations of the country.

Surkhet even being rich in natural, archeological, religious and cultural assets at the gateway center of entire Karnali region the flow of tourist is very low.

Due to the low flow of tourist the socio economic impact upon local people is found negligible.

Due to the lack of coordination among concerned agencies, poor infrastructure and marketing strategies, the development of tourism has been found over shadowed in Surkhet.

7.3 Recommendation

- To make Surkhet a sustainable rural tourist destination of Nepal, following suitable recommendations have been proposed on the basis of this study.
- Surkhet being located at the gateway of Karnali region, the infrastructures like electricity, road, communication etc. should be developed in Surkhet.
- There are four major attraction in Surkhet. Among them Kankrebihar is one. The archaeological ruins found from the excavation need to be preserved properly.
- Reconstruction of ruined temple of the same architecture and style which has been proposed by National Archeological Department should be completed as soon as possible.

- Kankrebihar being a rich biodiversity resources should be handed over to community forestry for its management and development.
- Around Kankrebihar, there are Tharu Villages which are rich in ethnic cultures. So, a Tharu cultural museum should be established.
- Transportation is essential factor of tourism. There is no facility of local transportation to Kankrebihar where famous archeological site is located. So, local vehicles should be started to that site.
- Security is one of the essential factors for the development of tourism. In the absence of security the visitors may not feel secured to visit the place. A security system is most to develop within Kankrebihar and Bulbule Park.
- There is no any star hotel in Surkhet. Comfortable accommodation i.e. star hotels should be set up in Surkhet.
- The ways of hospitality and behaviour towards the visitor should be taught to the local people and the entrepreneurs.
- The need of Resort centers and restaurants have been felt by the visitors. Well facilitated resort centers and restaurants should be established at the major attractive sites.
- The infrastructures like compound wall, road, water, electricity and communication should be developed in Kankrebihar and Bulbule park.
- The visitors from other districts use to come Surkhet for the purpose of picnic in Bulbule and Kankrebihar. The picnic spots should be developed in those sites.

- A children park and spring fountain within Bulbule has been found necessary to make it more attractive for the visitors.
- The boats which were running in Bulbule for the entertainment of the visitors are not functioning well. They should be made properly and regularly run to attract more number of visitors.
- Mangal Gadhi where historical fort and a famous stone carved statue is located under the army protected area should be opened for the visitors.
- An information center which has been very necessary for the visitors must be established soon.
- In Surkhet, there is no any record keeping system of the visitor. Therefore visitors record-keeping system should be developed.

7.4 Recommendation for the further research

- Detail study of potential areas of the same study area.
- Socio-economic importance of tourism in the study area.
- Tourism linkage study of Surkhet and Karnali Region.

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APPENDIX-I

QUESTIONNAIRE

Questionnaire for Visitor

- 1) Name-----2) Sex-----
- 3) Nationality-----4)Date of arrival-----
- 5) Occupation-----6) Date of departure-----
- 7) Marital status married Unmarried
- 8) What is your age-----
- 9) What is your purpose of visit ?
 - a) Official b) Recreation
 - c) Study (Archeology) d) Other
- 10) How long will you stay in Birendranagar Surkhet ?
- 11) If not, why ? please give reasons.
- 12) Why did you choose Surkhet as a destination?
- 13) Which places of Surkhet have you visited ?
- 14) What are the problems you have faced in Surkhet. ?
- 15) What type of facilities you need in Surkhet ?
- 16) Do you have any other destinations ?
- 17) Are you visiting in a group or Single/pair ?
 - a) Group b) Single/ pair
- 18) How much amount will you spend in Surkhet?

19) Any comments?

Questionnaire for Local People

1) Name -----

2) Age -----

3) Gender: Male-----Female-----

1) What were you doing before ?

2) What are you doing now ?

3) How much do you earn ?

4) What type of visitors visit the place ?

5) Of what age group of people visit the place ?

6) Does your family benefit from visitors visiting in Surkhet ?

7) Do you feel any negative impact from tourism ?

8) Any other comments.

Questionnaire for Concerned Agencies

Name ----- Designation ----- Organization

1) What do you think about the present situation in Surkhet from the perspective of tourism development?

2) What are the efforts made by the concerned agencies for the development of tourism in Surkhet ?

3) What are the future programmes and policies in your planning policies ?

4) Please provide suggestion to promote Surkhet as a tourist destination.

APPENDIX-II

COUNTRY-WISE TRAVEL TREND

Country of Nationality	July		% Change	% Share, 06	January-July		% Change	% Share 06 Jan July
	2005	2006			2005	2006		
ASIA (SAARC)								
Bangladesh	570	382	-33.0%	1.8%	3,445	2,604	-24.4%	1.8%
India	8,859	10,019	13.1%	47.9%	48,765	57,146	17.2%	40.1%
Pakistan	171	211	23.4%	1.0%	1,024	975	4.8%	0.7%
Srilanka	72	91	26.4%	0.4%	540	504	6.7%	0.4%
Sub-Total	9,672	10,703	10.7%	51.2%	53,774	61,229	13.9%	43.0%
ASIA (OTHER)								
China	446	418	-6.3%	2.0%	2,907	3,336	14.8%	2.3%
Japan	597	639	7.0%	3.1%	5,797	7,927	36.7%	5.6%
Malaysia*	191	190	-0.5%	0.9%	2,031	1,013	-50.1%	0.7%
Singapore*	77	77	0.0%	0.4%	885	761	-14.0%	0.5%
S. Korina*	479	459	-4.2%	2.2%	2,924	2,862	-2.1%	2.0%
R.O.C.(Tiban)	262	157	-40.1%	0.8%	1,985	2,044	3.0%	1.4%
Thailand*	267	184	-31.1%	0.9%	1,795	1,347	-25.0%	0.9%
Sub-Total	2,319	2,124	-8.4%	10.2%	18,324	20,200	10.2%	14.2%
EUROPE								
Austria	62	146	135.5%	0.7%	851	1,325	55.7%	0.9%
Belgium	206	213	3.4%	1.0%	1,183	1,128	-4.6%	0.8%
Den Mark	100	89	-11.0%	0.4%	799	644	-19.4%	0.5%
France	654	629	-3.8%	3.0%	4,889	4,922	0.7%	3.5%
Germany	422	500	18.5%	2.4%	5,450	5,019	-7.9%	3.5%
Israel	78	72	-7.7%	0.3%	1,362	1,288	-5.4%	0.9%
Italy	490	459	-6.3%	2.2%	2,936	2,594	-11.6%	1.8%
Netherlands	381	439	15.2%	2.1%	2,825	2,046	-27.6%	1.4%
Norway	39	52	33.3%	0.2%	593	483	-18.5%	0.3%
Switzerland	177	227	28.2%	1.1%	1,074	1,159	7.9%	0.8%
Spain	796	793	-0.4%	3.8%	2,199	2,744	24.8%	1.9%
Sweden	16	41	156.3%	0.2%	307	360	17.3%	0.3%
U.K.	1,187	1,053	-11.3%	5.0%	10,445	8,885	-14.9%	6.2%
Sub- Total	4,608	4,713	2.3%	22.5%	34,913	32,597	-6.6%	22.9%
OCEANIA								
Australia	196	222	13.3%	1.1%	2,523	2,874	13.9%	2.0%
New Zealand	43	41	-4.7%	0.2%	468	573	22.4%	0.4%
Sub-Total	239	263	10.0%	1.3%	2,991	3,447	15.2%	2.4%
AMERICAS								
Canada	156	230	47.4%	1.1%	1,772	1,770	-0.1%	1.2%
U.S.A.	1,071	1,169	9.2%	5.6%	8,315	8,483	2.0%	6.0%
Sub-Total	1,227	1,399	14.0%	6.7%	10,087	10,253	1.6%	7.2%
Others	1,440	1,702	18.2%	8.1%	11,121	14,773	32.8%	10.4%
Total	19,505	20,904	7.2%	100.0%	131,210	142,499	8.6%	100.0%

* Provisional Figures

Selected Countries arrival, % change with 2005 and % share of July 2006

*The above data contains arrivals by air route only.

Source: Immigration Office, TIA and MoCTCA, Analyzed and Compiled by: Nepal Tourism Board

APPENDIX-III
PHOTOS

Main Entrance Gate to Kankrebihar