

ECOTOURISM IN NEPAL

(A Case Study of Nagarkot)

A Project Report

Submitted To:

**Central Department of Rural Development
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the
Master's Degree of Arts in Rural Development**

Submitted By

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RECOMMENDATION LETTER

The Project Report entitled “*ECOTOURISM IN NEPAL: A Case Study of Nagarkot*” has completed by Ms. Laxmi Karki under my supervision for her partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master’s of Arts in Rural Development. I would recommend this project work for further assessment.

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APPROVAL LETTER

This is to certify that the project report submitted by Ms.Laxmi Karki entitled *“ECOTOURISM IN NEPAL: A Case Study of Nagarkot”* has been approved by the Department. This project report has been in the prescribed format by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

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Date: -----

Executive Summary

Ecotourism operations have been established all over the world, particularly in developing countries on the assumption that there will be minimum negative impacts, maximum benefits for local people and their environment, and first hand natural and cultural experiences for visitors.

The primary purpose of this study is to find out the environmentally sustainable ecotourism development in Nagarkot.

This study was based on the primary data collected through questionnaires from 50 local people, 13 tourists and 60 hotel/restaurants as well as interaction with them and secondary data from various sources.

This study identified that there is fewer negative environmental as well as cultural impact on the area. Tourism is found to create some economic opportunities to local people but it is not in a desirable extent and the economic benefit is not distributed equally.

The study concluded that Nagarkot offers a high value ecotourism attraction in terms of the natural and scenic attributes combined with the cultural and lifestyle of its indigenous people.

The finding of this study is that most of the tourists visiting Nagarkot attracted for sight seeing of Himalayan range and peaceful environment which supports for the prospective area as an ecotourism site.

Although a number of constraints to further development of ecotourism were identified poor transportation and communication facilities, poor recreational facilities , a limited season, lack of marketing, poor solid waste management system, limited number of educated people-there is a potential to develop a viable ecotourism enterprise for a high value, low volume ecotourism market.

Thus, the future of ecotourism in Nagarkot is found to be very optimistic and relies heavily on who is responsible for marketing, setting the planning initiating the entry fee, involving the locals and establishing the infrastructures needed or ecotourism development.

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ACRONMYS

ACA- Annapurna Conservation Area

ACAP- Annapurna Conservation Area Project

Apeco- Asia Pacific Eco-tourism Conference

CBS- Central Bureau of Statistics

EIA- Environmental Impact Assessment

HMG- His Majesty's Government

i.e. - That is

ICIMOD- International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development

IUCN- The World conservation Union

IYE-International Year of Tourism

KMTNC- King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation

MoCTCA-Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation

MoPE- Ministry of Population and Environment

NGO- Non-Government Organization

NPC- National Planning Commission

NTB- Nepal Tourism Board

RNAC- Royal Nepal Airlines Corporation

SANE- South Asia Network for Ecotourism

TIES- The International Ecotourism Society

UNEP- United Nations Environment

WES- World Eco-tourism Summit

CHAPTER-ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background:

Nepal is situated in Southeastern part of Asia, just south of the great Himalayan ranges. It is roughly rectangular in shape with a total area of 147,181 square kilometer. It is located between 26°22' to 30° 27' North latitude and 80° 4' to 88° 12' East longitude, with an altitudinal range from 60m in the South to 8,848 m in the North. The average North –South width is about 193 km and East –West length averages to 885 km. The country is landlocked and bordered by India in the East, West and South, and China in the North. (www.welcomenepal.com).

Nepal is one of the richest country in the world in terms of bio-diversity due to unique position and variation of its landscape, culture and people. It can offer a unique pleasure for everyone. With unlimited resources, Nepal can make maximum use of the tourism sector as the leading sector for development. It is non-disputable that tourism sector in Nepal is the largest single source for earning foreign currency and providing large number of employment to both urban and rural sector which helps for the sustainable development. Nepal is a country of amazing extremes, the home of the world's highest mountain, historical sites, religious places and the forested plains where the lordly tigers and the great one-horned rhinoceros trundle at ease.

Nepal has varieties of tourism resources. Places of natural beauty, historical and cultural monuments, art, architecture, festivals, flora and fauna are the best attraction to the foreign visitors. Among such attractions, Nagarkot is one of the most scenic tourist destinations in Nepal. It is located 32 km east of Kathmandu Valley. It is renowned for its spectacular view of Himalayan range, majestic landscape and beautiful set of villages. Visitors often travel Nagarkot from Kathmandu to spend the night for the breathtaking view of sunrise and sunset. Nagarkot is popular as one of the best tourist's destination to view Mt.Everest as well as other Himalayan range

from Dhaulagiri in the west to Kanchanjaunga in the east. It also offers an excellent view of Indrawati River in the east and Kathmandu valley in the south and west (DOT, 1998).

Nagarkot is an important tourist centre. The scattered settlements along the hillsides, different communities, their culture life style etc are the factors that attract the tourist in the area. Tourism plays a crucial role to improve the economy in that area. Poverty, unemployment and social backwardness are the major problems of Nagarkot.

1.2 Statement of Problem

The first definition of ecotourism was created by Ceballos Lascurian in 1987. While many perspectives on ecotourism now exist, they have a common focus in their response to the impact of mass tourism on the natural and cultural environment. Today, the basic concepts of ecotourism are minimizing negative impacts, and maximizing benefits for the local people and their natural environment, while providing positive experiences to visitors (Wall, 1997).

1.3 Objectives of the Study:

The study is focused on ecotourism and its impact in Nagarkot, the specific objectives areas follows:

- To assess the natural and cultural resources of the area in the context of tourism.
- To identify the different level of satisfaction of tourists.
- To observe the tourism activity and its impacts on local environment.
- To recommend the ways to harmonize tourism with environment.

1.4 Importance of the study:

Nepal is sound placed for tourism development. In Kathmandu Valley alone, there are places like Nagarkot, Kakani, Dhulikhel, Shivapuri, Daman, Fulchowki,

Dakshinakali, and so on. The present study is intended to cover one of these places of Kathmandu Valley, namely Nagarkot.

Ecotourism can play a crucial role in the ecological and economic development of a country. It is essential to explore the way, which can help to integrate ecotourism with poverty reduction and natural resource management.

Nagarkot is the touristic area which is famous for its natural beauty, view of rising and setting of sun, spectacular view of Himalayas and Indrawati River Valley. Implementation of ecotourism program in Nagarkot would be beneficial for the nature conservation and community development as well. The scope of ecotourism is very optimistic in Nagarkot. This study deals with the impact of tourism as well as natural resources of the area which will be of greater significance. This study will also be helpful for planners, policy makers to set out program for preventing further degradation of existing natural and cultural resources, their upliftment and sustainable utilization with ecotourism implementation. It may also contribute to future researchers working in this area.

1.5 Limitation of the Study:

The present study covers the tourist area namely Nagarkot which is located on the central development region. The study has following limitations:

- Though there is domestic tourism in Nagarkot, this study concentrates only on international tourists.
- The study considers only limited area, which is Nagarkot area
- The questionnaire survey was conducted during the period of July to August 2006, that period of the year is generally considered to be the off-season for the tourists visiting Nagarkot.

This research finding typically represents the eco-tourism of Nagarkot. Time limitation and limited resources are the major constraints of the study.

CHAPTER-TWO

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Ecotourism

There is no universally accepted definition of ecotourism. Evans-Pritchard and Salazar [1992, cited in Mow forth and Munt, 1998, p.104] note that “it is still not possible to be exact about whether the term 'ecotourism' is meant as a pure concept or as a term for wide public use”. Theoretically, ecotourism can be defined as a type of tourism where the environment, local community and visitor all benefit. In practice, tour operators often use the term ‘ecotourism’ as a marketing tool to promote any form of tourism that is related to nature. As Wight [1994, p.39] notes:

“There seem to be two prevailing views of ecotourism: one envisages that public interest in the environment may be used to market a product; the other sees that this same interest may be used to conserve the resources upon which this product is based. These views need not be mutually exclusive”.

Various conferences have been held on ecotourism and responsible tourism to promote the latter view cited above. At the 1995 World Conference on Sustainable Tourism held in Lanzarote, it was agreed that:

“Tourism is sustainable when its development and operation include participation of local population, protection of the total environment, fair economic return for the industry and its host community, as well as a mutual respect for and gratification of all involved parties” [Jafari, 1996, p.959].

Ecotourism as defined by UNEP on Convention on Biological Diversity, “Ecotourism is specially relates with conservation, sustainability, and biological diversity. As a development tool, ecotourism can advance the three basic goals:

- *Conserve biological (and cultural) diversity, by strengthening protected area management systems (public or private) and increasing the value of sound ecosystems;*

- *Promote the sustainable use of biodiversity, by generating income, jobs and business opportunities in ecotourism and related business networks, and*
- *Share the benefits of ecotourism developments equitably with local communities and indigenous people, by obtaining their informed consent and full participation in planning and management of ecotourism businesses.*

In the field, well-planned and managed ecotourism has proven to be one of the most effective tools for long-term conservation of biodiversity when the right circumstances (such as market feasibility, management capacity at local level, and clear and monitored links between ecotourism development and conservation) are present.

According to the Quebec Declaration on Ecotourism, ecotourism "embraces the principles of sustainable tourism and the following principles which distinguish it from the wider concept of sustainable tourism:

- *Contributes actively to the conservation of natural and cultural heritage,*
- *Includes local and indigenous communities in its planning, development and operation, contributing to their well-being,*
- *Interprets the natural and cultural heritage of the destination to visitor, lends itself better to independent travelers, as well as to organized tours for small size groups".*

As per the definition of a group of Indigenous Peoples, Organizations, NGOs and other members of Civil Society, on 8th session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development held on May 2000, "Ecotourism is sustainable tourism, which follows clear processes that:

- *Ensures prior informed participation of all stakeholders,*
- *Ensures equal, effective and active participation of all stakeholders,*
- *Acknowledges Indigenous Peoples communities' rights to say "no" to tourism development - and to be fully informed, effective and active participants in the development of tourism activities within the communities, lands, and territories, and*

- *Promotes processes for Indigenous Peoples and local communities to control and maintain their resources”.*

The main feature of eco-tourism is sustainability. There are three major dimensions of eco-tourism and proper balancing of these could lead to sustainability. They are:

- *Environmental*
- *Social and*
- *Economic*

In eco-tourism managers must recognize environmental and social improvement as an economic and competitive opportunity is not as a cost or threat. The number of people who visit the operation cannot measure eco-tourism success, but consideration must be given as to the customers’ levels of satisfaction and their likelihood of returning. Sources: Lascurain, 1996)

Eco-tourism as defined by IUCN’s Ecotourism Program is “environmentally responsible travel and visitation to relatively undisturbed natural areas, in order to enjoy and appreciate nature that promotes conservation, has low visitor impact, and provides for beneficially active socio-economic involvement of local population”.(Lascurain, 1996).

Ecotourism is nature-based tourism that is ecologically sustainable and is based on relatively undisturbed natural areas. It is non-damaging, provides a direct contribution to the continued protection and management of protected areas, and is subject to an adequate and appreciate management regime.

According to National Ecotourism Strategy and Marketing Programme of Nepal 2004, a broad definition of sustainable tourism or ecotourism was adopted as: “Any style and type of tourism that has the potential to bring benefits to the local economy whilst contributing to natural and cultural resource conservation”. (NTB, 2004)

Ecotourism is also seen as an interfacing of conservation concern and tourism interests, setting free and required jointly preserve the quality of the environment while protecting nature and promoting tourism. It is a timely strategy that is vital to the maintenance of healthy ecosystems along with economic benefit to any host area communities. Therefore, ecotourism has been viewed as a new tourism strategy that

balances development and economic gains by benefiting both nature and destination areas (Farrel and Runyan, 1991).

“Ecotourism is now seen as a model of development in which natural areas are planned as part of the tourism economic base, and biological resources and ecological processes are clearly linked to social and economic sectors. It is also expected to be a natural fit to protect biological diversity and find non-consumptive uses of natural resources which still show up on the national balance sheet”(kutay, 1989).

2.2 Principles of Ecotourism

Although the scholars have defined Ecotourism in various ways, the essence of each definition is more or less same. The principles of Ecotourism developed by the International Ecotourism Society (TIES) are presented here under (Shrestha and Walinga, 2003).

- *Avoids negative impacts that can damage the reliability of the natural or cultural environments being visited.*
- *Educates the traveler on the importance of natural environmental conservation.*
- *Direct revenues to the conservation of the natural areas and the management of the protected areas.*
- *Brings economic benefits to local communities and direct revenues to local people living nearby protected areas.*
- *Emphasizes the need for planning and sustainable growth of the tourism industry, and seeks to ensure that tourism development does not exceed the social and environmental ‘carrying capacity’.*
- *Retains a high percentage of revenues in the host country by stressing the use of locally owned facilities and services.*
- *Increasingly relies on infrastructure that has been developed sensitively in harmony with the environment- minimizing use of fossil fuels conserving local plants and wildlife, and blending with the natural environment.*

2.3 Requirements of Ecotourism

For an activity to qualify as ecotourism, it must demonstrate the following characteristics:

- *It promotes positive environmental ethics and foster 'preferred' behavior in its participants.*
- *It does not degrade the resources.*
- *It is oriented around the environment in question and not around humans.*
- *It must benefit the wildlife and environment.*
- *It provides a first-hand encounter with the natural environment.*
- *It actively involves the local communities in the tourism process.*
- *Its level of satisfaction is measured in terms of education or appreciation.*
- *It involves considerable preparation and demands in-depth knowledge on the part of both leaders and participants*

2.4 Benefits of Ecotourism

Mass tourism had been found in developed countries, which cause many social problems like alcoholism, commercialization of sex, organic diseases and social crimes. In developing countries, tourism has accelerated begging problem and some beggars have undertaken it as a profession. Tourism has also brought changes in the lifestyle of local people and they loose their attachment and attraction towards their own heritage (Jha, 1999). In fact, overuse, resulting in degradation of the environment, loss of economic benefits due to damage to the resource or the local community, and disruption of local cultures or values, are often cited as drawbacks to ecotourism. But if tourism is damaging natural resources, then it is not ecotourism. True eco-tourism can in fact be one of the most powerful tools for protecting the environment (Ceballos-Lascurian, 1996).

There are abundant benefits of eco-tourism. It can provide income and employment contributing to development, enabling public enjoyment and understanding, and it also can justify nature protection (Jha, 1999). Eco-tourism potentially offers national, regional and total economic benefits similar to those of other types of tourism activity.

Full economic potential at different aspects of economy is yet to be substantiated by specific studies (Ziffer, 1989).

Eco-tourism is a new concept, which has emerged as a replacement to mass tourism as a way to reduce adverse impact on nature. Eco-tourism is a response to the negative effect that mass tourism has had on the culture and geography of countries. In reality, ecotourism is a culturally and environmentally sensitive travel that contributes to conservation and management of natural areas for sustainable economic development (Gurung, 1997).

Developing eco-tourism product requires minimal impact and ecologically sustainable approaches to tourism planning development and management. Community participation in decision-making, planning and participatory techniques at a grass-roots level are key methodologies evolved in Nepal for eco-tourism development (NTB, 2004).

De Kadt also uses “sustainable tourism” as the broadest descriptor, employed to denote all types of tourism, whether based on natural or human-made resources that contribute to sustainable development (1990, cited by Healy 1992).

2.5 Environmental and Social Influence of Tourism

The increase in tourism demands for new goods and services often places additional pressure on scarce resources and results in the destruction or depletion of natural areas and the loss of habitat, to the extent that the very survival of some species is threatened. Other results might include landslides and erosion, depletion of ground water reserves and despoliation of scenic vistas. Tourism is a symbol of the affluent western lifestyle and consumerism (Gurung, 1995). Many trekking routes are littered with plastics, cans, bottles, tin foils and other refuse, which is mainly due to presence of visitors in these areas. All these eventually contribute to environmental degradation. Furthermore, many local traditions and habits have come under the influence of western tourists. As a result generations-old traditions and cultures have been negatively impacted in many areas. This is common among porters and trekking guides of the younger generation who come into direct contact with tourists, to the extent that some of them leave the country to go to the west and work. The increased use of drugs and growth of criminal activities are also linked to tourism (Gurung, 1995). On the positive side, tourism is increasingly seen as one of the catalysts for

environmental conservation. As a result, several pilot programs have been designed to promote tourism that achieves the twin goals of local development and environmental conservation, eventually opening up new opportunities for promoting ecotourism.

2.6 Global Scenario of Ecotourism

The future growth of ecotourism has been further influenced by the “Earth Summit” (UNCED) held in June 1992, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It sought agreement of world leaders on the concept of “sustainable” use of resources.

The declaration by Earth Summit compelled the mass tourism operators to think about their activities so that they become environmentally sustainable. Operators now realize that the environment is not an opportunity that comes twice and that the ecology of a place once destroyed cannot be recreated. This is core concept put forward to boost the idea of ecotourism.

There is a growing market for ecotourism across the world. Ecotourism comprises over 50% of total tourist business worldwide and growth in ecotourism shows an increasing trend. (MoPE, 2004).

The United Nations General Assembly in December 1998 declared 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism (IYE) because ecotourism is recognizing as the growing industry and the year was celebrated accordingly. The IYE became the world’s biggest initiatives to raise awareness about ecotourism.

The World Ecotourism Summit was the principal event to mark 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism. It was successfully held in Quebec City, Canada from 19 to 22 May, 2002, with the participation of 1,169 delegates from 132 different countries, representing public, private, NGO, academic and research institutions, intergovernmental, national and international development and aid agencies, as well as local and indigenous communities and individual experts. The main outcome of the Summit is the Quebec Declaration on Ecotourism, a document that was prepared through wide consultation at the Summit and contains general guidelines, as well as stakeholder-specific recommendations for the sustainable development of ecotourism (www.world-tourism.org).

Asia Pacific Ecotourism Conference (Apeco-2002) held from 3-6 October 2002 in Malaysia. The conference was organized to create awareness on essentiality of

ecotourism in sustainable socio-economic development through environment and natural resource conservation.

2.7 Ecotourism in Nepal

In the Nepalese context, the prime aim of ecotourism has been to promote a symbiotic relationship between tourism and the environment with a particular focus on uplifting the local village economies.

In order to fully tap Nepal's tourism potential and give it long-term sustainability, the impact of tourism needs careful assessment. Eco-tourism has been touted as an attractive sustainable development alternative to mass tourism for two main reasons. The first is that ecotourism has fewer negative impacts on natural resources than mass tourism, while the other reason is that eco-tourism-related activities can enhance conservation of natural resources, community development and overall socio-economic improvement of the area. In this light, the practice of ecotourism, per se, is a new phenomenon in Nepal. However, the country has seen environmental conservation and tourism being integrated in the name of sustainable development for quite some time. This is largely due to management of the protected areas such as Annapurna and Sagarmatha where considerable conservation works are being carried out. It is interesting to note that when the Annapurna Conservation Area Project, one of the pioneer projects, was launched; ecotourism as such was not in the planners' minds. It was what their initiatives have been labelled more recently. However, in the last few years, the KMTNC under its largest undertaking, ACAP, has been engaged in implementing Nepal's first formal eco-tourism program in the Ghalekharka-Sikles area (area of honey hunters) funded by the Government and the Asian Development Bank, effective from 1992. This project, comprising foot-trail construction, forest zoning, proper camping facilities for trekkers and other environmental conservation works, can be regarded as one of its kinds for the promotion and development of ecotourism in Nepal.

Uncontrolled growth, environmental degradation and pollution have challenged tourism development and its expansion. Along with tourism's advantages, the influx of tourists in the country has grave implications for the fragile natural and cultural environment, and made worse by unethical practices, cutthroat competition among the

tourism entrepreneurs, and weak enforcement of the laws by the government agencies.

In order to check the mismanagement in the tourism sector and ensure its quality, the government is trying to cope with the situation through using appropriate policy mechanisms, proper planning, enactment and enforcement of necessary laws. According to the Tourism Policy of 1995, in order to prevent adverse effects on the environment, a Tourism environment Guideline will be framed. In the same way trekking areas shall be classified into three areas; General, Guided and Restricted Areas, depending upon the level of their infrastructure development, remoteness, fragility and ancient as well as original culture.

Nepal has a comparative advantage for tourism development based on its spectacular natural landscapes and unique cultural heritage. Nepal's combination of world-class cultural and natural tourism attractions is well suited for international tourism and many of Nepal's primary tourist attractions are world class. Because of its combination of spectacular tourism resources and a very poor, largely rural based population, Nepal finds itself at the forefront of ecotourism development, and in particular pro-poor initiatives. Well-established nature and adventure products include wildlife viewing, trekking, mountaineering and rafting, all of high international standards. There is also tourist activities for the less adventurous such as village visits and home-stays, and half and full day walking circuits for non-trekkers. Tourism is a major contributor to Nepal's economy and is widely considered to be one economic activity that has the potential to bring considerable benefits to Nepal. If it is managed effectively, tourism can be used as a vehicle to deliver socio-economic benefits directly to rural and remote areas. There are many examples of projects in Nepal, which have been actively working in projects, which address concerns that tourism impacts must be managed, products diversified and benefits retained in local areas. The case study of Annapurna Conservation Area (ACAP) Ecotourism Project is explored in detail as a model commercial operation in this context.

Based on past experience ecotourism development in Nepal can be viewed from two perspectives, viz. projects conceived and developed as eco-tourism projects such as Ghalegaon - Sikles Ecotourism Project, and initiatives that consist strong ecotourism components such as in most protected areas. There are other initiatives that do not mention explicitly an association with ecotourism but since they embrace principles

of ecotourism they too are considered as a contribution to the development of ecotourism. Therefore, the discussion on ecotourism in Nepal that follows is viewed from these perspectives.

Since eco-tourism is related with nature travel in rural, remote and protected areas, tourism in Nepal is often viewed from an ecotourism perspective. The varied natural resources, towering mountains and World Heritage Sites, and the famed hospitality of the Nepali people, blend to make Nepal a world-class eco-tourism destination. The diversity of geographical belts has made Nepal useful and attractive to tourists. The uniqueness of physical features of the country has given a wide range of tourist activities from visiting jungle resort to the snow-capped mountains.

The King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation (KMTNC) in Nepal is perhaps the leader in this direction. This NGO is working closely with local communities to integrate ecotourism in the environment conservation and overall sustainable development of the Annapurana Conservation Area (Ghurmi, 1997) and Bagmara village in the buffer Zone of Royal Chitwan National Park (Rijal, 1997). In both these areas, the KMTNC has emphasized local peoples' participation in the planning and management of natural resources, ecotourism development and overall local development plan of the area.

On the occasion of International Year of Ecotourism 2002 and International Year of Mountains 2002 "The National Ecotourism Strategy and Ecotourism Marketing Program of Nepal" has been published in 2004. This aims to provide principle strategies and marketing program for the development of ecotourism in Nepal.

It is planned that this strategy will serve as a guide for local communities, ecotourism operators, natural resource managers, development agencies, planners and all level of government towards achieving a coordinated approach to the future development of ecotourism.

Realizing its importance The Tenth Plan (2002-2007) has also emphasized on the promotion of ecotourism in the country and development of the country as one of the major destinations for ecotourism.

2.7.1 Environmental Impacts

Tourism activities like trekking, mountaineering and rafting have a direct effect on the environment. The slopes of the Himalayas of Nepal are relatively unstable and the intrusion of a large number of tourists in areas with low density and in hitherto uninhabited places puts pressure on the natural resource base. The first direct target of tourism is the depletion of forests. It is true that the government of Nepal prohibits mountaineering and trekking groups from using fuel wood but the regulation is not effectively monitored. This problem is intense in major trekking regions such as Annapurna, Langtang and Everest regions. Increased amount of non-biodegradable litter, inappropriate disposal of human waste, contamination of water sources and the pollution of creeks and rivers are the most visible negative effects. Solid waste pollution in the Himalayas has been basically generated by expedition, trekking and camping activities of trekkers. Barry G. Bishop, who after a successful climb labeled it as “the highest junkyard in the world”, first publicized pollution on the Mt. Everest. Garbage accumulating on the Himalayas includes climbing equipment, foods, plastics, tins, aluminum cans, glass, clothes, papers, tents, ropes, medical wastes and the bodies of pack animals that perish while being used for logistic purposes. Such trash is scattered everywhere at different camp levels as well as on the way to the peaks. According to mountaineering expert Hutchison, the garbage left by expedition teams is well over 50 tons, at about 500 kg on average for every team in Nepal (Haroon, 2004). It results from irresponsible tourists and weak enforcement of prevailing laws. But efforts are also being made to clean up the destinations. The Environment Everest Expedition, 2000, brought back 632 disposed oxygen cylinders from the South Col and above. From Camp I and II, 1,600 kg of other items dumped were also brought back (NMA, 2003). It is estimated that an average trekking group generates 15 kg of non-burnable garbage in 10 trekking days. With a large number of trekkers visiting the mountain areas of Nepal, the problem becomes precarious (Uprety, 2003). The establishment of permanent constructions such as lodges further adds to the environmental problem.

Trekking and mountaineering tourism can have environmental impacts. The concerns are over the magnitude of such impacts. Although eco-tourists are

motivated to preserve the environment, there can be many negative impacts (Shrestha and Walinga, 2003). Some of these are mentioned below:

- Eco-tourists often go to environmentally fragile areas, such as the Himalayas.
- Visits may occur during sensitive periods such as during breeding or hatching periods.
- Visits by ecotourists eventually may lead to mass tourism at the Site, such that the ultimate impact is much greater than the initial impact.
- Visits may cause off-site impacts, such as the consumption of airplane fuel.

The impacts of all these factors can take several forms such as water pollution, visual pollution (pollution of natural beauty due to construction of buildings in a haphazard manner), land use pollution and ecological disruption. For instance, although the valley between Pisang and Manang is broad and there is enough room for further expansion of settlements, all the new constructions are being built only along the trekking route spoiling the natural beauty of the route (Schmelzer, 2000).

Besides the above-mentioned off-site impacts, tourism can bring onsite impacts like soil erosion and compaction, disturbance to wildlife, trampling of vegetation, and accidental introduction of exotic plants and increased frequency of forest fires. For example, most of the natural vegetation between Bhratang, Khangsar and Thorung Pass has been destroyed. Conifer and birch (*Betula utilis*) forests at an altitude of 3,000 to 4,000 masl remain only at a few locations. Demand for new pastures, arable land, firewood and timber has forced people to clear forests. As a consequence, the soil has dried up and eroded at several places. Yaks, cows, goats and sheep also destroy a lot of vegetation and increase pressure on land. The steep slopes in the vicinity of Khangsar and Yakgawa Kang of Manang are extremely susceptible to soil erosion (Schmelzer, 2000).

2.7.2 Social Impacts

The worldwide growth in ecotourism associated with enhanced societal concern over environmental conservation is drawing tourists into backcountry remote areas. However, such tourism can negatively impact the indigenous and generation-old traditions, cultures, practices and habits of destination areas. This is common among porters as well as Trekking, mountaineering and rafting guides who are in direct contact with tourists. Tourism can also have positive impacts on the socio-cultural nexus. There are good examples of socio-cultural norms have been maintained even after the influx of tourists, e.g. Tharu Village in Chitwan, Gurung culture in Sirubari and ACA, and Sherpa culture in Everest and high mountain regions.

2.7.3 Policy Measures to promote Ecotourism

The Ninth Plan Policy and implementation strategies include promotion of eco-tourism. The strategies include programs such as development of model tourist villages and new trekking areas. The Tenth Plan focuses on review of tourism policies, regulations, institutional arrangements, performance, and assessments of net contribution to the economy from tourism. It will also focus on developing tourism infrastructure in remote areas that will ultimately help to develop domestic tourism in Nepal (Awasthi *et al.*, 2001). Nepal has developed strategies to facilitate the development of eco-tourism as well. Realizing that there is increasing stress on the natural environment, HMG has introduced a legislation that requires tourism service providers to submitted Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) reports.

2.7.4 Incentives and Support

His Majesty's Government has played a supportive role not only at the policy level but also in implementation. For instance, it provides grant assistance for environmental protection activities through the Nepal Tourism Board.

Private institutions such as the Trekking Agents Association of Nepal regularly conduct a training course on ecotourism. Their policy is to protect and keep the environment clean. They also conduct periodic refresher courses for their staff. Apart from these, NGOs involved in tourism promotion have shown commitment to conserve the environment.

2.8 Review of Previous Studies

After the advent of democracy in 1951 Nepal followed an open door policy. On May 29, 1953 late Sir Tenzing Norgay and Mr. Edmund Hillary scaled Mt. Everest and World's attention was focused to Nepal and subsequently a tourism industry began to develop. When the Department of Tourism was established in 1966, under the Tourism Development Act 1964, the systematic recording of tourism started in Nepal. Although the tourism administration machinery has existed since 1956 tourism sector was further promoted only Royal Nepal Airlines Corporation (RNAC) came into being in 1958 (Pradhan, 1995).

Systematic tourism in Nepal started from 1996 with the establishment of a few hotels. The industry was further strengthened and established after the formation of Tourism Master Plan in 1972. The master plan gave emphasis to tourism market development, sightseeing, trekking, ecotourism, and recreational and adventure tourism (Oil, Baral, 1996).

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

Bhaju (1987) has made a comparative study on tourism in Nagarkot and Dhulikhel. In this study she has analyzed the situation of tourist inflow and its environmental and socio-economic impact in the study area. This study shows that the numbers of visitors in Nagarkot and Dhulikhel has been in increasing trend. According to her, the number of tourists in Nagarkot increased from 1924 in the year 1981 to 2642 in the year 1985. Similarly, the numbers of hotels have been increased from 1 in 1975 to 12 in 1985. She has found that development of hotel in these places is directly related to tourism and tourism has provided job opportunity to the local peoples.

Baral (1998) has studied on the prospects of ecotourism in the Begnas and Rupa Lake Watershed Area. In this study the natural environment is found to play a major role for the prospect of ecotourism. The natural resources such as lake, forest, wildlife as well as unique local culture of these areas were found suited for expanding and promoting ecotourism. During the study the impact of tourism is seen to have

influenced to some extent in the employment, education, transportation, agriculture, communication, culture, industry, and business sectors.

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

Regmi (1991) had made a study on the prospects of tourism development in around Tansen. From the study he found Tansen as a prospective tourism centre in Nepal. Natural beauty of Tansen and surrounding areas were found to be quite favorable for tourism development. Tourists were mainly found to visit Tansen for sightseeing and recreation, and majority of them were between 16-45 years in age. Art and architecture of temples are also found equally important for promotion of tourism. Beside this, the study also found the potentiality of Tansen as a base camp for trekkers in future.

Gyawali (2005) has made a study on an assessment of Tourism Status and Ecotourism Potential of Nagarkot. From the study he found that there was less negative environmental as well as cultural impact on the area. Tourism was found to create some economic opportunities to local people but it is not in a desirable extent and the economic benefit is not distributed equally. From his studied that the most of the tourists visiting Nagarkot attracted by the view of sunrise\sunset, sightseeing of Himalayan range and peaceful environment also supports for the potentiality of the areas as an ecotourism site.

CHAPTER-THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Description of the Study Area

The study area, Nagarkot, occupies the Bhaktapur districts of the kingdom of Nepal. Nagarkot is a popular Hill Station in Nepal and is situated at about 32 kilometers east of Kathmandu. It is situated at an altitude of 2175m above the sea level. The study area lies between the latitude 27° 41' N and 27° 44' N and longitudes 85 29'E to 85 32' E.

Nagarkot offers the best view of the Himalayan panorama. Many excursions are made from Nagarkot, to Sankhu, to Changu Narayan, Gokarna and other places. Nagarkot is a better place than any other view points for an unsurpassed view of Mt. Everest and the surrounding peaks and open panorama of the Snow Mountains. Nagarkot, around the year holiday resort, offers a view of peaks of the Himalayas stretching from the Dhaulagiri in the West to Kanchanjunga in the East. It is a popular point to watch the breathtaking sunrise over the gorgeous Himalayas and equally glorious sunset behind the beautiful valley of Kathmandu. It also offers an excellent view of the Indrawati River Valley to the East and Kathmandu Valley to the west. Not only from the point of tourism but also from the point of view of religion is this place very important. The following temples and historical buildings are important from religious and tourism point of view: Mahadev Pokhari, Mahakal, Kalidevi Temple, Lhodim Khasyor Chhyorden Remborche Gumba, Panchakanya Temple, and Jalpadevi Temple. Overall, this hill resort is equally popular among the tourists, dignitaries, diplomatic and Nepalese as well. (Pradhan, 1995).

Nagarkot is at higher altitude than Kathmandu city area so the temperature is lower than the city area. As this stands in front of a mountain, wind blows in the morning and evening. In the winter season, sometimes snow falls for the short period in

Nagarkot. In the winter, temperature rarely drops below 0°C with short but heavy precipitation. Even in the hot season one does not feel hot.

The study was carried out in the Nagarkot area which covers Nagarkot VDC of Bhaktapur Districts.

The research study was conducted on the basis of both the primary and secondary data. In order to collect primary data qualitative and quantitative information were obtained from the field work using various research tools which are described below. The secondary data and information were collected from Nepal Tourism Board (NTB), Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), Tribhuvan University Central Library (TUCL), Ministry of Population and Environment (MoPE), Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation (MoCTCA), and various web-sites.

3.2 Research Tools

Surveys, semi-structured interviews and participatory observations were used in this study. This part explains the use of each of the methods. The data collection was done from July 2006.

A) Questionnaire Survey

Three different sets of questionnaires were administered to three groups of people: Local Residents, Hotel Owners, and Tourists visiting the area.

a) Local People

Questionnaire interview were conducted with local people. Because of the low literacy rate and to achieve a higher response rate, most of the questionnaire interviews were conducted in the respondent's houses. In some cases, questionnaires were given to the people requesting them to fill in the field.

b) Hotel Owners

The questionnaires survey was conducted with hotel owners. In the most of the cases direct interview was taken with the hotel owners to fill questionnaire. In

some cases, when the hotel owner was not available with the researcher, questionnaire was given to a hotel staff because this questionnaire is mostly related to the environmental impacts.

c) Tourists

The international tourists were selected to fill the questionnaires. This was the scheduled questionnaires because the tourists filled by themselves. The direct interview with tourists could not be conducted due to the time availability with the tourists for interviewing. The minimum response rates of tourists were found due to the language problem, time availability of the tourists etc. All the tourists were selected to participate in the survey.

B) Non-participant Observation

Non-participant observations were conducted in various situations to develop the qualitative and quantitative data. In this method, the researcher observed the daily life of people by watching and listening to their conversation. This was done during the interviewing people, talking with them, during walking along the routes and traveling in the bus. This was done to know the actual condition of respondents, the condition of landscape, kind of flora and fauna, awareness of people, roads, income from tourism, economic status of the local people, conditions of tourism, social impact of the tourism etc.

3.3 Data Analysis

The quantitative data obtained from questionnaires were analyzed using statistical tools. The collected quantitative information is presented in descriptive way. The different information obtained is presented in appropriate tables and figures. They are categorized and tabulated according to the objective of the research.

CHAPTER-FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Customer Types

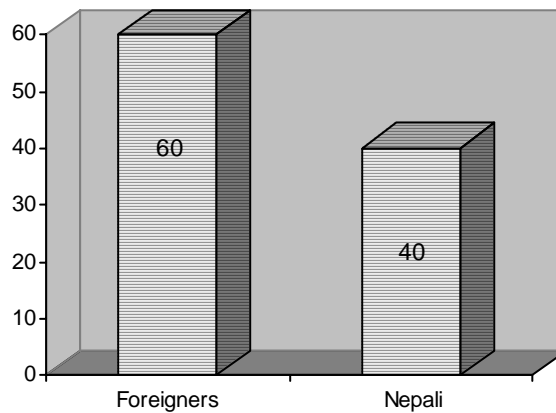
The researcher made survey to know which type of customers used to visit in Nagarkot area. It is presented in the table 4.1.

Table No- 4.1

Types of customers used to come in Hotel\Restaurant

| Customer's Type | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------|
| Foreigners | 36 | 60 |
| Nepali | 24 | 40 |
| Total | 60 | 100 |

Fig 4.1 Types of Customer Visited in Nagarkot Area



The study shows that 60% of customers who visit Nagarkot area are foreigners and remaining 40% are Nepali.

From the survey it clearly depicts that in recent years domestic tourism is in increasing trend.

From the above figure we can concluded that it might due to awareness program conducted by the NTB and change in habit of urban people.

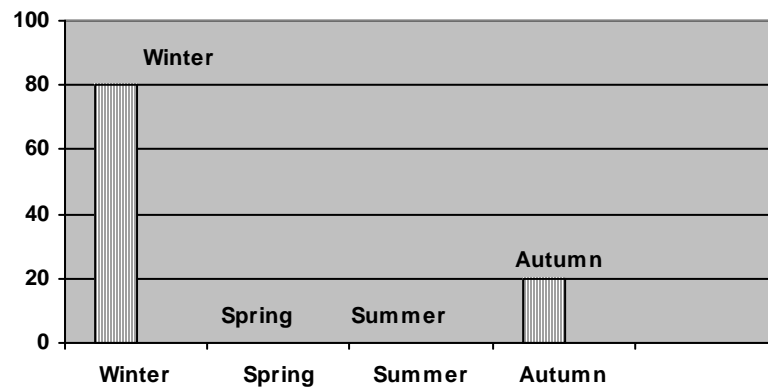
4.2 Best Seasons for Tourism in Nagarkot's Area

Season is the most essential component for the tourism business. Season plays a vital role for the tourism business in Nagarkot area. Winter season is the very favorable season for the tourists which clearly indicate by the table 4.2

Table No- 4.2
Seasons for Tourism Business

| Seasons | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|--------------|--------------------|------------|
| Winter | 48 | 80 |
| Spring | 0 | 0 |
| Summer | 0 | 0 |
| Autumn | 12 | 20 |
| Total | 60 | 100 |

Fig 4.2 Best Season for Tourism Business



The table 4.2 shows that 80% of tourists visit Nagarkot in winter season, 20% of tourists are visit in autumn season. In spring and summer season there is no tourists in the Hotel\Restaurants.

From the above study it can determine that the winter season is the best season for the business. Autumn is the quite good season in compare with the spring and summer season. Spring and summer season are the worst season for the business in Nagarkot.

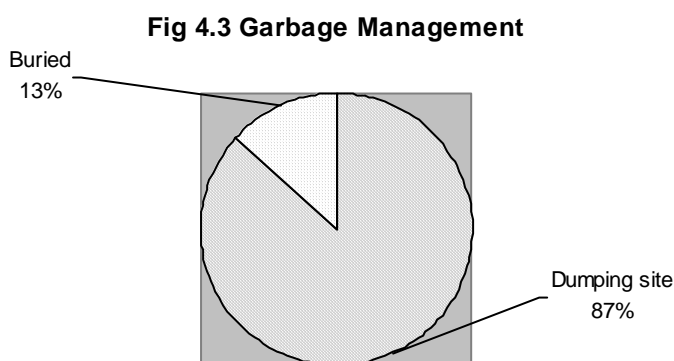
We can increase number of tourists in winter season in Nagarkot by providing different scheme like cheap rate of accommodation, by performing different cultural activities etc.

4.3 Garbage Management

Garbage is one of major factor for the environmental pollution. If the garbage produced from the hotels\Restaurants is not well managed this creates problem in the conservation of the environment in nagarkot. When the researcher asked the question to the owners, how they manage the garbage produced. The following table shows the management of garbage.

Table No-4.3
Garbage manage by Hotel\Restaurants

| Garbage management | No. Of respondents | Percentage |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------|
| By dumping site | 52 | 87 |
| By buried | 8 | 13 |
| Total | 60 | 100 |



The fig 4.3 shows that 87% of Hotels\restaurants are dump their garbage produced, 13% are buried their garbage produced by Hotels\Restaurants.

This shows that dumping site is feasible for the Hotels\Restaurants owner in Nagarkot.

It also clearly indicates that the government is not doing anything for the waste management in Nagarkot area. Government should be provided the facilities for the hotels\restaurants owners for the garbage management.

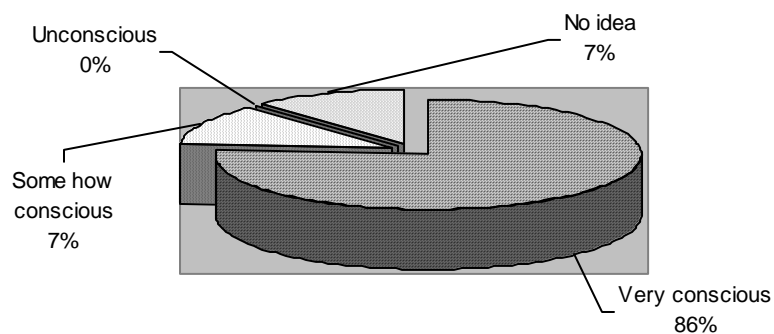
4.4 Attitude of Foreign Guests towards the Environment

Attitude is the way of thinking and behaving towards other. Attitude also gives the identification of the people. Human beings have different types of attitude. When the researcher asked the question to the Hotel\Restaurants owners about the attitude of foreigners toward the environment. The following results can be seen in the table.

Table 4.4
Attitude of Foreign guests

| Attitude | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Very conscious | 52 | 86 |
| Some how conscious | 8 | 7 |
| No conscious | 0 | 0 |
| No idea | 8 | 7 |
| Total | 60 | 100 |

Fig 4.4 Attitude of Foreign Guests



As per view of the Hotels\Restaurants owners 86% of the tourists are conscious about environmental pollution, 7%view that the tourists are some how conscious and 7% view that they have no idea about the consciousness of tourists toward environmental pollution.

Majority of the tourists did not throw the waste products anywhere, they always threw in the right places otherwise they kept the waste like cane, plastics, bottles etc. on their own bags.

It clearly shows that foreigners are very conscious with the environmental pollution. They have positive attitude towards the environment.

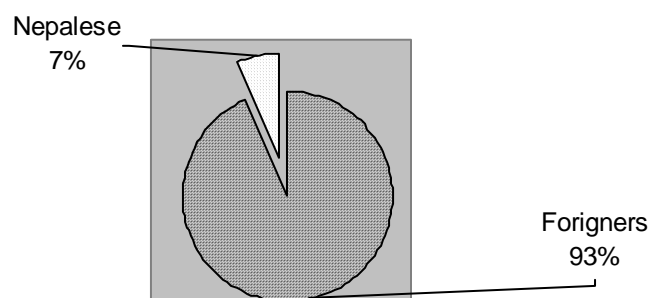
4.5 Awareness of Environment to Foreigners and Nepalese

Environment means the sum of all physical, chemical, biotic and cultural factors that effect life of organism in any way (P.D.Sharma). Environment is the essential components for promotion of the ecotourism. The table 4.5 identifies awareness level of Foreigners as well as Nepalese towards the environment.

Table No- 4.5
Awareness of Foreigners and Nepalese

| Types of Tourists | No. Of Respondents | Percentage |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Foreigners | 56 | 93 |
| Nepalese | 4 | 7 |
| Total | 60 | 100 |

Fig 4.5 Awareness Level of Foreigners and Nepalese Tourists



The fig.4.5 shows that 93% of the foreign tourists are conscious and 7% of Nepalese are conscious about the environmental pollution. The foreigners are very much sensitive and Nepalese tourists are not sensitive about the environmental pollution.

This indicates that there is lack of environmental awareness program. People did not know the importance of environment. There is lack of education as well as preservation idea.

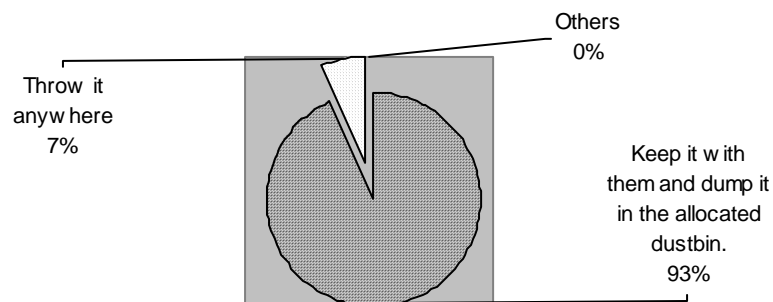
4.6 Methods used by Guests for the Wastes

Generally, guests take many things like cane food, cane juice, bottles; papers etc. to identify whether, the guests are dumping their wastes or throw it anywhere. The researcher put the question toward the hotel/restaurants owners. The results are below in the table 4.6.

Table No- 4.6
Methods used by guests

| Methods used by Guests | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|---|--------------------|------------|
| Keep it with them and dump it in the allocated dustbin. | 56 | 93 |
| Throw it anywhere | 4 | 7 |
| Others (specify) | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 60 | 100 |

Fig 4.6 Methods Used by Guests



This fig.4.6 presents that 93% of the tourists are kept waste product that they have been used like bottles, papers, wrappers etc. with them and dump in the allocated dustbin and 7% of the tourists are throw the waste anywhere.

It clarify that the maximum tourists are conscious and sensitive towards the environment and minimum tourists are unconscious and not serious about the environment.

4.7 Fire Camping in the Nagarkot

When the researcher asked respondents the curiosity of tourists about the fire camping. The researcher fined the following result which is shown in figure.

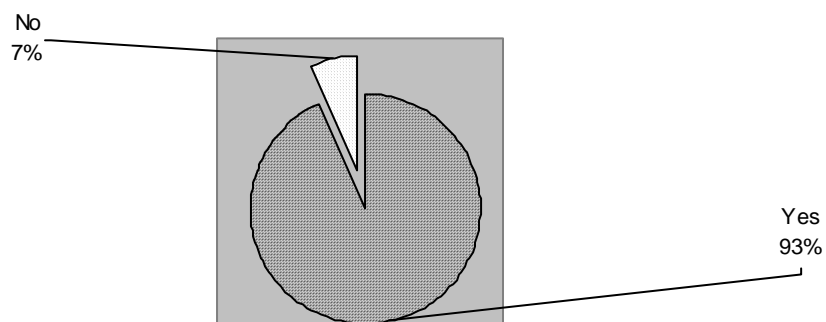
Table No- 4.7

Fire Camping held in Nagarkot

| Fire camping | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|--------------|--------------------|------------|
| Yes | 56 | 93 |
| No | 4 | 7 |
| Total | 60 | 100 |

The table 4.7 indicates that 93% of the respondents give the answered that the fire camping are frequently found in nagarkot and 7% of the respondents gave the answered there are no fire camping in Nagarkot.

Fig 4.7 Fire Camping in Nagarkot



It can be concluded that the fire camping is one of the components for the promotion of tourism in the Nagarkot.

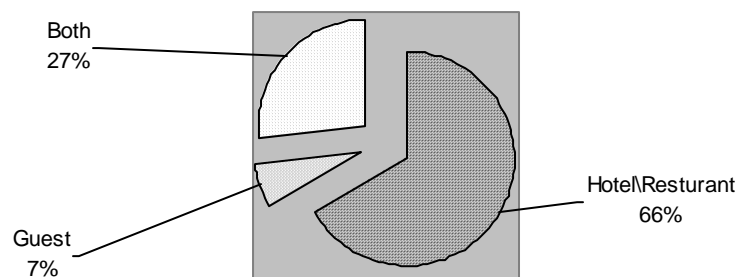
4.8 Who organized the Fire Camping

Fire camping is one of key factor for the entertainment of the tourists. To determine whether the guests themselves organize or hotel\restaurants organize the fire camping in nagarkot. This research disclosed that the hotel\restaurants organized the fire camping.

Table No- 4.8
Organizer of the Fire Camping

| Organization | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Hotel\Restaurant | 40 | 66 |
| Guest | 4 | 7 |
| Both | 16 | 27 |
| Total | 60 | 100 |

Fig 4.8 Organizers of the Fire Camping



The fig.4.8 signifies that 66% of the Hotels\Restaurants are organized the fire camping for the tourists in Nagarkot 27% of guests organized by the both and 7% of guests' organized fire camping by themselves.

It finds out that the hotel\restuarents owners have the chance to show the admirable activities to attract the tourists in their hotel\restaurants. This help to generate the income activities.

4.9 Tourist's Purpose of Visit

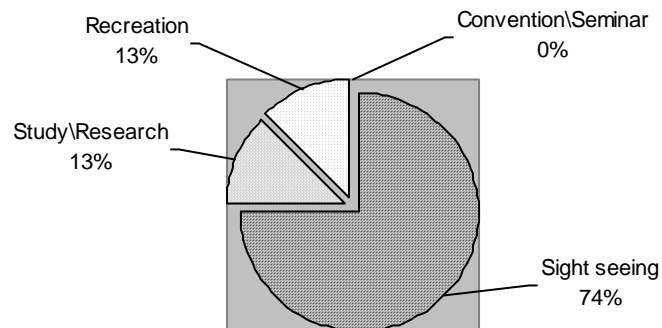
Purpose of visit to any place is quite significant as it guidelines the direction of improvement to be made and emphasize to be imposed to enhance tourism activities of destination.

Table No- 4.9

Purpose of Visit

| Purpose | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|--------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Sight seeing | 12 | 74 |
| Study\Research | 2 | 13 |
| Recreation | 2 | 13 |
| Convention\Seminar | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 16 | 100 |

Fig 4.9 Purpose of Visit



This fig. 4.9 illustrates the different purposes of visiting Nagarkot. 74% of tourists are visiting for sight seeing, 13% for recreation, 13% for study\research. The researcher did not find any tourists approach for the convention\seminar purpose. The major purpose is sight seeing for the tourists in Nagarkot.

From the data, the researcher concluded that the tourists' number can be increased in Nagarkot by providing proper facilities, proper advertisement and proper policy formation.

4.10 Recreational Activities

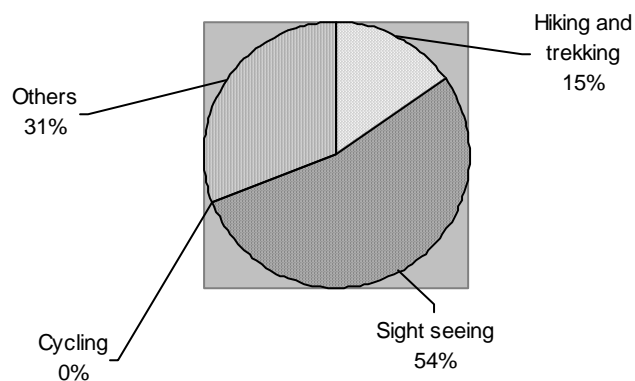
In an attempt to determine most exciting recreational activities in Nagarkot. The tourists were filled their opinion about the most recreational activities in Nagarkot.

The result is presented in the table 4.10

Table No- 4.10
Most exciting recreational activities

| Exciting | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Hiking and trekking | 2 | 15 |
| Sight seeing | 7 | 54 |
| Cycling | 0 | 0 |
| Others | 4 | 31 |
| Total | 13 | 100 |

Fig 4.10 Recreational Activites



The fig 4.10 demonstrates that 54% of tourists are much energized with sight seeing, 15% of the tourists are attracted for hiking and trekking, and 31% of the tourists' are fascinated for others recreational activities.

It clearly shows that the Nagarkot is best for the natural beauty which creates a center of attention for the tourists.

In this context, further initiations in the development and exploration of new tourism attraction could bring a growth in tourists' inflow in the destination.

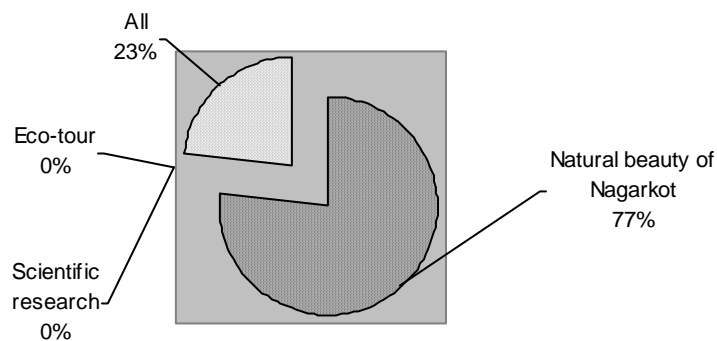
4.11 Main Attractions of Nagarkot

The study area is appropriate for ecotourism. The sources of tourist attractions like natural beauty, eco-tour and scientific research are rich in Nagarkot. Tourists were filled their view and detail result is seen in the table 4.11

Table No- 4.11
Attraction of Nagarkot for tourists

| Attraction | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Natural beauty of Nagarkot | 10 | 77 |
| Eco-tour | 0 | 0 |
| Scientific research | 0 | 0 |
| All of the above | 3 | 23 |
| Total | 13 | 100 |

Fig 4.11 Attraction of Nagarkot



The fig.4.11.shows that the 77% of the tourists are mainly be a focus for natural beauty of Nagarkot,23% of the tourists are catch the attention of all of the above attraction feature of Nagarkot but there is no one tourists who are interested for the eco tour and scientific research in Nagarkot.

This data indicated that tourists are greatly satisfied with the natural beauty of Nagarkot. The Nagarkot's beauty draws the tourists to arrive in Nepal. A few tourists are pleased with all of the above attraction of Nagarkot.

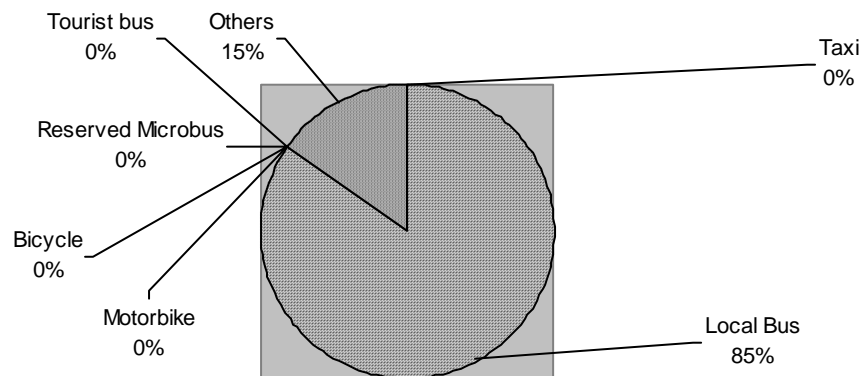
4.12 Means of Transportation

A survey was conducted to get the information about the mode of transportation by tourists. The information obtained from the field visit is presented below in table 4.12

Table 4.12
Means of Transportation used by Tourists

| Mean(s) of transportation | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|---------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Taxi | 0 | 0 |
| Local bus | 11 | 85 |
| Reserved Microbus | 0 | 0 |
| Tourist bus | 0 | 0 |
| Bicycle | 0 | 0 |
| Motorbike | 0 | 0 |
| Others | 2 | 15 |
| Total | 13 | 100 |

Fig 4.12 Means of Transportation



This figure 4.12 shows that 85% of the tourists mostly used local bus as means of transportation while 15% of tourists used others means of transportation to get to the Nagarkot.

The tourists chosen local bus to go to the Nagarkot, which shows clearly in the pie chart. In this research, the researcher did not find any tourists who use tourists' bus, microbus, bicycle, motorbike, taxi for the means of transportation.

It means the local bus is most comfortable for the tourists to reach the Nagarkot.

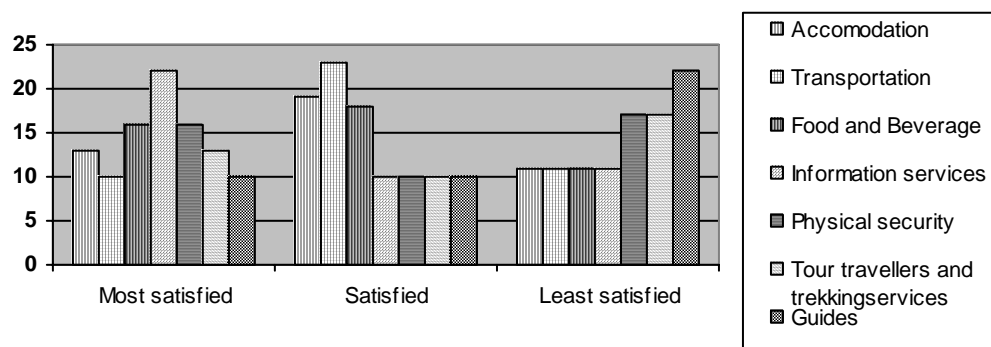
4.13 Level of Satisfaction

The researcher made an attempt to know the level of satisfaction of visitors in Nagarkot in terms of services provided. The tourists were asked to rank the different services as per their level of satisfaction. The data pertained their level of satisfaction has presented in table 4.13

Table No- 4.13
Satisfaction Level of Tourists in Nagarkot

| Level of Satisfaction | Most satisfied | | Satisfied | | Least satisfied | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| | No | % | No | % | No | % |
| Accommodation | 4 | 13 | 4 | 19 | 2 | 11 |
| Transportation | 3 | 10 | 5 | 23 | 2 | 11 |
| Food and Beverage | 5 | 16 | 4 | 18 | 2 | 11 |
| Information services | 7 | 22 | 2 | 10 | 2 | 11 |
| Physical security | 5 | 16 | 2 | 10 | 3 | 17 |
| Tour travelers and trekking services | 4 | 13 | 2 | 10 | 3 | 17 |
| Guides | 3 | 10 | 2 | 10 | 4 | 22 |
| Total | 31 | 100 | 21 | 100 | 18 | 100 |

Fig 4.13 Level of Satisfaction



The above table 4.13 shows that the tourists were mostly satisfied on information services, 22% of tourists were most satisfied. The tourists were satisfied on accommodation, transportation and food and beverage, 19%, 23% and 18% of respondent were satisfied. However, tourists were least satisfied with on physical security, tour travels and trekking services and guide facilities, 17%, 17%, and 22% respondents were least satisfied respectively.

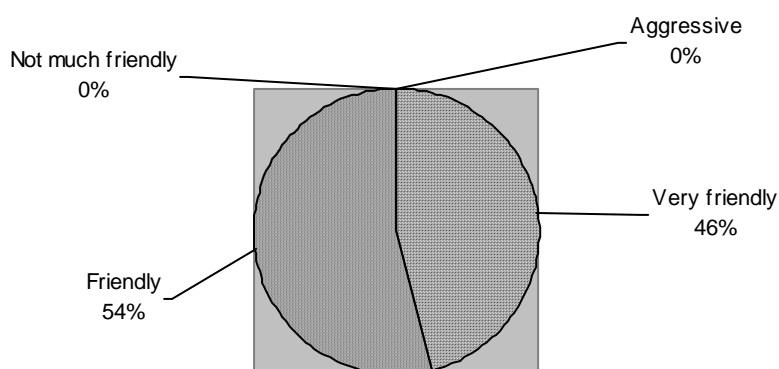
4.14 Hospitality

Hospitality is the essential for the tourism industry .Nepal is rich in cultural norms and values. Nepalese people treat tourists as god. In Nepali, there is a saying “*athiti devo vaba*” it means people love and respect their guest with warmth and friendly behavior. To know the hospitality of local people, the researcher gave tourists to fill their attitude towards the local people. The result is in the table 4.14.

Table No- 4.14
Hospitality of local people

| Hospitality | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|--------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Very friendly | 6 | 46 |
| Friendly | 7 | 54 |
| Not much friendly | 0 | 0 |
| Aggressive | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 13 | 100 |

Fig 4.14 Hospitality of Local People



Hospitality of local people was friendly towards the foreigners, which clearly show that the local people are very much truthful with the foreigners after all Nepalese people respect the tourists.

The table 4.14 confirmed that 54% of tourists were found friendly, 46% of tourists were found very friendly with them. None of the tourists were found the people as aggressive and not much friendly nature.

4.15 Level of Pollution

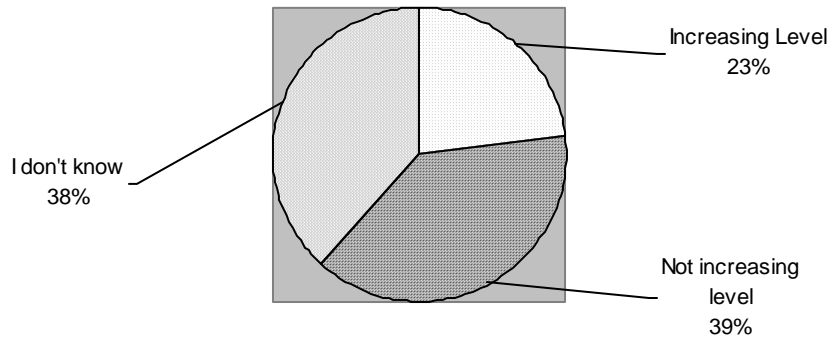
When the researcher gave tourists to fill their opinion about the level of pollution in Nagarkot. Regarding the question about the level of pollution, the majority of respondents responded that not in increasing level.

Table No- 4.16

Level of pollution in Nagarkot

| Level | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Increasing Level | 3 | 23 |
| Not increasing Level | 5 | 39 |
| I don't know | 5 | 38 |
| Total | 13 | 100 |

Fig 4.15 Level of Pollution



The observation by the researcher found that due to the absence of industries and heavy traffic, there is no pollution was found in Nagarkot. Nagarkot is free from the pollution.

Although there is no significant air pollution problem, the pie chart shows that the 39% of the tourists said that there is not increasing level of pollution, 38% of tourist said that they have no idea about the pollution level of Nagarkot and 23% of tourists found the pollution is increasing in Nagarkot.

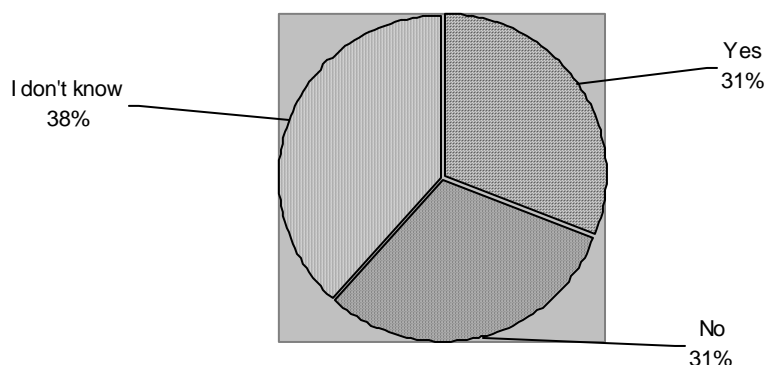
4.16 Garbage Problem

Garbage problem is responsible for the deterioration of the environment. So, the people always are aware about the garbage. To know the perception of the tourists, the researcher gave to fill the question; the data is in the table 4.16

Table No- 4.16
Facing garbage problem in Nagarkot area

| Facing garbage Problem | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Yes | 4 | 31 |
| No | 4 | 31 |
| I don't know | 5 | 38 |
| Total | 13 | 100 |

Fig 4.16 Facing Garbage Problem



There is no garbage problem facing by the tourists in Nagarkot area. A few tourists are supposed that they are facing garbage problem and a few are thought they don't know about the garbage problem of Nagarkot.

The pie diagram shows that 38% of tourists were not facing garbage problem. 31% of tourists were facing problem and 31% of tourists were not know the problem of the garbage in Nagarkot.

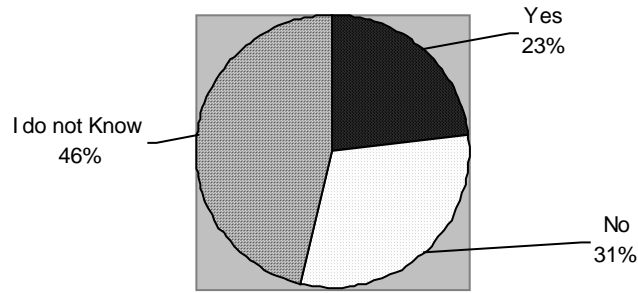
4.17 Toilet Facilities in Trekking Route

The public toilet is very important mainly for the visitors, couples. It may not be a problem immediately but in due course of time it may become a serious problem. To identify their satisfaction about the toilet facilities, the table 4.17 shows their satisfaction below.

Table No- 4.17
Toilet facilities in trekking route

| Toilet facilities | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Yes | 3 | 23 |
| No | 4 | 31 |
| I don't know | 6 | 46 |
| Total | 13 | 100 |

Fig 4.17 Toilet Facilities in the Area



The tourists are unknown about the toilet facilities or not in the trekking route of Nagarkot. Mainly tourists are visiting Nagarkot through the local bus. 23% of the tourists are found the toilet facilities in trekking route and 31% of the tourists are not satisfied with the toilet facilities of the trekking route so they said that there is no any toilet facility in trekking route and 46% of tourists did not be familiar with the toilet facilities in trekking route.

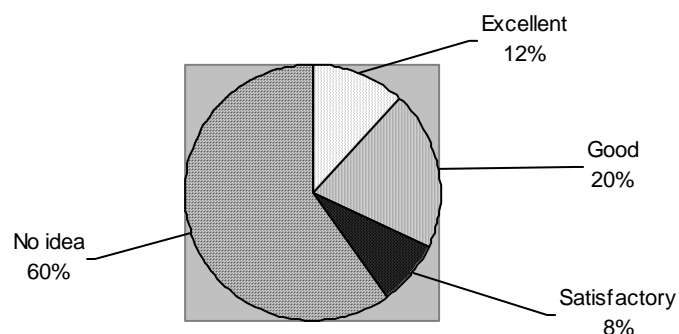
4.18 Prospect of Eco-tourism

In an attempt to determine the prospect of ecotourism in Nagarkot, respondents were asked whether Nagarkot has potentiality in ecotourism for the future. The result is presented in table 4.18.

Table No- 4.18
Prospect of Ecotourism in Nagarkot

| Prospect | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Excellent | 6 | 12 |
| Good | 10 | 20 |
| Satisfactory | 4 | 8 |
| No idea | 30 | 60 |
| Total | 50 | 100 |

Fig 4.18 Prospect of Ecotourism



The table 4.18 disclosed that 60% of the respondents have no idea about the prospect of ecotourism, 20% of the respondents are in favor of the bright future of ecotourism in Nagarkot taking as good. 12% of respondents took it as excellent, while 8% of the respondents show satisfactory attitude towards it. Hence, it has been praised by visitors for its natural beauty, for safety reasons and for its landscape.

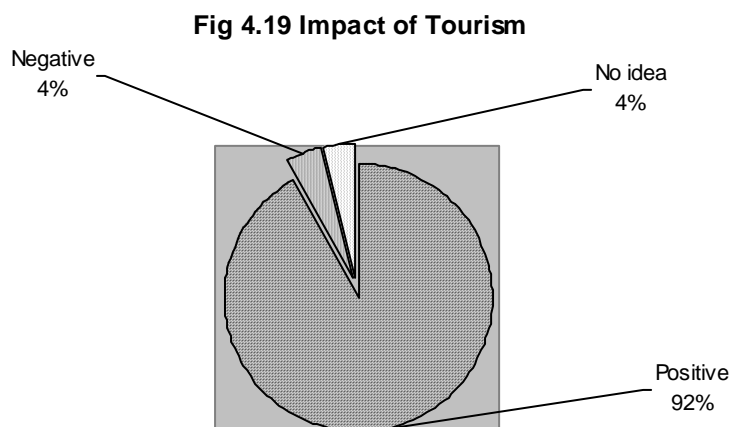
4.19 Impact of Tourism Activities

The tourism depends on the quality of the environment for its success, and good tourism development requires the protection and conservation of the environment. The positive impacts are found from the tourism in Nagarkot.

Table No- 4.19

Impact of tourism activities in the environment of Nagarkot

| Impact of tourism | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Positive | 46 | 92 |
| Negative | 2 | 4 |
| No idea | 2 | 4 |
| Total | 50 | 100 |



The local people are satisfied with the tourism activities of Nagarkot. The fig. 4.19 shows that 92% of respondents are positive about tourism i.e. they earn money, language, 4% of the respondents are found negative on tourism activities.

From the analysis, it can conclude that still there is no negative impacts of tourism. However, to maintain this in future.

4.20 Benefits from Tourism

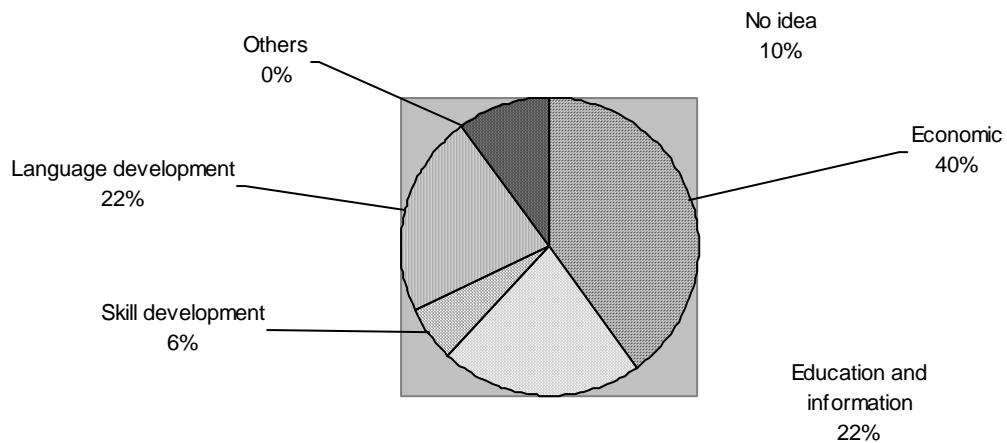
Each and every household can be involved in the tourism business (directly or indirectly). In this study various question asked with the respondents, to know their perception about the benefits of tourism.

Table No- 4.20

Benefits from tourism to local people

| Advantages | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|---------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Economic | 20 | 40 |
| Education and information | 11 | 22 |
| Skill development | 3 | 6 |
| Language development | 11 | 22 |
| Others | 0 | 0 |
| No idea | 5 | 10 |
| Total | 50 | 100 |

Fig 4.20 Benefits from Tourism



The respondents are benefits from the tourism. The table 4.20 determines that 40% of the local respondents' profited as economic activities, which means they earn money for their livelihoods. 22% of people gain education and information as well as 22% of people benefited as the language development who can easily speak the foreign language and 6% of people benefited as skill development activities.

It shows that the tourism is beneficial of bringing about changes in people's idea, behavioral patterns, life styles, social systems, expectations and others manifestation of material and non-material culture. (ICIMOD, 1997).

4.21 Religion and cultural activities

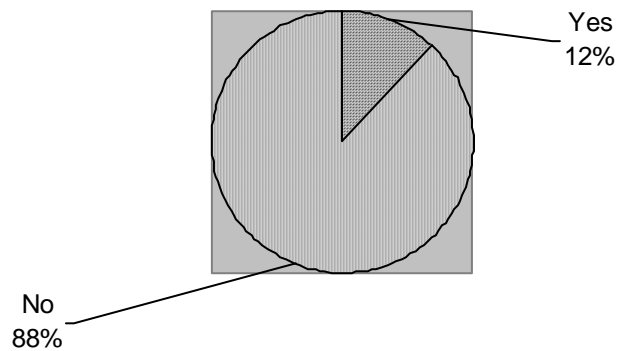
Religion and culture is the greater unifying bond. Religion and culture exposed people to new manners and customs, different kinds of foods and mode of dress. It encouraged exchange of ideas and fostered trade. It served as a powerful of foraging unity understanding between people from widely different region. In this context, one of the statements was asked to the local people regarding the affect of tourism in religion and cultural activities. The response is below in table 4.21

Table 4.21

Affect of tourism in religion and cultural activities

| Affect | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|--------------|--------------------|------------|
| Yes | 6 | 12 |
| No | 44 | 88 |
| Total | 50 | 100 |

Fig 4.21 Affect of Tourism in Religion and Cultural Activites



The table 4.21 indicates that 88% of the respondents said the tourism do not affect cultural as well as religion activities, whereas 12% of respondents are said there is a negative impact in religion and cultural activities of the younger generation.

From the above data, it was concluded that there is positive response on tourism activities from the local people.

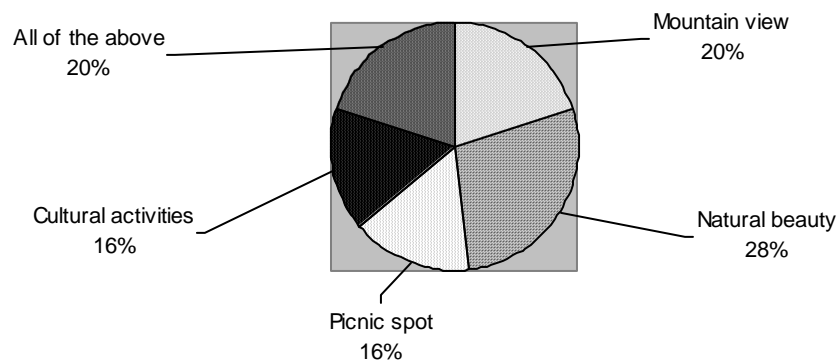
4.22 Major Attraction of Nagarkot

Attraction is very important for tourism. Attraction is those elements in the tourist product which determine the choice of a particular tourist to visit one particular destination rather than another. The attraction could be cultural, historical monuments or scenic beauty like flora and fauna, mountains, national parks or events like exhibition, arts and music, festivals etc. from the study, tourists are attracted Nagarkot for its natural beauty which is shown in the figure 4.22

Table 4.22
Attraction point of Nagarkot for tourists

| Attraction point | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Mountain view | 10 | 20 |
| Natural beauty | 14 | 28 |
| Picnic spot | 8 | 16 |
| Cultural activities | 8 | 16 |
| All of the above | 10 | 20 |
| Total | 50 | 100 |

Fig 4.22 Attraction Point of Nagarkot



The table 4.22 shows that 28% of the tourists are visit Nagarkot for the natural beauty, 20% are visits for Mountain View, 20% are visit for all the activities of the Nagarkot, 16%are visit for cultural activities and 16% are visit for the picnic purpose of the Nagarkot.

This data also indicated that Nagarkot is beautiful place for its natural beauty.

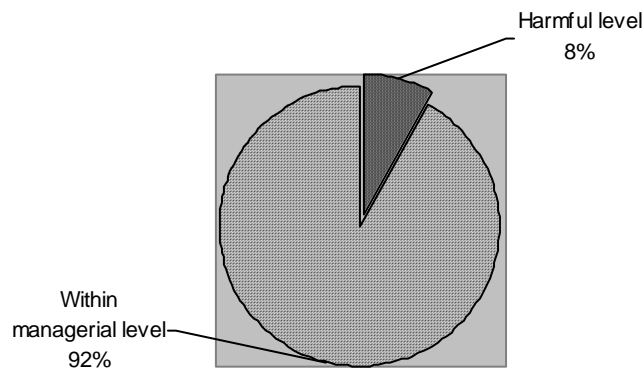
4.23 Level of garbage produced

The respondents were asked to information about the tourists produced garbage which is in limit or harmful level. The information determined that it was in managerial level.

Table 4.23
Level of garbage produced by tourists

| Level | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|-------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Harmful level | 4 | 8 |
| Within managerial level | 46 | 92 |
| Total | 50 | 100 |

Fig 4.23 Level of Garbage Produced by Tourists



The figure 4.23 indicates that 92% of garbage produce by tourists were in managerial level while 8% of garbage were in harmful level.

It showed that the garbage did not harm the environment because there was negligible amount of garbage found in Nagarkot. The garbage produced by the tourists is in managerial level. The tourists didn't produce garbage in harmful level because the foreigners were sensitive in environmental pollution.

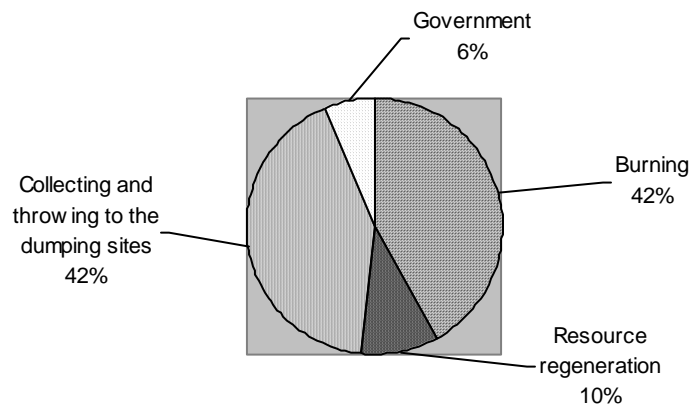
4.24 Management of Solid Waste

Solid waste includes glass containers as bottles, crokeries, plastic containers, polythene and other packing materials that are used and then thrown away as garbage. These pile up at public places and cause obstruction in daily life. Respondents give their opinion as follows:

Table 4.24
Management of solid waste problem

| Manage | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|---|--------------------|------------|
| By burning | 21 | 42 |
| Resource regeneration | 5 | 10 |
| By collecting and throwing to the dumping sites | 21 | 42 |
| By Government | 3 | 6 |
| Total | 50 | 100 |

Fig 4.24 Management of Solid Waste Problem



The table 4.24 determines that 42% of people manage solid wastes by collecting and throwing to the dumping sites, 42% buried their wastes which are useful as fertilizer in the garden, 9% used resource regeneration for the wastes and 6% gave their wastes to the municipality.

From the above data, the solid wastes are managed by themselves. There were no rules and regulations for people to give their wastes for the municipality office.

CHAPTER-FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Summary

From the past few decades, the tourism has seen a steady expansion activity all over the world. Tourism is the sum of total operations mainly of economic in nature which is directly related to the entry, stay, movement of foreigners inside and outside a certain country, city. But eco-tourism goes a step further whereby not only the activities of tourists are involved but also the elements such as the conservation of ecosystems and sustainable development.

Nagarkot is located in central parts of Bhaktapur district is characterized with natural beauty, scenic attraction, and cultural diversity. It is inhabited by simple and friendly people having their major profession as agriculture. The site is suitable for the eco-tourism development. The eco-tourism related activities like eco-trekking, sight seeing, mountain viewing, study of biodiversity (flora and fauna), cultural study, trekking guide, nature preservation, etc can be performed.

Those above mentioned ecotourism activities can have significant impact on employment, education, culture, and agriculture and income level of local people. It increases living standard of those people as a whole. Accessibility, pleasant climate, richness of natural beauty, suitable place for view point, high stock of biodiversity and negative culture of simple and friendly behavior of people make Nagarkot unique eco-tourism destination.

Ecotourism principally concerns experiencing the natural or cultural environment without threaten it. In this point, the natural beauty and cultural purity of this area are still undisturbed. Moreover, people's participation and interest is increasing towards ecotourism development for their well-being. People are curious towards tourists' oriented activities and eager to increase their economic condition and preserve the natural as well as cultural wealth.

Natural beauty, biodiversity and living socio-cultural heritage are the most preferred and successful environment for ecotourism. Though ecotourism development can be emphasis in education and awareness program, conservation and management of forests, biodiversity, indigenous culture and promotion in self-employment.

Healthy and varied natural and socio-cultural environment are the basic resources of tourism. Therefore, tourism and environment exist in harmony. The environment benefits from tourism and of course tourism benefits from the environment.

5.2 Conclusions

The study has emphasized on the development of ecotourism in environmentally sustainable manner in Nagarkot. This study was mainly based on the primary data collected through questionnaire from 60 hotels\restaurants, 50 local people and 13 tourists as well as interaction with them and the secondary data collected from various sources.

Nagarkot is a well suited place to promote and expand ecotourism development shows its status to be brighter. Tourists can come to this village for sight seeing, trekking, recreation, study\research purpose.

The impacts of environment are grouped as garbage management , attitude of foreign guests towards environment, awareness level of foreigners and Nepalese, methods used by guests for wastes, level of pollution, garbage problem, toilet facilities, solid wastes management in Nagarkot. Overall it was found that the area has experienced few negative impacts environmental impacts and these impacts are seen to be within control limit. Although being a reputed tourists destination from a long time, there is no effective management of wastes produced by the hotels\restaurants, they feel dumping sites is feasible for them.

Tourists have found positive attitude, and conscious with environmental pollution and they do not throw wastes anywhere. There is not found air, noise and water pollution due to the absence of heavy traffic and industries. Tourism is not found to be responsible for increasing the solid waste problem in the area since it is linked with

the production of solid waste from hotels, restaurants and tourists themselves on the way.

There are some positive impacts through the tourism. Opportunities to learn language, experience of the rest of the world, learning about dress, clean etc and changing beliefs about social acceptance are the main educational and cultural experiences local people claim to learn from tourists. However, the support from tourism for the revival of local arts, crafts and cultural activities were not noticed since there is no provision of local generation from the visitors for such activities.

Overall, the perceived negative social impacts of tourism are at a minimum level, and it is hard to separate these impacts from other sources such as television, people going to cities and the accessibility of towns, the main tourism induced social changes in the young people's attitude in imitating tourists' behavior.

It was found that 25% of international tourists arriving at Kathmandu visit Nagarkot. They visit the place basically for the sake of sight seeing, view of sunrise\sunset, trekking and entertainments. The major attractions for the tourists in Nagarkot have been observed natural beauty, green forest, peaceful environment and trekking. Fresh air, quite environment are also the key components to attract the tourists in Nagarkot. All above reasons reflect the ecotourism in Nagarkot is very favorable condition. Therefore, there can be several ecotourism activities such as sight seeing, trekking\hiking, recreational activities like photography, ethnic culture, study and research of biodiversity etc.

In the gist there is necessity to integrate tourism and management, nature conservation and management, cultural resource and community development for the benefit of local people and tourists. Ecotourism here will conserve the nature and culture with sustainable use of resources with the help of local people in well planned and managed way. Ecotourism is ecologically sound and economically viable and culturally acceptable for sustainable utilization of natural resources.

5.3 Recommendations

From the experiences gained through the study with tourists, local people and hotel\restaurants, the following recommend are made to harmonize tourism with the environment. In order to meet the objective, the Nagarkot area must be kept clear; care should be taken for clean environment. Local resources, local people, local culture should be respected. Attempts should be made to conserve the natural and cultural entity of Nagarkot. Based on the above study following findings are given for sustainable ecotourism development in Nagarkot.

- Two-way bus service should be made available from Kathmandu to Nagarkot on regular basis to make the journey more comfortable.
- More recreational facilities need to be created in Nagarkot. Besides, separate picnic sports should be developed offering sufficient shelter against sun and rain.
- Effective solid waste management system need to be initiated and hygienic conditions should be maintained in the sightseeing and trekking areas.
- Toilet facilities should be made easily available in the trekking routes and open toilet destroyed the beauty of Nagarkot.
- Natural beauty, art and architecture of Nagarkot and surrounding area should be preserved from governmental and non- governmental sectors.
- Existing clubs in Nagarkot should conduct cultural programme to entertain tourists which also helps to generate funds for local development.
- Efforts should be made to develop trained and skilled manpower at local level in order to provide efficient services up to the satisfaction of tourists.
- Physical security should be luxury for the visitors so that they could feel themselves secured as they visit Nagarkot.
- Basic physical infrastructures such as street lights, sanitation should be initiated.
- Environmental education and awareness programs are necessary to mitigate the undesirable impacts of ecotourism.
- Local people must be involved in decision-making, implementation and benefit sharing of ecotourism.
- Some entry fee should be charged for the tourists visiting Nagarkot. The fund thus generated should be utilized properly for the natural beauty, cultural and infrastructural development of the area.

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Appendix – I

Questionnaires for Tourists

General information about Respondents:

Name: _____ Nationality: _____

Occupation: _____ Sex: _____

1. What is your purpose to visit Nagarkot?
 - a) Sight seeing
 - b) Study/research
 - c) Recreation
 - d) Convention/Seminar
2. Is this your first visit to Nagarkot?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
3. How do you compare present visit with past visit of Nagarkot?
 - a) More enjoyable
 - b) Less enjoyable
 - c) Indifferent
 - d) Unpleasant
 - e) Others
4. Which is the main attraction feature of the Nagarkot?
 - a) Natural beauty of Nagarkot
 - b) Eco-tour of Nagarkot
 - c) Scientific research
 - d) All the above
5. What do you think about the cost of lodging and meals of the Hotel?
 - a) Expensive
 - b) Moderate
 - c) Satisfactory
 - d) Cheap
6. Which recreational activity is the most exciting?
 - a) Hiking and trekking
 - b) Sightseeing
 - c) Cycling
 - d) Others
7. Which means of transportation did you used to come Nagarkot?
 - a) Taxi
 - b) Local bus
 - c) Tourist bus
 - d) Bicycle
 - e) Motorbike
 - f) Reserved Micro Bus
 - g) Others

8. Please explain your level of satisfaction from the following services (give 1=most satisfactory to 7=the least satisfactory)

- Accommodation []
- Transportation []
- Food and Beverages []
- Information services []
- Physical security []
- Tour travelers and trekking services []
- Guides []

9. What is your opinion about local people?

- a) Very friendly b) friendly
- c) Not much friendly d) aggressive

10. Is the pollution increasing in Nagarkot?

- a) Yes b) No

If yes, what sorts of:

- a) Air pollution b) Water pollution
- c) Noise pollution d) others

11. Is there garbage problem along the trek route?

- a) Yes b) No

12. Are there toilet facilities along the trek route?

- a) Yes b) No

If no, how does it effect the surrounding environment by the open toilets?

.....

13. What is your personnel view on Nagarkot's environment?

.....

14. Do you face any problem by the security personnel?

- a) Yes b) No

Thank You

Appendix – II

Questionnaires for Hotels/Restaurants

Personal information:

Name:

Hotel/Restaurant Name:

1. Is this your own Hotel/Restaurant?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
2. How the Hotel/ Restaurant are running?
 - a) Excellent
 - b) Good
 - c) Moderate
 - d) Bad
3. The Customers of your Hotel/Restaurant are mostly;
 - a) Foreigners
 - b) Nepalese
4. Which season is best for this business?
.....
5. What is the average number of guests in the peak season?
6. What is the average number of guests in the off-season?
7. Do you heard about Environmental pollution?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
8. Where are you dumping the garbage?
9. What is the attitude of foreign guests towards this issue?
 - a) Very conscious
 - b) Some how conscious
 - c) No conscious
10. In your opinion, who foreign guests or Nepalese guests are more aware of environment?
 - a) Foreigners
 - b) Nepalese
11. Where the guests, dump different used items like bottles, papers, wrappers etc outside the hotel?
 - a) Keep it with them and dump it in the allocated dustbin.
 - b) Throw it anywhere
 - c) Other (Specify)
12. Is their any fire camping in the Nagarkot?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No

13. If yes, who generally organize it?

a) Hotel/restaurant b) Guest

14. If by guests, they clean up the place or leave it.

Appendix – III

Questionnaires for Local People

Personal Information:

Name:

Sex:

Education:

1. Do you have an idea about tourism?
Yes [] No []
2. What is the prospect of eco-tourism in this area?
Excellent [] Good []
Satisfactory [] No idea []
3. The impacts of tourism activities in the environment of Nagarkot is;
Positive [] Negative []
4. How do you benefit from tourism?
Economic [] Education& information []
Skill development [] Language development []
Others
5. Have tourism activities affected your religion or culture?
Yes [] No []
6. What are the major attractions of Nagarkot?
Mountain view [] Natural beauty []
Picnic spot [] Cultural activities []
All of the above []
7. What is the situation of garbage produced by tourists?

