

# CHAPTER 8



## CHAPTER – 8

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### **Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations**

#### **8.1 Summary**

The basic components of tourism sector development are transport, location and accommodation and the dynamism of this sector largely rests on the comfortable mode of transportation. Of all these three components location is perhaps the best aspect in terms of growth of this sector. World statistics on tourism show that Europe is the most popular tourist destination, followed by America and East Asia/the Pacific. Tourism is expected to grow by more than six percent per annum worldwide with higher rates reported for some developing countries like Nepal which are endowed with wildlife for ecotourists. For many reasons Nepal has been placed as a famous tourist destination in the world. These, as we consider, are mountaineering, trekking, historical and cultural attractions and people's hospitality. Nepal has the enormous potentiality of tourism because of its bio-diversity and altitudinal variation. Wildlife also attracts people from different corners of the world. Nepal is, in fact, endowed with abundant nature-based and man-made resources and this has particularly promoted wildlife tourism in Nepal. About 77 percent of total land area is covered by mountain hills and rest is the 'Tarai' region. This has essentially enriched Nepal in terms of bio-diversity.

This study covers a wide range of tourism sector development of Nepal starting from the genesis of tourism to wildlife tourism, adventure tourism, ecotourism, tourism and its socio-cultural and environmental impact in the context of Nepal and what is more an in-depth analysis of the development of tourism industry in Nepal has been done with the help of supportive quantitative data especially on tourists flow, Nepal's share in South Asia, Asia and the Pacific, and the world as a whole, market share of important airlines, in tourists arrivals, development of hotel industry, growth of travel and trekking agencies, rafting agencies, manpower training provided by National Academy for Tourism and Hotel Management, foreign exchange earning from tourism, and share of tourism earnings in the total value of exports.

Nepal's rich bio-diversity renders to deal as both eco-tourism and wildlife tourism destinations. For about 20 percent of Nepal's total land area accounts for its sixteen protected wildlife areas, such as, Royal Chitwan National Park, Shey-phoksundo National Park, Langtang National Park, Makalu – Barun National Park and Conservation Area,

Royal Bardia National Park, Saqarmatha National Park, Khaptad National Park, Rara National Park, Shivpuri National Park, Royal Sukla- Phanta Wildlife Reserve, Parsa Wildlife Reserve, Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, Annapurna Conservation Area, kanchanjhnga Conservation Area, Manaslu Conservation Area, and Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve. All these parks attract people from different corners of the world.

Nepal has been termed as a "Paradise for Adventure Tourists". Nepal offers various adventure based tourism activities such as trekking, mountaineering, rafting, ballooning, bungee jumping, paragliding etc. These have made Nepal famous for adventure tourism. The famous adventure tourism attractions are some of the places especially located in this part of the world. The place which attracts people most is the Annapurna region lying to the north of Central Nepal. Annapurna Peaks, Mt. Dhaulagiri and River Kali Gandki are highlighted as the important adventure tourism spots and the important trekking routes are Jomsom, Annapurna Circuit and Annapurna Base Camp, Annapurna Foothills, Sikles, Lamjung, and Dhaulagiri. Everest and Lantang region are also two important tourist destinations of which Everest region was announced as a "World Heritage Site" in 1980. Mountaineering, rafting, paragliding, jungle safari bungee jumping, hot air ballooning, rock climbing, boating, mountain biking etc. have in fact, improved adventure tourism in Nepal. But Political instability, infrastructural bottlenecks such as limited road accessibility, inadequate financial resources and lack of coordination in programmes and action between private sector and the government have hindered the desired level of growth of adventure tourism in Nepal.

It is undenyng that tourism contributes significantly in the generation of government revenue in Nepal. In this context it may be mentioned that royalty from mountaineering expedition plays a dominant role. Table 7.15 (Page No. 189) clearly shows the ups and downs of the indices and the annual rates of growth of royalty received by the Government of Nepal from mountaineering expedition. Revenue generation from National Park and protected areas is also quite remarkable especially during 1998-2007.

The tourism sector has also positive impact in generating employment opportunities to the people of Nepal. The employment potentialities are created in hotels and restaurants, curio shops, travel agencies, transport, handloom and handicraft industries through "multiplier effect". A study conducted by Nepal Rastra Bank (1989) showed that tourism sector opened up possibilities of direct and indirect employment to the people of Nepal.

This had created 98.6 percent employment among the citizens of Nepal and the rest i.e. 1.4 percent among the non-Nepalese residents.

We took data from World Travel and Tourism Council (2008) and found that a large number of people were directly and indirectly engaged in tourism sector. During 2004, 8,52,000 people were employed. The World Travel and Tourism Council also had a forecast of generating 9,44,000 jobs through this sector of which 2,68,000 were direct employment and 6,76,000 were indirect employment by 2019.

## **8.2 Conclusions**

For its scenic beauty, peaceful and easygoing people, and its ancient culture Nepal has been loved by the people from the world over and this has been the major reason for tourists attraction. Tourists visiting Nepal are found very desirous to derive more facilities in order to enjoy the potentials of tourism. Our opinion survey suggests that a large number of respondents are dissatisfied due to the problem of litters and garbage in Kathmandu, Chitwan and Pokhara Cities. Visitors are also annoyed with the problem of sanitation and cleanliness. Lack of trained guide and services regarding immigration and customs also harms tourists inflow. Political instability is a threat to the visitors. This gives rise to regular bandhs and strikes throughout the year. It is a daily state of affairs that Mosist including other political parties call for a bandh any time at any place. Very recently (March, 2010) the Maoist – affiliated 'All Nepal Tourists Workers Union', Kaski (ANTWU) has called for restriction on trekking the Annapurna circuit. This has been a major trekking route in Nepal. The organisation has asked the tourism entrepreneurs not to send trekking guides Sherpas and helps in the route. This has, infact, sent a negative message to the tourists willing to visit Nepal in this particular tourist season starting from the month of March.

The opinion expressed by the tourist experts shows that many barriers are there in the field of tourism development in Nepal, but according to them, political instability and disturbance is one of the main obstacles in the promotion of tourism development in Nepal.

Nepal has large number of ecotourism potential sites. It needs adequate attentions from the part of the government and that of the private sector organisations to link the ecotourism spots with mainstream tourism development in the country. The long- term sustainability of ecotourism in particular and tourism in general depends on the management of natural resources and environment and providing adequate benefits for the local communities. Proper attention needs to be given while formulating and designing any

plan for developing tourism sector in Nepal. Thus, government should take proper initiative on conserving environment engaging local communities for arresting the problems of environmental degradation in Nepal. In order to achieve sustainable tourism development priority should be given in controlling air, water and land pollution in the places where tourists' concentration is very intensive.

### **8.3 Recommendations**

Nepal has been endowed with natural and cultural resources and this has created an environment of tourism development potential in this part of the world. Tourism has significantly contributed to the nation in terms of foreign exchange earning, income generation, regional development and the improvement in the life of rural communities. Many are the aspects for diversifying tourism in Nepal such as its cultural and physical attractions, highly scenic regions with unusual natural environments or wildlife. Problems inherited by Nepalese tourism sector can be summarised as follows.

- i) Nepal's wildlife and natural beauty have been gravely affected due to deforestation. This has caused soil erosion and landslides.
- ii) National Parks and wildlife reserves which are famous for tourist attraction are not well-managed as per requirements of international norms.
- iii) Lack of trained guides or tour operators and trained biologists are the drawbacks in the development of wildlife tourism.
- iv) Unhealthy relation exists between the protected areas and the local communities and this has caused environmental degradation in and around the parks related to tourism.
- v) The successive increase in royalty for mountaineering, weaker trekking rules and regulation poses problems to the growth of this industry.
- vi) Administrative inefficiency, lack of coordination between the government and the private sectors hinder the tourism sector.
- vii) Lack of trained guides and hotel staff, excessive pollution, irregular air services, and political instability have weakened the progress of tourism sector in Nepal.

On the basis of overall discussion the following recommendations may be made for around sustainable development of the Nepalese tourism industry.

- i) For the sustainability of the Nepalese economy and society it is a must to stop deforestation. This is because of the fact that deforestation affects nature, which

in turn, has negative impact on climate, rare animals and birds and ultimately on tourism.

- ii) Visitors visiting national parks including wildlife reserves, conservation areas, and bird-watching resorts should be provided with all the amenities for promoting and conserving wildlife tourism in Nepal
- iii) National Parks should be equipped with modern facilities including roads and adequate trained staff. If planned properly roads within the parks will help visitors see wild animals and at the same time considerable areas will remain roadless and undisturbed for the wild animals.
- iv) Each national park should have a museum, well-equipped with modern maps, diagrams, pictorial charts, study collections, collection of animals and plants, fossils and geological specimen. Such museums, if arranged scientifically and managed properly by curators will be a great help to the visitors. This type of museum also has educative value.
- v) Professionally trained National tour operator or guide is an essential element for the successful completion of wildlife tour and without the help of a tour operator a visitor's real taste of visiting a wildlife reserve is a farce.
- vi) Problem has been created due to garbage disposal created by the tourists. This problem has been mounting due mainly to increasing number of mountaineering expedition and trekkers. Efforts have been made by the government, organisations and local residents to reduce the trash disposal substantially. But this has not evenly done in all the tourist places.
- vii) To encourage mountain tourism it is required to reduce excessive trekking fees. This in fact, will increase the number of trekker - visitors visiting Nepal. It is suggested that the royalty of the mountain peaks should be fixed on the basis of the heights of the mountain and the facility available.
- viii) Seasonal nature of tourism should be reduced in order to enhance tourism potential in the Nepalese economy.
- ix) Our investigation suggests that there are some areas in Nepal which are overconcentrated by the visitors while others are rarely ever visited. It needs to change this pattern of tourists flows and this can only be possible if ecotourism is expanded to many other areas in the country.

- x) Revisions of wage rates, equipment allowances and insurance rates for the guides or the tour operators, sardars and liaison officers are required to be made according to current market price and local conditions. This will improve the standard of living of the concerned staff related with tourism industry.
- xi) Infrastructure is one of the basic necessities for the growth of tourism. All mountain regions are not connected with modern transport and communication. Domestic air services should be made regular through the availability of more flights. To increase tourists flow international flights should be increased.
- xii) Mountain tourism lacks communication facilities and due to this trekkers and mountaineers cannot send their news to others on time. This needs serious attention by the government to install communication link in the respective mountain regions.
- xiii) Mountain regions not only lack communication facility but they also have insufficient accommodation facility like food and lodging. Mountain resorts have to be built with the help of government as well private initiatives.
- xiv) In order to preserve mountain environment it needs diverting concentration of trekkers and mountaineers from some famous regions such as Annapurna region and khumbu and Langtang region to other regions. Strictier rules and regulations should be formulated so that no visitor can come to damage the environment.
- xv) Political stability is all important for the growth of tourism. Nepal has long been politically disturbed especially due to political insurgency created by the Maoists. This has reduced the tourist inflow time and again. Efforts should be made from the part of the government as well as public to maintain peace and order in the county. This will eminently increase the employment opportunity and thus enhance the forearm exchange earnings.