

# **Ethnic Tourism: A Study of Gatlang Village of Rasuwa District**

**A Thesis Proposal Submitted to  
The Department of Conflict, Peace and Development Studies (DCPDS)  
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## **Introduction**

Nepal is an ecological dreamland, rich in biodiversity the hills of Nepal are home to a diverse array of ethnic groups. Tourism is one of the potential sectors for the economic development of Nepal. Being a labor intensive service sector ,it might bring the major source of employment in both the urban and rural areas and will help to reduce poverty level in the country .Nepal has initiated various activities for tourism promotion in international as well as domestic markets.

## **Major Tourism Activities**

Tourism vision 2020 has highlighted the major tourist activities in Nepal: Areal- mountain flight, hang gliding, paragliding, cable car, bungee jumping, ultra-light aircraft, hot- air ballooning, sky diving etc ; Terrestrial –mountaineering, trekking/hiking, jungle safari, wildlife tourism, honey hunting, mountain biking, rock climbing, caving, skiing, golf, elephant polo, motor rally, Himalayan marathon, triathlon, pony treks etc; Aquatic -rafting, kayaking, canoeing, boating, fishing, angling, canyoning, cascading, jet ski etc; Niches- eco tourism, village tourism, agro tourism, culture tourism, pilgrimage tourism and spiritual tourism, educational tourism, health and wellness tourism, special interest tours etc. some of them are as follows:

### ***Mountain Climbing***

The 800 km stretch of the Nepal Himalayan is the greatest in the world with eight peaks that rise above 8,000m including the highest in the world, Mt. Everest. Ever since the country opened its peaks to climbers in 1950, the Nepal Himalayan has become a great theatre of mountaineering activity and the drama of success and failure have provided impetus to thousands of men and women to meet the ultimate challenge. The Nepal Himalayan has been an attraction to many people, be they saints, philosophers, researchers or adventures.

### ***Trekking***

The best way to experience Nepal's unbeatable combination of natural beauty and culture riches is to walk through them. One can walk along the beaten trails or virgin tracks. Either way you are in for an experience for a lifetime. Along with forests of

rhododendron, isolated hamlets, and small mountain villages, birds, animals, temple, monasteries and breathtaking landscapes, you will also encounter friendly people of different cultures offering a fascinating glimpse of traditional rural life.

### ***Bird Watching***

Nepal is a paradise for bird lovers with over 646 species (almost 8% of the world total) of birds, and among them almost 500 hundred species are found in Kathmandu Valley alone. The most popular bird watching spots in Kathmandu are Phulchoki, Godavari, Nagarjun, Bagmati River, Taudaha and so on. Get your binoculars and look forward to a rewarding experience.

### ***Mountain Flight***

Only awe-stricken silence can come close to matching the experience of going on a mountain flight to encounter the tallest mountains on earth. Mountain flights offer the closest possible aerial views of Mt. Everest, Kanchenjunga and the Tibetan Plateau. Mountain flights appeal to all category of travelers and have become a popular tourist attraction of Nepal. For those who are restricted by time or other considerations from going for a trek, these flights offer a panoramic view of the Himalayan in just one hour.

### ***Rock Climbing***

For all those cliffhangers out there, Kathmandu offers a roster of stone walls that make for an experience of a lifetime. Now of late, Rock climbing has become a popular sport in Kathmandu, which offers some really terrific places for rock climbing. Nagarjun, Balaju, Shivapuri and Budhanil Kantha are some of the places where you can try this sport.

### ***Rafting/Kayaking/Canyoning***

Rafting is one of the best ways to explore the typical cross section of natural as well as ethno-cultural heritage of the country. There are numerous rivers in Nepal which offer excellent rafting or canoeing experience. You can glide on calm jade waters with munificent scenery all about or rush through roaring white rapids, in the care of expert river-men employed by government authorized agencies. One can opt for day of river running or more. So far, the government has opened sections of 10 rivers for

commercial rafting. The Trishuli River (Grade 3+) is one of the most popular of Nepal's raftable rivers. The Kali Gandaki (5-5+) winds through remote canyons and deep gorges for five days of intense rapids. The Bhote Koshi (4-5) is 26km of continuous white water and the raging Marshyanghi is four days of uninterrupted white water. The Karnali River (4-5) provides some of the most challenging rapids in the world. The Sun Koshi (4-5), 27km, requiring 8-10 days to complete, is a big and challenging river. Adventurers are provided with world-class services by rafting agents. Agencies here provide life jackets, camping and the standard rafting paraphernalia needed by world-class rafting. An extremely popular sport in Europe, canyoning is now available in Nepal. Canyoning gives you the freedom to explore some of the most ruggedly beautiful, yet forbidden places in the world.

### ***Hot Air Ballooning***

Hot air ballooning is very popular with tourists for it affords the most spectacular bird's-eye view of the Kathmandu valley and the Himalayan ranges towering in the background. On a clear day it's a superb way to view the Himalayan (from over 6000m up), and the view of the valley is equally breathtaking.

### ***Bungee Jumping***

The ultimate thrill of a bungee jump can now be experienced in Nepal at one of the best sites that this sport can boast of anywhere in the world. Nepal's first bungee jumping site is situated 160m. Over the Bhote Koshi River, inviting you to experience the ultimate and operated by some of the most experienced jumpmasters in the business.

### ***Paragliding***

Paragliding in Nepal can be a truly wonderful and fulfilling experience for the adventure seeking. A trip will take you over some of the best scenery on earth, as you share airspace with Himalayan griffin's vultures, eagles, kites and float over villages, monasteries, temples, lakes and jungle, with a fantastic view of the majestic Himalayas.

### ***Ultra light Aircraft***

Ultra light aircraft take off from Pokhara and offer spectacular views of the lakes, mountains and villages. This is an ideal way to see life from a new perspective. The choice of Pokhara Valley for ultra-light aircraft is appropriate chiefly because of the proximity of the mountains, and the scenic lakes. For those who wished they could fly birds when growing up, this flight is a must. It might be lonely at the top, but this flight is a must. It might be lonely at the top, but the spectacular view from up high certainly makes it all worth it. Flights are from the Pokhara airport beginning September through June. The flights take place from sunrise to 11 a.m. and from 3 p.m. to sunset every day during these months.

### ***Mountain Biking***

The best way to explore the Kathmandu Valley is on a mountain bike. Nepal's diverse terrain is a mountain biker's dream adventure comes true. Mountain biking offers an environmentally sound way of exploring this magnificent country, its landscape and living heritage. There are plenty of dirty roads and trails in Nepal to meet every mountain biker's wildest fantasy. Mountain biking is specially recommended if you wish to explore urban centers of Nepal such as Pokhara and Kathmandu as well as the countryside. Adventurous souls may plan extended trips to such exotic locals as Namche Bazaar, and western Nepal. You could even do the entire length of Nepal across the plains. Mountain bikes are available for rent by the day or longer in many of the bicycle rental outlets in Nepal and around the city.

### ***Jungle Safari***

National Parks located specially in the Terai region in Nepal attract visitors from all over the world. A visit to these parks involves game- stalking by a variety of means- foot, dugout canoe, jeep, and elephant back. One is bound to sight a one – horned rhino or two at every elephant safari. Besides the rhinos, wild boars, samburs, spotted deer, sloth bear; four-horned antelope are also usually seen. A Royal Bengal tiger may surprise you by his majestic appearance.

### ***Mountain Tourism***

The initial impetus for tourism in Nepal came from mountaineering in the 1950s and 1960s. Nepal is a country well known for its Himalaya Mountains. Among the 10

highest peaks in the world, eight, including the highest peak Mt. Everest, crown this country. Nothing on earth can beat the exhilaration of scaling them. No wonder Nepal is the favorite destination for mountaineers and every year more than 600 expedition's trudge up the Himalaya, including the trekking peaks. There are four mountaineering seasons: spring (March-May), summer (June-August), autumn (September-November) and winter (December-February). A total of 1310 Himalayan peaks and 326 are opened to mountaineers and 33 peaks are opened for the trekkers.

### **Trekking Tourism**

The best way to experience Nepal's unbeatable combination of natural beauty and culture riches is to walk through them. One can walk along the beaten trails or virgin tracks. Either way you are in for an experience for a lifetime. Along with forests of rhododendron, isolated hamlets, and small mountain villages, birds, animals, temple, monasteries and breathtaking landscapes, you will also encounter friendly people of different cultures offering a fascinating glimpse of traditional rural life.

Trekking in Nepal is the best way to experience the depth exploration of unique hospitality of Nepalese people and their cultures, eye catching view of mountains, superb landscape, beautiful rivers, waterfall and walk through original villages of Nepal. Trekking in Nepal requires physical fitness and walking experiences. The experienced trekking agency in Nepal offers more than 1000 popular trekking agencies for providing trekking activities or services in different parts of the mountains. Trekking in Nepal bring tourist into the confrontation of original cultures, ethnicity, traits and authentication. There are mainly 7 categories of trekking in Nepal

- **Popular Treks** Everest Base Camps, Gokyo Treks, Everest Chola Past Treks, Everest Circuit Trek, Annapurna Trek, Annapurna Base Camp Treks, Lantang Trek
- **Camping Treks** Ganga La Pass Trek, Kanchhanjunga Base Camp Treks, Lower Dolpo Trek, Rolwaling Valley Tesi Lapcha Trek, Makalu Base Camp Trek, Upper Dolpo trek, Mustang Damodar Lake Trek and so forth.
- **Easy and Short Treks** Ghorepani Trek, Helambu Trek, Chisapani Nagarkot Trek, Kathmandu Trek, Sherpa Culture Trek, Gosainkunda Trek, Everest View Trek

- **New Route Treks** Bhairav Kunda Trek, Hidden Lake and Glacier Trek, Tamang Heritage Trail Trek, Mardi Himal Trek etc
- **Luxury Treks** Luxury Everest View Trek, Luxury Annapurna View Trek, Annapurna Everest Comfort Trek, Everest Helicopter Trek, Helicopter Mountain Tour etc.
- **Challenging Treks** Mad Trek, Saribung Trek, Annapurna Challenge Trek and Everest Challenge Trek.
- **Festival Treks** Tiji Festival Treks in Mustang and Mani Rimdu Festival Trek in Everest.

*Source: Nepal Trekking Tourism Adventure P. Ltd. Web search.*

### **Ethnic/cultural Tourism**

According to Rodrigo de Azeredo Grunewald has defined the term "Ethnic" was originally coined to refer to all those groups which were not Jewish. By mid-15th Century all non-Jewish and Non-Christian groups were termed "Ethnic". By the late 19th and early 20th Century, "Ethnicity" was placed between the ideas of race and those of culture. Ethnic Tourism signifies the tourists' interests in the customs of the indigenous and exotic peoples. It is a form of special interest tourism as different from general tourism which focuses directly on the local people. It involves intimate contacts with the "authentic" indigenous culture. In this form of tourism, the tourist visits the homes of the local people, observes and participates in their festivals, dances, rituals and other forms of cultural expressions. Human contacts with the indigenous people become very important in this form of tourism and it involves a study and purchase of local products as well. Ethnicities result from social processes, positive tendencies toward identifying and including certain individuals in a specific group. The origin, history, culture defines the ethnicity. Originally, there were two principle theoretical approaches for defining ethnic groups: one which was essentialist to the degree that it looked to the substance of cultural and historical patrimony of certain populations in order to discover the root of ethnic exceptionality, and another more constructivist that focused on social interactions between groups themselves, noting the boundaries that in effect divided or bounded ethnic groups whether or not they in fact shared cultural or racial traits with their neighbors.

Cultural tourism by definition is 'a force for cultural preservation', Kunwar (2010): *Tourists and Tourism*. Smith (1989): *Hosts and Guests, The Anthropology of Tourism*, defined cultural tourism as 'the absorption by tourists of features resembling the vanishing lifestyles of past societies observed through such phenomenon as house styles, crafts, farming equipment and dress'. The religion, industrial heritage, gastronomy, events and festivals, architecture holds a vital place in tourism.

Rodrigo de Azeredo Grünwald elaborated ethnic tourism as a form of tourism in which the prime motivation of the tourist involves a desire to experience and interact with exotic ethnic peoples. While this definition highlights the perspective of the tourist, a comprehensive approach to ethnic tourism necessarily includes in addition to tourists the local suppliers of this exotic experience, as well as the brokers who facilitate the interaction between tourists and these local suppliers. Taking into account these different groups leads to the conclusion that ethnic tourism is not simply a particular form of interaction between 'hosts and guests', but is more fundamentally a complex process of ethnic relations, with significant implications for changing expressions of ethnic identity among locals. The distinction between ethnic tourism and cultural tourism can be separated by thin lines, but there are two key issues which should be considered in separating them. First, the former tends to be more narrowly focused on a particular group of people whose exoticism is clearly marked as the prime attraction for the tourist. Second, ethnic tourism more fundamentally involves placing local people themselves 'on stage' for the tourist to view, rather than simply serving as background players facilitating the experience. Rather than viewing historical monuments, natural wonders or even a local culture, the ethnic tourist comes specifically to view other people whose ways of life differ greatly from centre out there that is the destination from that of their home. Thus, ethnic tourism most importantly depends upon the relationship between tourist and native. The success of the relationship between the host and guest often depends on maintaining authenticity. That is, the relationship should appear to the tourist to be unmediated and spontaneous.

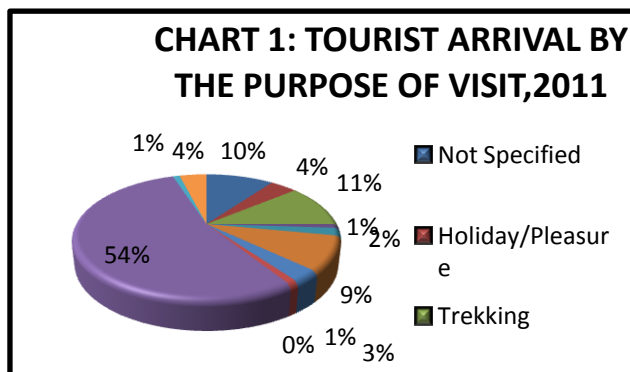
It is important, however, to realize that native ethnic groups themselves actively collaborate in the ethnic tourist experience. They do this usually with considerable



state encouragement in hopes of increasing local incomes. Indeed, ethnic tourism is often promoted by the state as a catalyst for economic integration.

Nepal is the land which unfolds the natural beauty with loads of tourism activities as eco tourism, village tourism, agro tourism, culture tourism, pilgrimage tourism and spiritual tourism, educational tourism, health and wellness tourism, special interest tours etc. there are many emphasise given to other tourism rather than ethnic tourism. However, ethnic tourism if promoted and marketed well with good collaboration of public and private sector can yield maximum profit with local participation. Nepal has 103 ethnic groups and hence with different origin and history, cultural traits archeological facts. Tamnag Heritage Trail (THT) is the concept introduced by TRPAP, Government of Nepal for the local mobilization and promotion of ethnic tourism. The restricted trial is opened as new tourist destination with vocational training to the local people. The trail thus developed the new height to the ethnic tourism as an alternative tourist destination.

**Statistical touristic profiles:**

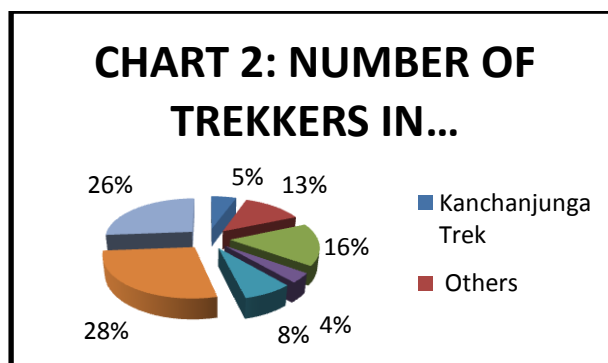


*Source: Nepal Tourism Board*

According to the above pie chart it is clear that maximum tourist influx Nepal for the purpose of travel/visit that is 54%. Among them 11% of the tourist visit Nepal for the purpose of Trekking. The number of tourist increased after the introduction of TRPAP by the Nepal Tourism Board in Collaboration of UNDP, DFID and SNV. This program not only opened new route treks but also increased the total number of tourist arrival with enhancement of rural livelihood.

## Tourism in Nepal

According to the Nepal Tourism Statistics, 2011 the total tourist arrival is 736,215. Among them 352,059 are the males and 384,156 are the females. It seems that female tourist is more interested in visiting Nepal statistically. The numbers of tourists are also categorized by the age as: 0-15 years; 32,795, 16-30 years; 171,081, 31-45 years; 212,176, 46-60 years; 177,983 and 61 and above 82,726. Among them 81,948 enjoyed trekking while 4312 preferred expedition. There are total 1,936 Travel Agencies along with 1378 Trekking Agencies. The total earnings from Tourism in Nepal in 2011 measured 321,456 US\$. The average length of stay is 13.12 days. Within their stay one tourist spend US\$ 38.2 a day during their stay in Nepal.



*Source: Nepal Tourism Board*

Maximum number of tourist prefer trekking in Mustang about 2,950 followed by Manaslu Trek 2,813. Humla trek is yet another preferred destination by the tourists. The Upper Dolpo and Lower Dolpo figure as 397 and 808. These are the number of trekkers in different controlled trekking areas.

## Natural Setting of Trekking Tourism in Rasuwa

Langtang national park is the third most popular trekking destination in Nepal. TRPAP introduced a completely new eight-day trail passing through the backward but culturally rich villages of Goljung, Gatlang, Chilime, Tatopani, Brimdang, Nagthali, Thuman, Timure, Briddhim and Syabrubesi. This trail features Tamang culture, religious sites at Parvati Kunda and Tatopani, magnificent Himalayan views from Nagthali meadow hilltop, and historical fort of Rasuwa Gadhi bordering Tibet. Lodges and home stays were developed in the villages along the route, and Gatlang now has accommodation in its community lodge and cultural centre. A relatively easy, soft trekking product, the trail contains Buddhist chortens, monasteries,

traditional mountain villages, interesting architecture, crafts and customs, exquisite landscapes and a natural hot spring. The Tamang Heritage Trail offers authentic cultural performances and ethno botanical and cultural features. Its promotion has helped tourism benefits to many excluded communities in the area.(TRPAP)

By the title indicates “Tamang Heritage Trekking” is a cultural trekking program along the ancestral ‘Tamangi’ villages in Langtang region with beautiful scenery and Himalayan vistas. This recently developed pristine area offers enchanting journey to experience the rich culture and lifestyle of one of the most fascinating tribes of Nepal ‘Tamang’. Previously restricted area for traveler near to the Tibetan border; within the Langtang National Park is developed as a Tamang Heritage trail. The region is mostly populated by Tamang and people from Tibetan origin, whose culture and tradition are more likely to Tibetan Buddhist influence. We can observe their cultural aspects, traditional way of living, crafted dresses, traditional houses with stone roofed, cultural performances.

Tamang Heritage Trek presents the wonderful views of several silver capped mountains including Langtang Lirung, Langtang Kerung, Dorje Lakpa, Ganesh Himal, Shringi Himal, Jugal Himal with warm Tamangi hospitality in traditional way.

Langtang trekking is the nearest trekking region from capital Kathmandu in the north central Nepal bordering with Tibetan terrain. Name of the region given after Mt. Langtang Lirung (7227m.) which dominates the skyline in the north. Langtang National park was established on 1971 as the first Himalayan national park. A large number of people live inside the National park; the majority of residents are Tamang influenced by Tibetan Buddhism.

Langtang trekking offers multitude destination for wonderful trekking options. Major destinations of the journey are Langtang valley, Gosaikunda, Tamang heritage village of Gatlang and Helambu. The valley, the people, culture, wonderful silver top Mountains, flora- fauna, pristine Lakes, monasteries, Yak herds, the alpine forest and blooming wild flower are great asset of the region. Variety of wild flower such as Primula, poppy could be seen during the summer. Shamanism is widely practiced in the villages.

The region is known as Langtang valley, however a popular high altitude mountain Lake 'Gosaikunda' holds a significant place. Gosaikunda is very popular among Hindu pilgrimage, which history associated to the lord Shiva. This sacred lake has very vital status in Hinduism.

### **Statement of the problem**

The researcher has adopted eclectic approach to study previous literatures. The key questions of content analysis: "who says what to whom, why, to what extent and with what effect?" (Lasswell, 2008) is significantly used in this study.

Generally statement of the problems means the questions related to the research that has to be addressed through the research itself. What are the ethnic characteristics of Gatlang village for touristic attraction? What is the role of TRPAP in changing the livelihood of the people? What are the future possibilities for the development of ethnic tourism in Gatlang? What is the degree of co ordination between stakeholders, entrepreneurs and local people for the possible development of tourism in that village? How has ethnic tourism induced change? What are the provisions of home stays/lodges/groceries in support of tourism? What is the alternative subsistence? What is the provision of infrastructure in favor of ethnic tourism?

### **Objective of the study**

The general objective of the study is to assess the ethnic characteristics of Gatlang Village.

The specific objectives are

- To explore the change in income after development of Tamang heritage trail by TRPAP
- To provide an overview on driving forces and benefits of ethnic tourism
- To explore the future possibilities of ethnic tourism development in Gatlang village
- To assess the cultural continuity and change
- To assess Tamang Heritage Trail

### **Rationale of the study**

Tourism is the vital source of public revenue only if proper policy, management and marketing are formulated in favor of local communities with equitable benefit sharing and employment generation. However every aspects of tourism are not considered for promotion and development. Ethnic tourism is still under shadowed by adventure tourism in Nepal. People mostly the western visitors choose travelling because they do not have cultural authentication, to use the leisure in learning the culture, in adventure and the like. Nepal is a land of diversity in unity. It has many ethnic groups with different cultures, festivals, history and so on which if developed and planned rationally will contribute in public revenue. The proper collaboration of government and private sector can yield in profit making. This study is based on ethnic tourism as a pilot study in Rasuwa district. GON introduced TRPAP in six different districts of Nepal which highlighted the ownership by the local community and continuous and meaningful community participation are essential for the sustainable development of rural tourism. TRPAP developed Tamang Heritage Trail as new tourist destination with provision of vocational trainings and skill development trainings. Therefore researcher will study the ethnic characteristics of THT with future potential of cultural continuity and the change linking the socio economic dimensions and affects in local communities. The research will act as impact assessment of TRPAP that can contribute to address the objectives set by Tourism Vision 2020.

Therefore the findings of the study may be useful for the future researchers in the very field. It can also be useful for decision makers. It can be an eye opener to the GON and the local communities to more actively participate in tourism development. The research may enhance the collaboration of public and private sector to efficiently design the ethnic tourism advancement in Rasuwa district.

### **Limitations of the study**

The research will be limited to ethnic characteristics, ecology, economy, socio-cultural dimensions, market development, and infrastructure development.

### **Organization of the study**

The report will be classified into various chapters. The first chapter will deal with introduction, statement of the problem, objectives, rationale and the limitations. The second chapter will explore the available literature review. The third chapter will discuss the research methodology applied during the conduction of the research. The description of natural settings, transportation, accommodation, attraction and amenities and the necessary details will be considered in fourth chapter. The data analysis and other necessary information will be carried out in fifth chapter. The final chapter will lead to findings, conclusions, recommendations and annex (if necessary).

### **Review of Literature**

Kunwar, 2010 in his book *Tourists and tourism; Science and Industry Interface elaborates about ethnic tourism as* - The ethnic tourism is marketed to the public in terms of the "quaint" customs of indigenous community like Eskimos, the San Blas Indians of Panama and the Torja in Indonesia. Destination activities are characterized by visiting native homes and villages for observation of dances and ceremonies, and shopping for primitive wares of curios. As long as the flow of visitors is sporadic and small, host-guest impact is minimal. This kind of tourism can be developed in different areas of Nepal. For example, both domestic tourists (especially student) and international tourists can be sent to the Tharu habitat of mid and far Western Terai and so on. Also elaborates Cultural Tourism as inclusion of "picturesque" or "local color", a vestige of a vanishing life-style that lies within human memory with its "old style" houses, home-spun fabrics, ox-drawn carts and plows, handicrafts. Destination activities are also characterized by in taking meals in rustic inns, folklore performances, and costumed wine festivals. This is peasant culture, illustrated by the case studies on Bali and Spain. Host-guest stresses may be maximal because the rural peasant areas are often readily accessible from tourists' resorts, and large numbers of visitors come for the very purpose of observing and photographing the lives of peasants who became objects of study. Thus he stresses upon the knowledge of cultural tourism while assessing ethnic tourism. Ethnic tourism is micro concept whereas cultural tourism is macro concept. For complete study both micro and macro concepts has to be dealt properly. Settlement, pattern; life style, dresses and jewelry, folk traditions, folk songs etc. legends and local cuisines are categorized under cultural landscape and distinctive cultural aspects. Art and architecture, sculptures and

paintings, folk dance/music and musical instruments and local craftsmanship falls under Local art and craft. Fairs-religious, religious-cum-cultural, specific local fairs, commercial/trade/craft various popular festivals and mode of their celebration are Fairs/Festivals. Monumental heritage-forts, palaces, temples and mosques of the historical and artistic value, ancient ruins, museums, excavation sites and other places of archaeological importance and sites of important historical events are Historical/Archaeological Heritage. Thus, overall study has to be made to get the clear picture of ethnicity and tourism along with cultural and heritage tourism is the strongest point for the author book through the lens of tourism.

Cohen(1974) points out that an expansion of a group's resource base outside its boundaries will alter the degree of dependence of occupational roles on outside resources. In case of tourism the outside resource is tourist.

Valene L. Smith (1989) in her book *Hosts and Guests, the Anthropology of Tourism* has said that tourists prefer small, inexpensive souvenirs which in turn require less raw materials-a desirable factor, too, in wildlife conservation. Further, the new cultural self-confidence and the quantity of native-made items have all but eliminated the plastic tinkers of former years and even "fake art" carved from African vegetable ivory. In Nepal Illam as a tourist destination can be the good example of plastic free zone and goods made from utilitarian goods. Likewise the crafts and dolls made from cotton, fabric and wood can be the good example with the less use of raw materials as souvenirs to tourist with the promotion of culture and d ethnic tourism. Further she adds that indigenous tourism development will be self-sustaining when the financial, political, economic, and institutional aspects mesh to support on-going tourism efforts. This means that for the indigenous and ethnic tourism to flourish both the state and the private sector should act rationally with full co-ordination, support and co-operation. Cultural pluralism as a tourist attraction is important for indigenous and ethnic tourism. Power and control must be balance between the cultural pluralism with multinational tourist interests (tourism market dynamics); and, within the ethnic group, between individuals (gender roles).

Dean MacCanell(1992) has elaborated the origin, components and importance of ethnic tourism. He further has stated the importance of anthropology of tourism to

study the ethnic tourism and indigenous tourism has also to be discussed while considering ethnic tourism. The global diffusion of White Culture, internal colonization, and the institutions of modern mass tourism are producing new and more highly deterministic ethnic forms than those produced during the first colonial phase. The focus is on a type of ethnicity-for-tourism in which exotic cultures figure as key attractions: where the tourists go to see folk costumes in daily use, shop for folk handicrafts in authentic bazaars, stay on the alert for a typical form of nose, lips, and so on, learn some local norms for comportment, and perhaps learn some of the language. The concern here is not with the often bizarre results of the tourists' efforts to 'go native'. Rather, it is with the natives' efforts to satisfy the touristic demand, or to go native-for-tourists."

Rodrigo de Azeredo Grünewald (2006) has defined tourist as- The touree is the native when he begins to interact with the tourist and modify his behavior accordingly. The touree is the native-turned-actor –whether consciously or unconsciously— while the tourist is the spectator. The middleman is the broker in ethnic exoticism who mediates and profits by the interaction of tourist and touree, and who, in the process, very frequently manipulates ethnicity for gain, stages "authenticity," peddles cultural values, and thus becomes an active agent in modifying the situation in which and from which he lives. With all of this it can be seen how far ethnic tourism really is from cultural tourism, or that tourism which can be defined "in terms of situations where the role of culture is contextual, where its role is to shape the tourist's experience of a situation in general. Hence, authentication of culture is important however it is sometime manipulated by tourist. To study ethnic tourism proper consideration of cultural tourism has to be studied that is contextual with time and space.

Generally speaking, ethnic tourism can be understood using two distinct perspectives: one that looks to the object of tourism, and in this case, the native who is the focus of the trip; and another perspective that would take up ethnic tourism by what the tourist sees or finds during his or her visit. Perhaps it could be argued that every visit to another nation already presupposes ethnic tourism, however, what must occur for ethnic tourism to really exist is a movement to construct a specific ethnicity for exhibiting in the touristic sphere. The idea of tourism, in fact, seems to fall on the



perspective of those who travel. If, however, the perspective was shifted to that of the native, it would be precisely the ethnicity exercised in the terms of a cultural production of traditions to be exhibited as distinctive features within the touristic ambit that would signify the ethnic character of the interaction. And this would be the case even if it occurred without the natives completely understanding it or without a formal plan for the development of tourism in their village. Therefore both the emic and etic approaches has to be considered through the lens of natives as well as tourist because the visual impact is very important.

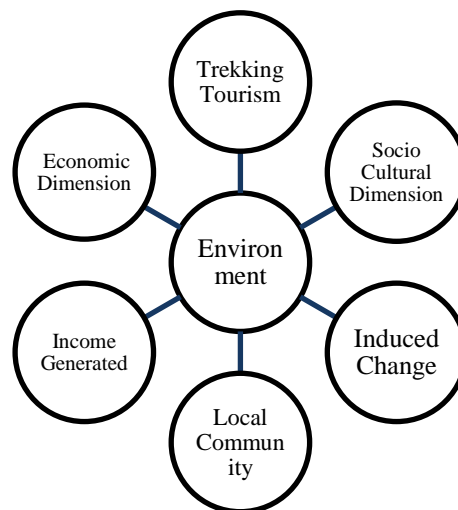
Dipendra Purush Dahal (2011) has highlighted the role of TRPAP in enhancement of livelihood and poverty reduction. TRPAP piloted its innovative model of pro-poor, pro-women, pro-community, and pro-environment tourism in the selected areas of six districts. Taplejung and Solukhumbu in the Eastern Development Region; Rupandehi in the Western Development Region; Rasuwa and Chitwan in the Central Development Region; Dolpa in the Mid Western The program demonstrated that livelihoods can be improved and poverty can be reduced through community involvement with community aspirations. Through this approach the poor were availed of better access to capacity building and financial resources. Ownership by the local community and continuous and meaningful community participation are essential for the sustainable development of rural tourism. TRPAP have contributed to capacity enhancement and increasing local people's access to financial resources through the provision of soft loans for small business ventures. Social mobilization was an integral part of the program. Almost all households in the program areas were given opportunity to be trained in vocational areas, empowered to understand the value and importance of their social belonging, facilitated and mobilized to define their priority needs, and helped to identify their objectives and design a sustainable process to achieve results. In broad sense, the aim of the program was to manage the human, economic and organizational resources to increase and strengthen community participation.

### **Conceptual Framework**

Before the advancement of any research conceptual framework plays a significant role. In this research on Ethnic Tourism the following framework has been designed

for the proceedings of the research and attainment of the objectives set and conduction of the research.

Trekking Tourism and Ethnic Tourism are related to Environment directly as both comprises of Eco- Tourism as core value. The Tourism opens the economic dimension for income generation with mobilization of local resources and revitalization of local community. The benefits are thus shared by local people with the increment in their income and improvement of their livelihood. The cultural continuity is thus maintained. Another aspect is the socio- cultural dimension offered by the Trekking Tourism. The increase in the income level leads to social change as the people will become more conscious about the cultural preservation and conservation of their unspoiled environment. The staged authenticity for guest will be more privileged for the tourist. This will however lead to the promotion of Eco- Tourism with the importance of authentication.



*Source: UNESCO, 1995, Study on the effects of tourism on culture and the environment Thailand*

The major potential impacts of tourism on the natural environment includes: Floral and Faunal species composition due to disruption of breeding habits, pollution due to wastages produced by the tourists, noise pollution, visual impact due to building, car parks and sewage. Also there are impacts of tourism on the built environment including: urban form through the change in character of built area through urban expansion, infrastructure with overload of infrastructure, visual impacts through the new architectural styles replacing the original. The impacts on cultural environment:

history with change in cultural landscape, language with change in vocabulary of languages, religion with decrease in the cultural practices with western influence of tourist, values and norms with change in family size and structure, increase in prostitutions main source of entertainment by tourists.

However there are positive feedbacks from tourism in natural environment, built environment and cultural environment (environment as core value). With the flow of tourist the tendency for the conduction of study and researches on the floral and faunal dimension will increase as that of bird watching, butterflies, one horned rhinoceros and the like. The awareness among the natives about the sewage disposal, uses of toilets and hygiene will increase with the flow of tourist even in the remote areas. The conservation and preservation of natural resources will take place for the development of tourist areas. The importance of the natural setting and the original culture and practices will increase as visual impact as incase of Tamang Heritage Trail, Ghandruk and so on. The rural areas will be facilitated with urban facilities of communication and transportation and restaurants. The development of infrastructure will take place in building the tourist area and development of new trekking trail and the conditions of lodges and home stay will increase, the traffic management safety and security will also foster with increment in tourist. The human touch in natural environment will enhance the tourist. For instance, hotels and rest points in the destinations, using the spring water hot water to build a pond for recreation, small authentic houses in the mountains in the destination and so on. The enhancement of Museum, National parks, conservation areas will preserve the history of the places. Similarly the local market development, benefit sharing by the locals will take place resulting in the income generation and enhancement of livelihood. The increased demand for traditional dramas, music, arts will take place. The growth of minority language will also be held. Likewise the increased importance of religious festivals and pilgrimage will boost up the economy and community.

Thus, trekking tourism/ethnic tourism/cultural tourism has direct relation and impact to the natural, built and cultural environments. The tourism with increase in direct and indirect employment will lead to income generation with sudden change and progress in mentioned environment with some effects in local communities. On the other hand the tourism will have socio economic dimension with the increased dimension of

development of tradition, religion, and language and so on. This will induce change in the local community. The community will have income generation with the use of environment (natural, built and cultural) with cost benefit sharing and regional revitalization. Similarly the increased demand of traditional and religious essence will make the locals more credible towards the preservation. From both the side, tourism affects the local communities with income generation, infrastructure development and enhancement of livelihood.

### **Research Methodology**

This research is based on qualitative research methodology. Qualitative research is a type of scientific research. In general terms, scientific research consists of an investigation that: seeks answers to a question, systematically uses a predefined set of procedures to answer the question, collects evidence, produces findings that were not determined in advance, produces findings that are applicable beyond the immediate boundaries of the study. Qualitative research shares these characteristics. Additionally, it seeks to understand a given research problem or topic from the perspectives of the local population it involves. Qualitative research is especially effective in obtaining culturally specific information about the values, opinions, behaviors, and social contexts of particular populations.

### **Methods of data collection**

The study will use various methods such as participant observation and in-depth interviews depending upon the availability of the respondents. Also the lodges/home stays will be visited for more information. The data thus collected will be the primary data and the available journals, literature, articles and reviews will be done for secondary information.

### **Sample Size and Sampling**

It is rather difficult to determine the actual sample size but depending upon the availability of respondents 20 locals and 10 tourists and available lodges are expected to be interviewed. Convenient sampling shall be adopted for the data collection.

## **Research Tools**

- **Participant observation** is appropriate for collecting data on naturally occurring behaviors in their usual contexts.
- **In-depth interviews** are optimal for collecting data on individuals' personal histories, perspectives, and experiences, particularly when sensitive topics are being explored.

### **Time schedule**

The researcher will spend at least 15 days – 20 days in the field depending upon the respondents. The research tools thus will be used for data collection.

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