

The Impact of an Earthquake on the Tourism Sector in Nepal

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The Impact of an Earthquake on the Tourism Sector in Nepal

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In an economically underdeveloped country such as Nepal, tourism has a major impact on the ups and downs of the economy of the whole country. Tourism is the forcing factor that generates the opportunity for the employment and revenue generation for the government. How the slight influence on the tourism industry changes the whole country's economy and creates chaos to its people.

The purpose of this Bachelor's thesis is to shine a light onto the disastrous effect of a recent natural disaster on the tourism industry of Nepal in 2015 and find out the consequences of it. The possible remedies and recommendations are presented in this thesis.

The research is based solely on how the tourism industry was affected by the earthquake 2015 and how it handled the waves of those impact. It also covers the part on what the tourism sector and government of Nepal is doing to recuperate its previous state. It covers the section on what are the future plans and policies to overcome the darkness created by the disaster and shed the light over it.

This research also looks into a comparative study of before the earthquake and after the earthquake situation of the tourism industry of Nepal.

Keywords: Tourism, Earthquake 2015, Impact, Recovery

List of Acronyms

Approx. -	Approximately
Dol -	Department of Immigration
EU -	European Union
FIT -	Free Individual Trekkers
GDP -	Gross Domestic Product
ICIMOD -	International Center for Integrated Mountain Development
MoCTA -	Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation
NARA -	Nepal Association of Rafting Agencies
NPR -	Nepali Rupee
NST -	Nepal Standard Time
NTB -	Nepal Tourism Board
PATA -	Pacific Asia Travel Association
TAAN -	Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal
TIMS -	Trekkers' Information Management System
TRC -	Tourism Recovery Committee
UN -	United Nation
UNESCO -	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF -	United Nation Children's Emergency Fund
UNO -	United Nations Organizations
UNWTO -	United Nation World Tourism Organization
US -	United States
WHO -	World Health Organizations

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1. Introduction

"Tourism comprises the activities of persons traveling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes."

- UNWTO

Simply put, tourism is an accumulation of activities, services and organizations which provides an experience on travelling which includes transportation, accommodation, eating and drinking, sight-seeing, entertaining and enjoying for an individual or a group who are travelling away from their places they live in.

Tourism differs from travelling in a sense that for tourism to happen an individual must travel using any means of transportation be it in a vehicle or on foot. There are a few conditions for the travel to belong to tourism. (Ugurlu, 2010)

On a small area of 147,181 km square, Nepal lies in between two giants, China and India, surrounding it and completely making it a landlocked country. It is said to be the Yam between two stones. Nepal covers 0.3% of the Asia and 0.03% of world. Despite being a small country, it holds a lot of natural and cultural beauties some of which hold world records such as tallest mountain of the world i.e. Mt. Everest or deepest gorge in the world i.e. Kali Gandaki Gorge (5571 m lower than Annapurna I). Nepal is also famous as the birthplace of Lord Gautam Buddha who is considered to be the light of Asia. Nepal is a Hindu country with more than 80% people following Hindu Religion followed by Buddhism (9%), Islam (4.4%), Kiratism (3.1%), Christianity (1.4%) and animism (0.4%). (Wikipedia, 2016)

The geography of Nepal has a wide diversity making it a unique country. The lowest point is about 59 meters and the highest being 8848 meters which is the height of the highest peak of the world. The unique geographical condition makes it one of the countries with diversified climatic conditions. It has eight different climatic zones such as tropical zone, temperate zone, Alpine zone, etc. which give different seasons such as monsoon, summer, winter and spring. (Wikipedia, 2016)

Nepal is a Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal with population of approx. 27 million with more than 120 different languages spoken. It is widely diversified in religion which gives it different cultures and traditions. Not only it is rich in tradition and culture, it is also rich in natural resources with variety of flora and fauna and different kind of landscape making a perfect place to visit. It is second richest country in water resource. It has many places which are recognized as the World Heritage Sites by UNESCO such as Kathmandu Durbar Square, Boudhanath Stupa, Pashupatinath Temple, and Lumbini and so on. (Wikipedia, 2016)

Along with all natural, cultural and historical resources, Nepal is also widely popular as place for extreme tourism. Nepal has numbers of adventure sports which are established targeting tourists such as bungee jumping, canoeing, white water rafting, elephant polo, ice climbing, mountain climbing, and rock climbing and so on. One can also go for trekking to extreme but truly spectacular places such as

Everest Base Camp, Annapurna Base Camp, Dolpa and Mustang. One can go on hiking and jungle safari and get acquainted with the nature from close. (Across Himalaya Tours and Treks, 2015)

Having all these qualities within itself, Nepal is one of the most attractive places for tourists to travel and relax. That is why tourism in Nepal is one of the main source of income for both local people and the government. It is basically the backbone of the country in terms of economic development. It aids the government by the bringing in the foreign currency. Not only does it bring in the foreign currency but also creates a job opportunity for people such as travel organizers, guides, local people and tourism related business such as hotels, restaurants, airline industries, transportation companies and so on. Tourism not only generates revenue for the country but also aids on overall infrastructural development of the country such as road ways, communication, electricity, etc. Tourism helps to promote Nepal as beautiful and natural country to the whole world. Tourism acts as an unofficial advertiser of the whole nation and its people. (Nepal Tourism Board, 2015)

Recently, Nepal was hit with one of the biggest earthquakes (7.9 magnitude) known to human on 25th April, 2015 which claimed more than 8000 lives including 75 tourists and injured more than 21,000 people. This unfortunate event did not just hit the people and houses but also the economy of whole nation. The economic condition of Nepal fell down tremendously. The earthquake destroyed major tourist attractions and places which caused declining of tourists who visit here. Due to this many people lost their jobs and many tourism related companies collapsed. The whole nation faced the dooms day kind of situation due to this. People were left jobless, penny less and devastated. (Wikipedia, 2016)

In these circumstances, the promotion of tourism in Nepal could play a vital role on overall development of whole nation and its economy. Promotion of tourism in Nepal would not just help people to the country but also it would help to show how the nation is reviving. Foreign donations and aids would pour into nation for its betterment.

The main aim of this thesis is to present the condition of tourism sector and tourism related sectors before and after the earthquake and how the tourism industry is doing after the earthquake. It focuses on the impact of an earthquake on tourism sector of Nepal about what things were destroyed, which places were destroyed and how they happened as well as how has the industry worked its way of such a terror and what has it been doing to promote the tourism once more. This thesis also focuses on showing the consequences after the earthquake and its aftermath. Different efforts from Government of Nepal, tourism related organizations and foreign helps are discussed in length which are collected from different sources using different medium of research.

This thesis focuses on analysis of the whole tourism perspective of Nepal and evaluate it as well. It also focuses on the research methods carried out in order for this thesis to happen and the findings from those researches. Finally, it presents the personal reflection and conclusion of the whole thesis.

2. Tourism in Nepal Before Earthquake

2.1 History of Tourism in Nepal

Modern tourism started in Nepal after the advent of democracy in Nepal in the year 1950. After throwing out tyrannical Rana regime from Nepal, it started flourishing in social, economic and political life as it left its doors open for foreign tourists. Tourism began with mountain tourism in Nepal. Many of its tallest mountains ranging above 8000 meters were successfully ascended by different people during 1950s among which was the world's tallest mountain, Mt. Everest (Sagarmatha). It was ascended by Tenzin Norgay Sherpa and Sir Edmund Hillary of New Zealand in May 29, 1953. But the first mountain that was climbed was Annapurna I by Maurice Herzorg and Louis Lachenal in June 3, 1950 which is also over 8000 meters.

After getting in as a member of UNO in 1955, non-aligned Countries' Group since its very inception and the membership of different international agencies, Nepal was introduced to the world. The same year Thomas Cook and Sons brought over 60 tourists in Nepal for the first time for 'Nepal Tour'.

In order to promote tourism in Nepal, Tourism Development Board was established in 1957 followed by Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) in 1998. From 1962, Tourism Board started keeping records of tourists coming in and going out of Nepal. In 1969, Nepal Tourism Development Committee was formed in order to formulate the tourist policy. (Shrestha & Shrestha, 2012)

2.2 Importance of Tourism in Nepal

Nepal is a developing country with only 65.9% literate people and low employment opportunity for both literate and illiterate people. (Ghimire, 2014) So tourism is important in order to create job opportunities for people.

Tourism helps create job directly and indirectly as well. People who work on travel and tour companies such as travel guides, trek guides, porters, etc. are directly benefited by tourism whereas organizations such as hotels, restaurants, lodges, airports, transport, etc. are indirectly benefited. This way tourism helps to boost up the economy of the country. Tourism is a source of both public and private income. It is also a source of a foreign exchange income.

Tourism does not only help in economic development but it also promotes social and cultural values of Nepal. It helps to spread the traditions and social values that prevails in Nepalese society to the whole world. It helps to share the way of Nepalese people and their living style as well as their community. It helps to promote Nepal as a rich country in religion, tradition, culture and language. Not only it helps to share our culture and tradition to them but we get to learn their cultures and traditions as well. There would be a cultural exchange between nations.

2.3 Scope of Tourism in Nepal

The tourism scope of Nepal is big since lots of tourism activities are available in Nepal and new possibilities exist. Tourism is not limited in places where tourism activities are performed but also in other areas.

Natural beauty is the attraction of Nepal. The picturesque himalayan range on the northern part of Nepal provide numerous charming scenes and sceneries. The snow-capped peaks, the gliding glaciers, the foaming water falls, the forested ranges and fascinating landscapes existing in great abundance in the mountainous sectors of Nepal exert profound influence on all visitors and viewers.

Climate variety diversifies the natural resources. From the climate view too, Nepal, on the basis of topographic altitude, provides varieties of pleasant and helpful climate such as hot, warm, cool and cold. Visitors can choose their own climate to enjoy. In other words tourists coming from any parts of the world can have the climate best suited for them.

Wildlife is the living and moving beauty of nature. Nepal offers plenty of scope of wildlife. The wildlife conservation areas are located in different parts of the country where one can see different kinds of animals, birds, plants. There is a seasonal obstacle on traveling through Nepal.

Rural settlement is also another way to attract tourists in Nepal, because people of advanced countries are full of urban life with modern technology. They like to spend leisure time in rural areas with peacefully. Besides the cost of living in comparison to other countries is very low in Nepal. Hence, tourists can enjoy many facilities in the low cost with peaceful environment in Nepal.

Nepal is also endowed with a store-house of antique arts and cultural heritage. There are several renowned temples depicting various images pertaining to ancient arts, craft and religious beliefs. They are the Krishna temple of Lalitpur, the temple of Hanumandhoka, the five storied temple of Bhaktapur and giant setups of Swayambhu and Bouddha. Likewise, the Pashupatinath, Lumbini, Janakpur, Jacinda, etc. are the notable religious centers and holy places. Besides there are also several artistic places of ancient kings in various parts of the country. All these features prove to be great attraction to foreigner from different part of the world. (Bhisam, 2010)

2.4 Tourism Statistics

As per the data and record of tourism department of Nepal, published online on their website, the number of tourists are constant in the year 2013 and 2014 with negative 0.95% decrement in 2014 (Table 1). Compared to previous years, the number of tourists is higher in these years. The tourism department has tourism data since 1962.

In this report, we will only deal with data and records from 2000 to 2014 which is the up to date data available to public. (Ministry of Culture, Tourism & Civil Aviation, 2015)

Year	Total		By Air		By Land		Average Length of Stay
	Number	Annual Growth Rate (%)	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
2000	463,646	-5.7	376,914	81.3	86,732	18.7	11.88
2001	361,237	-22.1	299,514	82.9	61,723	17.1	11.93
2002	275,468	-23.7	218,660	79.4	56,808	20.6	7.92
2003	338,132	22.7	275,438	81.5	62,694	18.5	9.60
2004	385,297	13.9	297,335	77.2	87,962	22.8	13.51
2005	375,398	-2.6	277,346	73.9	98,052	26.1	9.09
2006	383,926	2.3	283,819	73.9	100,107	26.1	10.20
2007	526,705	37.2	360,713	68.5	165,992	31.5	11.96
2008	500,277	-5.0	374,661	74.9	125,616	25.1	11.78
2009	509,956	1.9	379,322	74.4	130,634	25.6	11.32
2010	602,867	18.2	448,800	74.4	154,067	25.6	12.67
2011	736,215	22.1	545,221	74.1	190,994	25.9	13.12
2012	803,092	9.1	598,258	74.5	204,834	25.5	12.16
2013	797,616	-0.7	594,848	74.6	202,768	25.4	12.60
2014	790118	-0.9	585981	74.2	204137	25.8	12.44

Table 1 Total number of tourist who visit Nepal from 2000 to 2014 (Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Aviation, Nepal, 2015)

The above table 1 shows that since 2000 to 2014, there has been a continuous ups and downs in the number of tourist arrival in Nepal. With 463,646 tourists in 2000, 361,237 in 2001 and 275,468 in 2002 it indicates that tourism sector in those years had a great downfall. In 2001, there was 22.1 % less tourists that previous year and in 2002, there was 23.7 % less than 2001. But in 2003, there was a sudden rise in tourist number with 22.7 % increment which remained somewhat constant till 2006. But in the year, 2007 the number grew up by 37.2 %. The total of 526,705 tourists visited Nepal that year. In 2008, the tourist number decreased by 5%. And since 2009, the tourist number continued to grow up till 2012 reaching 803,092 and very less decrement in 2013 and 2014 by 0.7 % and 0.9 % respectively.

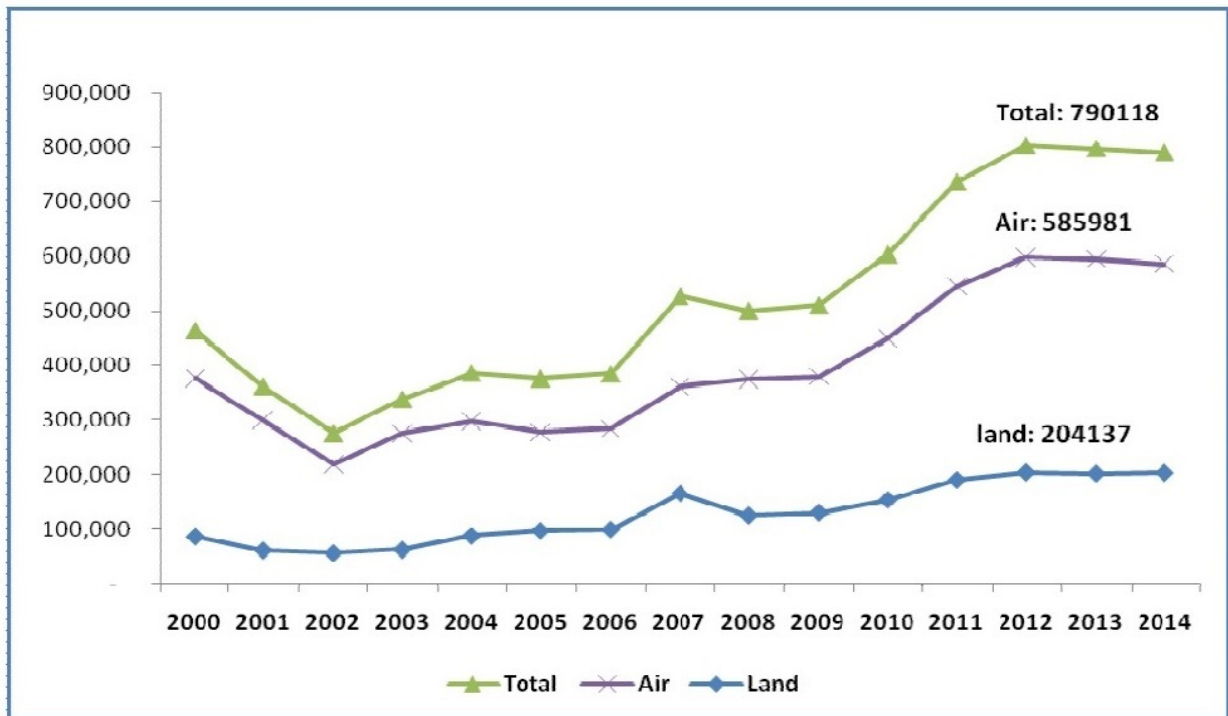


Figure 1 Tourist Arrivals, 2000 to 2014 (Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Aviation, Nepal, 2015)

2.5 Income from Tourism in Nepal

The total contribution from Travel and Tourism in Nepal in the year 2013 was NPR 68.8 billion which covered the 3.9% of total GDP of country that year. This direct contribution is estimated to grow by 4.9% per annum to NPR 122.22 billion which would cover 4.7 % of total GDP of country.

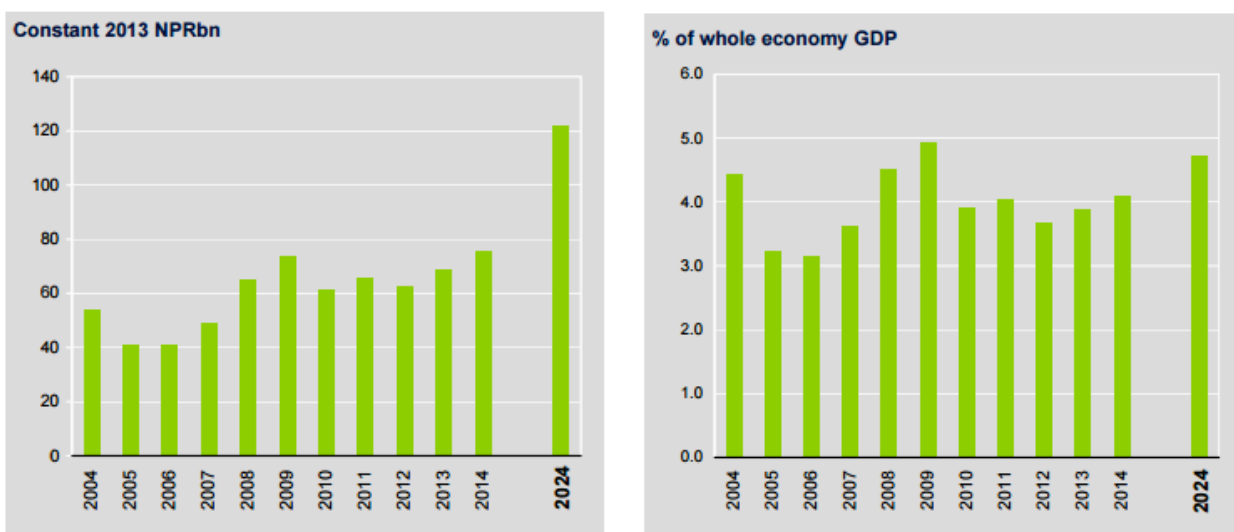
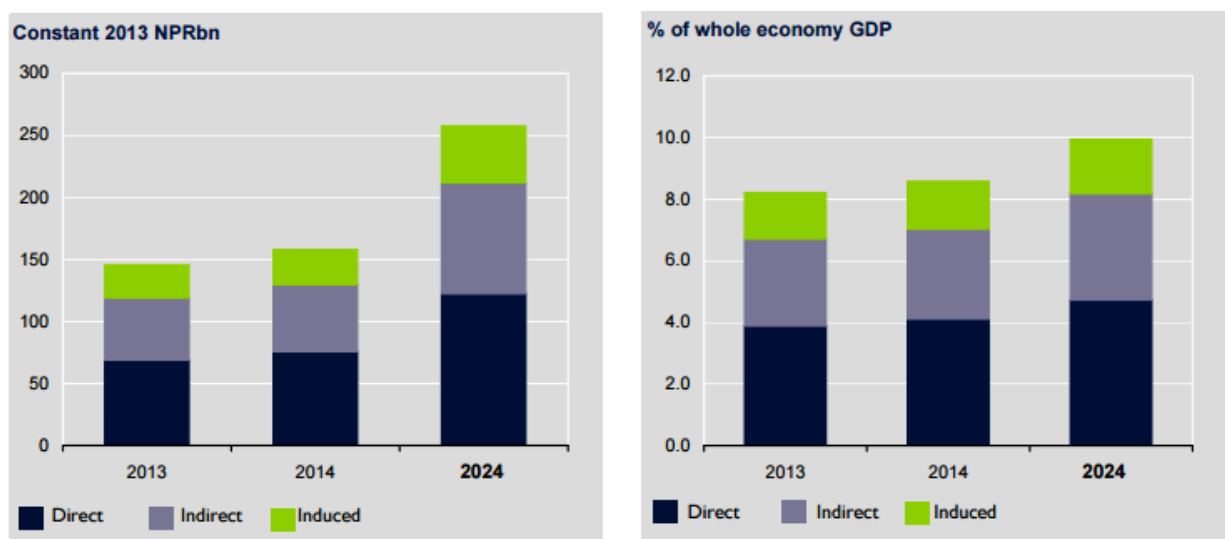


Figure 2 Direct contribution of Travel and Tourism to GDP (World Travel and Tourism Council, 2014)

The overall contribution by Travel and Tourism to GDP of Nepal was NPR 145.3 billion in 2013 which covered 8.2% of total GDP. It is estimated to raise by 5.0% per annum to NPR 257.4 billion by 2024 which would cover 9.9% of total GDP. (World Travel and Tourism Council, 2014)



¹ All values are in constant 2013 prices & exchange rates

Figure 3 Total Contribution of Travel and Tourism to GDP (World Travel and Tourism Council, 2014)

2.6 Impact of Tourism in Nepal

Tourism activity does not only impact the economic aspect of the country but it also affects other fields too. The impact that the tourism makes can be classified into three major categories namely Economic Impact, Socio-Cultural Impact and Environmental Impact.

All the categories are affected in both positive and negative manner by tourism. All three of them are affected at a same time which means the change in one would make a change in other as well. Overlapping of impact in two or all three at the time is natural and crucial as well.

2.6.1 Economic Impact

As mentioned above many times, tourism is the backbone in an economic development of country which implies to Nepal as well because it has helped Nepal in its economic growth and sustainable development. Not only it has helped to collect lots of royalty as well as foreign currency but it has also helped to create lots of job opportunities and establish tourism related and non-tourism related companies.

Tourism has contributed in development of local communities in changing the standard of their livelihood by helping them to sell local products and cuisines to tourists who visit there.

In some places though, the high flow of tourists has created a high demand of goods thus resulting in rise of price in all goods making it hard for everyone to pay happily which has caused a negative impact.

2.6.2 Socio-Cultural Impact

Due to overflow of tourists, social and cultural impacts has happened meaning tourists who came to visit certain place were influenced by the social and cultural activities of that place or even the society was influenced by the foreign social and cultural activities and copied them.

In Kathmandu Valley, the foreign social and cultural activities are being followed by mass which, in a way, is negative thing because people are forgetting their own culture and substituting it with foreign culture. Meanwhile, in other rural places tourists who went to visit there were influenced by the culture and social environment so much that they even helped later in order to preserve it and also shared it to the world.

2.6.3 Environmental Impact

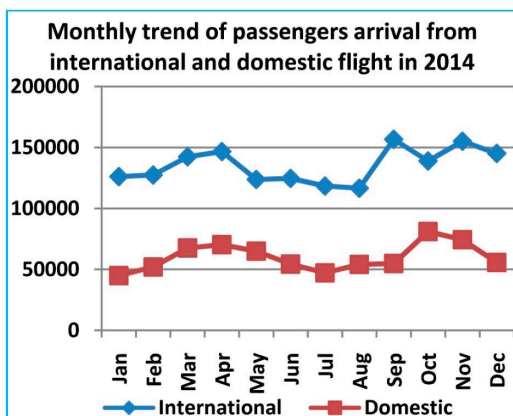
Tourism has surely affected the environmental sector of the country. In a positive side of impact, the rural natural resources such as lakes, falls, rivers, mountains, forests, flora and fauna as well as religious sites are attracting tourists towards it and help in promotion of it. That way it has been protected in order to maintain its naturalness. Many places are coined as natural parks, conservations areas or wildlife reserves in order to maintain balance and control in its use and to protect it. It has helped in protection of natural resources as well as wildlife and forests.

In a negative side, flow of tourists has made a negative impact on environment as well. Urbanization is the primary negative impact that has happened because the process of urbanization has degraded the natural resources and even deteriorated the sources. Construction of buildings, roads and artificial spots for attracting tourists has had a negative impact on natural resources.

The major environmental effect of tourism can be seen on Mt Everest Base Camp where tons of garbage lay around in unsanitary way. It has even attracted the attention of whole world.

2.7 Tourism Facts 2014

Trend of tourism training	2013	2014
Bachelor in Hotel Management	126	168
Bachelor in Travel and Tourism	84	126
Food/ House keep& front office	175	100
Tourist guide and other service	242	11
Trekking rafting & adventure	988	750
Mobile outreach training	127	75



Trend of Some Economic Indicators of Hotel and Restaurant (Source: CBS)			
Economic Indicators	2069/70	2070/71	2071/72 ^p
Annual growth rate at constant price, 2057/58 (%)	6.77	6.6	3.98
Gross output at current price (Rs. Million)	108,943	123,683	120,639
Intermediate consumption at current price (Rs. Million)	73,634	82,063	80,043
Gross value added at constant price 2057/58 (Rs. Million)	35,309	41,620	40,595
Gross value added at current price (Rs. Million)	12,391	13,209	12,884
Proportion of gross domestic product at current price (%)	1.96	2.09	2.07

No of Tourist Visitors on National parks and Protected areas (Source: DoNPWC)			
	2012	2013	2014
National parks			
Bardiya National Park	5760	12,974	14197
Chitwan National Park	126484	153,776	173425
Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve	47	88	89
Khaptad National Park	6	19	47
Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve	441	4,446	7349
Langtang National Park	12649	13,370	12552
Makalu Barun National Park	1520	1,523	1083
Parsa Wildlife Reserve	48	192	376
Rara National Park	49	164	181
Sagarmatha National Park	36518	36,750	35157
Shey Phoksundo National Park	679	620	417
Shivapuri National Park	82935	165,904	180464
Shukla Phata Wildlife Reserve	144	471	984

Major Tourism Places

Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Patan, Pokhara, Lumbini, Chitwan, Dhulikhel, Muktinath / Jomsom, Gorkha

Major Religious Sites

Pashupatinath, Swayambhunath, Lumbini, Muktinath, Gosaikunda, Debghat, Pathibhara, Jaleshwar Mahadev, Dolakha Bhimsen, Swargadwari

Nepal Population of Household Characteristics (Source: CBS)

Population	2001	2011
Nepal	23151423	26494504
Male	11563921	12849041
Female	11587502	13645463
Total Household	4253220	5423297
Annual Population Growth	2.25	1.35



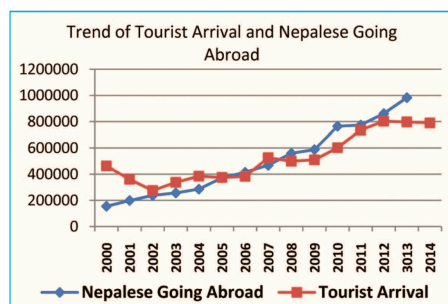
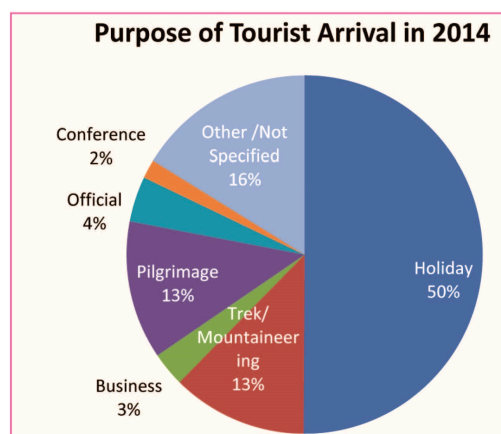
Safe Places to Visit Nepal : Janakpur



Figure 4 Tourism Fact 2014

Registered Tourism Industries	Number
Five star hotel	10
Four star hotel	2
Three star hotel	27
Two star hotel	48
One star hotel	31
Tourist standard hotel	625
Community & Private home stay	226
Trekking agency	1860
Travel agency	2567
Rafting agency	61
Paragliding agencies	37
Domestic airlines in operation	17
International airlines in operation	26
Tourist vehicle agency	57
Ultra light	37
Sky diving	4

Major Tourism Activities
Mountain Climbing, Trekking, Bird Watching, Mountain Flight, Rock Climbing, Rafting / Kayaking / Canyoning, Hot Air Ballooning, Bungy Jumping, Paragliding, Ultra Light Aircraft, Mountain Biking, Jungle Safari



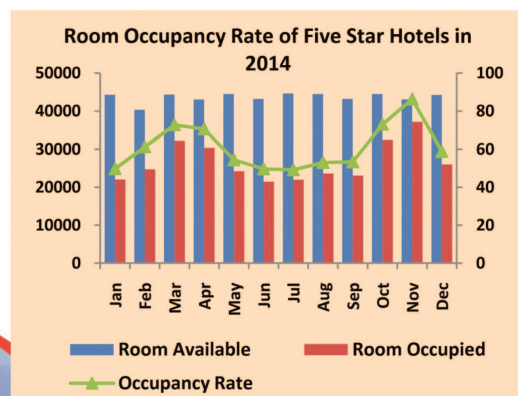
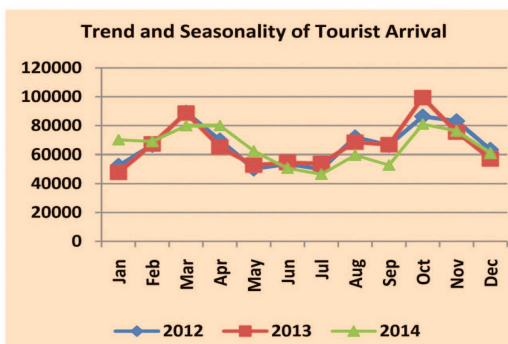
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Tourist guide and other service	242	11
Trekking rafting & adventure	988	750
Mobile outreach training	127	75

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Average length of stay	13.5	9.1	10.2	12.0	11.8	11.3	12.7	13.1	12.2	12.6	12.4
Average income / visitor/day (\$)	45.1	58.5	55.0	45.0	73.0	65.3	43.2	38.2	35.6	42.8	48.0



Figure 5 Tourism Fact 2014 (Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, 2015)

Major Place Visited by Tourist	2013	2014
National Parks and Wildlife Reserve	390297	431673
Pashupati Area (Excl. Indian)	156858	166173
Lumbini (Excl. Indian)	125496	132926
Manaslu Trekking	4439	3764
Mustang Trekking	2862	3883
Humla Trekking	1603	492
Lower Dolpa Trekking	585	1117
Kanchanjunga Trekking	837	777
Upper Dolpa Trekking	338	469
Top 5 Countries of Tourist Arrival	2013	2014
Rank1	India	India
Rank2	China	China
Rank3	USA	USA
Rank4	Thailand	Sri-Lanka
Rank5	UK	UK



Absent Population in 2011 (Source: CBS)				
Area	Male	Female	NK	Total
Nepal	1684029	237400	65	1921494
Mountain	82322	23101	0	105423
Hill	860555	130604	8	991167
Terai	741152	83695	57	824904
Urban	227632	57774	15	285421
Rural	1456397	179626	50	1636073



Figure 6 Tourism Fact 2014 (Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, 2015)

3. Nepal Earthquake 2015

In April 25, 2015 at 11:56 NST, Nepal was hit by a massive earthquake with the magnitude of 7.8 with epicenter Barpak, Gorkha. It was one of the biggest earthquake in history of Nepal which took total of 8,622 lives in Nepal and injured around 16,808 people. The total of 39 districts were affected by this earthquake which left 2.8 million people displaced of their settlement. It caused total of 10 billion USD in economic loss of country. (ICIMOD, 2015)

This major earthquake was followed by another earthquake of 7.3 magnitude on 12 May, 2015 with epicenter Chilankha, Dolakha killing more than 200 and injuring 2500 people.

The first earthquake triggered an avalanche in Mt. Everest killing 21 people and also in Langtang valley where 250 people were reported missing.

This earthquake destroyed many houses, building, infrastructures such as roads, hydropower, schools, etc. causing mass chaos throughout the country. More than 491, 620 buildings were fully damaged, 269,653 buildings were partially damaged, 7,532 schools were damaged, 1100 health facilities were damaged and more than 100,000 livestock were lost. The most affected districts were Sindhupalchowk, Kathmandu, Nuwakot, Dhading, Rasuwa, Gorkha, Bhaktapur, Kavrepalanchowk, Lalitpur and Dolakha. (ICIMOD, 2015)

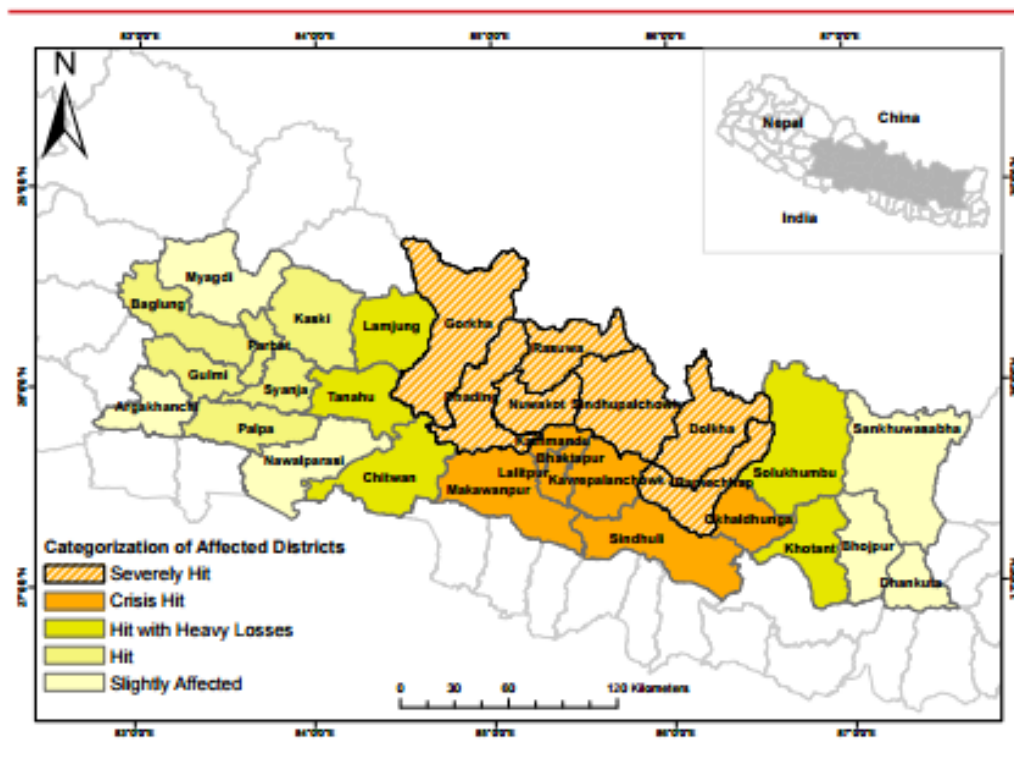


Figure 7 Categories of Earthquake Affected Districts

Many natural places, cultural and traditional monuments and sites were also affected and damaged by the earthquake. UNESCO World Heritage Sites such as Kathmandu Durbar Square, Patan Durbar Square,

Bhaktapur Durbar Square, Pashupatinath Temple, Boudhanath Stupa, etc. were destroyed. The famous Dharahara Tower was also completely destroyed by the earthquake as well as famous Swyambhunath Temple was also partially destroyed. Manakamana Temple of Gorkha, Janaki Temple of Janakpur, Rani Mahal in Palpa and Nuwakot Durbar were also damaged by an earthquake. Many famous trekking routes such as Gosainkunda, Everest Base Camp, Annapurna Base Camp, Dolpa and Mustang were also destroyed by the earthquake so much that all trekking trips had to be cancelled or postponed.

3.1 Social Effect of Earthquake

Many incidents of theft and robbery were reported in different parts of country which includes the capital city as well. With the advantage of people living in an open space on tents far away from their houses, many people committed these kinds of horrific acts.

Few incidents of human trafficking were also reported which involved selling of girls in the brothels in South Asian countries. The poor people who were severely affected by an earthquake were the primary victims of these acts.

3.2 Rescue and Relief

As soon as Nepal was hit by an earthquake, many rescue and relief operations were carried out by Nepal Government as well as foreign bodies. Nepal army was the most active participant in this. Neighboring country India was the first one to send rescue team followed by many other countries. World organizations such as Red Cross, Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders), etc. were also involved in rescue and relief programs.

People who survived the earthquake were also actively participating in the volunteer work for the rescue of the survivors and relief programs for those who needed.

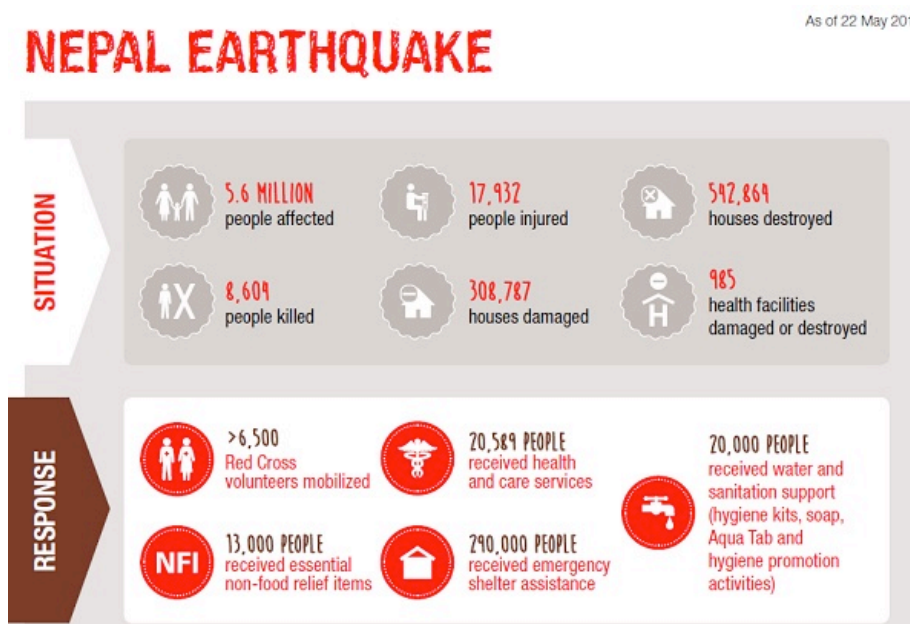


Figure 8 Situation after earthquake and response by Red Cross as of 22 May 2015 (Red Cross, 2015)

According to Red Cross, 5.6 million people were affected, out of which 17,932 people were injured, 8,609 people were killed and 592,869 houses were destroyed with additional of 308,787 houses damaged. The response by the Red Cross to help those in need after an earthquake was overwhelming. More than 6500 red cross volunteers were mobilized, 20, 589 people received health and care service, 20,00 people received water and sanitation support, 13000 people received essential non-food item and 290,000 people received emergency shelter assistance.

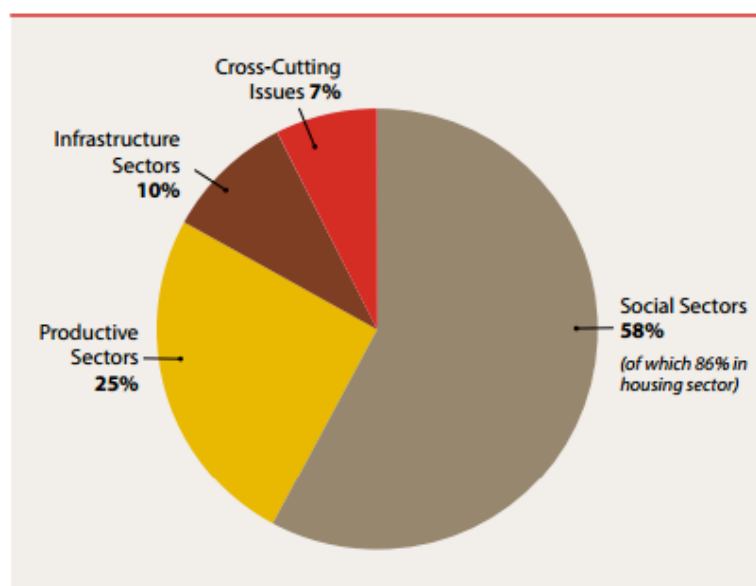
3.3 Disaster Effect

	Disaster Effects (NPR million)			Distribution of Disaster Effects (NPR million)		Losses in personal income (NPR million)
	Damages	Losses	Total	Private	Public	
Social Sectors	355,028	53,597	408,625	363,248	45,377	-
Housing and Human Settlements	303,632	46,908	350,540	350,540	-	-
Health	6,422	1,122	7,544	1,394	6,150	-
Education	28,064	3,254	31,318	2,365	28,953	-
Cultural Heritage	16,910	2,313	19,223	8,948	10,274	-
Productive Sectors	58,074	120,046	178,121	158,079	20,043	17,124
Agriculture	16,405	11,962	28,366	25,813	2,553	4,603
Irrigation	383	-	383	-	383	-
Commerce	9,015	7,938	16,953	16,953	-	2,667
Industry	8,394	10,877	19,271	19,271	-	3,654
Tourism	18,863	62,379	81,242	75,105	6,137	6,200
Finance	5,015	26,890	31,905	20,937	10,969	-
Infrastructure Sectors	52,460	14,323	66,783	17,281	49,502	
Electricity	17,807	3,435	21,242	15,569	5,673	-
Communications	3,610	5,085	8,695	1,712	6,983	-
Community Infrastructure	3,349	-	3,349	-	3,349	-
Transport	17,188	4,930	22,118	-	22,118	-
Water and Sanitation	10,506	873	11,379	-	11,379	-
Cross-Cutting Issues	51,872	1,061	52,933	1,755	51,178	-
Governance	18,757	-	18,757	-	18,757	-
Disaster Risk Reduction	155	-	155	-	155	-
Environment and Forestry	32,960	1,061	34,021	1,755	32,267	-
Total	517,434	189,027	706,461	540,362	166,100	17,124
Total (US\$ million)	\$5,174	\$1,890	\$7,065	\$5,404	\$1,661	\$171

Source: Estimations by PDNA Team

Figure 9 Disaster Effect of Earthquake 2015 in Nepal (Red Cross, 2015)

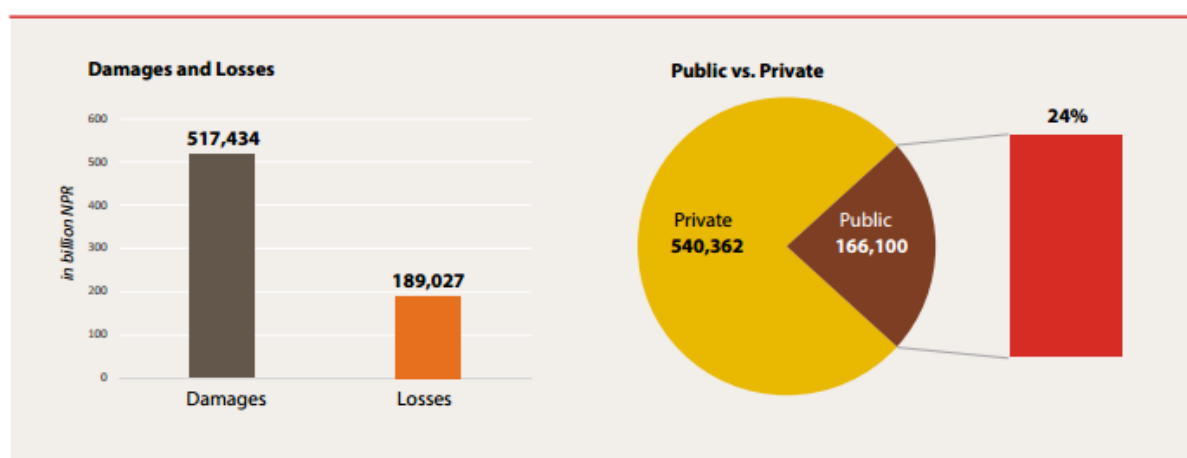
A total of \$5,174 million was damaged in disaster effect and \$1,890 million was lost in disaster effect which totals to \$7,065 million. The private sector faced lost and damaged of \$5,404 million whereas public sector faced \$1,661 million. The total of \$171 million was lost in personal income due to an earthquake according to Red Cross.



Source: Estimations by PDNA Team

Figure 10 Share of Disaster Effects of earthquake across sector

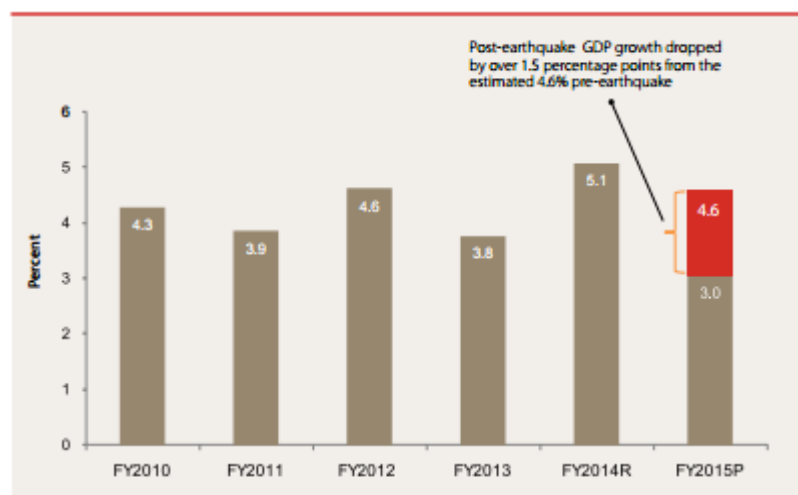
Out of total 100% disaster effect, the social sector endured maximum of 58% followed by production sector with 25%, infrastructure sector 10% and cross cutting sector issues with 7%.



Source: Estimations by PDNA Team

Figure 11 Distribution of disaster effect of earthquake in Nepal

The earthquake brought the total damage of 517 billion NPR and 189 billion of loss. Out of which 76 % was in private sector and 24% in public sector.



Source: CBS

Note 1: R (revised); P (projected)

Figure 12 Impact of earthquake on GDP Growth of Nepal (Red Cross, 2015)

The estimated GDP for fiscal year 2015 was 4.6 % compared to 5.1 % of fiscal year 2014, but due to the earthquake, the GDP decreased by 1.5%.

District	Per capita Disaster Effects, NPR/ person	HDI
Dolakha	255,860	0.459
Sindhupalchowk	233,370	0.455
Gorkha	209,080	0.481
Nuwakot	204,930	0.466
Rasuwa	179,700	0.461
Dhading	149,580	0.461
Kavrepalanchowk	119,200	0.520
Ramechhap	112,740	0.468
Bhaktapur	78,770	0.573
Okhaldhunga	74,500	0.468
Sindhuli	57,865	0.440
Lalitpur	52,765	0.601
Kathmandu	49,495	0.632
Makawanpur	43,760	0.497

Source: Estimations by PDNA Team and UNDP

Figure 13 Per-capita Disaster Effects and Pre-Disaster HDI in Most Affected (Red Cross, 2015)

Among all earthquake affected districts of Nepal, Dolakha was affected the most by an earthquake. A total of 255,860 NPR/Person was lost. Following Dolakha was Sindhupalchowk, Gorkha, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Dhading, Kavrepalanchowk, Ramechhap, Bhaktapur, Okhaldhunga, Sindhuli, Lalitpur, Kathmandu and Makwanpur. The capital city of Nepal, Kathmandu, had per capita disaster effect of

49,495 NPR/person and the least of 43,760 in Makwanpur. All these were estimated by PDNA Team and UNDP.

4. Tourism in Nepal After Earthquake

After the earthquake, Indian media shared an insensitive and inhumane news to the world about Nepal Earthquake which caused a mass chaos with people fighting back via social media against it. Some media shared false news about all world heritage sites of Nepal and all historic architecture of Nepal as completely ruined. This led the mass chaos among people travelling to Nepal and causing them to cancel the trip.

Out of 35 major trekking routes in Nepal, only 2 were damaged by an earthquake and only 11 district's tourist destinations were damaged which covers only 2% of total tourist destinations and 10% of total land of Nepal. (The Kathmandu Post, 2015)

It is true that few hotels and restaurants and very few tourist sites are destroyed by the earthquake. After the earthquake, all the incoming tourist flights were cancelled and all the tourists in Nepal were fleeing back which caused a great loss in tourism business in country. Lots of hotels were left astray and many people lost their job and way of earning livelihood. Hotels in Kathmandu Valley and Pokhara city had zero occupancy after an earthquake.

Less than 80% of total annual trekker were involved in trekking activities after an earthquake by Mid-August of 2015. The total number of trekkers was 1,635 only according to NTB and TAAN. Among them, 296 were free individual trekkers (FIT) who went and enjoyed trekking in Nepal after an earthquake. (Bhujju, 2015)



Figure 14 Effect of earthquake in Nepal (Nepal Tourism Board, 2015)

5. Sectors of Tourism Industry Affected By Earthquake

Earthquake of April 2015 affected many sectors of country such as health, education, communication, tourism, etc. It brought the whole nation into ruins as every sector was collapsing and no efforts were made to rebuild them. Out of all the affected sectors, tourism is the one which was affected the most and still is.

Due to the earthquake, almost all tourists left Nepal which caused a great impact on various sectors of tourism industry in Nepal. Not only the tour and travel organizing companies were affected but also individuals and whole nation was affected by it. Many other sector which are not directly related to tourism were also affected by it. There was an economic fallout throughout the country.

Within tourism industry, many sectors were affected by an earthquake.

5.1 Tourism Service Industry

Many travel and tour companies saw cancellations of bookings made by tourist who were to visit Nepal. More than 90% bookings were cancelled. The cancellation caused these companies to go on loss and even collapse. Many of the companies closed due to lack of guests and they had hard time to reopen the business due to lack of capital and man-power.

5.2 Adventure Tourism and Recreation

Due to damage of trekking trails by an earthquake and continuous aftershocks, many trekking trails were closed which lead trekking companies to cancel all trekking plans and refund. This caused these companies to close indefinitely. Right now very few trekking companies are actively involved in trekking activities due to less amount of tourists interested in trekking which is 20% of usual.

All extreme tourism activities were closed as well due to safety and security issues. Activities like bungee, rafting, paragliding, mountaineering, etc. were closed for long term.

5.3 Accommodation

Due to inadequate number of tourists, many hotels, restaurants, lodges and home stays were vacant and few of them even had to be closed down. Hotels around Thamel areas of Kathmandu and Lake Side of Pokhara City were all empty during busy seasons as well. It caused lots of hotel industry to bear loss and even close down.

5.4 Attractions

Many tourist attractions such as natural parks, wildlife reserves, conservation areas, traditional and religious places and monuments, historic places and flora and fauna were also affected by an earthquake. Some of these were destroyed by an earthquake whereas some of them were left abandoned due to lack of tourist inactivity.

5.5 Transportation

Due to destruction of roads, bridges and houses the transportation facility was heavily affected. Both air and road ways were affected. Vehicles stopped running due to fear of what might happen and people stopped moving from one place to another for the same fear and safety of their lives. This made it difficult for incoming tourists to travel within Nepal.

5.6 Food and Beverage

Many people were too afraid even to work due to an earthquake and its psychological effect, they stopped working and wait for the consequences which caused in low agricultural product supply in whole nation. People relied heavily on relief and aid goods so much that they left working. The destruction of transportation facility made it difficult to supply goods throughout the nation easily. This caused service industries to provide for all and reduction in their service.

All these impacts on various sectors of tourism industry caused an economic fallout in nation. People were left without jobs, money and food. The nation itself was suffering and the tourism sector suffered along with it.

The country that relies heavily on tourism for its economic growth faced a great kick on its back when all tourism sectors started collapsing. Even though, Nepal Government and other organization tried to maintain the balance, they failed to do so initially. Still the recovery process is going on and is long way away from full recovery.

6. Works and Efforts to Promote Tourism Again

Various tourism related organizations such as TAAN, NTB and government organizations, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation (MoCTCA), few private sectors and media are have been working with full effort in order to restore and recover the tourism business industry that had fallen due to the devastating earthquake.

Lots of tourism related campaigns, awareness events and programs as well as different types of assessment programs, promotion programs, planning the strategies and construction of diminished sites and upgrading of services have been performed in order to revive the fallen tourism industry to its feet.

6.1 Work and Effort from Concerned Tourism Organizations, Officials and Government

According to press release by Nepal Tourism Board on their official Facebook page, several tourism organizations and MoCTCA and NTB along with few media personnel held a meeting in regards to recovery of tourism in Nepal. The meeting was called for feedback and suggestions from tourism officials and industry for the reconstruction and recovery of tourism industry in Nepal. The primary concern of the attendants was about diversification of the tourism destinations and services while focusing on safety and security as well as quality assurance. The reconstruction and repairing of destroyed monuments was also stressed on. Major suggestions are the followings:

1. Assessment of the situation in the tourist attractions like heritage sites of Kathmandu Valley, trekking areas of Everest, Langtang, Manaslu and Annapurna regions. Assessment of the routes in the trekking areas is also very important.
2. Work in partnership with the media and social network sites to disseminate accurate, complete, fact-based information and promote places that have not been affected by the earthquake.
3. Normalize the situation and offer moral support to the victims. Promote responsible and sustainable tourism practices for better future of the tourism industry.
4. Create new platforms like new events, volunteer tourism, etc. to promote Nepal's tourism post-earthquake. Promote the spirit of helping Nepal by visiting Nepal.
5. Get help from the international sector and to get help of international experts also to design strategies for a tourism recovery plan.
6. Encourage tourists to visit Nepal, through different incentive programs. Collect a certain amount of money from tourists as restoration fund.
7. Construction of alternate airports should be given high priority for future emergencies and disasters.

8. Update and upgrade services at airlines, immigration and other tourist service bodies to facilitate tourists.
9. Facilitate the tourism entrepreneurs to access loans from financial institutions at low interest rates and provide such other facilities.
10. Provide immediate relief and rescue operations in tourism areas, Himalayan region in particular.
11. Prepare inventory of cultural heritage. (Nepal Tourism Board, 2015)

6.2 Role of Media

The role of media is also important in order to promote tourism in Nepal again. News about Nepal and its strategies on recovery of tourism industry through media via TV, Radio, Social Sites, etc. would help share news all over the world to millions of people. They can call in famous and related people on their shows in order to talk about things happening in Nepal. This would catch the interest of people and aware them about things.

Image Nepal, the leading media of Nepal, talked with various travel trade related people about the effect of the earthquake on tourism and its recovery. Few of them are presented below in summarized form.

a. **Ang Tshering Sherpa, President, Nepal Mountaineering Association**

The earthquake has affected a large section of the Himalayas. Trekking trails in different quake hit districts have been damaged. Manaslu, Rolwaling and Langtang regions are among the worst-hit areas. We have been working toward maintaining and rehabilitating the trails. Some of them would be operable in the upcoming season. We need to tell the world that Nepal is safe for tourists. For that, we have to work in coordination with various international organizations working in tourism and mountaineering sector and bring international experts here so that they can see the situation themselves.

b. **Ashok Pokharel, President, Nepal Association of Tour Operators**

The earthquake has certainly affected the vast section of tourism. Around 30 percent of total structures have been affected. But we are very hopeful that the loss can be recovered soon. The major concern at present is to build confidence among tourism stakeholders. We should focus on conveying the message to the world that Nepal is a safe destination for tourists and most of the infrastructures in Nepal are intact. Our marketing strategy should be properly defined and executed in this time of crisis. At such time, we should focus on our neighboring markets i.e. China and India. As we are getting less tourists these days, the government should put focus on renovation of infrastructures that are directly associated with tourism of Nepal. It is high time we focused on developing proper standards in airports and connectivity. Rebranding of Nepal as a safe and

attractive tourist destination should be our priority at this time. The government should play an effective role in planning and executing policies and its strategies for the revival of tourism industry.

c. Ghanendra Shrestha, Treasurer, Hotel Association Nepal

The mega disaster has badly hit the entire tourism industry and Hospitality sector is among the worst hit. Many hotels are seeing zero occupancy after the disaster despite the fact that only five percent of the total hotels have been damaged fully or partially. Regardless of this, we are hopeful that tourism industry will revive soon. But we need to change our marketing and promotional strategy as per the need. Private sector and the stakeholders are also working toward relaying the message to the rest of the world that Nepal is a safe destination. I think our focus should be on effective marketing and promotion of our tourism products in neighboring countries.

d. Ramesh Dhamala, President, Trekking Agencies Association Nepal

Natural disasters like the recent earthquake are inevitable. Nepal is still a safe destination. More than 70 percent of total tourist areas in the country are perfectly safe and intact. Among trekking areas, only Ganesh Himal, Rolwaling and Langtang have suffered damages. Apart from these regions, major destinations and trekking trails are still intact and are ready to serve visitors. TAAN is also working toward disseminating positive message to the world and is also working towards reviving the tourism sector. We should focus on maintenance of damaged structures and trekking trails, explore new areas and promote other safe destinations. Government agencies and private sector are focused on early recovery of tourism industry.

e. Ramesh Thapa, Secretary, Nepal Association of Tour and Travel Agents

The recent earthquake has made severe impact on tourism sector. Tourist arrivals is decreasing and airlines have started reducing number of flights to Nepal. Though some monuments have been damaged and some trekking trails wiped out, we still have lot of tourism products and services to offer to tourists. I think the recovery of Nepal's tourism won't take much time if the government, private sectors and the stake holders work in tandem. The concerned authorities should act properly and responsibly. The government should work on promoting and marketing Nepali tourism products and services effectively through international media, travel trade forums or other events. We need to relay message that Nepal is a safe destination for tourists. Looking back at the history of Nepal's tourism, tourists have been coming back to Nepal regardless of the situation here. Everything depends on how government and the concerned agencies react and work. It is very important to assure safety and security of visitors.

6.3 Role of Social Media

After the earthquake in Nepal, few of international Medias shared a false news about Nepal and its condition after an earthquake. They promoted Nepal as a completely ruined country with no safety and security as well as nothing worthy to travel. This news circulated all over the world via different social sites which created a chaos in Nepal. People of Nepal got angry. But instead of showing anger to them, they counteracted that false news with positive and true news about country. They presented Nepal as still a safe and nice place to visit in spite of few places being damaged.

Lots of posts saying Nepal is safe to travel were widely circulated all over the world. This caught international attention and people all over the world started sharing it in order to help Nepal restore its tourism business.

This shows how much influential Social Media can be in order to grasp attention of people in short span of time and help share news. Social Medias are now the fastest, easiest and the broadest way to let the world know what is happening in any place of the world.

6.4 Foreign Aids and Donations

As soon as Nepal was hit with an earthquake, lots of countries helped Nepal in terms of rescue and money. Not all the foreign donations and aids were utilized on tourism recovery but few from it was used for that purpose.

Many foreign countries like US, UK, Norway, Russia, Canda, Japan, Korea, China, France, India, etc. and many foreign organizations such as UNICEF, WHO, UN, EU, Facebook, Google, Apple, Microsoft donated billions of dollar to Nepal in order to restore the nation's balance. Some of the resource from those aids and donations were utilized in restoration of tourism industry by reconstructing and restoring historic and traditional monuments also to preserve natural beauty of country.

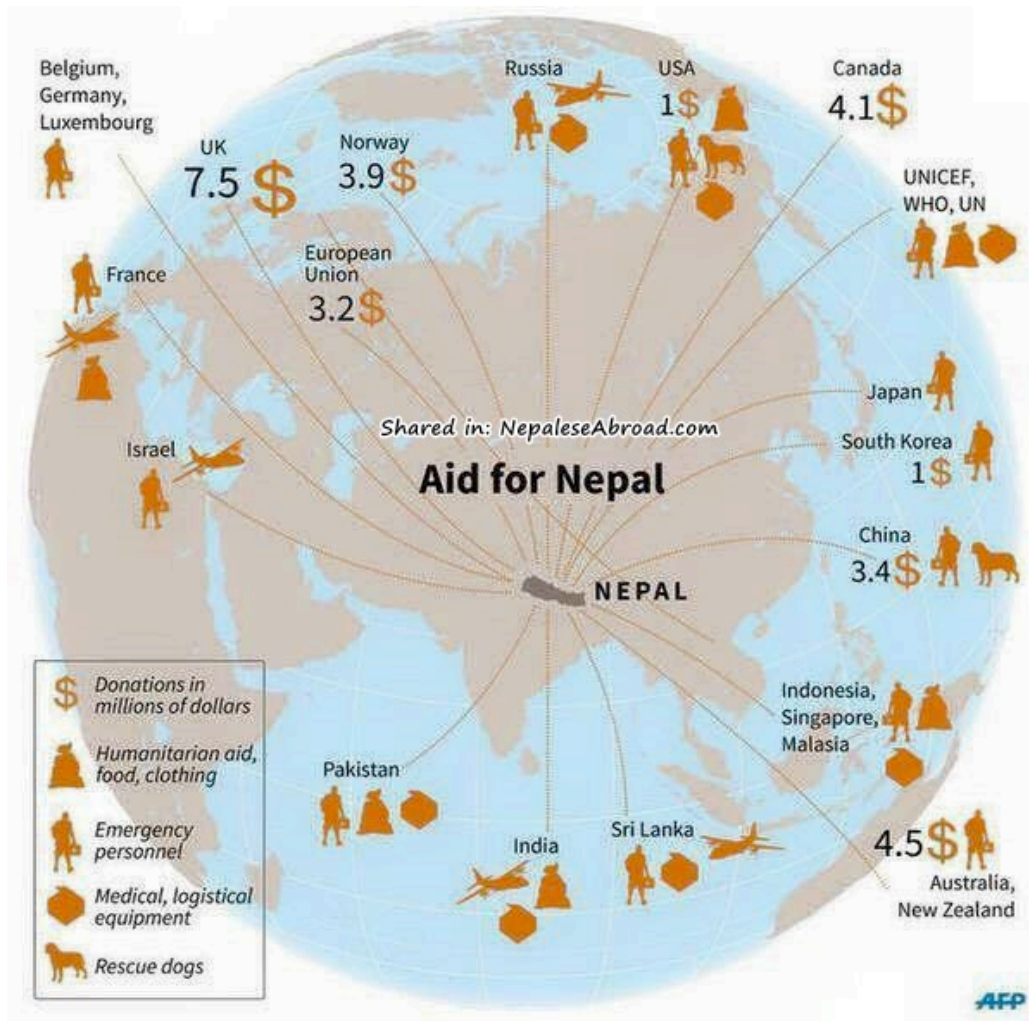


Figure 15 List of foreign donations to Nepal Earthquake victims (Nepalese Abroad, 2015)

6.5 Reconstruction of Earthquake Hit Monuments and Structures

Due to the earthquake of 2015, Nepal was hit in its core. The modern buildings as well as cultural and historical monuments were affected by it. Many of them are slightly affected whereas few of them are completely ruined to ashes. In the affected 20 districts, total of 721 monuments were hit by an earthquake. Among them 133 are completely destroyed, 229 are slightly destroyed and 40-50 are in the state of demolition according to Ram Kunwar, Senior Archaeologist of Department of Archaeology of Nepal Government. (Rajbhandari, Upholding Heritage)

These were the primary attractions for the tourists visiting Nepal who came to see the historic and cultural beauty of Nepal. These monuments hold the history of country about how it grew and how it became what it is. Lots of people relied on these monuments for their livelihood. So the renovation and reconstruction of these monuments as soon as possible is crucial in order to restore the economic balance of country.

The Government of Nepal has set the reconstruction time of 7 years and the total budget of 200 Million US Dollar in order to cover the construction and renovation of destroyed monuments of 16 of the

affected districts. But it has been estimated that total of 169 Million US Dollar is needed just to repair the buildings that stand still. (South China Morning Post, 2015)

6.6 Assessment of Major Trekking Regions

The assessment of three major trekking areas were done by Miyamoto International and they presented their reports about the conditions of all three regions.

6.6.1 Annapurna Region

It is the most popular trekking route not only in Nepal but the whole. In the assessment process of this region, the assessment team found only 3% of the infrastructures to be damaged. And all 30 bridges that were assessed were found to be in good conditions. The assessment could not be done in between Thorung Phedi to Thorun La Pass because of weather constraints. The overall assessment showed that the region is still safe to travel and still the best.

6.6.2 Everest Region

The assessment of this region done by US based Engineering Firm showed that the region is still intact and in good condition. They assessed 40 miles of Everest trail. Almost 83% of the buildings and 9 major bridges are unharmed by an earthquake. Few damaged properties are already in process of reconstruction. Overall, the Everest region is still good for the trekking purpose.

6.6.3 Langtang Region

It is the third most popular trekking region of Nepal. The epicenter of the earthquake was around this region which caused the major destruction of area. It suffered a heavy loss in terms of property and lives as well. The earthquake triggered a landslide and it swept away many villages. Due to this incident, the region was closed for trekking but TAAN has worked to open the alternative route to this region. (Explore Himalaya Travel & Adventure, 2015)

6.7 Assessment of Rivers of Nepal

The assessment conducted by Nepal Association of Rafting Agencies (NARA) has concluded that rivers of Nepal are safe for commercial rafting and kayaking. After a month long assessment of rivers, they found no damages in Bheri, Karnali and Sun Koshi Rivers. Minor changes were found on Marsyangdi, Trishuli, Seti and Tamu Rivers but were concluded safe.

Kali Gandaki and Bhote Koshi rivers were also assessed and deemed safe despite being hit by an earthquake. (Nepa Now, 2016)

6.8 Tourism Recovery Committee

After Nepal was hit with an earthquake and the tourism industry was affected by it. It became essential to restore the industry as soon as possible. For that matter, tourism stakeholders formed a joint panel with Government of Nepal and private sectors to assess the damage and begin reconstruction works. Tourism Recovery Committee was formed on May 7, 2015 which was led by Mr. Tulsi Prasad Gautam, Director General of Department of Tourism. This committee would study the effects of an earthquake on tourism industry and find out short-term and long-term works, plan the programs for recovery and provide ideas and suggestions to concerned government agencies for fast recovery process of tourism industry in Nepal. (TAAN, 2015)

7. Aftermath

Overall, the earthquake brought a devastating impact on both the nation and the tourism industry of nation. Not only, did it destroy the houses, natural landscapes, monuments and heritages but it also hit the livelihood of the people. Many people lost their lives, their loved ones and closed ones. Along with that many people also lost their medium of livelihood. Many people are still living in a temporary tents. The aftermath of earthquake in Nepal is catastrophic.

7.1 Tourism Industry After Earthquake

The tourism industry of Nepal was shattered after an earthquake. Number of tourists had fallen tremendously and tourism activities was in zero level except for the people coming in for help and as a foreign aid. Tourism industry was in great loss from it. Fake publicity by international media about safety conditions in Nepal also aided in less flow of tourists in Nepal. Thousands of pre-booked flights to Nepal were cancelled within a week after an earthquake.

Despite all these, tourism industry is working its way to recover what's been lost in the past year. They are planning and working on restoring tourism flow in Nepal.

7.2 Tourism Statistics 2015

According to the data of Department of Immigration (DoI), Nepal, the total number of visitors in Nepal in 2015 was 554747 which is 29.7% less than the previous year which had 790118 visitors.

According to Vinayak Shah, general secretary of Hotel Association Nepal, hotel occupancy was down to 20 to 25 % compared to previous year. Those who visited were not for vacation or pleasure purpose.

DoI showed that the number of tourists after 3 months of disaster was very low. In May, only 24,340 arrivals are recorded and 17751 and 22340 in June and July which was the lowest figure of the year whereas the two months before quake had visitors of 86469 and 72275 respectively. (Bhuju, 2016)

7.3 Economy of Nepal 2016 After Earthquake

As an effect of an earthquake, the GDP growth rate of Nepal is estimated to stay put at just 3.0% in the fiscal year 2014/15 which was estimated to grow by 4.6% prior to an earthquake. This disaster destroyed production of 52 billion NRs. which is attributable to such decline in economic growth rate. The real estate business has suffered even more with output of it to rest on 0.8% on fiscal year 2014/15 compared to 4.8% of pre earthquake.

The revenue collection in the fiscal year 2014/15 is estimated to fall by 8.0%. It gives Nrs. 390 billion which was pre-estimated to be Nrs. 423 billion before an earthquake. The government expenditure is also likely to decline and rest at Nrs. 494 billion.

Damage caused by the catastrophic an earthquake is estimated at NRs. 706.5 billion. Of this, social sector accounts for 57.8 percent followed by the productive sector 25.2 percent, infrastructure sector 9.5 percent, and other cross cutting sectors by 7.5 percent. Likewise, private sector is estimated to have suffered loss/damage of NRs. 540 billion (76.0 percent) followed by the government sector NRs. 166.1 billion (24.0 percent).

For the process of reconstruction operations by government, the government has established a National Reconstruction Fund of Nrs. 200 billion for rehabilitation, reconstruction and recovery fund and also set aside Nrs. 20 billion. (Ministry of Finance, 2015)

7.4 Tourism in Nepal 2016

Nepal was put on number one on 'List of 10 countries to visit' by Rough Guides, a UK based travel publication. Another UK based travel publication, National Geographic Traveler had placed Nepal on 6th position among 16 cool locations to travel in 2016. (The Kathmandu Post, 2015)

Tourism activities are growing in the year 2016. Tourist flow is increasing and number of tourist activities are also increasing as the closed tour and travel companies, hotels, restaurants, trekking associations, etc. are reopening and providing their services again.

7.5 Reasons why Nepal is Safe Even After Earthquake

Even after being hit by an earthquake, Nepal is still safe and sound for tourists to visit. Whole country was hit with an earthquake but not all was affected by it. Below are few reasons why Nepal is stills safe to travel even after an earthquake.

1. Out of 75 districts in Nepal only about 10 districts are affected by the recent earthquake with the earthquake having its effect on the central and western districts only. There has been hardly no damages in the Eastern part, the Mid-West and Far West part of Nepal. Nepal has a lot more places to see, that would be exciting, adventurous and beautiful which would make your stay and travel at Nepal really amazing.

2. Nepal is a paradise that would totally amaze you in various ways. The beautiful landscapes, the varied cultures and tons of exciting activities one can involve would make anyone visit to Nepal, an awesome one. Nepal is indeed one of the best places in South Asia for a thrilling and exciting travel with its magnificent natural beauty, the varied biological diversity, the breath taking Himalayas, the mouthwatering cuisine and the friendly and hospitable people.
3. Nepal has a very rich bio diversity and wildlife, with its beautiful wildlife and national parks, only one out of ten national parks is affected by the earthquake with the remaining nine national parks completely safe to visit. So, visiting Nepal to discover its wildlife and national park would always be great option even now.
4. The highways and subways connecting major cities and towns in Nepal have not suffered any damages so moving around and traveling around Nepal would not be any problem.
5. Nepal is a home to 8 UNESCO World Heritage Sites out of which only 3 has suffered damaged due to the earthquake with the remaining 5 sites being completely safe to visit where one can check the wonders of Nepal recognized globally.
6. The national and international airports in Nepal have not suffered any damages due to the earthquake with flights operating making travel to Nepal from other countries and domestic travel around Nepal safe and risk-free.
7. Nepal being a land of tall mountains of the Himalayas and varied landscapes is indeed a trekker's paradise. Only 2 out of 35 major trekking routes have been affected by the earthquake, making trekking in Nepal really safe and okay.
8. Hospitals, clinics and various medical facilities in various Nepalese cities and towns are safe, in operation and running smoothly. There has been no burst of epidemics or viral diseases.
9. Communication in Nepal is not a problem as well with access to telephonic lines and internet working fine and smoothly.
10. There are plenty of hotels in Nepal and tourist destinations around which are completely safe. A large percentage of hotels in major sites were not affected by the earthquake and tourists can easily find places to accommodate themselves in hotels, motels and guest houses which are safe. (Gurung, 2015)



Figure 16 Aftermath of Nepal Earthquake 2015 (Everest Uncensored, 2015)

7.5 Works to Promote and Attract Tourists

In order to attract many tourists in Nepal and promote it again, various kinds of activities and programs are being conducted time to time. Recently, Ministry of Information and Communication launched a scheme of providing with free Sim cards to international tourists at Airport which is pre activated by Nepal Telecom. This would be provided along with the TIMS to address the safety concerns and help rescue efforts. In January, the government began issuing free visa to Chinese tourists on their arrivals which is a major source of market for Nepal after India.

Nepal Tourism Board with coordination of PATA Nepal Chapter organized “Nepal Evening” promotional program at Bangalore, India with the title “Nepal: Back on the top of the world on September, 2015. (The Kathmandu Post, 2015)

The annual ‘Everest Marathon’ which is usually held in May every year was held in October 2015 promoting Everest regions as a safe place to travel in Nepal. Eighteen Climbers were killed by an avalanche triggered by the earthquake. The event was titled ‘Run for Tourism Revival’. (BBC, 2015)

8. Recovery and Development of Tourism Industry in the Help of Nation

It is undoubtedly clear that recovery of the tourism industry and its development would help in overall development of nation itself. The increment of tourism activities in country means overall economic development of country which in further helps to promote the nation as well. In case of Nepal, recovery of tourism industry is crucial at this moment from various point of views. Restoration of tourism activities means restoration of balance in the country.

8.1 Employment

It is pretty clear to everyone that increase in number of tourist means more job opportunities and more employment. This ranges from guides, hotel staffs, coach services and airlines to indirect sources such as agriculture, food and beverage and others. In Nepal, currently many people are unemployed due to low number of tourists. Thus, the increment of tourists means employment to all.

8.2 Development of Community

The money that tourists spend are not just limited to tourism but also on fulfilling their basic needs such as food, shelter, travel and clothing. This helps in economic boost of a community where tourists are living and help to develop it. The community would be sanitary and equipped with infrastructures in order to attract tourists which would further help in development of community. In the earthquake affected communities, it is crucial for them to restore their community and attract tourists again in order to boost their economy.

8.3 Diversification

Tourism industry pushes certain community or area to work on different fields rather than depending on single source. Depending on single source can be risky. So people need to apt for the different sources too. In Nepal, the earthquake recently destroyed many sectors, sectors on which people were dependent for their livelihoods. So this shows that diversification is important to mitigate the risks.

8.4 Infrastructure

Increase in flow of tourist means, increase in demand of everything. So it becomes crucial to develop and upgrade the infrastructures as well. This not only fulfills needs to visitors but also attract others. Development of infrastructures such as communication, roadways, airways, electricity, education, etc. is important in order to develop the whole nation. In context of Nepal, the recent an earthquake affected many of these infrastructures. So, the increment of tourist would compel government to work on these sectors.

8.5 Free Publicity of Nation

Increase in number of tourists means sharing news about country worldwide. This would not help just to promote Nepal as tourist destination and increase GDP but also would help in recent context of Nepal to attract foreign agencies to help Nepal in need.

8.6 Environmental Advantage

Many tourism operators are providing tourists with tour and travel package with environmental twists which supports to conserve the local areas. This helps to preserve and protect the nature and natural resources that the country has. In Nepal, the damaged environmental sectors by an earthquake needs to be assessed and calibrated.

8.7 Opportunities

Increment of tourists and tourism activities means opportunity to create or establish new and unique businesses for entrepreneurs. This would help create more job opportunity for people in need. This would help to boost the economy of the country. In context of Nepal, people who are now living jobless would get the job opportunity. This would not only ease the work of government but it would make people to learn to be independent.

9. Research

In simple terms, research means to gather any information, data and facts for widening the knowledge area. Research is a careful and detailed study into a specific problem, concern, or issue using the scientific method. It's the adult form of the science fair projects back in elementary school, where you try and learn something by performing an experiment. This is best accomplished by turning the issue into a question, with the intent of the research to answer the question. (Kowalczyk, n.d.)

The objective of this chapter is to present the research methodology that was followed in order to carry out this thesis. The steps that were followed to do the research and the extent of the research. It covers the part about the finding of those researches. What kind of data, information or documents were found relevant to the thesis topic. The analysis of those findings to find out the outcome of the whole research.

9.1 Objective of the Thesis

The key objective of this thesis is to find out the impact of the massive an earthquake that happened recently in Nepal (2015, April 25) on the tourism industry of Nepal and to figure out how the impact on tourism industry affected the economy of country as well as people of it. This thesis presents the comparative data and information regarding the condition of tourism industry before and after the earthquake. The aftermath of that catastrophic event regarding the tourism industry.

9.2 Research Methodology

The process used to collect data and information for the purpose of making decisions which may include both present and historical information is research methodology.

Quantitative research methodology is used to quantify the problem with numerical data or the information that can be transformed into useable statistics. This method uses attitudes, opinions, behaviors and other variables and quantifies them to generalize results. It uses measurable data to formulate facts. It is a structured method of research. (Wyse, 2011)

For the purpose of this thesis, quantitative research methodology was chosen. The information and data used in this thesis are mostly numbers, graphs and statistics. The findings from the research are transformed into numbers or statistics in order to gain the easy and structured outcome.

Data such as statistics of tourists, income of tourism industry, GDP of country, etc. are all the outcome of the quantitative research.

Merits and Demerits of Quantitative Methodology

Merits

It helps in testing and validating already constructed theories about how and why phenomena occur. It helps in testing hypotheses that are constructed before the data are collected. It can generalize research findings when the data are based on random samples of sufficient size. It can generalize a research finding when it has been replicated on many different populations and subpopulations. It is useful for obtaining data that allow quantitative predictions to be made. The researcher may construct a situation that eliminates the confounding influence of many variables, allowing one to more credibly establish cause-and-effect relationships. Data collection using some quantitative methods is relatively quick (e.g., telephone, interviews). It provides precise, quantitative, numerical data. Data analysis is relatively less time consuming (using statistical software). The research results are relatively independent of the researcher (e.g., statistical significance). It may have higher credibility with many people in power (e.g., administrators, politicians, people who fund programs). It is useful for studying large numbers of people

Demerits

The researcher's categories that are used might not reflect local constituencies' understandings. The researcher's theories that are used might not reflect local constituencies' understandings. The researcher might miss out on phenomena occurring because of the focus on theory or hypothesis testing rather than on theory or hypothesis generation (called the *confirmation bias*). The knowledge produced might be too abstract and general for direct application to specific local situations, contexts, and individuals. (Anon., n.d.)

9.2.1 Data Source

Quantitative research methodology uses secondary data source for the information and data. Secondary data is the data that have been already collected by and readily available from other sources. Such data are cheaper and more quickly obtainable than the primary data and also may be available when primary data cannot be obtained at all.

Advantages of Secondary data

It is economical. It saves efforts and expenses. It is time saving. It helps to make primary data collection more specific since with the help of secondary data, we are able to make out what are the gaps and deficiencies and what additional information needs to be collected. It helps to improve the understanding of the problem. It provides a basis for comparison for the data that is collected by the researcher. (Management Study Guide, 2015)

The primary source of secondary data are online survey papers, journals, articles, statistical records, government documents and the secondary research data collected by the previous researcher.

In this thesis, the data source that are used are secondary data sources. The data were collected from various sources such as Nepal Tourism Board (NTB), Travel Agency Association of Nepal (TAAN), Department of Immigration of Nepal (DoI), Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Department of Tourism, Ministry of foreign affairs, national newspapers of Nepal and other online sources.

9.3 Validity and Reliability

The traditional criteria for validity find their roots in a positivist tradition, and to an extent, positivism has been defined by a systematic theory of validity. Within the positivist terminology, validity resided amongst, and was the result and culmination of other empirical conceptions: universal laws, evidence, objectivity, truth, actuality, deduction, reason, fact and mathematical data to name just a few. (Winter, 2000) In simple term, validity defines the truthfulness and accuracy of the data.

Even if the data and information are positive or negative and favorable to the thesis's outcome or not, all the data are valid that are presented in this thesis report. The validity of the data depends on the behavior and attitude of the people since not all the gathered information or data can be presented.

The data and information that are taken or laid down in this paper are collected from genuine and related sources as aforementioned. All the data and information that were taken from these sources are presented as they are and in systematic manner to increase the accuracy of the data which coins this research as a valid research.

Reliability, like validity, is a way of assessing the quality of the measurement procedure used to collect data in a dissertation. In order for the results from a study to be considered valid, the measurement procedure must first be reliable.

Reliability shows that the outcome any work will always be the same no matter how many times it is repeated in suitable time frame. It concerns with the consistency of the question. The source and data in the thesis are all reliable as they are taken from official and genuine authorities and the data are statistical information collected by those authorities using their research methodologies.

9.4 Project Constraints

The project contains few limitations despite of thorough research done in order to accumulate all information and data needed for the project to be cent percent to the point. Even though there were all those limitations to the project, an apt steps have been taken in order to fulfill the gap they left in the project.

Since the earthquake happened few months ago, not all the establishments have opened up and people and authorities are engaged on the reconstruction and reestablishment of those that were destroyed or affected by the quake. This made it hard to meet people and get the information from them. Not all the authorities have presented the report on the earthquake, tourism statistics and related things which made it difficult to gain the recent and updated data from them.

Few authorities had those data available but they claimed that those data were not yet be published since it was the initial data and might have some irregularities on them.

10. Findings and Analysis

As stated above, the main objective of this research was to find out the impact of an earthquake that happened recently in Nepal on its tourism industry and the outcome of it. After exhaustive research, it can easily be seen that the tourism industry of Nepal is in a reviving process. It is ready to get back in action. The research shows that the effect of an earthquake was tremendous to not only the tourism industry but the whole nation and its economy. It shows that the country is in a restoration phase and along with it is the tourism industry.

If we look at the data presented above, it clearly states that the country has accounted an immeasurable loss in case of both lives and money. The tourism industry has suffered a heavy loss which has led to nationwide emergency to restore the tourism back to its initial stage.

According to the data provided to us by the Department of Immigration of Nepal which is attested in the appendix section below, the number of incoming tourists before an earthquake i.e. January to April was 38,616 in January, 58,523 in February, 79,187 in March and 65,729 in April. The total number of tourists who came into Nepal was 242,055 before the earthquake. The total number of tourists who went out of Nepal was 53,474, 62,756, 79,949 and 77,856 from January to April which totals to 201,299. It clearly shows that the arrival of tourists was as usual as before but the number of tourists who went out in April was higher than usual. The months following the earthquake, it clearly shows that the arrival of tourists decreased tremendously and outgoing tourist numbers were also the same.

In the month of May, the total number of tourists was 17,569 who came and 32,350 who went out. This clearly indicates the effect of an earthquake on the tourist flow in Nepal. The number of tourists who arrived in June was 18,368 and who went out was 18,929. This also shows the consequences of aftershocks of an earthquake and the fear of it on people's mind. In later months, the tourist numbers started increasing but so did the number of tourists who went out. In July, the total number of tourists arrived was 22,967 and tourists who departed were 22,486 which was followed by 38,606 in August in arrival and 38,936 in departure which shows the speedy increment of tourists but also the returning of them. In September, 39,050 tourists arrived in Nepal and 34,445 tourists left which indicates that the tourists who came that month started to stay for long term. In October, 56,584 tourists came in and only 49,742 left.

In November, 49,742 tourists came into Nepal and 58,304 of them left which shows more tourists left the country. It was due to the holiday season in their respective country which was followed by December as only 45,467 tourists came in and 50,399 of them left to celebrate festival in their own place.



Figure 17 Total number of tourists who arrived and left in 2015

On total, 538,970 tourists came in Nepal in the year 2015 and 585,964 of them left which compared to previous year 2014 is way too low. In 2014, the total number of tourists who came in was 790,118.

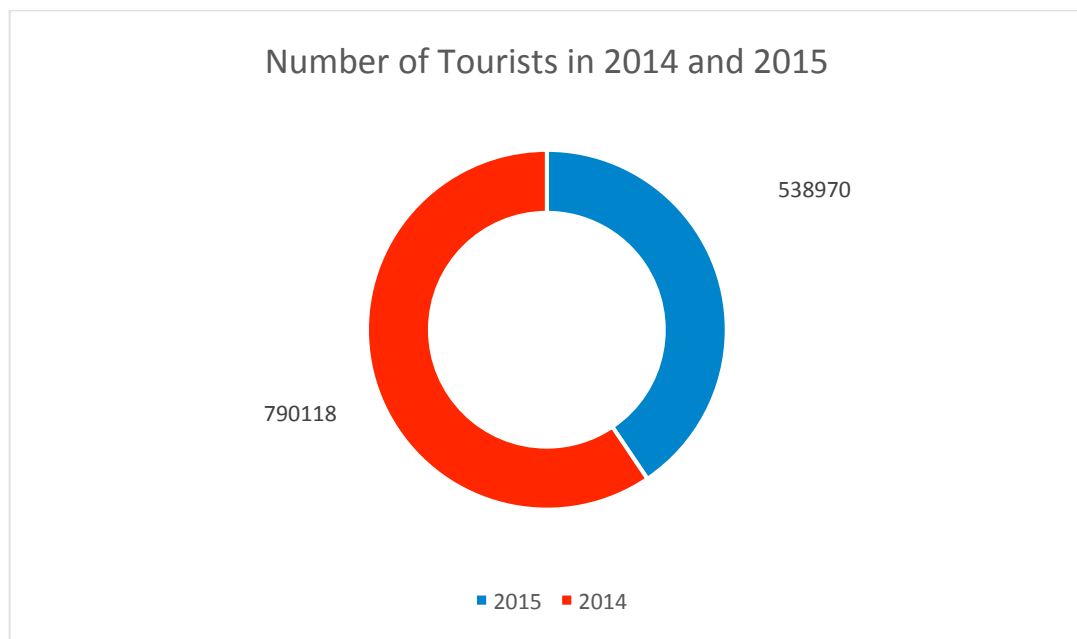


Figure 18 Total number of tourists on 2014 and 2015

This data clearly shows the effect of an earthquake on tourism and the fruit of effort done by various organizations and governmental officials to restore the tourism industry.

11. Conclusion and Recommendation

This thesis which is entitled 'The Impact of an Earthquake on the Tourism Sector in Nepal' is solely dedicated on figuring out the loss faced by Nepal Tourism Industry in terms of tourists number and income from it due to the natural disaster that came in as an earthquake. The main reason behind choosing this topic is because the tragic event didn't only affect the tourism industry of country but the whole nation itself which as a native of that country we found it difficult to believe what has happened in our country.

Nepal which is one of the poorest country in the world with low GDP whose primary source is tourism industry was struck into the heart of its economy by an earthquake. The cruelty of nature left a big impact to the whole country making the life even tougher. The damage was catastrophic and heart rendering.

But with a positive vive and thinking that the damage's done and it is time to revive and strike back, the country stood against all the odds and started working for the re-establishment of tourism industry in a pace.

Nepal is a small landlocked country with a beautiful natural and historical places. The glory of the Nepal and the zenith of the world, Mt Everest, resides here in Nepal which attracts many tourists each year. Nepal is rich in natural resources, trekking trails, landscapes, lakes, mountains, rivers and more. Nepal is rich in culture, religion, language and traditions. Nepal is also known for the adventure sports such as white water rafting, mountaineering, bungee, canoeing, kayaking, paragliding, sky diving, jungle safari, hiking, etc. But all these sectors were severely affected by an earthquake which affected the tourism industry and this affected the country.

Writing this thesis proved to be a challenge. As the country was in recovery phase, it was hard to get all the data and information easily and also the updated and latest information was hard to come by as the related authorities didn't have the data ready since the official year in Nepal has not yet ended. So the accumulation, management and finalization of data and information was tough and hectic process. Few organizations were busy working which made it even harder to get in touch with them. They were busy in their own work.

The political instability of the country made it hard to do the work easily. Due to it, all the businesses, organizations and governmental authorities were affected which made it difficult for us to get information from them easily. We had to take a help from our friends there in Nepal with many things while preparing this report.

This research is a web based research since we are far from the actual place of which this research is being done which made it even more difficult since not all the information on website are reliable and the reliable sources are hardly updated. Even though, we managed to accumulate all these information and manage them step by step and prepare this outcome. We hope that this thesis does not only work as a college report but a guide to those who are in need and are working in the same field that this thesis covers.

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Appendixes

1. Tourism Statistics of Nepal 2015

Country	January		February		March		April		May	
	Arrival	Departure	Arrival	Departure	Arrival	Departure	Arrival	Departure	Arrival	Departure
China	7,671	8,563	14,100	14,922	10,513	12,872	12,252	14,488	1,107	3,036
India	5,983	6,886	7,272	6,514	7,614	7,213	9,515	9,507	3,823	3,907
Republic Of Korea	4,097	4,780	1,054	2,305	2,381	2,213	1,659	1,997	708	1,200
Thailand	2,826	3,419	5,175	5,038	7,259	7,359	2,187	2,467	489	587
USA	2,240	3,548	2,949	3,618	4,928	5,439	4,099	5,716	2,706	4,248
Myanmar	2,125	2,069	4,310	4,375	4,438	4,400	2,887	2,854	50	74
Australia	1,433	2,711	1,281	1,794	2,253	1,962	2,470	3,438	509	1,381
Japan	1,367	2,784	2,127	2,247	2,848	3,085	1,614	1,789	653	1,310
UK	1,324	2,468	2,165	2,410	4,229	3,716	3,502	5,800	996	2,273
Bangladesh	1,108	1,744	1,866	1,938	2,551	3,076	1,996	2,256	445	549
Taiwan	917	921	735	1,154	636	930	535	607	233	452
Bhutan	717	1,391	438	755	364	430	400	402	121	173
France	689	1,081	1,294	1,306	2,641	2,549	2,960	3,455	389	1,483
Malaysia	537	926	1,227	1,425	1,537	1,669	1,288	1,558	497	674
Canada	422	653	667	840	1,321	1,311	1,145	1,673	526	975
Netherlands	365	575	699	520	1,167	1,035	1,003	1,327	158	581
Italy	295	1,025	423	528	670	855	841	1,131	193	370
Spain	288	663	423	536	850	739	902	1,317	241	451
Brazil	222	452	227	309	244	255	303	410	76	163
Denmark	220	243	280	241	625	445	395	819	58	251
Vietnam	214	285	192	110	848	1,137	338	335	101	186
Pakistan	200	189	282	284	227	304	235	310	245	270
Russia	198	420	297	297	721	707	940	828	172	768
Argentina	190	319	159	245	227	226	163	209	28	47
Belgium	177	322	215	211	432	414	622	775	88	274
Sri-Lanka	170	218	4,612	3,937	8,024	7,562	1,126	1,160	240	414
Turkey	160	203	185	203	254	472	252	216	48	208
New Zealand	151	394	136	189	364	230	489	699	63	210
Poland	150	201	269	460	425	476	348	402	64	263
Singapore	146	486	204	292	577	660	554	571	220	416
Norway	115	104	153	151	510	388	382	747	86	189
Sweden	106	230	195	196	564	561	395	577	76	249
Finland	105	150	134	166	258	232	153	283	68	159
Austria	84	171	192	226	457	356	280	506	67	166
Ukraine	77	105	82	86	209	194	198	248	72	220
Mexico	74	167	67	102	188	163	214	302	37	66
Ireland	70	123	108	116	247	190	241	384	50	129
Philippines	67	147	95	175	159	164	195	226	134	156
Chile	56	83	152	246	106	117	84	146	16	55
Czech Republic	51	113	40	42	129	129	346	337	44	195
Israel	46	135	177	135	890	307	743	932	123	769
Indonesia	38	134	118	188	334	365	317	315	171	279
South Africa	31	101	65	99	183	132	226	253	54	154
Germany	10	10	1	2	988	111	1,910	89	475	687
Other	1,084	1,762	1,681	1,823	2,797	2,799	3,025	3,995	849	1,683
Total	38,616	53,474	58,523	62,756	79,187	79,949	65,729	77,856	17,569	32,350
Foreigner										

	June		July		August		September		October	
	Arrival	Departure	Arrival	Departure	Arrival	Departure	Arrival	Departure	Arrival	Departure
China	1,625	1,441	1,946	1,986	2,375	2,453	3,560	2,663	3,316	4,170
India	5,194	4,414	5,066	5,188	7,035	6,378	6,699	7,073	4,901	5,934
Republic Of Korea	619	636	870	780	885	1,151	886	750	1,364	1,243
Thailand	358	434	353	362	306	317	311	321	1,428	1,422
USA	2,532	2,717	2,484	2,935	2,576	2,855	3,582	2,977	6,154	4,797
Myanmar	19	17	40	43	21	27	47	51	1,920	1,650
Australia	528	649	529	578	567	552	1,640	936	2,781	2,327
Japan	658	755	733	814	1,263	1,253	1,336	1,354	1,532	1,219
UK	978	1,184	1,780	1,350	1,930	2,207	2,054	2,143	4,503	3,102
Bangladesh	445	469	652	713	961	945	1,196	972	1,038	1,145
Taiwan	208	231	269	273	243	280	301	276	345	397
Bhutan	123	153	192	222	215	265	350	296	475	414
France	376	476	608	464	661	842	1,152	651	3,181	1,996
Malaysia	391	482	408	436	378	403	664	700	744	662
Canada	323	487	327	345	400	465	622	463	1,119	831
Netherlands	197	221	271	297	365	441	527	296	1,353	933
Italy	149	169	221	166	553	561	405	333	803	569
Spain	179	187	364	284	793	819	578	574	926	733
Brazil	71	54	67	92	64	63	121	118	241	233
Denmark	92	115	98	91	118	106	247	191	586	459
Vietnam	81	82	125	127	60	71	114	105	356	364
Pakistan	204	150	187	227	249	217	230	255	169	199
Russia	104	228	139	164	182	181	326	249	618	506
Argentina	9	19	25	22	22	20	62	61	89	75
Belgium	146	108	338	233	191	332	320	233	727	459
Sri-Lanka	92	65	889	922	11,858	12,012	4,985	5,001	4,311	4,345
Turkey	105	82	92	116	77	88	207	214	71	82
New Zealand	81	97	89	105	113	86	287	185	339	353
Poland	52	51	79	61	91	108	158	146	331	220
Singapore	210	239	149	185	187	190	265	244	375	355
Norway	118	129	80	117	86	83	185	118	464	399
Sweden	97	110	91	111	97	85	196	152	543	356
Finland	80	96	67	93	105	80	120	80	324	263
Austria	57	76	93	75	146	111	246	194	627	429
Ukraine	34	39	16	32	51	38	95	73	172	153
Mexico	41	46	55	38	45	48	73	67	84	80
Ireland	58	67	66	60	103	100	141	140	235	182
Philippines	134	147	123	128	120	131	183	182	200	187
Chile	27	31	19	13	25	26	78	159	75	73
Czech Republic	25	33	27	16	78	59	161	104	486	394
Israel	77	104	53	60	148	104	400	139	383	394
Indonesia	89	78	324	313	88	78	123	132	148	143
South Africa	39	24	51	79	60	57	105	95	109	133
Germany	360	435	467	465	869	680	1,527	1,078	3,503	2,585
Other	983	1,102	2,045	1,305	1,846	1,568	2,185	1,901	3,135	2,777
Total Foreigner	18,368	18,929	22,967	22,486	38,606	38,936	39,050	34,445	56,584	49,742

Country	Nov		Dec		Total	
	Arrival	Departure	Arrival	Departure	Arrival	Departure
China	4,490	3,865	4,029	4,318	66,984	74,777
India	5,762	5,200	6,260	6,600	75,124	74,814
Republic Of	1,931	1,742	1,658	1,707	18,112	20,504
Thailand	4,432	4,355	5,829	5,677	30,953	31,758
USA	4,858	6,173	3,579	4,300	42,687	49,323
Myanmar	2,930	3,055	3,616	3,513	22,403	22,128
Australia	2,622	2,760	2,006	2,462	18,619	21,550
Japan	1,874	2,168	1,608	1,476	17,613	20,254
UK	3,719	4,519	2,550	3,094	29,730	34,266
Bangladesh	1,344	1,373	1,229	1,159	14,831	16,339
Taiwan	42	42	450	36	5,301	6,312
Bhutan	51	65	581	60	4,488	5,761
France	1,732	2,775	722	1,259	16,405	18,337
Malaysia	95	1,023	1,230	1,263	9,855	11,221
Canada	98	1,148	540	85	8,398	10,047
Netherlands	83	1,161	572	69	7,515	8,079
Italy	59	86	457	35	5,609	6,920
Spain	76	90	430	58	6,741	7,798
Brazil	11	15	111	12	1,859	2,430
Denmark	28	40	160	23	3,159	3,598
Vietnam	64	63	423	38	3,495	3,818
Pakistan	22	20	301	31	2,757	2,921
Russia	39	56	247	31	4,334	5,220
Argentina	90	96	78	89	1,142	1,428
Belgium	51	75	247	31	4,018	4,430
Sri-Lanka	6,809	6,324	1,251	1,466	44,367	43,426
Turkey	13	10	74	80	1,656	2,068
New Zealand	28	32	213	25	2,610	2,900
Poland	29	34	100	18	2,361	2,919
Singapore	46	42	554	59	3,905	4,656
Norway	24	38	134	16	2,557	2,966
Sweden	28	45	166	21	2,814	3,302
Finland	19	27	116	16	1,724	2,038
Austria	28	53	138	21	2,676	3,058
Ukraine	17	19	106	16	1,290	1,545
Mexico	18	20	80	79	1,141	1,361
Ireland	17	23	102	17	1,597	1,894
Philippines	18	23	154	18	1,751	2,055
Chile	49	55	31	56	718	1,060
Czech	12	40	65	59	1,580	1,888
Israel	19	35	115	24	3,347	3,679
Indonesia	27	28	192	16	2,215	2,468
South Africa	81	84	107	91	1,111	1,302
Germany	1,824	2,955	794	1,138	12,728	10,235
Other	2,998	3,510	2,062	2,886	24,690	27,111
Total	58,304	64,642	45,467	50,399	538,970	585,964

2. Application to Department of Immigration of Nepal requesting for information

March 03, 2016

To,
Department of Immigration,
Kathmandu, Nepal

Subject: Regarding information and data about tourism 2015

Sir,

I'm currently enrolled in Degree Program in Tourism at Laurea University of Applied Science, Kerava, Finland. As a part of a program, I need to present a thesis on the subject of Tourism. So, for that purpose I've chosen to write about 'Impact of Earthquake 2015 on Tourism Industry of Nepal.' For this purpose, I need some information and data from your office about 'Tourism Statistics 2015'.

I'd be grateful if you could provide me all the relevant data and information in order to help me on my thesis, as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Sandeep Shrestha
Laurea University of Applied Science
Kerava, Finland.

3. Press release by Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation



Ref. No.:

Government of Nepal
MINISTRY OF CULTURE, TOURISM & CIVIL AVIATION



Press Release

www.tourism.gov.np
E-mail: info@tourism.gov.np
Minister: 4211879, 4211607
Fax: 4211992
Secretary: 4211870
Fax No.: 42211758 (Administration)
T.I.D., Bhrikutimandap: 424037
Fax: 4229281
Singhdurbar,
Kathmandu, Nepal.

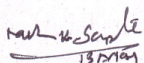
The major earthquake that hit the country on 25 April and its subsequent aftershocks have destroyed some of the heritage sites of Nepal, mainly heritage sites of Kathmandu valley and Langtang. The earthquakes have also some impact on other tourism products of Kathmandu, but those archeological heritage sites can brought into lives after minor maintenances.

Immediately after this calamity, the Government of Nepal mobilized all security personnel, government employees and communities in war footing to save lives of tourists and people. The Government used its resources to assess the condition of major tourism products of Nepal. Be it Pokhara, Lumbini, Palpa, Chitwan, Bardiya and Sukhlaphanta wildlife safari or attractive lakes, Nepalese tourism products/destinations are safe and intact. Of all trekking sites and routes of Nepal, Everest Trekking Route (Popularly known as Khumbu Trekking) and Annapurna Trekking Circuit are safe. These routes have least or no impact of quake.

Nepal has many places which have touristic value. Nepal has also rich cultural traditions people of the world may taste. As of now, tourists might have visited Kathmandu and its surroundings. Tourists may be interested to visit other mystical tourism products. There are some places that tourists have to visit absolutely because they will help tourists to better understand the Himalaya culture and history. It is the high time to explore Nepal and visit virgin destinations of Nepal.

We would like to assure that Nepal is safe and secured place to visit. We encourage all tourists to visit Nepal and through this to help Nepalese people who are in trouble in this devastation.

The Government of Nepal, the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation would like to express deep sorrow for untimely demise of Nepalese and tourists and expresses condolence to their families and relatives and wishes for speedy recovery of injured persons and thanks to all for their co-operation and support.


13 April 2015
Mohan Krishna Sapkota

Spokesperson and Joint Secretary

Exchange No.: 4211596, 4211864, 4211685, 4211785