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**ECOTOURISM AS FEASIBLE DEVELOPMENT MODEL,
MINIMUM IMPACTS, MAXIMUM EXPERIENCE**

Case Sauraha and Chitwan National Park

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ABSTRACT

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<p>The thesis was written in order to find workable ideas and techniques of ecotourism for sustainable development and to find out the importance of ecotourism. It illustrates how ecotourism can play a beneficial role to visitors and local people. The thesis was based on ecotourism and its impact, the case study was Sauraha and Chitwan National Park. How ecotourism can be fruitful to local residents and nature, what are the drawbacks of ecotourism? Ecotourism also has negative impacts on both the environment and local communities. Ecotourism has become very popular and it is being adopted by various people around the world.</p> <p>The author of the thesis managed to collect the data and information from different genuine sources, the thesis was written with sources on the internet, articles and books. The main aim of the thesis was to introduce ecotourism and the opportunities which can be produced through ecotourism. Mainly the relation between local residents, travellers, government and environment was focused on. The main focal point of the thesis was authentic and sustainable ecotourism. The author was able to include the history of ecotourism and its growing popularity among the people around the world in the past years. The author has provided effective information about the past and current days of ecotourism and ecotourism in Sauraha and Chitwan National Park, the author has also mentioned some positive points why people should engaged in ecotourism.</p> <p>The thesis was prospective to know authentic ecotourism. With its impact on the environment, local residents and travellers, ecotourism can be a real blessing to most people but sometimes it can act as a curse to local residents and wildlife. The world is trying to improve sustainable ecotourism with minimum negative impacts.</p>		
Key words Chitwan, Culture, Economy, Ecotourism, Environment, Sauraha and Chitwan National Park, Sustainable, Wildlife		

ABBREVIATIONS

CNP	Chitwan National Park
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

ABSTRACT

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1. INTRODUCTION

“Ecotourism as a feasible development model, minimum impact, maximum experience, case study: Sauraha and Chitwan National Park,” the topic itself is very crystal clear and easy to understand. Chitwan National Park is the home of various rare flora and fauna, especially for the One Horn Rhino, Gharial and Bengal tiger, from the economic point of view the national park represents a gold mine for Sauraha. The distance between the capital city Kathmandu and Chitwan district is 97.7 kilometres. Chitwan has subtropical climate and it is one of the most popular touristic areas of Nepal. The first national park of Nepal Chitwan National Park lies here and Sauraha is the authentic small Tharu village and eastern gateway to the national park. The culture and nature of Sauraha and Chitwan National Park is always a point of attraction to the international and domestic tourist. “Take nothing but pictures leave nothing but footprints, kill nothing but time” “Environmentally responsible travel to natural areas, in order to enjoy and appreciate nature and accompanying cultural features, both past and present that promote conservation, have a low visitor impact and provide for beneficially active socio-economic involvement of local people.” In other words, ecotourism is known as travel under guidance of a naturalist to observe the wildlife and learning about flora and fauna along with the environment. Traveling to any natural area or destination is not ecotourism.

For some parties, tourism can act very negatively and can cause serious negative impacts as well. Tourism can produce a tangled relationship between tourists, local residents and the tourism business holders, those who are engaged and related to this sector can be the victims through the negative effect of tourism. Very serious and pessimistic issues may arise on culture, environment, security and economy. Accordingly, there is demand for the sustainable tourism, which lasts very long. It preserves the natural and cultural sites of and also promotes the positive effects of the tourism sector. Sustainable tourism analyses the impacts and generates the solution. The central focal point of sustainable tourism is to

conserve the natural and cultural environment and use them very wisely.

The thesis is written to find answers and values of ecotourism and its impact on tourists, nature, culture, economy and local residents. It is also written to reveal the key importance of ecotourism, which plays a role to preserve and conserve nature, culture and environment. The thesis is written to make ecotourism as a role model in Sauraha, to develop the tiny village of Chitwan and to solve the misunderstandings between local people, business holders, tourists and Chitwan National Park. Secondary data sources have been used by the author in the theoretical frame work of the thesis, books, presentations, articles, e-books and genuine internet sources. The first chapter of the thesis gives a general description about the topic, process, aims and objectives of the research applied by the author in the thesis. The following chapter two focuses on the concept, tourist, ecotourism and reasons behind travel; it has also managed to define the types and benefits of ecotourism. Chapter three refers to the benefits of ecotourism, everyone can benefit from ecotourism, the visitors and the host have equal benefits. Chapter four defines the negative factors of ecotourism; tourists, local residents, business personnel of ecotourism sectors, nature, culture, environment and government can be the victims through its negative impacts. Moving into chapter five, the author will provide some general information of Nepal and ecotourism in Nepal. This chapter also explains how ecotourism is practised in Nepal. The general information of major national parks, conservation areas, wildlife reserves and hunting reserves are included in this chapter. Chapter six provides information about Chitwan National Park, one major topic of the case study. The general information about the national park and the flora and fauna found within the national park are included, also various organized activities and events within Sauraha and Chitwan National Park. Sauraha is a small Tharu village, situated in the border of Chitwan National Park and an eastern gateway to the national park. The culture, local communities, hospitality, location and events are included in the seventh chapter of the thesis as theoretical framework of the thesis.

The author has also included the outcome of the quantitative research, which directly supports the theoretical frame of the thesis. The presented result and outcome of the survey are totally based on quantitative methods and represents the empirical portion of the thesis. The prestructured questionnaire made by the

author was distributed to various people, who were chosen as sample. The questionnaire was distributed without any classification and discrimination to those, who are able to read and understand English.

The main aim of the thesis is to find development of ecotourism that could be the most suitable concept in different areas. On one hand, it focuses on the well-being of the community by promoting the local tradition, culture, and arts, products, on the other hand it emphasizes the preservation and conservation of the natural environment by minimizing the negative impact. Ecotourism initiates activities such as controlling water pollution, air pollution, preventing the over exploitation of natural resources, deforestation, and management of garbage. It also generates efforts on human development through empowering people with various awareness programs, education programs, vocational and skill trainings. The main reason behind choosing this topic is the author's deep interest in nature and culture, as well finding ways to save the environment from pollution and degradation. Ecotourism gives the topmost priority on minimizing the impact on ecology while designing tourism products, services and facilities. The main focal point of this thesis is to introduce the term ecotourism and to find out the solutions for authentic sustainable ecotourism, which play a significant role to protect culture and conserve nature as well. Sauraha and Chitwan National Park are the case study of the thesis; it is mainly focused on describing the situation of Sauraha and Chitwan National Park caused by the flow of tourists and visitors. The central focal point is to apply ecotourism as a role model in Sauraha and Chitwan National Park to develop the area, to generate income for economic stability, to conserve nature and also to protect culture at the same time.

This thesis may help the promotion of the sustainable ecotourism in Sauraha and Chitwan National Park. The thesis is also aimed to point out the role models, who have been acting as supportive models towards authentic ecotourism in Sauraha and Chitwan National Park. The ultimate goal of the thesis is to provide awareness, generate the ideas and implement for better sustainable ecotourism in Sauraha and Chitwan National Park. This thesis has also managed to cover the overall major natural sites of Nepal as an important issue, not only Sauraha and Chitwan National Park.

2. TOURISM IN GLOBAL CONTEXT

The chapter deals with the general information of different subjects and topics related to tourism and ecotourism. The contents included in this chapter are the reasons behind people's travel, ecotourism in early age, how it came to the practise, who are the real eco tourists and what are their practises? The chapter also mentions the information about the importance of ecotourism, the different types of ecotourism, how they are practised and what benefits can people have after being within ecotourism. It will be very helpful to readers. The central focus of the chapter is ecotourism, eco-tourist and their types.

2.1. Why do People Travel to Different Place?

Tourism is the world's largest industry and it has remained at the forefront of global economic growth. Travel and tourism have become the most potential industries these days all over the world in any country. According to International Labour Organization's (ILO) and United Nations World Tourism Organization's (UNWTO) records tourism industry was expected to produce almost 9 percent of the total GDP, which would be able to provide 235 million jobs in 2010 and was about to cover 8 per cent of global employment. (World of Work Magazine 2011.)

2.2. Development of Ecotourism Lodging

The aim of ecotourism is to maintain sustainable balance in the environment which ensures safer future to all the living beings of mother earth. Conservation, tourism and development are intricately linked. Conservation promotes tourism, tourism generates revenue for conservation, and development enhances sustainability of conservation. Large amounts of lands were converted and added to conservation areas and parks during 1989, to preserve the ecosystem and (mother) nature all over the world. Countries all around the world were applying effort for conservation

and it was taking high speed in every corner of the world. Although the effort was applied but it was not so well managed some parts of the earth were still unsecured and uncared. Parks and conservation areas were taken as recreation spots for families and travellers. In those days wildlife and environments were in risk, they were about to become extinct. (GreenLiving 2014.)

When ecotourism was establishing and was about to start adventure tourism was already well known in the world. In the 70s people around the world were well introduced with rafting, climbing, hiking and trekking. Ecotourism was taking the peak during 80s, an eco-tourist those days was less responsible and activities such as bird watching, observing the insects in the grasslands, finding the rare plants and mushrooms were done. Eco tourists were people who carried binoculars and magnifying glass those days. The industry of ecotourism was raised dramatically later. Ecotourism is now a very effective tool to promote conservation of nature and preserving culture. Ecotourism provides natural and authentic breath taking experiences. Ecotourism is being more organized these days and the spirit of early ecotourism is still the same in our minds today. After 1983 many organizations adopted ecotourism; ecotourism was the key success for sustainable travel and for the conservation of environment. Many schools and colleges are very active to provide information and courses regarding ecotourism, the hosting communities are also very active in the promotion of sustainable ecotourism. Ecotourism is very beneficial to local people, visitors and to the environment. (Whelan 2015.)

In the beginning of the 90s, there were plenty of ecotourism business and companies running in rural places of the earth, the local people and investors were trying to find workable and legal techniques to make the local communities in profit. Although they had tried very well with full efforts to upgrade the level of ecotourism, still some blunders were made. During 1996 private companies were also interested and involved in the protection of the ecosystem. They were ready to invest large amounts of capital to establish luxury hotels and resorts, this was beneficial to the locals because of more job opportunities. The principle of ecotourism was being more motivated and stronger than earlier. (Nepaltour 2014.)

2.3. Eco-Tourist

Ecotourism attracts broad varieties of travellers, an eco tourist can be of any ages and of any interests, there are no limitations. Eco tourists are responsible travellers, who are really attentive and well organized consumers having curiosity in social, environmental and economic sustainability. They are in search of originality; observing and participating in typical cultures with local people are their interests. From these activities, they are able to provide some earning and learning chances to the local communities, where they have visited. Huge numbers of eco tourists are engaging in voluntary tourism activities for the sake of nature and local people. Nowadays Eco tourists are more responsible than in the past days. They are trying to find the solutions, how to reduce the carbon footprint of their own travel. Responsible travellers are, dedicated to travel with climatic judgement, their plans are really strategic and far sighted. They are always alert and responsive regarding their travel. (Kiper 2013.)

2.4. Ecotourism and Types of Ecotourism

The central focal point of this chapter is the importance of ecotourism and its types. The chapter defines the importance of ecotourism and reveals various types of ecotourism. The contents included in this chapter are importance of ecotourism, cultural ecotourism, agritourism, adventure ecotourism, green tourism, ecotourism for endangered wildlife, eco-lodging, responsible ecotourism and nature ecotourism. The definitions and general information of the given topics are included in each chapter according to their type. The chapter provides information about ecotourism so that different people from different areas can engage in various types of ecotourism. The chapter is very helpful to the readers to know about various types of ecotourism and their importance. Readers can apply the given types of ecotourism to their localities. The ultimate knowledge given by this chapter is that ecotourism can be very fruitful to nature, local communities and to travellers. The chapter has key suggestions to travellers and to the host communities to make the travel more effective and responsible. The travellers can experience different activities through ecotourism, breath taking views of nature

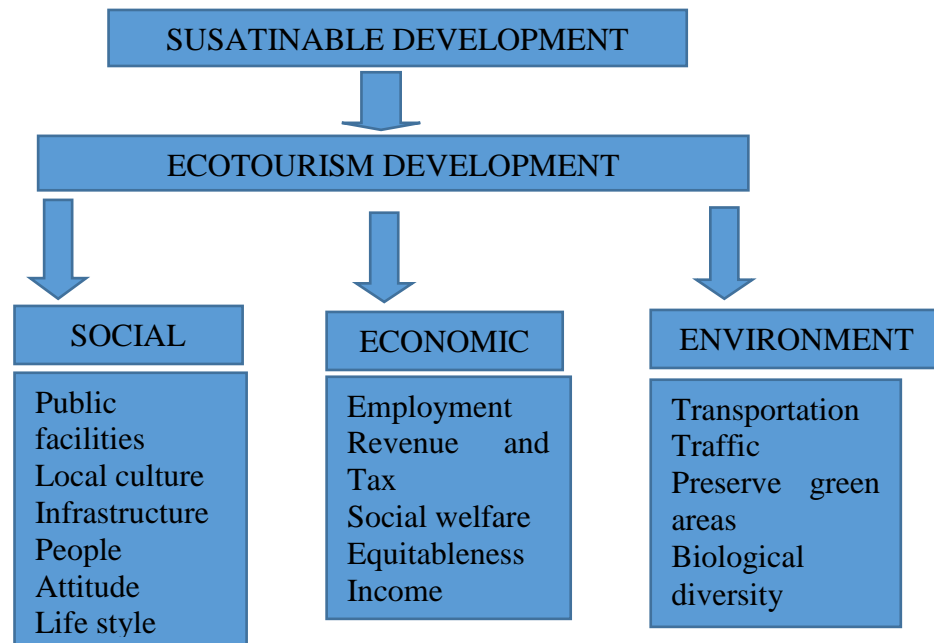
and culture to memorable life time experience of adventure. Travellers can even help to conserve environment and engage in community development programs. Ecotourism can be turned into a role model to develop the rural community.

2.4.1. Importance of Ecotourism

Ecotourism has brought remarkable beneficial changes all around the world; mainly it has a positive impact on environment, cultural, social and economic prosperity; to related destinations and local people. Ecotourism is expanding day by day. Now, it has made a sensational position in terms of global tourism industry. It has a scope of tourism market associated with long term effective solutions. Ecotourism produces potential economic motivation, encouragement for protecting and boosting bio-cultural diversity and it preserves nature, environment, socio-culture and heritage of earth. Ecotourism plays a vital role for sustainable development. Improving the volume and structure of opportunities, in fact ecotourism is a fruitful path for empowering local markets, local people and communities all over the world, reducing poverty and creating an environment with a long term progress. Additionally ecotourism is able to arrange encouragement to help the tourism industry in many ways. It has made tourism industry more green and natural with sustainable development by being a major part in the frontline. (EzineArticles 2007.)

The idea of ecotourism was started in the 1980s and during 2002 it went more popular due to the United Nations "International Year of Ecotourism" (UNWTO 2014). Sustainable refers to "Pertaining to a system that maintains its own viability by using techniques that allow for continual reuse." (Merriam-Webster 2014.) "Tourism that is economically, socioculturally and environmentally sustainable. With sustainable tourism, sociocultural and environmental impacts are neither permanent nor irreversible." (Beech and Chadwick 2004.) Sustainable ecotourism belongs to the responsible use of natural resources for different leisure activities. Different forms of tourism are included in this sector; eco-friendly boating, wild animals watching, scuba diving, and fishing are some of them. Sustainable tourism means the organized use of natural resources for recreation, where ecotourism is

known as leisure activities traveling to a particular area, which provides knowledge, unique experience and opportunities to know interesting ecosystems and related socio cultures and customs. The concept of sustainable tourism is fruitful; it helps to conserve the culture and bio diversity. It means well managed use of natural resources by providing the idea of environmental and cultural awareness to visitors and hosts, helping to upgrade the local economy by creating opportunities. (Neth 2008.)



GRAPH 1. Sustainable ecotourism flowchart, (Kiper 2014.)

Ecotourism is a kind of travel which mainly focuses on the finding and uncovering the habitat of wildlife procedures. Ecotourism increases the chances of local goals and it helps to minimize risk damages to the environment. Ecotourism is very popular and it is mixed with various types of travel and tourism and some of them have been applied incorrectly to ecotourism. Ecotourism as sustainable tourism does not consume any resources and sustainable tourism permits very few persons, tourists and visitors to explore, encounter nature and the environment. The main aim is not to disturb any flora, fauna and the visitors, tourists can perturb the wild animals mating, feeding and the systems of migratory terms. Organizing a rafting trip on a natural free flowing river can be taken as an example of sustainable tourism. It is different from ecotourism because sustainable tourism has no focus as ecotourism in terms of preservation of nature and environment or

it can be defined as more beneficial for the hosting destination and less to the local people in term of economy. (Healey 2014, 1.)

Whenever we are discussing the term ecotourism, we are talking about the activities and actions, which have various positive and negative impacts on the travelling destination. Reducing your carbon footprint or minimizing the waste you provoke during a hike and a tour by selecting renewable, reusable equipment, water bottle can be taken as an example of all effort to control and minimize the all-inclusive impact. In fact, accurate sustainability is all about helping and generating income for local people and building the infrastructure of the destination, which will sustain very long after you have departed from that place. Helping a host destination socially, environmentally and economically is the much effective sustainable ecotourism. By taking the experience of ecotourism travel you will find extraordinary opportunities to attach more closely with the local people and place you have visited. Each destination has very authentic ways of offerings to the visitors and tourists, experiencing the culture, interacting with local people, observing wildlife and very diverse experiences of each host destination. (Kiper 2004.)

2.4.2. Cultural Ecotourism and Agritourism

Cultural ecotourism means, tourists and visitors travelling to a particular destination and location with a genuine aim, who discover, conserve and protect within cultural experiences. Culture is the identity of persons and places, culture includes a vast variety of things. Religion, beliefs and arts represent a culture, dance and music are also a section of culture. Cultural ecotourism contains taking part in tours and expeditions such as the Mentawai Culture tour, which directly provides the insight into the pattern of life of the Mentawai people in the Asian country of Indonesia. Cultural tourism mainly focuses on the discovery of the cultural heritage of the host area, place or destination. In this form of tourism you can observe various arts by local artists, who will show you how to weave a tapestry. Learning about traditional dresses and ceremonies also falls within cultural tourism. The only difference from ecotourism is that there are no centers of

attention on nature, wildlife and environment. Cultural ecotourism preserves the culture, society, customs, norms and values, also generates economic welfare and advantages to hosting local communities, in one line ecotourism comforts the earth by various positive activities. Tourists and visitors can observe and learn about other various cultures after their own culture, this can be seen as a cultural benefit as a fact of cultural ecotourism. Social benefits can be collected by having various interactions with local people of various heritages and sociocultural backgrounds. It is very common that the hosting local community will have economic advantages. When the tourists and visitors visit the destination they will spend the money on accommodation and food. It is particularly very important for developing countries and communities. (Native Planet 2004.)

Agritourism refers to an intersection between agriculture and tourism; it is a form of ecotourism and attracts visitors, tourists and volunteers to the rural areas with specific culture. As farmers and ranchers allow visitors to visit their farms and ranches for outdoor experience and leisure purposes and picking fruit and veggies the healthy, nutritious and organic produce which should be picked by the perfect timing. First of all agritourism inspires tourists and visitors to reconnoitre methods and systems of agriculture along with agricultural life in countryside and in agricultural communities. It is taken as the fastest growing part of the ecotourism industry. Agritourism covers visits to operating farms, ranches, agricultural fields and industries, where farmers and workers are working. Agritourism industry provides a large variety of refreshment, knowledge, leisure, adventures, shopping and feast experiences with full entertainment. It contributes for the wellbeing of regional local people by generating an upgrade in income. The aim of agritourism is to boost the economic growth of countryside and small rural agricultural communities. Tourists can involve in various agricultural operations together with the farmers in the farm, agricultural field, can join with fishermen along with nets and can provide a helping hand in the industries and ranches to organize the livestock. Visitors have the opportunities of shopping local handicrafts and agricultural products during their visiting time; it somehow contributes to the improvement of local community's development. (Faith 2014.)

2.4.3. Adventure Ecotourism and Green Tourism

Adventure ecotourism focuses on physical outdoor activities, which boost the adrenaline and cause fewer impacts on nature and environment. In adventure ecotourism zip lining, snorkelling, canoeing, diving, surfing and kayaking activities are included. The adventure ecotourism destination is not only for adventure fun but also at the same time period the tourists and visitors can enjoy the eye-catching views of various scenery, flora and fauna. Normally zip lines are done in canyons and ravines also in forests and jungles from where spectacular views can be seen. Costa Rica, Nepal and Thailand are the popular destinations for zip lines. The tour operating and service providing companies want to conserve the area where the adventure activities are operating, this can be taken as positive factors. At the same time they may not be more serious and not take a place as in a sustainable procedure. Even they may have done hesitation of public awareness and less utilization of educational scope and utilization. (Answers 2015.)

Green tourism refers to various activities, facilities provided to visitors and tourists which are operated and done within an environmentally friendly procedure. A rainforest lodge having composting toilets and solar power lighting system can be taken as an example of green tourism. It is not so considered although there are various differences between ecotourism and green tourism. The differences are that lodges may be managed and run by a different large company or organization, which are centrally operated. It is not compulsory to provide economic advantages to the host destination. Green tourism does not focus on conservation, education and public awareness or preventing the wild life and their habitat. (Cairngorms 2015.)

2.4.4. Ecotourism for Endangered Wildlife and Eco-lodging

Tourism is rapidly growing day by day and ecotourism is the major one which is growing in a speedy form of tourism. As an evident fact there are various forms as examples of ecotourism. Endangered wildlife tourism is a branch of

ecotourism, which involves protecting and conserving the natural habitat of endangered plants and animals without any disturbance. Protecting flora and fauna is the main central focus of this ecotourism and not only them but protecting their home is also the major aim. The prime causes for plants and animals speedily becoming extinct are deforestation, hunting and poaching. Those visitors and tourists who are traveling for animals and plants about to extinct have plenty of various huge activities to engage and support, also ratifying the endangered wildlife complication. As an example it can be done through helping rehabilitate orangutans in Borneo to releasing and readopting elephants in Thailand, making their lives comfort all in natural pattern and extending their generations for upcoming future days. (Answers 2015.)

Eco-lodging refers to an Eco-lodge which is a place to stay for visitors and eco tourists in ecotourism destinations. It provides accommodation facilities with simple services and causes less impact on the environment and nature. They are built regarding environmental awareness and conscientiousness, which is more natural than utilizing advanced technologies for guest facilities and service. To be an Eco-lodge particular criteria must be maintained, particular standards should be met as an alternative, sustainable method of water properties and cautious waste discarding. These methods substitute the primary ones, the objects are designed as consuming less energy and they are created under limitations. They cause minimum effect to the natural and cultural environment and help to maintain the ecosystem. Eco-lodging is extremely different from other hotels and resorts. Luxury African tents in Africa, rustic lean-tos in Nicaragua, alpine huts in Switzerland and tea houses in Nepal, these types of accommodation which provide service belong to Eco-lodging. In common the owner of an Eco-lodge hires the guides from among the local people, who are educated and well informed so they can promote and introduce the area closely to the visitors. Visitors would familiarize with the surroundings, culture and people very easily and respect the environment, culture and surroundings of the visiting destination. Eco-lodges are built and maintained by sustainable and substitute substances, those materials cause less impact on nature and environment. Mostly Eco-lodges are in remote places and in remote spots with different glamorous outdoor activities, through such the places have various possibilities of activities to do. Such as Eco treks,

caving, hiking, kayaking, canoeing, bird watching and local attraction. (Berry 2015.)

2.4.5. Community Development Ecotourism and Eco Trekking

Developing countries are mostly engaged in community development tourism, it creates the opportunity to observe and feel the cultural, economic realities and actualities of life. Generally it is a home stay system for accommodation and food purposes. Travellers and visitors stay with local families because it is easier to learn and observe the daily living of the local people and their customs, traditions and various ways to comfort the community economically. The hosting community has profits and advantages by producing revenue. Generating revenue refers to being economically strong, when there is economic stability the needs of the local people will be decreasing. It is an unsustainable form of economic assistance, as an example the revenue is generated through resource extraction. The particular hosting destinations earn money though providing and selling food and accommodation, and the whole community or place will have profits when they are set for larger and broader assignments, and money is separated from the individual's previous income. Conserving nature, soil, deforestation, livelihood area which are affected by industries and other modern technologies affecting environment are the main focal points of all kinds of ecotourism. Planting trees, learning about local trades and building homes, these kinds of programs and opportunities are created by host organizations to the Eco tourists to interact with the local community and people. Community development projects and ecotourism create opportunities to generate the financial benefits to the developing communities and mainly they will increase awareness and create a bond of friendship between visitors and local people with full respect. The main aims of the community development ecotourism focus on native people, trying to protect and preserve the communities and customs of them. It does not mean protecting the people only but also includes conserving their methods and manners of comforting themselves, it prevents deforestation to prevent from various disasters and it helps to reduce the soil erosion. In this form of ecotourism visitors and tourists mainly

focus on building homes and planting trees, community development ecotourism is more effective for under developed and developing communities. (Berry 2015.)

Eco treks are organized and planned to provide and boost the awareness of travellers and local people regarding the natural and cultural environment of a specific destination or location. They are trips or tours to non-natives, to places that are seriously at risk of extinction or in an enchanting site. Tourists and visitors will have opportunities to study about various local threats and risks to the flora, fauna and environment, at the same time they can learn about possible skills which will preserve the environment now and in the future. Generally eco treks are arranged as profit motive by different organizations, and some per cent of the earnings are distributed to local people and community sometimes. Those people who have deep interest in eco trekking can select various types of activities; those can be short excursion trips up to tropical and non-native destinations. Activities might include rock climbing, white water rafting, caving, swimming, sailing, hiking, bird watching and nature walking. The major objectives of eco treks are to develop awareness about a certain destination and its corresponding environmental degradation and to conserve the habitats which are about to extinct. It is not sure that eco trek organizations provide monetary support to the local community and people, they may or may not. (Berry 2015.)

2.4.6. Responsible and Nature Ecotourism

Ecotourism is always less harmful to the environment and to nature, responsible tourism is very sensitive and strict in environmental degradation control. Responsible tourism's major aim is to reduce the environmental degradation of the host destination or particular visiting place, for example an inhospitable region camping trip using quote "Leave No Trace". Responsible tourism is different from ecotourism because there may be no chances of any economic advantages to the host destination or place. (Untamed Path 2015.)

The center of attention for nature tourism is wildlife in their natural habitat and spectacular views to visitors and tourists to enjoy the view. Various activities such

as jungle lodgings in jungles and cruise ships to Antarctica to view the penguins. Nature tourism is different from ecotourism, the trips of nature tourism may not have educational element for them. This type of tourism is not environmentally friendly, sustainable and responsible ecotourism. As responsible tourism and ecotourism for endangered wildlife nature tourism is different from ecotourism because nature tourism also may not help the host destination to generate the revenue and help economically. (Untamed Path 2015.)

2.5. Positive Factors Being in Ecotourism

Ecotourism is a major factor, which produces lots of opportunities in many sectors. Ecotourism has been acting as a major subject, which is providing long term solutions to poverty and the environment, which are needed for flora, fauna along with local people. It is another way of developing rural areas to boost up the economy level along with securing the cultural heritage by maintaining it in a certain comfort zone. Ecotourism plays a vital role in marketing as well as connecting and provides the probabilities of establishing different business in the place. At the same time ecotourism gives you special chances to obtain genuine experiences, it's really authentic. Travellers will have plenty of opportunities to meet new people, new friends, find new places, enjoy their time and make it an unforgettable moment. Eco travellers are not the persons who just take photos and leave only their footprints but they are really much more than we think, they have the golden opportunities to find out the differences and they have various experiences after visiting the destination. The eco traveller plays significant roles to the communities and destinations, where they visit by having a certain lasting impact on them. (Untamed Path 2014.)

3. BENEFITS AND DRAWBACKS OF ECOTOURISM

Eco tourists are responsible persons, socially and environmentally. They want to preserve the world by saving the environment and culture, which makes the world better. Eco travellers have a positive intention to develop the economy of the place where ever they travel, even if it's really underdeveloped they make the first move to fight against poverty. They may give some time and donation working as volunteers, the main aim of ecotourism is to improve the world and take it to the next comfort zone. Eco tourists are always supporting local communities and environment. (Eco India 2008.)

Every factor has its own negative and positive factors, Ecotourism has also its negative part. Ecotourism is not always beneficial to the local people and nature but it can act as a major problem to them socially and economically. These are disadvantages to nature, local people and wildlife. Ecotourism can disorder and displace the local people and wild animals from their in habitat. It depends on every project and on the whole programs of ecotourism. The sectors of ecotourism are still giving their best to maintain and solve the existing problems, which are creating negative impacts of ecotourism. It is a large industry and in most of the projects, ecotourism is not able to get 100 per cent results as predicted. They are applying their full effort to upgrade ecotourism industry for better results, which will be less harmful to everyone with a better situation. Ecotourism can extend the further projects and programs. (Eco India 2008.)

3.1. Conservation of Natural Area and Government Funding

The main focus of ecotourism is to control and prevent the uncooperative effects of human development. In general, people who live in a city area love to visit jungles, river sides, mountains, beaches and lakes to enjoy the natural beauty of nature because they are unfamiliar with these kinds of environments. When

people from different cities visit such places, then local people recognize that the natural resources near to them are the source of income due to tourists. After knowing its importance, the local people might work hard to preserve the natural resources of that area. The local people are able to find different jobs due to their efforts and hard work for conserving the resources, for example local guides and hospitality business. (Prem 2014.)

These current days the area of ecotourism is growing, the governments are well known about ecotourism and its impact on the economy. After recognizing all these factors of ecotourism, governments have made some plans and laws to maintain it. Government plays a major role in creating the conservation area, national parks, and wildlife reserves. They divide certain budgets for maintaining the area and keep the illegal activities away from the conservation area. Hunters, poachers and loggers are threats to the conservation areas. Government provides some certain facilities to local people and can also have benefits through the conservation areas. Local people should also follow the rules and regulations of the conservation area. To make it successful local people must be satisfied and economically stable. (Blue 2014.) Tourism is used by many national and local governments as a key factor to develop and regenerate the economic stability of the nation. Tourism creates employment opportunities and stimulates the development process in infrastructure and local communities. Casino for gambling is more controversial in this area of tourism but taxes from gambling generate positive economic benefits and also create a chance of employment for the locals. (J. Page 2003, 313.)

3.2. Improving Local Business and Brotherhoods, Cultural Exchange

Not only the tour guide but the local people can take benefits from small and local businesses through ecotourism. They can sell their different handicraft products, which are made by hand and which are unique and attractive. A tourist buys them as a souvenir. They can run certain accommodation business places such as hotels and inns, where tourists can rest and the local people can generate income. Running restaurant business is also another idea for a source of income. All the

provided services by local people, this also plays a vital role to tourists to find local characteristics. Ecotourism has played a major role to raise the economy. If local people are busy with the local business, they will not cut the trees because they won't have much time. It is a positive factor that their life is more economically strong and on the other hand environment is also being protected but local people are not more aware of environmental awareness. It is a threat to the environment, when the local economy goes up, developments endanger the conservation area. (Blue 2014.)

The people who are educated are less harmful to the environment. Education and public awareness are always beneficial to Ecotourism, which provides positive vibes and effect. People who are closer and attached to nature have simple lives, eco tourists have opportunities to meet them and learn to live simply. During these periods local people can have a profit and collect funds so, that they can have further education. They can establish an educating centre so that they can understand nature, the importance of culture and environment more clearly and closely. Through ecotourism the travellers and the local people can share and exchange the cultural thoughts and values, which is really beneficial to both sides' travellers and local people. (Prem 2014.)

3.3. Degradation of Environment and Disturbance to Wildlife

There are many factors affecting the environment. Eco-friendly tourism industry, ecotourism has also some uncooperative effect on the environment. Generally people take ecotourism as a positive factor which preserves the surroundings. In fact people don't notice the transportation vehicles, by which traveller travel and the foods and drinks which travellers are consuming during the travel are making nature pay. So these unintended ruthless developments of infrastructure speed up the degradation of environment and expand it in a large area. (Marinebio 2014.)

Every human activity interrupts the pleasant and peaceful life of wild animals and birds. Tourism is also one of them even ecotourism involves disturbing the wildlife. Due to tourist's activities and marketing activities of ecotourism, tourists and local

people do not notice the trouble and disturbance caused to flora and fauna because of their irrational wants, desires and habits. Travellers should act as genuine Eco tourists but they do not. Finally it will bring negative consequences, which are unfavourable to the ecosystem. The acts are enough to distract the ecological balance, which diverts the ecosystem. (Hinze Media 2014.)

3.4. Land Issues and Impacts on Culture

Changing the natural area to developed moneymaking land for tourism industry is a big drawback. There is a flow of a large number of tourists and travellers in conservation areas, wildlife reserves and national parks. Due to this the land is being compromised. Local residents are also victims now, they are being dismissed from their own place. The place is more expensive day by day and local people cannot pay for living. Local people are also forced to migrate from the area by government and rich people, who are establishing their business in the area with high investments. Local people are enforced to leave their lands and forced to migrate from their area, even they are taken away some fundamental rights of their own. (Macalester College 2006.)

Anyone can be an eco-tourist, more high class people are involved in ecotourism, those who are living in city areas, and they are more likely attracted to ecotourism industry. Travellers from non-rural areas may not be so culturally sensitive and this cause may separate the local community and people from their culture. Ecotourism also brings negative impacts to the local people. (InfoBarrel 2014.)

3.5. Income of Local People and Affect to Nature

Local people do not always have advantages of ecotourism industry. Ecotourism industry is taken as job opportunities for local people, in fact local people are employed in lower level and they don't have handsome salaries even if there is a continuous flow of visitors and tourists. The contracts of job holders are also short term. Mostly the profits are taken by the investors, who have paid a huge amount for the ecotourism project as a business view. It is caused by hesitation in

managing and planning, local communities and people are not able to take advantage of ecotourism from an economic and social view point. (CoIYoung 2014.)

Tourism has always negative impact on the environment; even ecotourism has negative impact on environment but comparing to other types of tourism, ecotourism causes less. Once it is a tourism destination, it is almost impossible to reconstruct the environment of that area back to normal as previous condition due to effects caused by tourism. Tourism is the main factor affecting the nature and built environment. (J. Page, 2003, 311)

4. ECOTOURSIM IN NEPAL

Ecotourism is a sustainable form of travel which has goals and a target to reduce the impact, not only minimizing the impact but even creating and leaving a positive trail. Ecotourism is of specific importance in Nepal because the developing country Nepal has been relying heavily on tourism for its economy. (Horrocks 2006.) The country of the Himalayas and natural beauties, Nepal has various geography and landscapes with different unique flora and fauna. Nepal is rich in going after the mountaineering mantra “Take nothing but photographs, leave nothing but footprints.” Nepal is defined as multicultural, multi-ethnic and multi-lingual nation. People with various different religious beliefs are citizens of Nepal. Although the Hindu religions have a high percentage, besides that Buddhism is a well-known religion of Nepal. The founder of Buddhism is Siddhartha Gautam Buddha, who was born in Lumbini Nepal and also known as the light of Asia. Some number of Islam, Christianity, Shikshim, Jainism and Kirat followers are also living in Nepal. Every religion, every culture has their own norms and values, citizens of Nepal celebrate the festivals according to their tradition and cultures. (Rajbala 2009.)

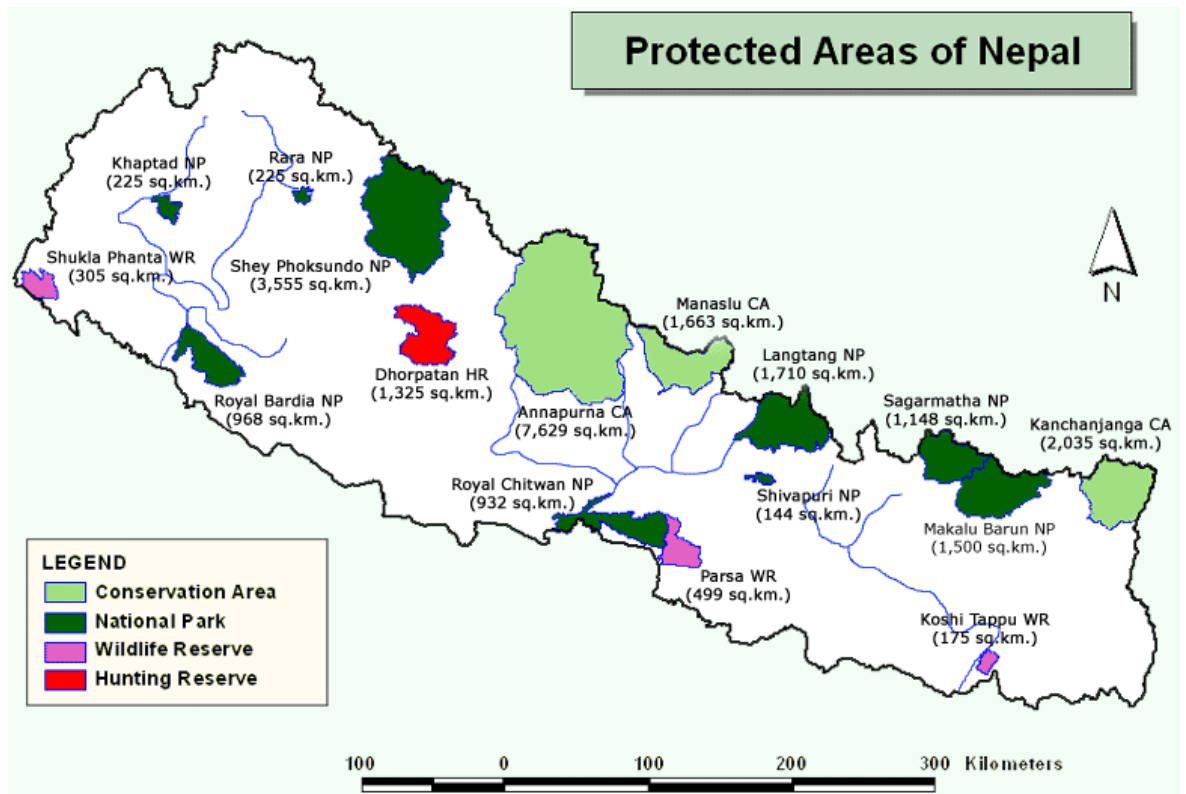
Huge numerous mountains and summits, sloppy rolling hills, plentiful flora and various multiple fauna, it is not very surprising that Nepal is a well-known tourist destination and the absolute spot for ecotourism. In Nepal, ecotourism is the main form of tourism within the country; ecotourism is the major attraction of Nepal for tourists and visitors. Large numbers of visitors and tourists are attracted to culture, history, arts and customs, Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur, Lumbini and Gorkha city are known as historical cities of Nepal. Observing the wildlife and jungle safaris, camping, hiking, trekking, white water rafting, nature walks, ecotourism industry of Nepal is taking next level, they are developing rapidly. There are beliefs in visits to places, where the flora, fauna and cultural heritage are the prime attractions of the destination. Nepalese perform responsible ecotourism, which has

different programs that create less unfavourable effects to the general tradition of tourism, on the natural environment and strengthen the cultural nobility of the Nepalese people. In the same period of time assessing the cultural and environmental aspects, simple and generous mission by the local people promoting recycling, proper use of water, saving energy and creating job opportunities to make an economically stable environment. These activities are run by local people and business persons, who are providing the facilities of accommodation and food to the visitors and tourists. The main objective is to create an environment, where people can enjoy, learn and engage in cultural features in natural site, historical site of distinct environments. It preserves the solidarity of those precious destinations and encourages for the economic progress with fruitful opportunities to the local people of the community. Not only specific panorama, breed and destinations but Nepalese always strive to elevate the safeguarding of complete local ecosystems. In many destinations and places tourists and visitors have left littered trails and degraded the nature in their travel duration. Antagonistic towards this worrying and disturbing backdrop, Nepal and countries around the world have been adopting eco-friendly tourism and this practise of tourism is rising and obtaining a very good response. (Rajbala 2009.)

The aim of ecotourism is not only to conserve the nature, culture, and environment but also to create opportunities to the local communities and people, so that they can have benefits from ecotourism. Both visitors and local people must have environmental awareness by various promotions and encourage environmental awareness events and programs. Both parties should have knowledge and ideas about the positive factors of ecotourism towards the social and economic development of the destination. Through the promotion of sustainable ecotourism it has a huge possibility to conserve and preserve the culture, nature, environment and heritage of an area sustainable ecotourism not only heightens the positive experience of the visiting people who are there for leisure purposes but it also has positive effects on the local residents, which helps to boost the standard of living of them. There are lots of positive factors of ecotourism and a lot has been spoken and said about the tourism, which is environmentally friendly and in the future it will have a more positive response without any doubt. Without any hesitation the Nepalese can proudly say that they have led the track in responsible tourism to

Nepal. The slogan of the Nepalese is “Where there is greenery, there is peace and happiness” after all this consideration Nepalese people all totally criticize deforestation and organize various programs and projects to save trees occasionally, which includes plantation and awareness programs. All the members and workers who are working in this tourism field have been provided and have managed to learn, train about menace tackled by the environment, even porters and guides. All the numerous persons, who are working in this sustainable tourism field have learned very well and brought their knowledge to practice after adaptation. All the local people from various different places are invited and allowed to train, practise and work on environmental degradation and particular actions for the conservation. The awareness programs provided by local communities include sanitation, risk of deforestation, preservation and conservation of the ecosystem, importance of hygiene and cleanliness, importance of culture and heritage. The profit made by tour and trekking services to the different visitors and tourists is being shared and utilized for different positive activities, which is very beneficial to local residents and helps them to boost economically. Some percent of profits made by selling tours, trekking and travel packages is also invested in women empowerment and in the conservation of natural environment. (Rajbala 2009.)

Kathmandu is the central point for international travellers and tourists but somehow development has not given the company popularity. Most of the hospitality services offer natural and unpreserved huts and cottages with domestic and functional architecture made of stones, mud, timber and grass. The service is very friendly and gracious, organic vegetables, honey, eggs and jams are the perfect dining for perfect trip and visit. The views of mountains and hills are spectacular and eye catching, not only the local performances but the birds and butterflies also provide constant entertainment. Para gliding has also been able to establish and it is getting popularity day by day. Yoga, bird watching, massage, trekking, hiking and sports are the major activities and have positive effects on opportunities for employment. (Thames and Hudson 2008, 126.)



GRAPH 2. Map of protected areas in Nepal (National Parks of Nepal 2013.)

4.1. First National Park of Nepal, Chitwan National Park

In 1973 Chitwan was announced a national park, it was approved by late king Mahendra Bir Bikram Shaha Dev in December 1970. The laws of the Chitwan National Park were introduced on 4th March 1974. Notable additions were added to the rules and regulations of the park in 1977 and adjoining Parsa Wildlife Reserve was established in 1984. At the time of Rana regime, it was a well conserved habitat as a royal hunting reserve between 1846 and 1951. Rhinoceros sanctuary was proposed and was submitted for the south area of the Rapti river and was bounded on 1963 and after all this, it was merged into the national park. In November 1984 Chitwan National Park was nominated a world heritage site. (UNESCO 2015.)



GRAPH 3. Map of Chitwan National Park (Wonders Nepal 2015.)

At the bottom of the Himalayas, Chitwan is recognized as the very few remaining uninterrupted fragments of the Terai region. The major part of Terai region of Nepal is linked with India's borders. Terai is a gateway between India and Nepal, incredibly very rich in flora and fauna. Terai is a place where the last remains of the population of one-horned Asiatic rhinoceros are living and can be observed, and also the place whereeven Bengal tigers are found. Chitwan National Park (CNP) was established in 1973. Locating in the Southern Central Terai region of Nepal it was Nepal's first National Park. Chitwan National Park is one of the premier draw cards in Nepal. CNP is listed in the World Heritage site by United Nation Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO) and it protects and reservse over 932 square kilometres of the forest formerly extended over the foothills. Chitwan National Park is extended to cover areas of four districts; they are Chitwan, Nawalparasi, Parsa and Makwanpur. Marshland and rippling grassland is home to a sizeable population of wildlife. (Lonely Planet 2015.) Chitwan National Park can be taken as an example of the last remaining natural ecosystems of the Terai region and subtropical lowland, placed between two east-west river valleys at the foundation of Siwalik range of the outer

Himalayas. The area is covered by Chitwan National Park. Describing the exact area and location of the Chitwan National Park, it lies between the Narayani and Rapti rivers to the north side, in the south it is extended up to Reu River and Nepal-India international border, from the Dawney hills to over Sumeswar and Churia hills in the west and borders to the east are extended and linked with Parsa Wildlife Reserve. An area consisting of forests and private lands with 75,000 hectares surrounding the Chitwan National Park was declared a conservation area for environmental protection. During 2003 associated lakes and Beeshazari Lake with in the environmental protection area were appointed a wetland of international importance within the Ramsar Convention. (Lonely Planet 2015.)

60% of the total area of Chitwan is majorly covered and dominated by one character standing as a Sal forest and the remaining area belongs to lowland. Terai forest is very vast, it has borders from India and Nepal to the bottom hills of Himalayas. Riverside forests and grasslands form patterns along with the river on the banks, those areas are maintained by flooding during a rainy season. Slightly wet slopes of the hillside are handled by bamboos and pines and scattered palms are on the hills. Chitwan is like a pan river valley located among Rapti, Reu and Narayani rivers. Narayani is the third largest river of Nepal and it is also known as the Gandaki. The rivers originate from the high Himalayas of Nepal and every river of Nepal is unloads to the Bay of Bengal through India. As Chitwan 60% the National Park also covers by dominated vegetation of the Terai Sal forest. Anyway, natural procedures, floods, soil erosion on riverside and fires they work together to make frequently changing patterns of grasslands and riverside forests in every season and stage. Karsa centre of the Chitwan National Park, has the finest sal tree, which stand better on lowlands and drained grounds. Creepers are very common and sal inter mix with chir pine are found on the remaining part of the park up to the southern front part of the Churia Hills and various other tree species. Vegetation under the main canopy of the forest with a minimal abnormality of grasses. The Siwaliks hill of Nepal has a particular by wrong design, which has made step cliffs on the south facing slopes. The volume vegetation is lesser than in the northern slopes. Series of ascending alluvial steps are forming by floods and rivers and eventually rise due to Himalayan uplift. Boulder and gravels are fixed in

an excellent silty matrix on the terraces which are formed in layers. (Lonely Planet 2015.)



GRAPH 4. One-horn Rhino (Nepal Advisor 2013.)

The Chitwan National Park contains different species of mammals, birds, reptiles, insects and aquatic animals. The main attraction and focal point is the one-horned Asian rhinoceros, which has the least population in Nepal and is in a high risk of extinction. Chitwan National Park is the second largest concentration of one-horned Asian rhinoceros after India's Kaziranga National Park. Chitwan National Park is one of the last strong holds of the rare Royal Bengal tiger. There are various mammals within the park, leopards, sloth bears, wild dogs and gaur. Other occurring mammals are chital, barking deer, hog deer, monkeys, porcupine, otter, wild pig, boar, yellow-throated marten, fishing cat, civet, jackal, jungle cat, Indian fox and striped hyena. The gangetic dolphin, the mugger crocodile and the gharial are included in aquatic species, gharial is at the point of risk and about to extinct. 543 bird species can be seen in the park Himalayan grey-headed fishing vulture and white-back vulture are the major attractions. Ruddy shelduck and bar headed goose are seen and migrated to this area during winter at the bank of rivers.

Endanger threatening Indian python also can be observed within the park. In the oxbow lakes and rivers of the national park over 99 species of fish inhabit. (Travellers Jungle Camp 2015.)

4.1.1. National park Headquarters and Activity Sites

The Chitwan National Park Headquarters are in Kasara inside the national park, Kasara is located 13 kilometres west away from Sauraha and on the south shore of the Rapti River. Visiting Chitwan National Park Headquarters is also part of a organised program jungle safari and they have a compact visiting centre, most tourist and visitors are seen there. It is on a small area with displays on wildlife, which includes injured animals, birds and orphaned animals and birds. You can have a close up view of Gharial and marsh mugger crocodiles in the breeding centre. (Lonely Planet 2015.)

The local volunteers are very active; they have managed to run the friendly Bird Education Society, which is the first point of attraction for bird lovers and twitchers. The Bird Education Society has a library with various information giving bird books and it also provides binocular rental service. The Bird Education Society has a new location, which is located on the road to the elephant breeding centre. Bird Education Society has managed to organise bird watching excursions every Saturday from 7 am to 11 am along with guides. It is free of cost but donations are accepted, which could be a huge help to raise funds for various activities. Traditional Tharu song and dance show for guest are organised by many lodges and hotels, stick dance is really popular among them, where a large circle of moving men whack a stick together in time as a dance. The shows are entertainment based and this kind of program provides job opportunities to local residents. The shows for tourist experiences and at the same time they are very fun. During night time in Sauraha they perform in Sauraha Tharu Culture House and in The Tharu Culture Program, which is authentic and entertaining. Tharu village of Meghauri 25 kilometres southwest away from Narayangarh city is very peaceful and silent with numbers of thatched huts and wandering numbers of chickens. Nevertheless, the town comes to life and has large numbers of visitors

during every December. The people are there for an annual event Elephant Polo Championships. The very large size of performance is held on the Megauli's plain grassland, the ground has a really huge area. All types of Asian elephants and large elephants are used for the polo game, players and elephant polo lovers from all around the world attend the event. It is very interesting to watch elephant polo, players riding on elephants with long polo sticks and running over the ball. (Lonely Planet 2015.)

In Harnari village, 20 minute bike ride from Sauraha, there is also a small Tharu Museum, this village has the authentic taste of Tharu. It is known as the original Tharu village with authentic Tharu culture. They have an exhibition of ornaments and a rakshi (alcohol) distillery pot. Whenever you are there and find that is closed then ask around, someone will help you and will open up the museum. Harnari village is less visited than Bachhauli village. The Tharu Cultural Museum and Research Center provide information about the culture, customs and languages of Tharu people, it is located in Bachhauli. Bachhauli is the closest Tharu village from Sauraha and the village is decorated by colourful murals, various attractive handicrafts and local dresses are also shown there in an exhibition. For those who have interest in Tharu culture this place is perfect and worth visiting. Various mind blowing tours and activities are organised here, from nature walking tours, painting rice with local farmers in the fields, traditional fishing trips, cooking training and art classes. The Educational Centre is mainly focused on school student groups rather than tourists. The Educational Centre has various exhibitions on wildlife, which contains a rather gruesome collection of wild animal's embryo and reproductive organs in glass jars, skulls, bones, plaster-cast footprints and even collection of animal poo, which smells bad. (Lonely Planet 2015.)

4.1.2. Breeding Centre

The elephant breeding centre is on the side of Bhaude Rapti River, which is not that big a river and the breeding centre is 3 km west of Sauraha. In Chitwan the elephant centre provides lots of elephants for jungle safaris, safaris and even one can enjoy the bath with an elephant during elephant bathing time. The lovely

interaction between mother elephants and baby elephants is very interesting to watch. It is very breath taking to observe elephants using their trunks, trunks are used to cover themselves by dust to get rid of mosquitos or using a bamboo stick to scratch their backside. The trunk of an elephant has a staggering 40 thousand muscles. If you are curious and want to see the cute soft baby elephants, it is better to visit the breeding centre before 10:30 and after 15:30 because elephants are busy spending their time in jungle for grazing. Many tourists are dissatisfied after watching the mother elephants, they are chained up when they are within the centre but this is done for the safety issue of tourists and visitors. Baby elephants look very appealing and charming but they should be handled and cared very carefully because most of them have playful streaks and are unexpectedly very powerful. The breeding centre is not very far, a calm walk or cycling along the road through Jungle Lagoon Safari Lodge. It is better to visit during morning, along with elephants you will also get a chance to watch the Mahouts (caretakers of elephants). It is very interesting to watch the preparation of kuchiis (elephant sweet). Kuchiis are made from molasses, rice and salt and they are wrapped between grasses. (Lonely Planet 2015.)

The main focus is to save the endangered Gharial in Chitwan, although they breed other species of crocodiles. If you wanted to see crocodiles in a close range then you should visit The Terai Arc Landscape Project Gharial Breeding Centre. You also have the opportunity to see the hair raising marsh mugger crocodiles in a close up view. The Terai Arc Landscape Project Gharial Breeding Centre is located slightly far away into the Chitwan National Park, it is really better to visit during a jeep safari and could be the best experienced during a safari. Approximately spend your 30 minutes inside The Terai Arc Landscape Project Gharial Breeding Centre, take a walk and view around to see crocodiles from a few days old to some several years old who are ready to be set free into the wild and allow to live by themselves, which is massive success. (Chitwan Adventure Resort 2015.)

4.1.3. Protected Area of Nepal

Nepal is divided into three areas as per the climate and geographical structure, the high mountains, mid hills and low plain lands. The high mountains, Himalayas possess an arctic climate and hilly parts and furthermore low lands towards the south have a tropical climate. Various types of flora and fauna are found in Nepal, government has been acting very active to preserve nature. National parks, Conservation areas, wildlife reserves, Hunting reserves and Ramsar sites are protected by the government and tourists are allowed to enter as per request and permissions. (Nature Trail 2014.)

Table 1. List of protected area of Nepal 2015.

National Parks	Area as per square kilometre
Chitwan National Park	932 km ²
Sagarmatha National Park	1148 km ²
langtang National Park	1710 km ²
Rara National Park	106 km ²
Khaptad National Park	225 km ²
Shey Phoksundo National Park	3555 km ²
Bardiya National Park	968 km ²
Makalu National Park	1500 km ²
Shivapuri National Park	159 km ²
Banke National Park	550 km ²
Wildlife Reserves	Area as per square kilometre
Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserves	175 km ²
Parsa Wildlife Reserves	499 km ²
Shuklaphanata Wildlife Reserves	305 km ²
Conservation Area	Area as per square kilometre
Annapurna Conservation Area	7629 km ²
Kanchenjunga Conservation Area	2035 km ²
Manaslu Conservation Area	1663 km ²
Blackbuock Conservation Area	15.95 km ²
Api Nampa Conservation Area	1903 km ²
Gaurishankar Conservation Area	2179 km ²
Hunting Reserve	Area as per square kilometre
Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve	1325 km ²

5. SAURAHA GATE WAY TO CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK

Sauraha is a small Tharu village in the Chitwan district of Nepal. The village is on the bank of Rapti River and close by Chitwan National Park. It is situated 170 kilometres away from the capital city Kathmandu and 23 kilometres from Narayangarh city. Sauraha is the eastern gateway to Nepal's first national park Chitwan National Park. Jungle safaris and nature walks into Chitwan National Park are started from Sauraha; it is one of the touristic areas of Nepal. Morning starts with beautiful nature in Sauraha. The beautiful Rapti River flows from Sauraha, which separates Chitwan National Park and it is very close with Chitwan National Park. (Greenline Tours 2015.)

Chitwan National Park is home for more than 530 species of birds. Observing the sunset will be one of the best scenes in the evening. Chitwan National Park is one of the World Heritage sites of the country. Tourists visit the parks for various reasons, for the jungle walk, trekking, for seeing wildlife, watching birds, canoe riding, jeep safari, jungle safari, trip to an elephant breeding camp, elephant ride and other activities sites. An average of 100,000 visitors are attracted every year. With the distinct beauty and identity, Sauraha has been the central focus among tourists. In Sauraha, Tharu villages are famous and there we can also see a museum and the culture of Tharu people. Sauraha is also famous for its typical traditional Tharu culture and their dances. Damphu and Phagui are the main dance performed on the day of Phagu Purnima (holi) the main festival for Tharu people. These types of dances are performed in the evening time in various large lodges and hotels. In this way visitors can also enjoy another cultural program which is called chautari program. This program is conducted by a large group. These types of programs and evenings are also known by the colourful evenings. Sauraha is also rich in natural resources, different kinds of medicinal herbs are found in Chitwan National Park. Earlier Sauraha was a very small and strange Tharu village of mud, daub house and huts. Slowly with half a dozen of mud and

daub hotels it has changed into western style hotels, resorts, restaurants, cafes and so on. Now, it has become the central focus among the visitors. Mostly visitors prefer to walk on their own foot to observe natural beauties, however cycles, rickshaw are also available. A jeep safari is an interesting adventurous ride into the dense forest. The glimpse and the snaps of wild animals and birds make an amazing trip. As well a jungle walk through the dense forest around the wild animals and natural habitat is also an exciting and adventurous walk. (Greenline Tours 2015.)

Tourists can play or bath with elephants during the morning, while elephants are inside the water. Only the view of elephants bathing seems enjoyable whereas a sight of elephants bathing playing with humans is equally entertaining. Almost all the visitors love to have an elephant bath and it is also the most important and exciting entertainment activity available in Sauraha. The national part of Sauraha is almost suitable for the elephant ride. An elephant ride is exciting and one of the safest ways to enter the jungle while observing nature and wild animals. The sounds of birds singing feel very peaceful and exciting during an elephant ride, there is also a slogan "Visit Chitwan, Ride Elephant". Mostly visitors visit Sauraha in winter because of its pleasantly warm weather. Every year at the end of December some exciting events and competitions are conducted. Some of them are elephant football, tangaa race and bullock cart race. Sauraha is surrounded by many small Tharu villages, using bicycles or your feet would be the best way explore. Buying and eating in local peoples shops and bhojanalayas would be very helpful to local people to generate revenue. Agriculture is the main source of income for many people and their houses are decorated with colourful Mithala paintings and adobe bas-reliefs of animals. A mustard field during the mustard season is so adorable to view, bright yellow flowers and walking through them provides peace to body and mind. (Greenline Tours 2015.)

6. RESEARCH OF THE THESIS

The quantitative research method is “Explaining phenomena by collecting numerical data that are analysed using mathematically based methods (in specific statistics)”. In this method, data and information are collected to make decisions and generate results. The process may include publication research, interviews, surveys and other research techniques. (Aliaga and Gunderson 2010, 1) Numerical data are used in the quantitative based research method to obtain information about the subjects; the quantitative research method is a very traditional, systematic and objective process. This method is used to illustrate variables, to analyse relationships between variables and to regulate cause and effect interactions between variables. In other words the quantitative research method is based on a standard scientific procedure; numerical data are produced by this method to inaugurate impermanent relationships between two or more variables. Statistical methods are used to analyse and experiment the strength and consequences of the connection and correspondence. (Burns and Grove 2005, 23.)

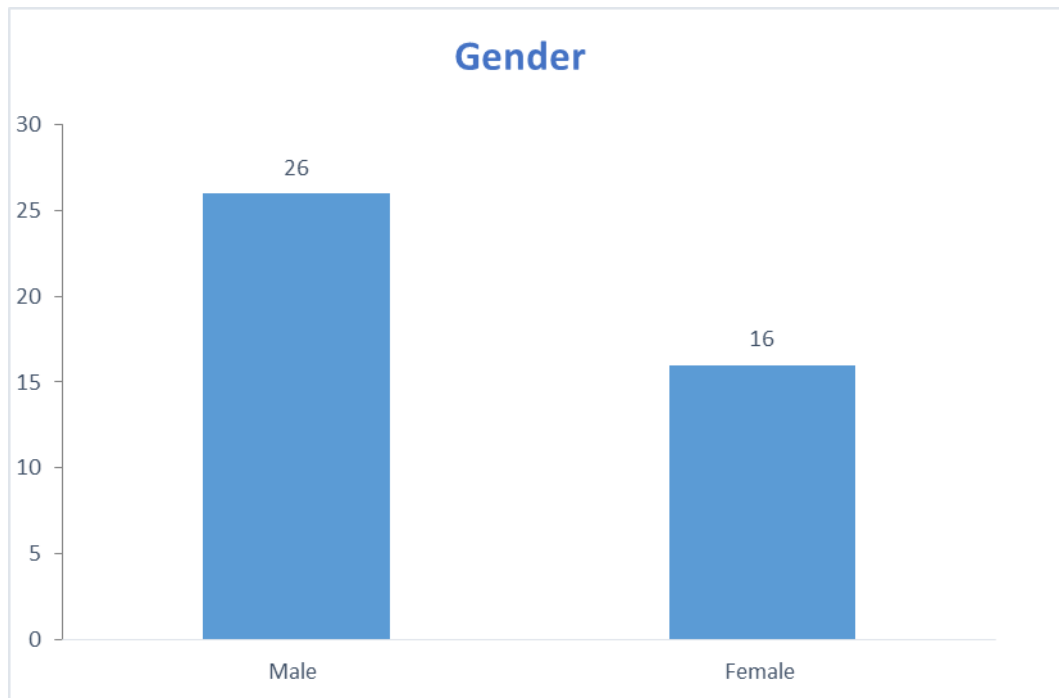
6.1. Process of the Survey

The author has done survey using the quantitative research method. The questionnaire was prepared with various questions and was distributed to a number of people, who were chosen as the sample. The survey was conducted as a normal quantitative research method, by distributing the questionnaires and receiving them back with opinions and answers. The main goal of the survey was to find the major activities and influence caused by ecotourism in Sauraha and Chitwan National Park. Finding out the new solution and probability for sustainable ecotourism was also one of the major focal points of the survey. The authors believe that the output of the survey will be helpful to all readers

As per the quantitative research method, the author has applied a pre structured questionnaire for the survey. The author has done the survey through various social sites and the questionnaire was also distributed to the people in Sauraha of Chitwan. The questionnaires were distributed through the internet to the author's colleagues and people who have already been in Sauraha and Chitwan National Park. The author has managed to distribute the questionnaire in Sauraha for genuine results; tourists, local residents, rangers and youngsters were included as sample. 30 of the sample persons were chosen randomly in a public area of Sauraha and 12 of the surveyees were from social sites. All together 42 questionnaires were distributed by the author and 12 of them were distributed through the internet and 30 of them were distributed in Sauraha to random people. The author used a computer software program Microsoft Office Excel statistical analysis for the responses which were received from the surveyees. Microsoft Office Excel was also used for the output results of data with various bar diagrams and charts as per the responses (statistics).

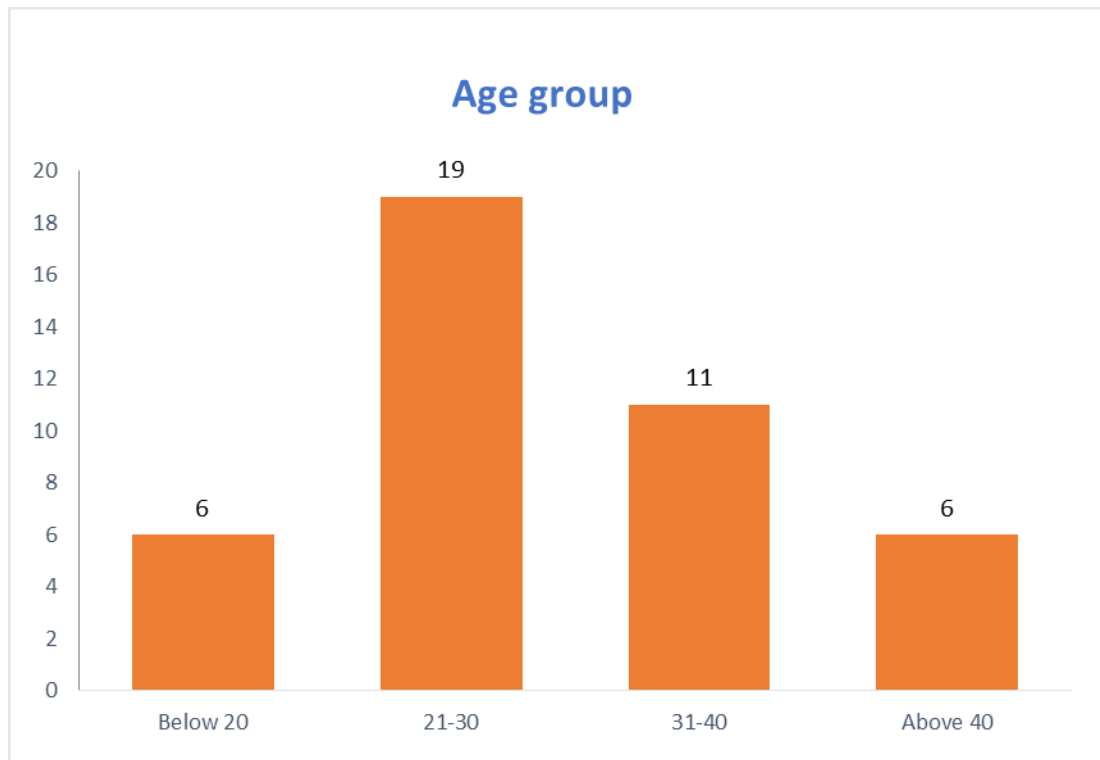
6.2. Analysis of Findings and Results of the Survey

The survey was very smooth, participated people were very active. A positive response from all participants was received and they enjoyed the survey. The empirical analysis and research are mentioned in chapter six as the major content. This part of the thesis clearly reveals and displays the need of authentic sustainable ecotourism. The result of the survey clearly reflects the relation between local people, business holders, tourists and the government of Nepal in Sauraha and Chitwan National Park. According to the survey the Chitwan National Park of Nepal has been very active to protect and conserve the nature and environment. This chapter verifies how active the local residents of Sauraha are to host tourism, protect their culture and conserve nature. The chapter was succeeding to reveal a relation between tourists, local residents, national parks and the government. It also helped to generate the idea and suggestions for further betterment of tourism in Sauraha and Chitwan National Park.



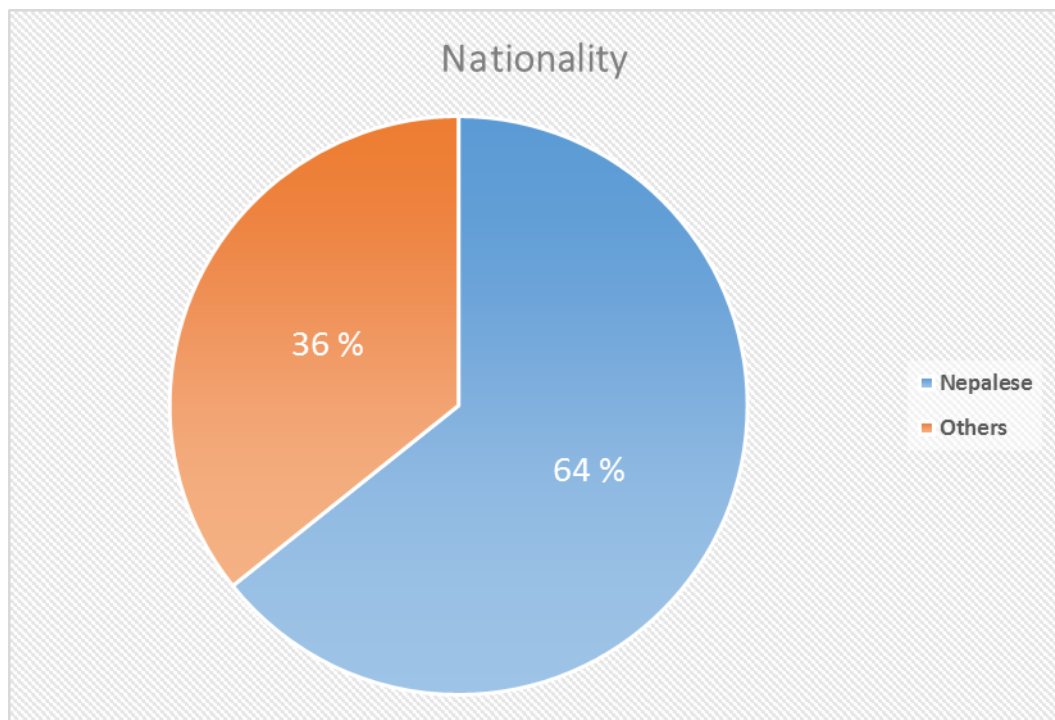
GRAPH 5. Gender of surveyees

The above bar diagram (graph 5) represents the gender of the surveyees. 42 questionnaires were distributed to 42 people. They were selected as the sample for the survey, among 42 surveyees 26 were male and 16 of them were female. As for the percentages, 62% of them were male whereas remaining 38% of them were female.



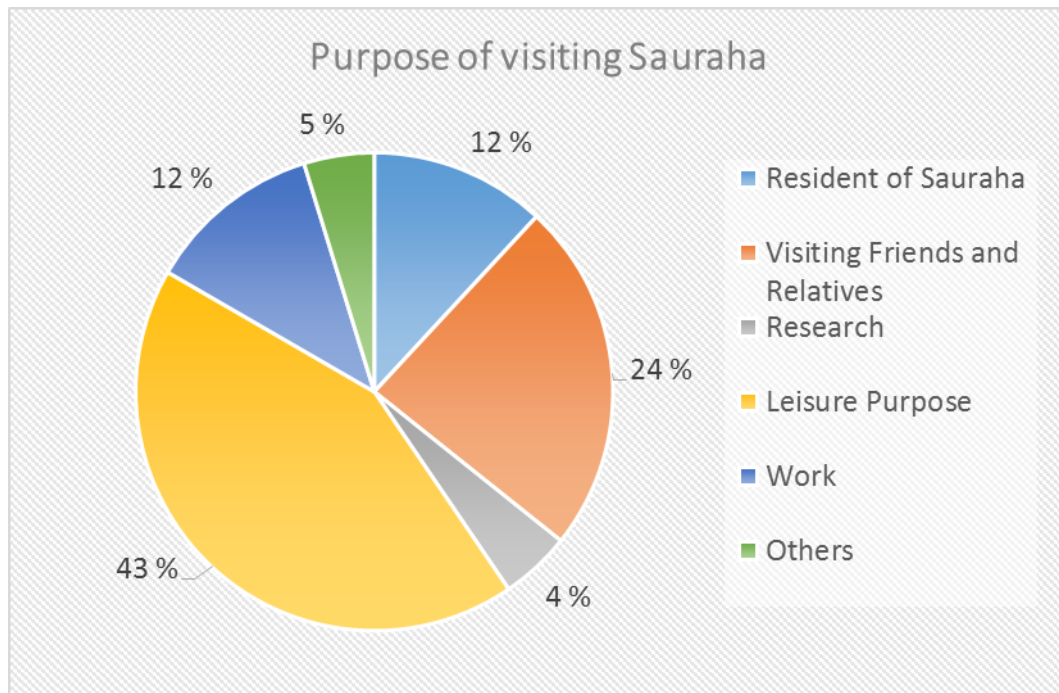
GRAPH 6. Age group of the surveyees

The above bar diagram (graph 6) illustrates the age group of the surveyees. Among the 42 participants the smallest number only 6, of them were under 20 years old, 19 with the highest number were 20-30 years old, 11 of them were 31-40 years old and lastly again 6 of them were over 40 years old. 20-30 year old people were the highest number of surveyees, which can be observed in the bar diagram. 45% was occupied by the 20-30 year old age group being the highest participation.



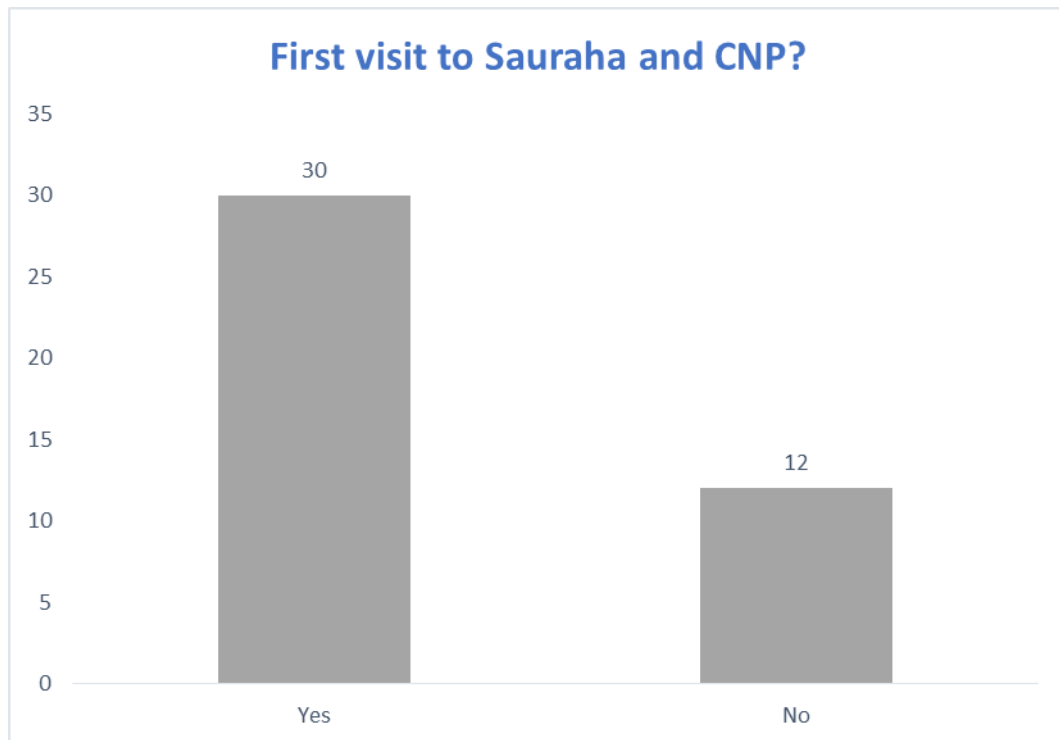
GRAPH 7. Nationality of the surveyees

The given pie chart (graph 7) shows the nationality of the surveyees. The pie chart illustrates that 64% of them were Nepalese surveyees and the remaining 36% of the surveyees were from other countries having other different nationalities. 15 of them were from other countries, whereas 27 of them were from Nepal. It is common to have more Nepalese surveyees because the thesis is related to Nepal and the survey was done in Nepal also.



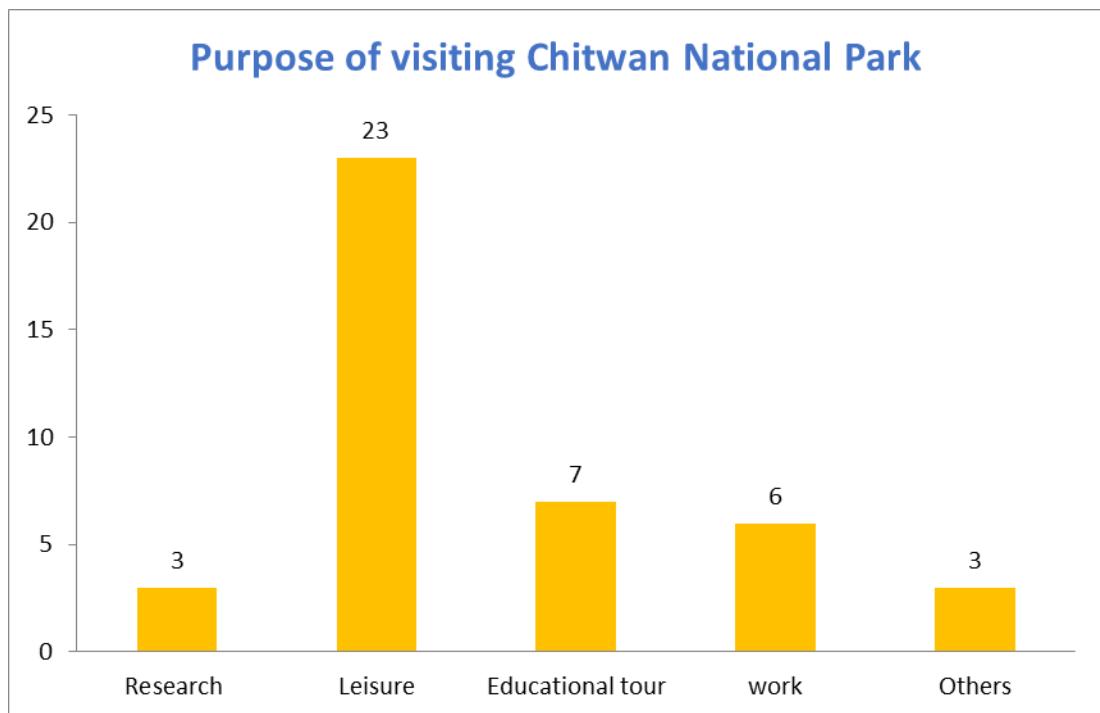
GRAPH 8. Purpose of visiting Sauraha

The above pie charts (graph 8) represents the number and percentage of the surveyees and their purpose of visiting Sauraha. Having a similar 12%, 5 of the surveyees were residents of Sauraha and 5 of them were for working purpose. The highest 43% of the surveyees were there for leisure purposes and 24% with the second highest percentage of them were there for visiting friends and relatives. Simultaneously 5% of them were working there and 4% of them were for research in various fields. Out of 42 surveyees 10 of them were for visiting friends and relative and 18 of them were for leisure purposes, these surveyees were the highest in numbers.



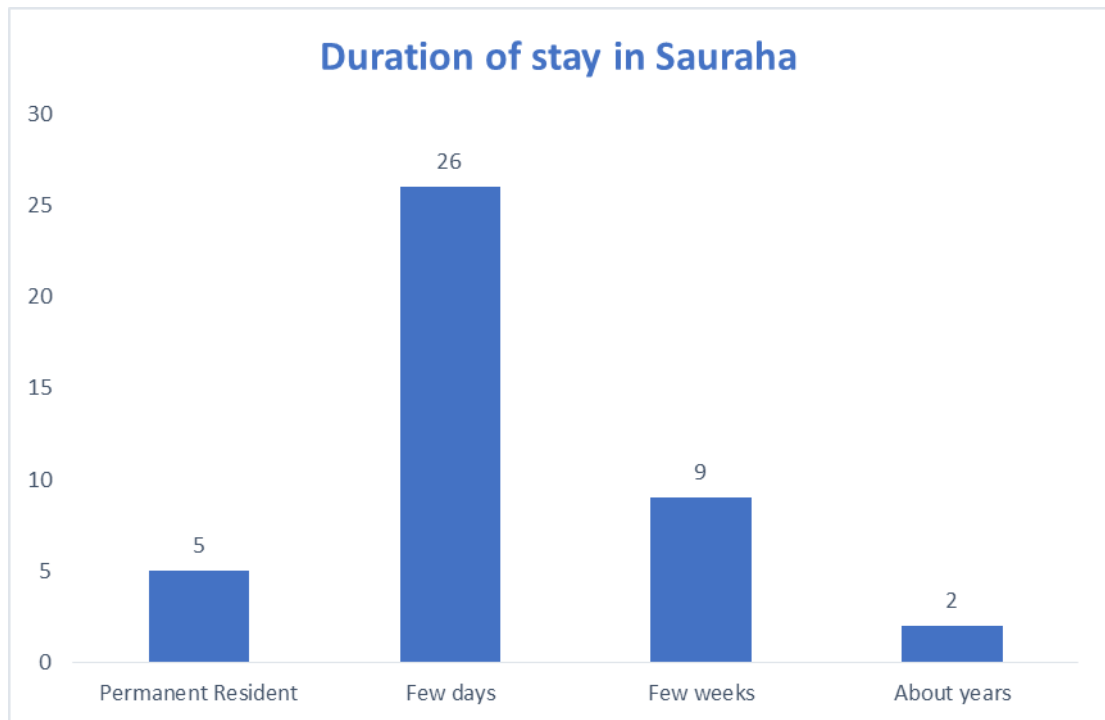
GRAPH 9. Visit to Sauraha and Chitwan National Park

The above bar diagram (graph 9) shows the number of surveyees according to their visit, in Sauraha and Chitwan National Park. As per the bar diagram for 30 surveyees it was their first visit and the remaining 12 of them were the people visiting more than one time. 72% of the surveyees were visiting Sauraha and Chitwan National Park for the first time and the remaining 28% were not the first time visitors.



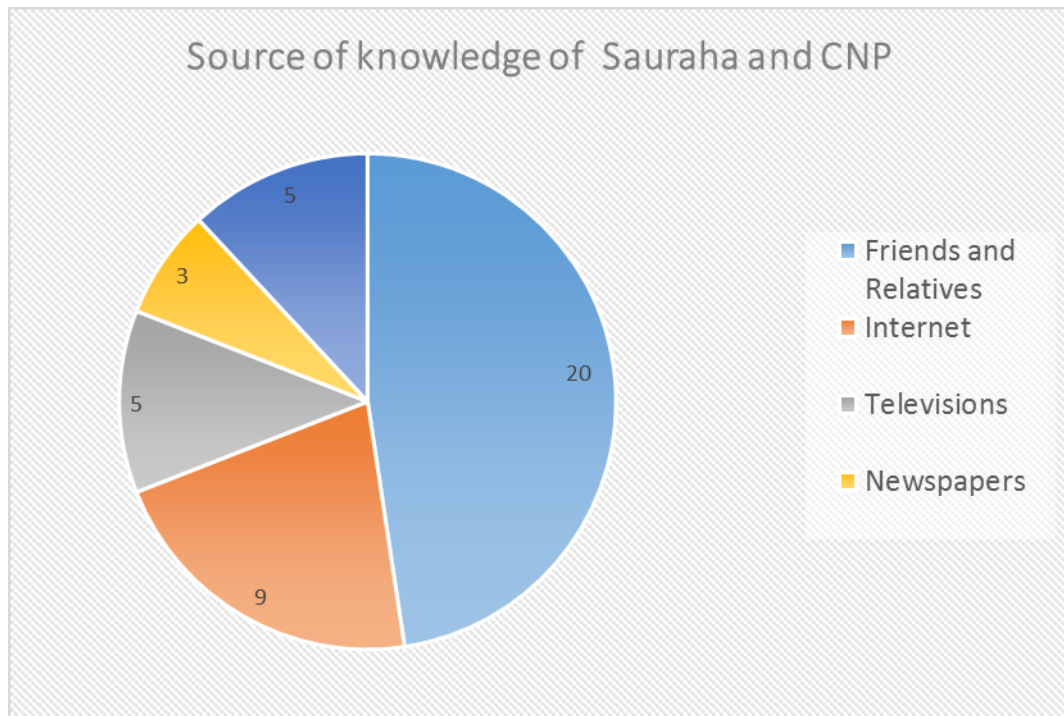
GRAPH 10. Purpose of visiting Chitwan National Park

The given bar diagram (graph 10) illustrates the number of people according to their purpose of visiting Chitwan National Park. among 42, 23 of them being the highest number were there for leisure purposes, 7 of them were for an educational tour, 6 of them were for work and equally 3 of them were for research and other purposes. In terms of percentages, 56% occupying the largest numbers were there for leisure purposes and a minimum 7% of were for research and other purposes.



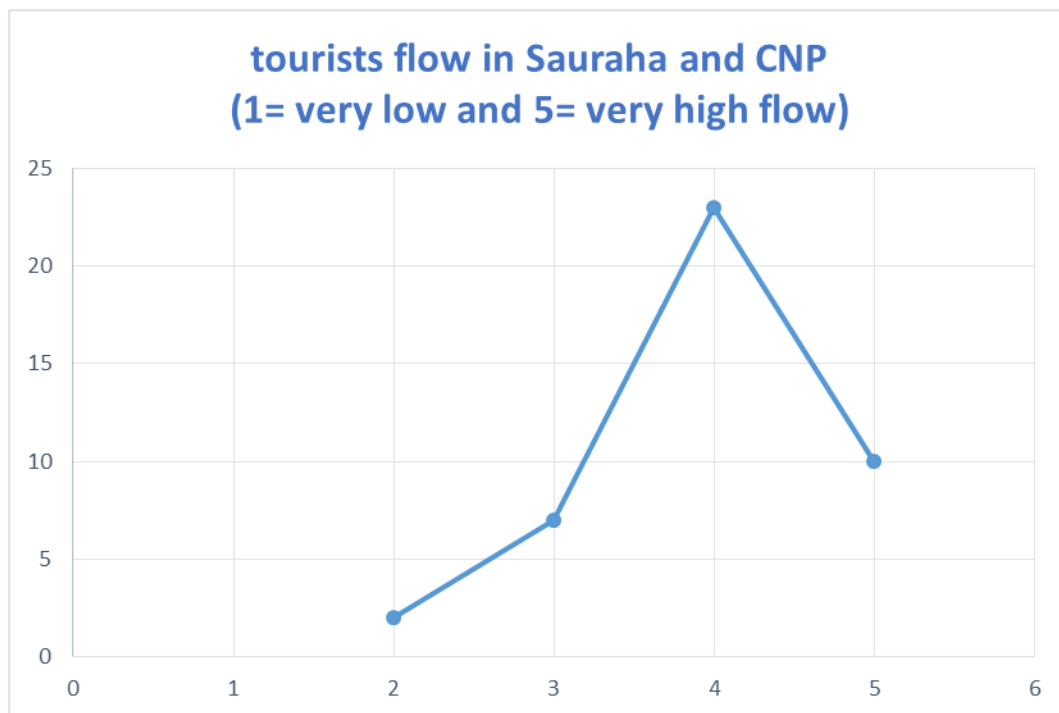
GRAPH 11. Duration of stay in Sauraha

The bar diagram (graph 11) above shows the number of surveyees according to their duration of stay in Sauraha. Among the 42 surveyees, 5 of them were residents of Sauraha, the highest number 26 of them were there for only a few days, 9 of them were there for a few weeks and 2 of them were for about a year. Converting it into percentages, 62% of the people were for a few days covering a huge number and covering less percentages only 5% of them were for about a year.



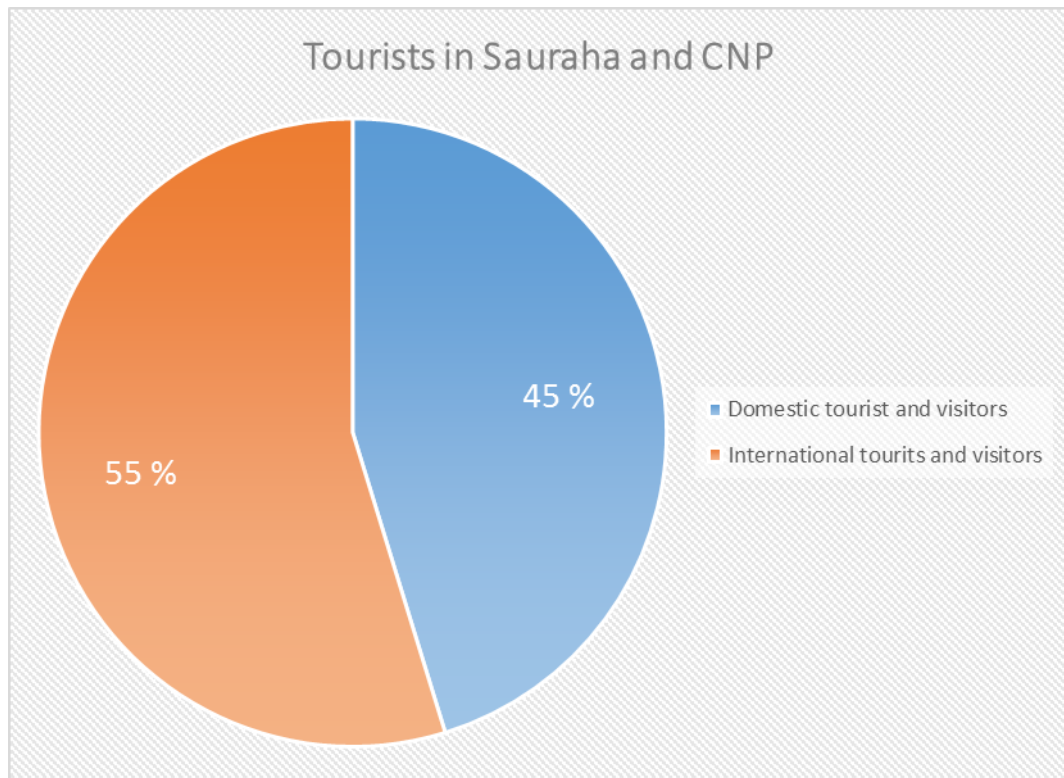
GRAPH 12. Source of knowledge of Sauraha and Chitwan National Park

The bar diagram (graph 12) above demonstrates the number of people as per the source from where they knew about Sauraha and Chitwan National Park. 7% of them knew it from newspapers, 12% both new from television and others, 21% of them came to know it from the global source the internet and the highest percentage 48% of them knew it from their friends and relatives. Among the 42, 20 of them knew it from friends and relatives and has a high number the minimum number 3 of them knew it from newspapers. According to the survey the given data were the result.



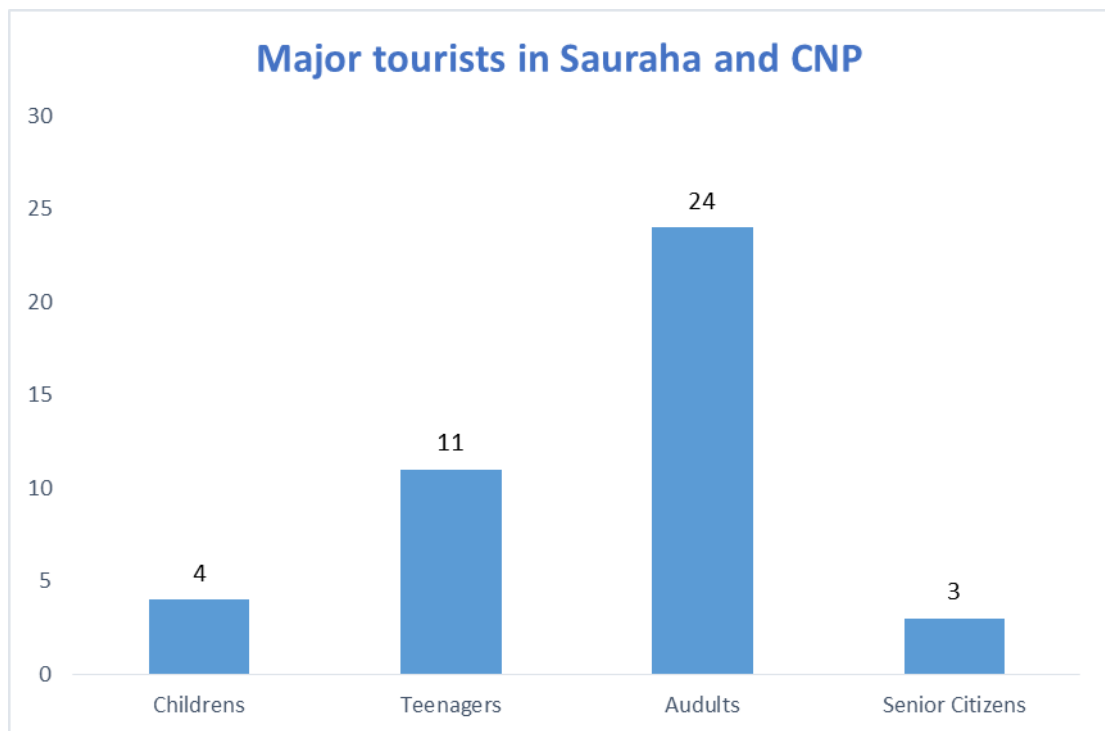
GRAPH 13. Flow of tourists in Sauraha and Chitwan National Park

The given graph (graph 13) illustrates the flow of tourists in Sauraha and Chitwan National Park, where 1 refers to very minimum flow and 5 represents very maximum flow. Among the 42 surveyees, 2 of them graded as number 2, 7 of them graded as number 3, 23 of them graded as number 4 and 10 of them graded as 5. As per the percentages, 55% of the surveyees' grade 4 in term of flow of tourist in Sauraha and Chitwan National Park and a number of 5% of them graded number 2. There was no one to tick number one, so it remains 0. This graph shows that the flow of tourists in Sauraha and Chitwan National Park is in pretty good shape.



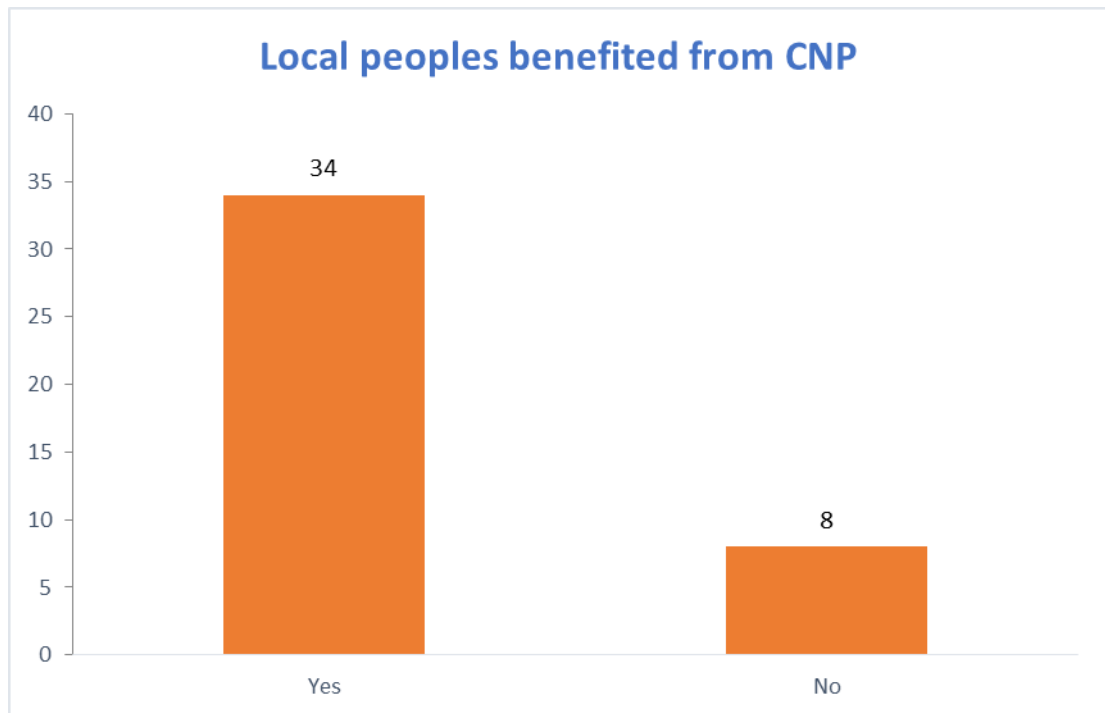
GRAPH 14. Types of tourists in Sauraha and Chitwan National Park

The above pie chart (graph 14) elucidates the number and percentage of the different tourists in Sauraha and Chitwan National Park. 55% of the tourists in Sauraha and Chitwan National Park are international travellers, and 45% of them are domestic travellers. Among the 42 surveyees, 23 of them were international tourists and visitors and where 19 of them selected the box for domestic tourists and visitors during the survey.



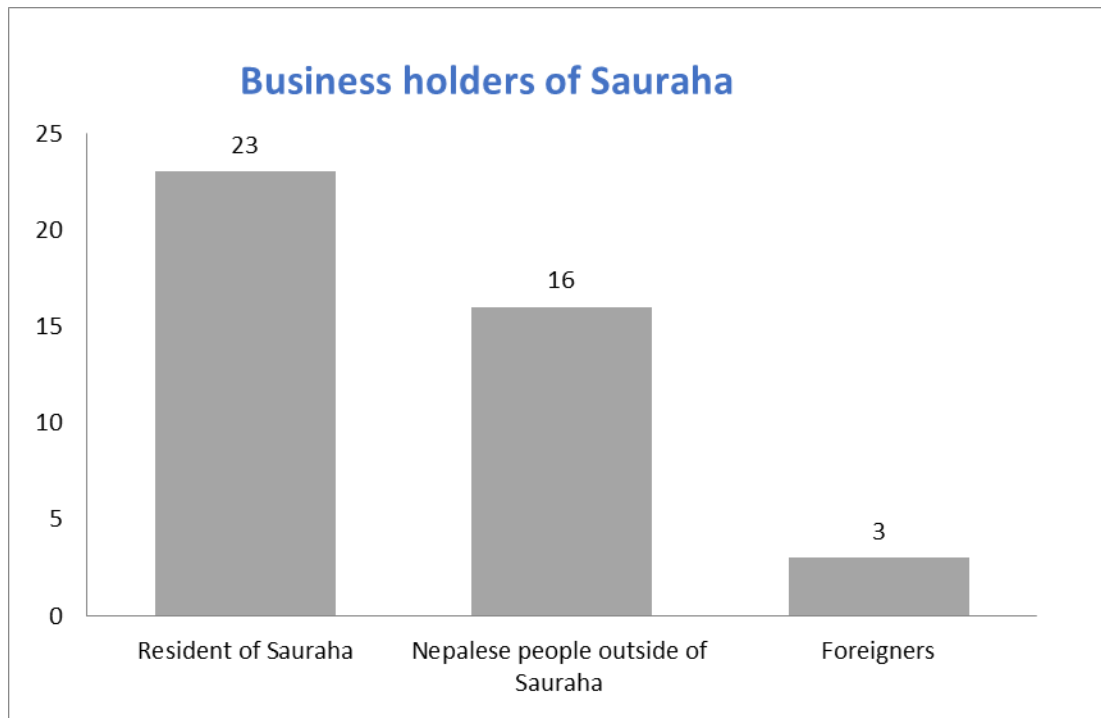
GRAPH 15: Major age groups of tourists and visitors in Sauraha and Chitwan National Park

The given bar diagram (graph 15) describes the number of tourists according to their age group, who are visiting Sauraha and Chitwan National Park. Among the 42 surveyees, 24 of them were adults, 11 of them were teenagers, 4 of them were children and only 3 of them ticked senior citizens. Now showing them in percentages, 57% of the tourists are adults, 26% of the tourists are teenagers, these two groups have occupied the largest numbers and the minimum percentages of 10% and 7% each are children and senior citizens of the visitors and tourists in Sauraha and Chitwan National Park as per the surveyees.



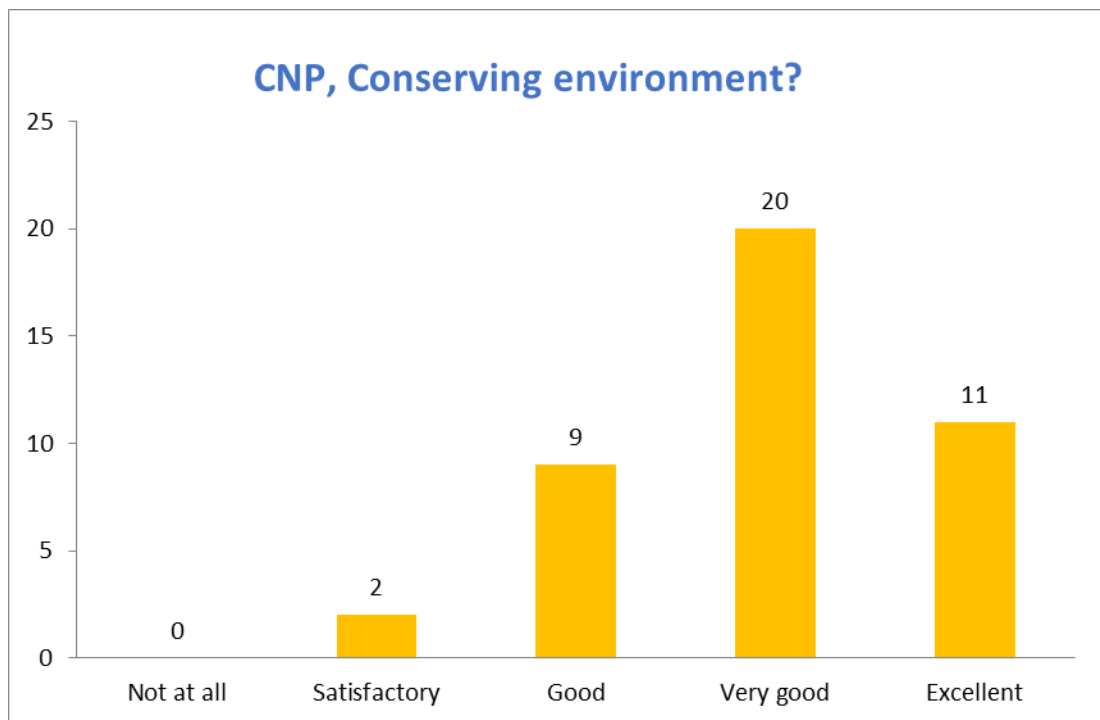
GRAPH 16. Local people benefited from Chitwan National Park

The above bar diagram (graph 16) demonstrates the numbers and percentages of local people getting benefited from the Chitwan National Park. Among the 42 surveyees, 34 of them being the highest number, selected "Yes" and only 8 of them selected "No". Converting them into percentages 81% of the surveyees ticked the yes box and the remaining 19% of the surveyees selected the no box during the survey. National parks are not always beneficial to everyone although they have positive aspects.



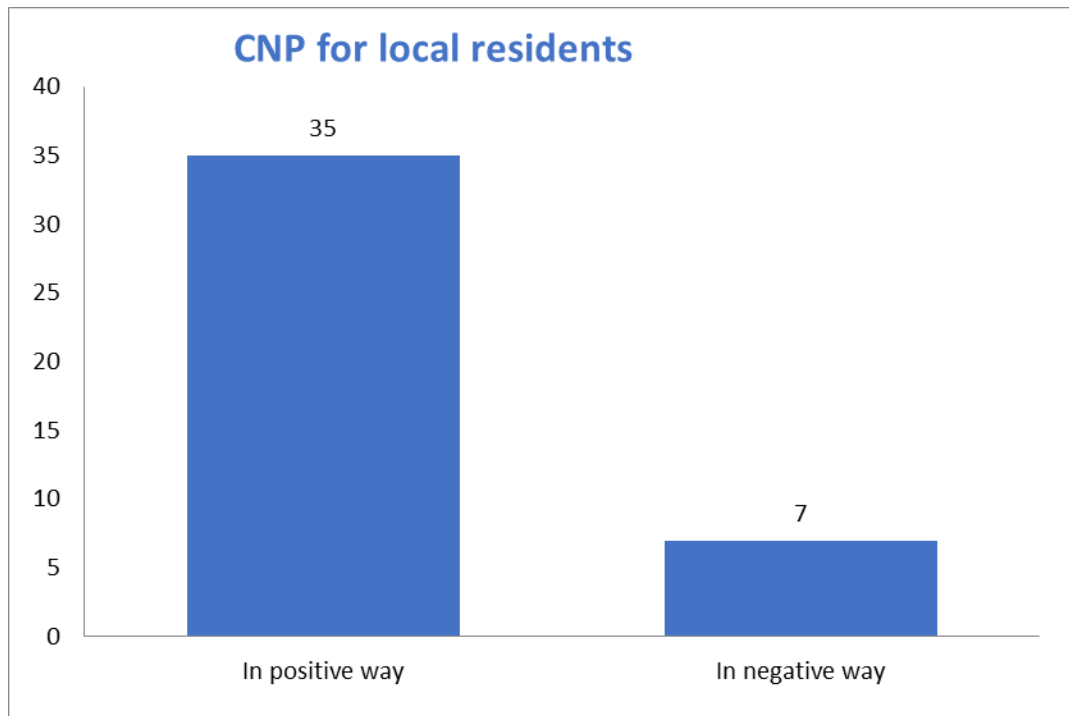
GRAPH 17. Business holders of Sauraha

The above bar diagram (graph 17) shows the business holders of Sauraha. Among the 42 surveyees, 23 of them being the highest number chose for "Resident of Sauraha" as the main business holders, 16 of them chose "Nepalese people outside of Sauraha" and only 3 surveyees chose Foreigners. So it defines that 55% of business holders are local people of Sauraha, 37% of them are Nepalese people outside of Sauraha and covering only 7% of the business holders were foreigners.



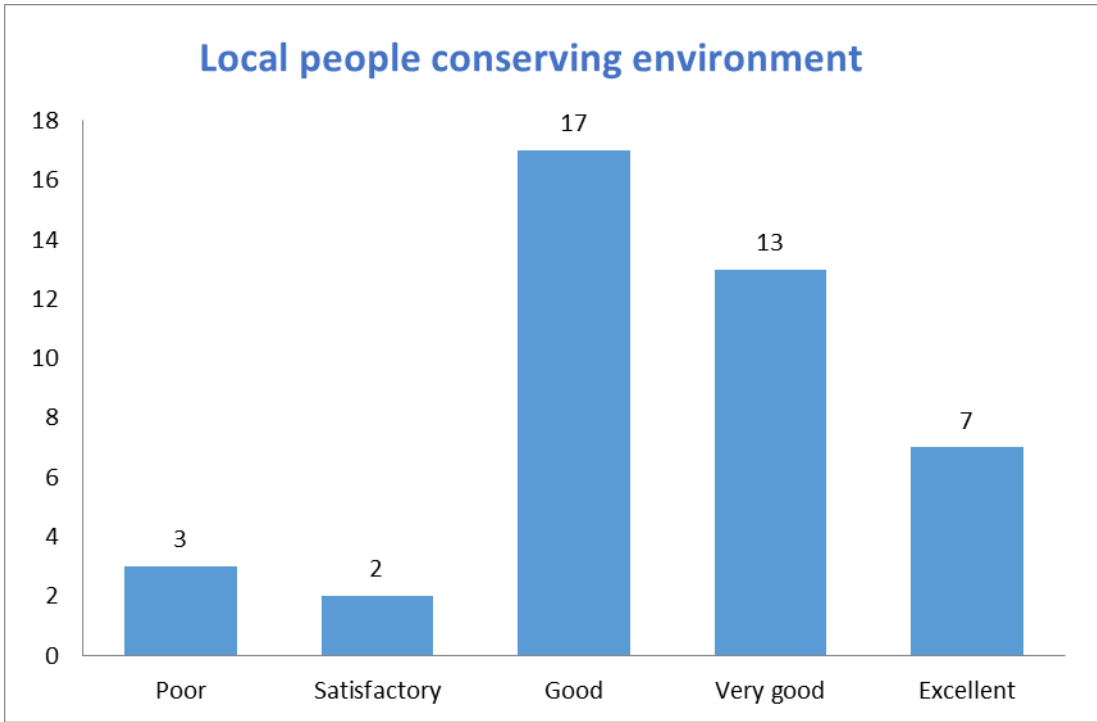
GRAPH 18. Role of Chitwan National Park, conserving environment

The above bar diagram (graph 18) represents the role of Chitwan National Park in terms of conserving environment. Among the 42 surveyees, 2 of the surveyees chose "Satisfactory", 9 of them chose "Good", the highest number 20 of them went for "Very good" and 11 of the surveyees chose "Excellent". The highest percentage of 48% "Very good" took the first place, 26% "Excellent", 21% "Good", 5% "satisfactory" and 0% "Not at all". National parks and conservation area are always better and more active to conserve the environment, they create a friendly home environment for all living on the earth.



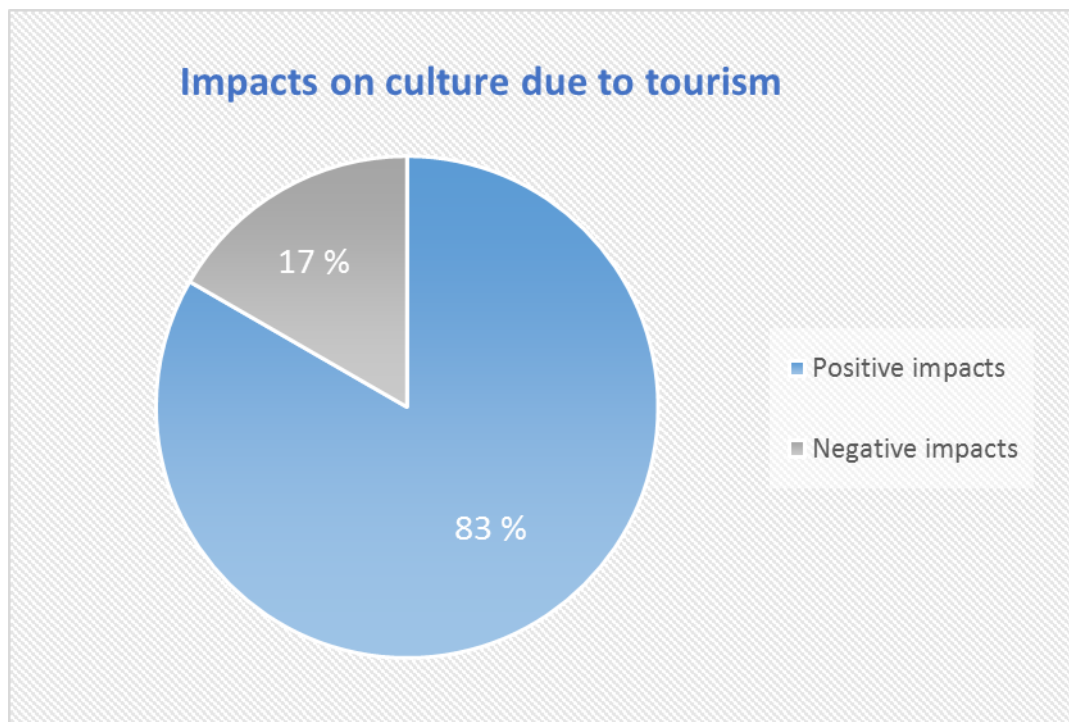
GRAPH 19. Chitwan National Park for local residents

The bar diagram (graph 19) given illustrates the response of local people in which way they find the Chitwan National Park. As per the 42 surveyees, 35 surveyees marked that the locals take it in a positive way, whereas 7 of the surveyees marked in that local take it in a negative way. Having 83% the response "in a positive way" was the highest number and percentage so having 17% of the responses of the surveyees was "in a negative way". The national park has acted as blessing to large numbers of people but sometimes it can act as a curse to some people.



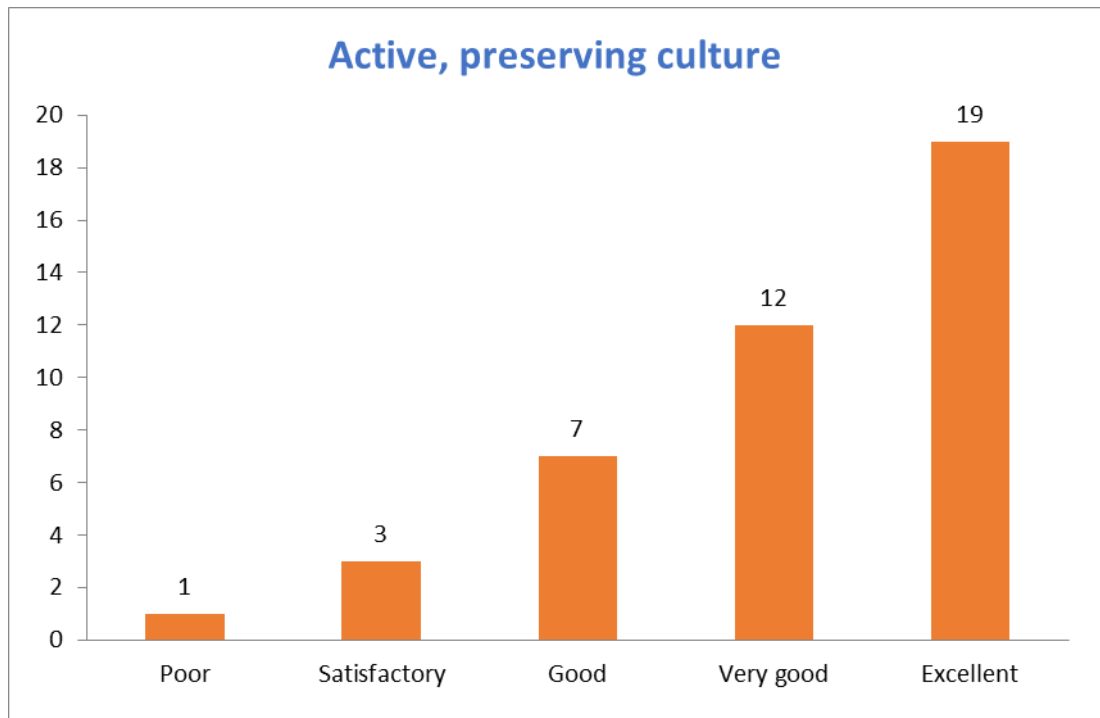
GRAPH 20. Local people conserving environment

The bar diagram (graph 20) above shows, how active local people of Sauraha are to conserve the environment. As per the survey among 42 people, 3 of the surveyees marked poor, 2 of them marked satisfactory, the highest number 17 of them marked good, 13 of the surveyees marked very good and lastly 7 of the surveyees marked excellent. Covering 40%, the surveyees marked “Good” as the highest bar and covering only 5% “Satisfactory” was marked as the lowest one. Conserving environment refers to saving yourself and your future, engaging in this field is a positive factor.



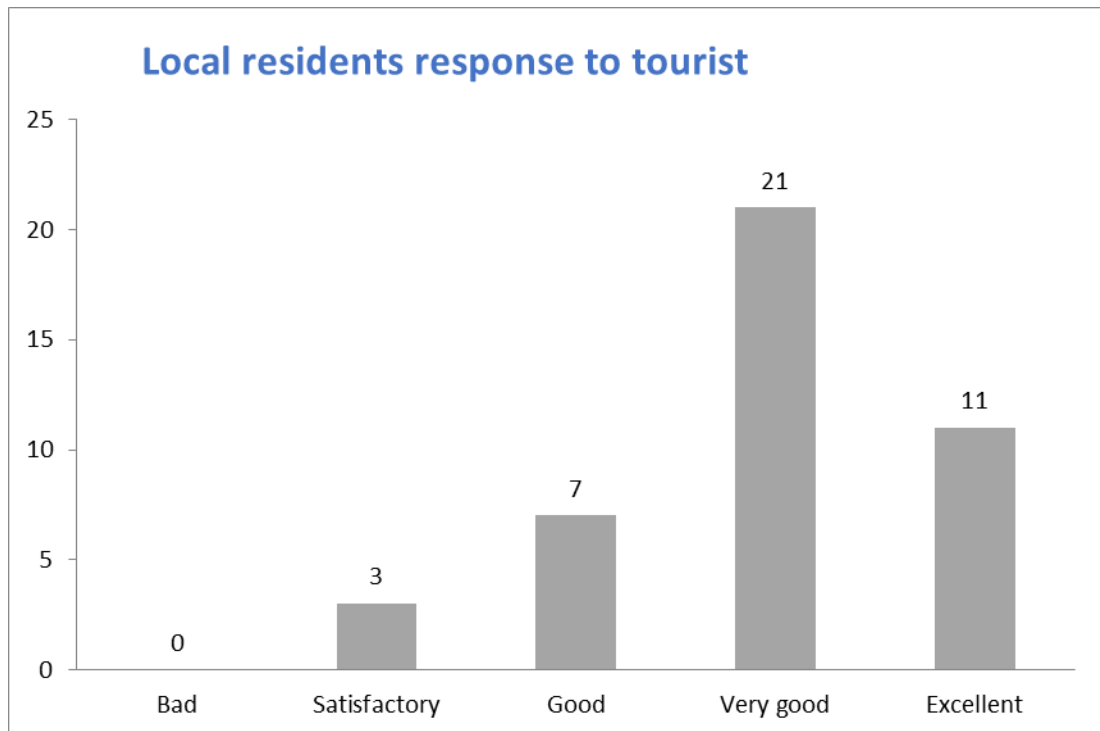
GRAPH 21. Impacts on culture

The above pie chart (graph 21) describes the impacts caused by tourism in Sauraha. As per the survey 83% of the surveyees think that positive impacts are caused due to tourism in Sauraha, at the same time 17% of the surveyees chose negative impacts due to the flow of tourism in Sauraha. Among 42 surveyees, 35 of them chose positive impacts and 7 of them were in the favour of negative impacts. It is like two sides of a single coin, some people may be benefited through various ways and some people can be in trouble due to tourism flow in their community.



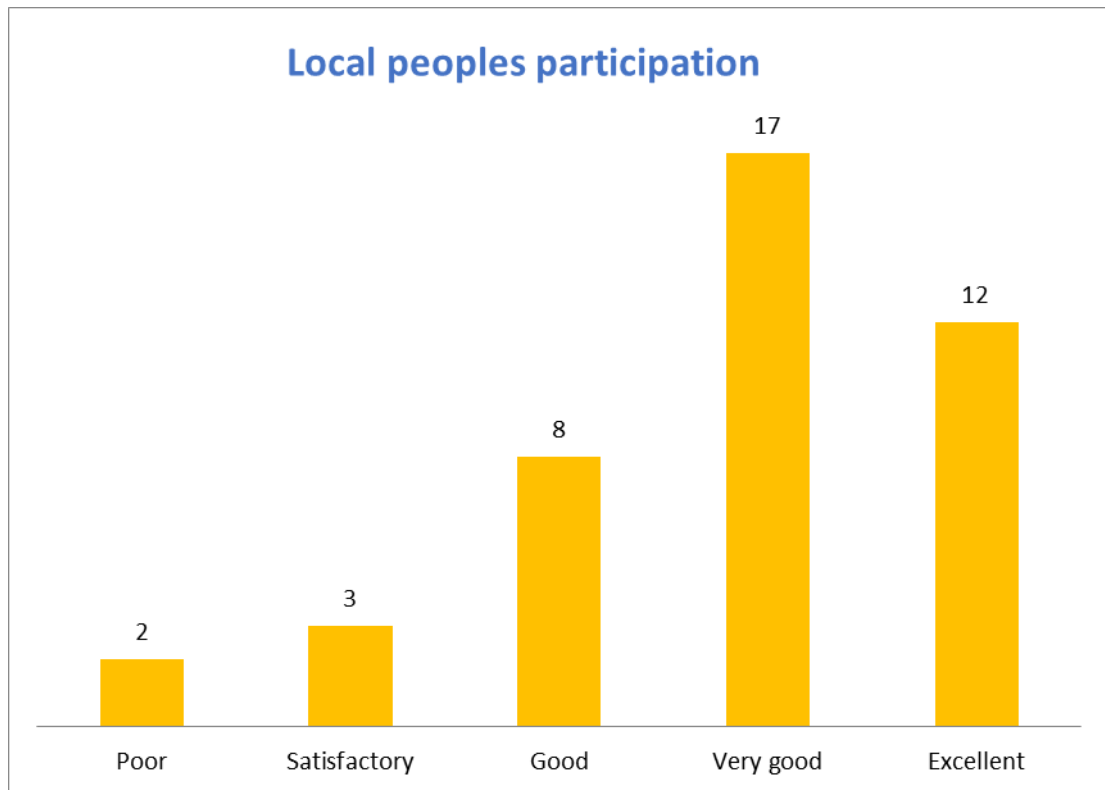
GRAPH 22. Local people's participation preserving their culture

The above bar diagram (graph. 22) shows how active the local people of Sauraha are to preserve their culture. Among the 42 surveyees, the least number 1 of them marked "Poor", 3 of them marked "Satisfactory", 7 of them marked "Good", 12 of them marked "Very good" and the highest number 19 of them marked "Excellent". As per the percentages, 45% of the surveyees marking "Excellent" are in the top bar and 2% marking "Poor" have the minimum number and are at the bottom bar.



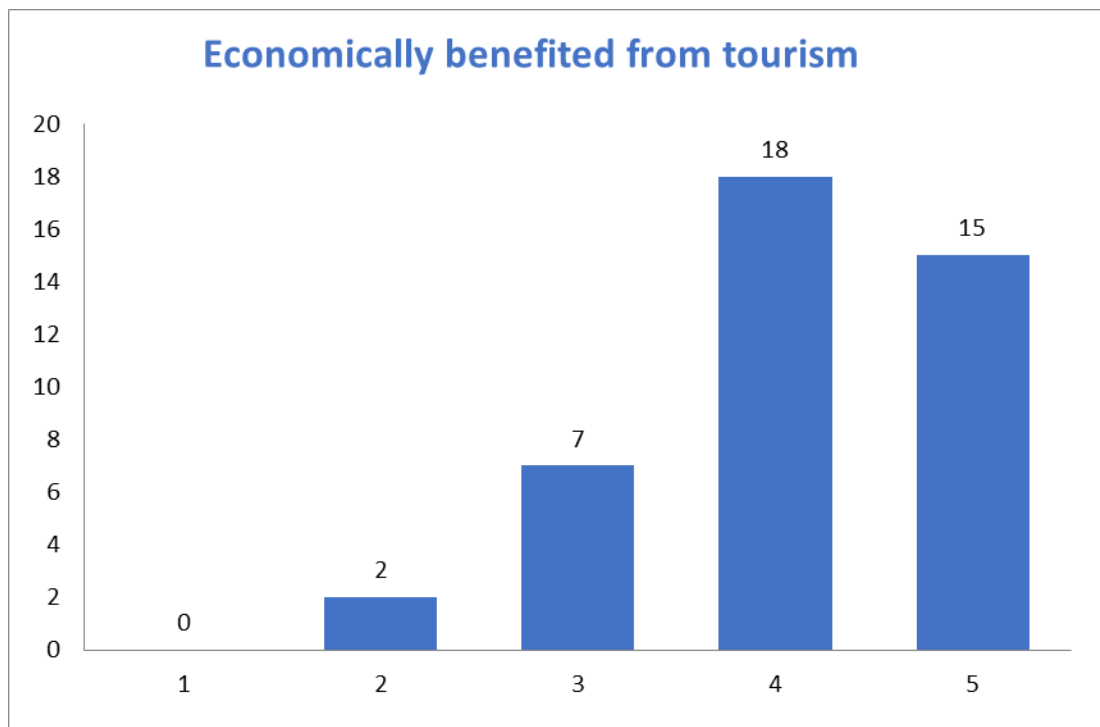
GRAPH 23. Local resident's response to tourists

The bar diagram (graph. 23) above represents the response of local residents towards tourists. The results are the outcome of the survey, among the 42 surveyees, none of them marked "Bad", 3 of the surveyees marked "Satisfactory", 7 of them marked "Good", the highest number, 21 of the surveyees, marked "Very good" and 11 of the surveyees marked "Excellent". As per the surveyees, 50% of the local residents behave in a very good manner towards the tourist. A guest is treated well in Nepal.



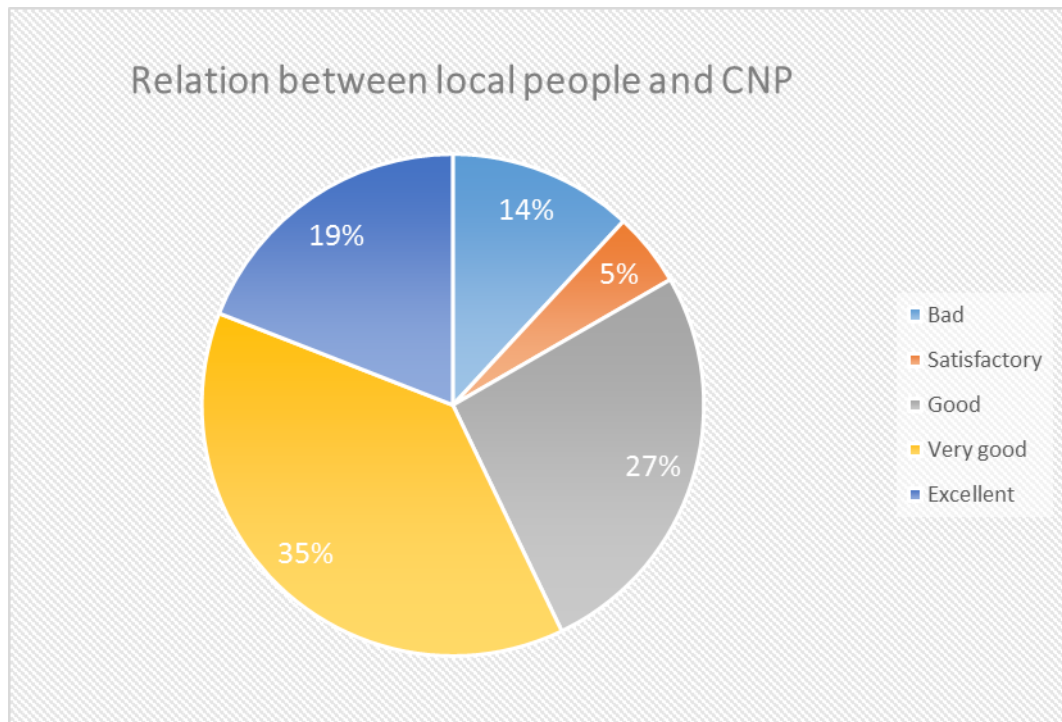
GRAPH 24. Local people's participation to maintain healthy tourism environment

The bar diagram (graph 24) above describes the participation to maintain a healthy tourism environment in Sauraha of the local residents. Among the 42 surveyees, the highest number, 17 of them, think that they are very good at maintaining the healthy environment, 12 of them think that they have been excellent in this area, 8 of them think that they are good and 3 and 2 each of the surveyees simultaneously think that they are satisfactory and poor to maintain a healthy tourism environment. 40% of the people think that the local residents of Sauraha are very good and active to main the healthy tourism environment whereas only 4% of the surveyees think that the local people are poor in this matter.



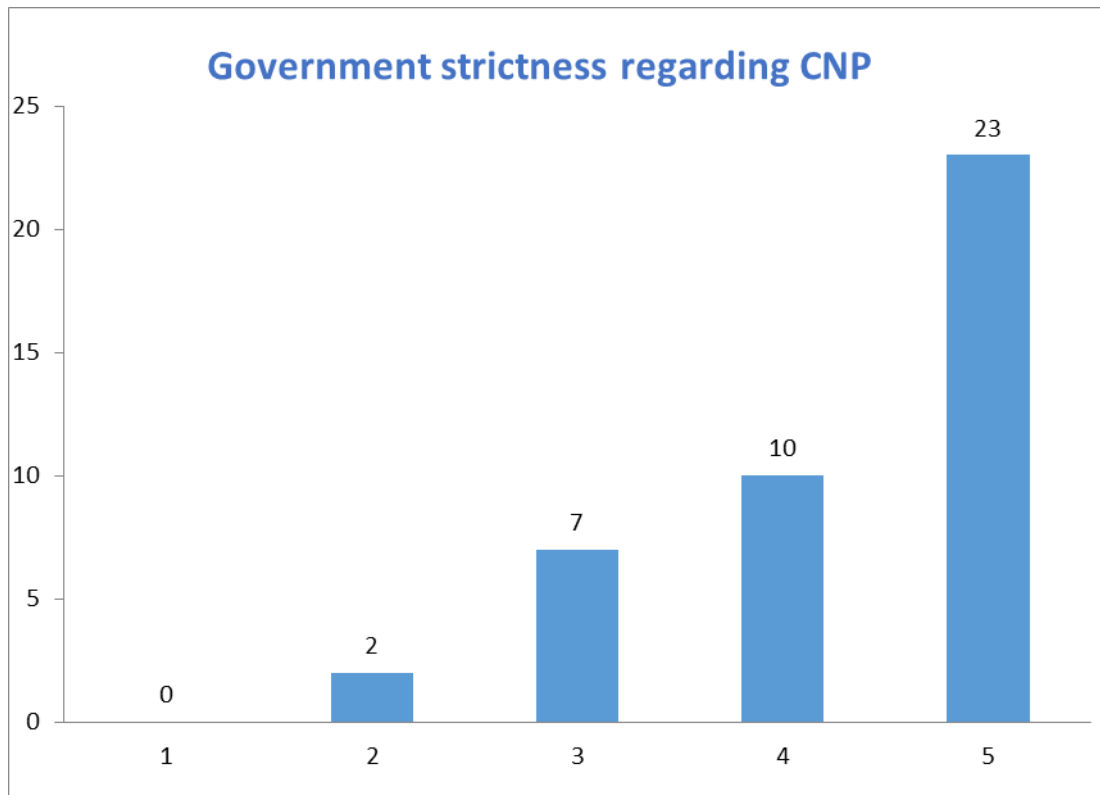
GRAPH 25. Economically benefited from tourism

The above bar diagram (graph 25) illustrates, in which category the local people of Sauraha have economically benefited through the tourism industry and tourists. From 1 to 5, where 1 refers to not at all and 5 refers to extremely benefited, among the 42 surveyees, no one marked 1, 2 of the surveyees marked 2, 7 of them marked to 3, with the highest number 18 of the surveyees marked number 4 and lastly 15 of them marked number 5 which is extremely benefited. 43% of the surveyees marked number 4 and 36% of them chose number five, which expresses that the locals have been extremely benefited from the tourists and tourism industry.



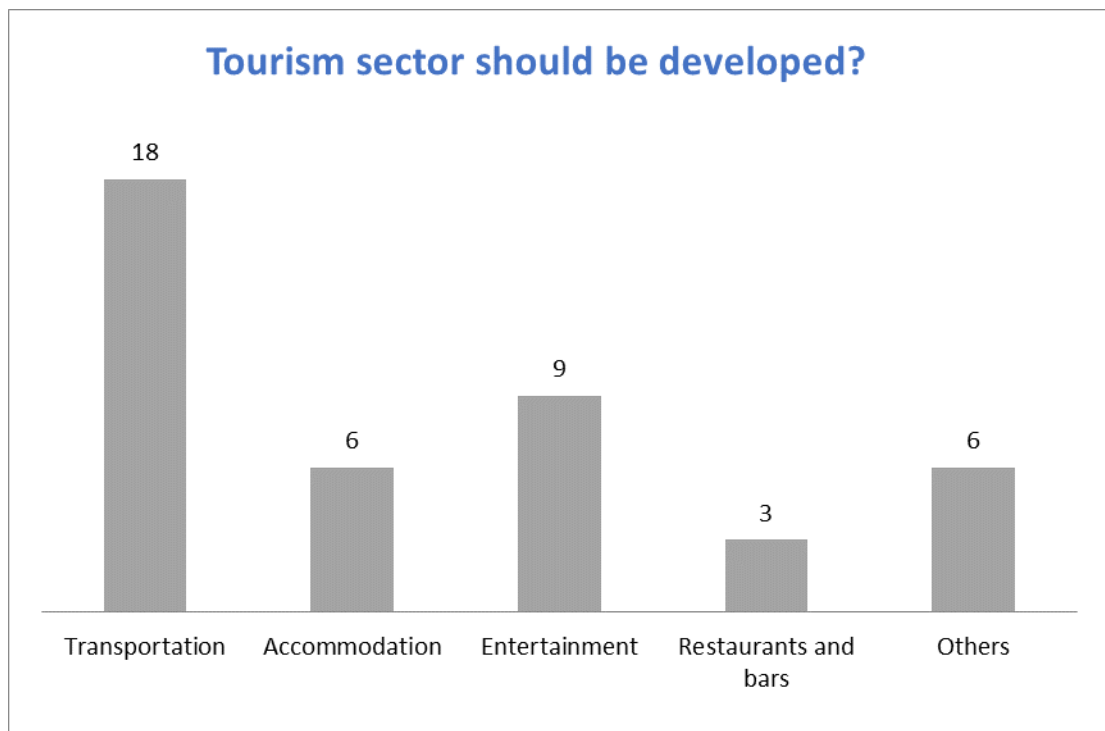
GRAPH 26. Relationship between local people and Chitwan National Park

The above pie chart (graph 26) describes the relationship between local people of Sauraha and Chitwan National Park. As per the surveyees of 42 people, 14% of them think it is bad, 5% of the surveyees think it is satisfactory, 27% of them think the relation is good, 35% with the highest percentage think that it is very good and 19% of the surveyees think that it is an excellent relation between the locals of Sauraha and Chitwan National Park. The highest number, 16 think that the relation is good whereas the minimum number, only 2 surveyees, think the relation is satisfactory between the locals of Sauraha and Chitwan National Park.



GRAPH 27. Strictness of government regarding Chitwan National Park.

The given bar diagram (graph 27) explains the strictness of Nepal government regarding Chitwan National Park. Grading 1-5, where one refers to “not at all” and 5 refers to “extremely strict”. Among the 42 surveyees 23 of them marked 5 which represents “extremely strict” and was the highest number. 10 of them marked 4, seven of the surveyees marked 2 and there was none who marked 1. 55% of the surveyees think that the government of Nepal is very strict regarding the rule and regulation of the Chitwan National Park, whereas 5% of the surveyees think the government is less strict regarding Chitwan National Park.



GRAPH 28. Tourism sector should be developed in Sauraha

The above bar diagram (graph 28) illustrates the tourism sector, which should be developed in Sauraha. Among the 42 surveyees, 18 of the surveyees think that the good infrastructure should be built for the transportation and more facilities should be provided in terms of transportation, this was the highest feedback. 6 of them believe that the sector of accommodation should be developed and proper hospitality service should be given. 9 of them gave priority to the entertainment and think that this sector should be upgraded. The minimum number, 3 of them, think that the sector of restaurants and bars should be developed. Lastly 6 of the surveyees were able to choose others and they have given some other sectors which should be developed in Sauraha, they think that the security system should be very tight for the safety of tourists. The rules and regulations of the Chitwan National Park should be also very strict, even the guards of the national park should be strong enough to stop illegal activities and attract tourists.

7. CONCLUSION

The idea of choosing the topic and giving the title “Ecotourism as a feasible development model” and “Sauraha and Chitwan National Park” as case study was because the subject itself was very inspiring and motivating. The procedure of the thesis writing was very effective, informative and productive. Knowing the impact of ecotourism and its further future was very satisfying and knowing about the past and current situation of Sauraha and Chitwan National Park, also expecting the future of Sauraha and Chitwan National Park was very interesting and satisfying.

In terms of concluding the major findings and points of the thesis with a general recap, ecotourism is growing and being more popular. It has a major impact on local economy as well as on global economy. Ecotourism plays a vital role to preserve environment and socio culture of a particular area comparing to other tourism industry. The ecosystem is being polluted and the different impacts are affecting the culture. To make tourism industry more authentic ecotourism has been very successful. Even though ecotourism has some negative impacts, it is being more popular and ecotourism industry is in a growing form. The people of Sauraha have been benefited through various factors due to the prospects of Ecotourism in Chitwan National Park. The local community has benefited economically, socially and from the environmental point of view, most people are taking advantages. The local residents of Sauraha, Chitwan National Park, tourism business holders and the Government of Nepal have been very active to conserve environment, preserve flora, fauna and to protect the culture and traditions.

The aim of the thesis was to find the impact of ecotourism, to point out the opportunities created by ecotourism in tourism industry. Ecotourism has been able to maintain the economy, environment and culture. This made safer feeling to the locals and nature, when travellers were more satisfied. The written theoretical part

defines the importance of ecotourism and the roles of the local people, travellers, and government. They have their different roles in the sector of ecotourism industry. According to the case study and research method, the author has managed to reveal various issues and relations between visitors, local people of Sauraha, tourism business holders and Chitwan National Park. The chapter clearly describes the outcome of the questionnaire and shows the data as per the survey. The survey portion of the thesis clarifies various issues, problems and opportunities of ecotourism in Sauraha and Chitwan National Park. The ecotourism in Chitwan National Park has made a vast change for the development in the small village of Chitwan. The small village of Chitwan, Sauraha has been able to experience the modernization, value of culture and environment only because of Chitwan National Park. The theoretical framework of the thesis described the importance of ecotourism for the development in Sauraha and a role model for Chitwan National Park to conserve environment. The empirical part of the thesis included the quantitative research method; the survey reveals the current situation of ecotourism and protected areas of Nepal.

Talking about the research procedure, the whole process has been a very fruitful and valuable experience to the author. Collecting data and dealing with people for the survey have increased the confidence level and knowledge of the author. The author believes that knowledge gained by this research would be very useful to work in the related field later. The author hopes that the report would be very useful for the residents of Sauraha, tourists travelling to Chitwan and to the government of Nepal for further planning.

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APPENDICES

The major aim of the survey is to research the workable idea and solved the problems of Sauraha and Chitwan National Park caused by flow of tourist, mainly focused on authentic sustainable ecotourism. This survey is research part of thesis of author Mr. Prabin Gurung. The main purpose of this thesis is to find out the major points of strength, weakness, opportunities and threats to the Sauraha and Chitwan National Park due to the ecotourism. Little contribution with interest from the respondent would be much praised. As information, result given by respondents will be kept very confidentially and would not be misused.

SURVEYOR: PRABIN GURUNG (DPT12)

1. Gender

- Male
 Female

2. Age

- Below 20
 20-30
 31-40
 Above 40

3. Nationality

- Nepalese
 Others

4. Purpose of visiting Sauraha.

- Resident of Sauraha
- Visiting Friends and Relatives
- Research
- Leisure Purpose
- Work
- Others

5. Is this your first visit to Sauraha and Chitwan National Park?

- Yes No

6. Purpose of visiting Chitwan National Park

- Research
- Leisure
- Educational tour
- Work
- Others

7. Duration of Stay, in Sauraha?

- Permanent Resident
- Few days
- Few weeks
- About years

8. From where did you know about Sauraha and Chitwan National Park

- Friends and Relatives
- Internet
- Televisions
- Newspapers
- Others

9. How is the flow and crowd of tourist in Sauraha and Chitwan National Park?
(1= very low and 5= very high flow)

1 2 3 4 5

10. Who are the major visitors and tourist in Sauraha and Chitwan National Park?

Domestic tourists and visitors
 International tourists and Visitors

11. Which age group tourists and visitors are mostly seen in Sauraha and Chitwan National Park?

Children's
 Teenagers
 Adults
 Seniors Citizens

12. Are local resident of Sauraha economically benefited due to Chitwan National Park?

Yes
 No

13. Who are the tourism businesses Holders in Sauraha?

Resident of Sauraha
 Nepalese People outside of Sauraha
 Foreigners

14. How do you grade Chitwan National Park is helping to conserve the Environment?

- Not at all
- Satisfactory
- Good
- Very good
- Excellent

15. How do local people take Chitwan National Park?

- In positive way
- In negative way

16. How active are local people to conserve environment?

- Poor
- Satisfactory
- Good
- Very good
- Excellent

17. What kind of impact is causing in culture due to flow of tourist in Sauraha?

- Positive impacts
- Negative impacts

18. How active are local people preserving their own culture?

- Poor
- Satisfactory
- Good
- Very good
- Excellent

19. In which manner local people respond and treat to tourist and visitor?

- Bad
- Satisfactory
- Good
- Very good
- Excellent

20. How is the participation level of the local people of Sauraha to maintain healthy tourism environment?

- Poor
- Satisfactory
- Good
- Very good
- Excellent

21. Are local people benefited through tourism economically? (1=not at all, 5=extremely benefited)

- 1 2 3 4 5

22. How is the relation between local people and government representing Chitwan National Park?

- Bad
- Satisfactory
- Good
- Very good
- Excellent

23. How strict is government of Nepal regarding rule and regulation of Chitwan National Park? (1=not at all, 5=extremely strict)

- 1 2 3 4 5

24. Which sector of tourism should be more developed in Sauraha?

- Transportation
- Accommodation
- Entertainment
- Restaurants and bars
- Others (please suggest) _____

Please feel free to write, what are the lack and weakness and what should be done to flourish authentic tourism industry in Sauraha and Chitwan National Park?

Thank you for your precious time and co-operation