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## Development and Growth of Tourism Industry in Nepal

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### **Abstract**

*Tourism provides employment opportunities, higher income, national and international understanding, growth centres in the interior and the removal of regional disparities and higher foreign exchanges thereby redressing the balance of payment situation. The movement of people from the main land China and Tibet and from India was found in the pre-historic age. According to the nature of the research objectives, the qualitative and quantitative research design is adopted in this study. The booming Nepalese tourism industry owes its rise to Boris Lissanevitch a Russian emerge who visited Nepal in, when Nepal was still a forbidden mountain kingdom, a Shangri-La out of bounds to the western tourist". Tourism in Nepal has contributed to reduce the negative balance of payment by providing the foreign exchange. The promotion of tourism in the true sense has started more or less only since the beginning of 1960 although the door to foreigners was opened towards the end of 1950's. Since then concrete steps have been taken to promote and develop tourism. The tourism industry will require a government bailout. This is because many tourism stakeholders were in a weak financial state which was further exacerbated by COVID-19 pandemic. Even though, to revive the tourism business continuing the government of Nepal has to come out with relief Package cooperating with the tourism entrepreneur of Nepal. Government need to promote domestic destinations and offer suitable package and offer for domestic tourists with safety and security.*

**Keywords:** Tourism, accommodation, travel, archeological, promotion, employment, foreign exchange, Pilgrimage

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### **Introduction**

Tourism is a pollution free industry, which produces a large number of social and economic benefits. It provides employment opportunities, higher income, national and international

understanding, growth centres in the interior and the removal of regional disparities and higher foreign exchanges thereby redressing the balance of payment situation (Kayastha, 1997). As a landscape industry, it promotes tourists interest with the consumption of tourist landscape (Paudel, 1996). The geopolitical, as well as the economic situation require new strategies. Technological innovations, demographic change and a powerful customer have to meet in politics, marketing and planning. Variation in the natural landscape of Nepal which consists of the valleys, tars, river basins and plains (Tarai) in the south, and the Himalayan peaks in the north and the eye catching panorama of the hill in the centre add a great flavor for tourists. The growth of tourism has created a new expectation for the development of the majority of the urban and rural areas in Nepal and has introduced a new element of dynamism in the system of settlements. This has led us to conduct this investigation to verify empirically and statistically. Similarly, the relationship between the function of tourism, population growth and the socio-economic development can also be visualized from the present study.

Goodall (1995) said that tourists are the consumers of the environment and tourism is an environment dependent industry. To some extent, tourism is helpful to the change of climate, however, it is also affected by the change of climate. The climate change may increase the severity and frequency of storms and severe weather events, which can have disastrous effects on tourism. Some of the other impacts that the world is at risk is owing to the global warming which may cause drought, diseases and heat waves. The impact made by tourism depends upon the volume and profile characteristic of the tourists (Zulfikar, 1998). Tourism and the environment are correlated with each other, the environment benefits from tourism and tourism is benefited from the environment. The growth of tourism has created a new expectation for the development of the majority of urbanity and rural markets in many parts of the world due to which a new element of dynamism in the system of settlements has been evolved. Fostering environment-friendly tourism has implications for the type of tourism being promoted and the quality of services being provided (SAIC/NEW ERA, 1998). The environmentally sensitive areas should be looked carefully so that it will be easy to prevent from the negative impacts of environment (Zurick, 1992; Stevens, 1993; Karan et al 1994). Due to natural attractions, tourists visit the places. Satyal (2000) takes pleasure in presenting and highlighting a section of the most significant accomplishments in the development of tourism in Nepal. Men mould raw materials, not a resource to be consumed.

The growth of tourism has created a new form of development in the urban and rural settlements in Nepal. Such a new system of the human habitation has persuaded the government to think over the former planning of the urban areas in different parts of the country. This has led us to conduct the investigation showing the relationship between the function of tourism, population growth and the socio-economic development, and taking into account the types of tourist activities, which are dominant. The interaction of tourism, is with the physical as well as the cultural environment (Cater, 1995). Tourism planning should be performed in such a perfect way that it should promote the orderly development and increase the social, economic and environmental harmony and benefit (Baud & Lawson, 1977). Otherwise, growth of tourism

industry in an unsystematic way threatens the environmental damage (Goodall, 1995). Attractions are key icons in destination marketing efforts and they are frequently used to spearhead regeneration projects and new developments (Jafari et al., 2012, Leask, 2010). Arguably, visitor attractions play a pivotal role in the appeal of tourism destinations because they act as motivators for both local and leisure based travel (Leask, 2010, Shaw and Williams, 2004, Weaver and Lawton, 2007). Edelheim (2015) refers to visitor attractions as contributing to the narratives of place identity and adding meaning to visitor experiences. An inclusive approach to commercial and non-commercial settings is underpinned by the view that the term attraction refers to “a named site with a specific human or natural feature which is the focus of visitor and management attention” (Pearce, 1991).

Tourism means the act of moving from one place to another for various motives. Man does not like to stay permanently at one place. This roaming tendency in man impels him to travel to different places of the world, which involves trouble and expense in return for the opportunity of visiting new places and seeing things for themselves (Thapa & Thapa, 1969). Tourism refers to the business of providing travel, accommodation, food entertainment for the people who are on travel, tours, trade, etc. It is a phenomenon where a number of people meet one another at a particular area, locality site, place etc. (Zulfiker, 1998). Tourism industry is composed to those sectors of the economy providing services such as accommodation, food, beverages, transportation and recreation, as well as the associated distribution and sales services. The economic health of the tourism industry depends on the value and pattern of its customers, use of a large variety of facilities and services and it counts both local residents and all classes of visitors catered to by the industry.

## **Methods and Materials**

According to the nature of the research objectives, the qualitative and quantitative research design is adopted in this study. Qualitative research takes an interpretative, naturalist approach to its subject matter. Quantitative data was archived from different related office & qualitative researchers study things in their natural setting, attempting to make phenomena in terms of meaning that people bring to them.

## **Discussion**

### **Evolution of Tourism in Nepal**

The history of tourism industry in Nepal is not new. The evolution of tourism in Nepal is classified in two ways:

#### **a) Tourism before the Unification Campaign**

The movement of people from the main land China and Tibet and from India was found in the pre-historic age. These people travelled to Kathmandu for the business point of view. The

archeological excavation done in the Neolithic ages can prove this. Much evidence has been found about the travel of people during the ancient period. According to Buddhist chronology Bipaswi Buddha, Bishwo Buddha and Manjushree came to the Kathmandu Valley and Manjushree drained the water of the valley and made suitable for settlement (Regmi, 1960). Similarly, the Shiva chronology stated that lord Krishna came to the Kathmandu valley and killed Bhandashur and started the rule of Gopal dynasty in Kathmandu (Regmi, 1960). Similarly, Aahir and Kirant dynasty also ruled the Kathmandu valley coming from outside. It is said that during the rule of Jitedasti, Gautam Buddha visited the Kathmandu valley and stayed to the south of Swayambu in Yuddhagrah chaitya, which is mentioned in the Buddhist chronology (Sharma, 1975). During the 4<sup>th</sup> B.C the book called “Kautilyas Arthasastra” has mentioned the wool and blanket of Nepal which were sold in the market of Maghad, India (Sharma, 1975). It shows that Chanakya has visited Nepal during that period and trade was started between Nepal and India which also indicate the promotion of tourism in Nepal (Levi, 1905). The Buddhist mythology also stated that in the past emperor Asoka of India erected a pillar in Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha. After the visit of Ashoka pilgrimage tourism was spread in the Tarai region of our country. Similarly, the Mithila art and craft has also attracted a large number of tourists in Janakpur (Kande, 1980). The open border between Nepal and India from the ancient time has induced the people of both countries to visit and follow the Hinduism and Buddhism.

History shows that during the rise of Lichchavi period the real information of tourist was found. The Lichchavi ruler themselves migrated from Vaisali of India. During the Licchhavi rule the Chinese traveler Fa-Hian and Huiyen -Tsang travelled to Lumbini in 637 A.D. In 646 AD, the representative of Chinese Emperor Li-Y-Pio and in 646 AD a group of messengers with the leader Bang Huen came from China to Nepal to meet Lichchavi King Amshuverma (Levi, 1905). After this visit of the Chinese representative Bhrikuti - the princess of Nepal was married to Chinese prince Tsrang-Tsrong Gampo. After this marriage the relation between Nepal and China was strengthened and the trade was started between both the countries, which motivates the people to travel to both the countries.

After the Lichchavi rule, the Malla rule started in Nepal and many pilgrimage centers were developed, so the people from India and Tibet started to travel in Nepal. After the start of the Malla rule, the preachers of various religions started to travel to Nepal. In 1628 AD, Portugal citizen Jao-Cabrall travelled to Nepal via Bhutan. In 1662 AD, father John Gruber, Albert Dorivle visited Kathmandu. Likewise, in 1722 AD, the king of Kantipur (present Kathmandu) had permitted the Christian missionary to visit Nepal. So, father Desidri, Felice Damontechiu and Tranquillo D' Apectaio visited Kathmandu (Chhetri & Raimajhi, 2001).

### **b) Tourism Development after Unification up to 1950 AD**

After the rise of Prithvi Narayan Shah the Europeans started to visit Kathmandu to preach the Christian religion. During this period, many Nepalese travelled to India. Prithvi Narayan Shah

himself travelled to Banaras. In 1772 AD, Abdul Kadir Khan and Mislei Dargon visited the Kathmandu valley. In 1801, Captain Nox along with 50 Europeans visited Nepal, which is mentioned in the book "An Account of the Kingdom of Nepal" written by Kirk Patrick a British commander during Anglo-Nepal war. The Anglo Nepal war of 1814-1816 AD came to end after signing the Sugauli Treaty which had permitted the Anglo Indian to open the British Embassy in Kathmandu. From that period, many British people travel to Kathmandu. It has been found that from 1801 to 1844 the total number of foreigners who entered Nepal was 153. Among these only one lady, the wife of British resident Henry Lawrence visited Kathmandu (Chhetri & Raimajhi, 2001).

After the rise of Junga Bahadur Rana in 1846 AD, the tourism history has taken a new turn. It is because in 1850 Junga Bahadur Rana himself with his some followers travelled as a tourist by crossing the Suez Canal and moved to Cairo, Alexandria, Gibraltar and to the United Kingdom. His group returned to Nepal via France and India visiting the different pilgrim's center of India (Chettri & Raimajhi, 2001).

During the rule of Prithvi Narayan Shah Haridev Pandit and Jamdagni Upadhyay had opportunity to travel to Lhasa which assisted to promote tourism. Likewise, during the rule of Pratap Singh Shah under the leadership of Keharsingh Basnet a group of delegates went to Tibet to start the trade between Tibet and Nepal in an organized form. After the visit of Junga Bahadur, he had given much more emphasis for tourists who visited Nepal. Many types of facilities were implemented during his period. To take permission from the government of Nepal to visit her was also 'started during the rule of Junga Bahadur' (Satyal, 1988).

### **c) Development of Tourism from 1950 to 2008**

Tourism, considered as an important industry in Nepal, opened up when the country's political equation changed in 1950 after the Delhi agreement and isolation from the rest of the world ended and Nepal became the member of United Nations Organization. The establishment of Gaucharan airport (Tribhuvan airport) air services was started and the first airway which was landed in Kathmandu was "The Indian National Airways" in 1951. In 1953, Nepal Air Commercial Agency started its air service in Nepal. The opening of the Tribhuvan Highway between Kathmandu and Raxaul at the border with India started in 1956. From this time, Indian tourists started to visit Kathmandu. After taking these advantages, the Tourist Department of the then His Majesty's Government opened The Nepal Tourist Development Center in 1957. Tourist Information Service Centers were also set up in different places to give essential information and co-operation to tourists. Books, posters and pamphlets about the important places and sights to the country have been published. To supply the want of skilled guides, training has been given to the youths in the tourist centres like Pokhara, Nagarkot, Lumbini, Daman, and Kakani.

In 1958, Indian Airlines started international flight from Kathmandu-Patna and Delhi. In 1958 itself the then His Majesty's Govt. established Nepal Airlines Corporation. Similarly, in the

same year separate organizations to promote tourism activity were created in the form of the Tourism Development Board, Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation Department in Kathmandu. Further, Nepal became a member of several international tourists associations. After this diplomatic relations with other nations further accentuated the tourism activities. The hotel industry, travel agencies, training of tourist guides and targeted publicity campaigns are the chief reasons attributed for the remarkable growth of this industry in Nepal in general and in Kathmandu in particular. Nepal has ancient history of tourists' arrival. So far, Sir Edmund Hillary and his travel companion in 1953 from the British Mt Everest expedition were among the first foreigners to visit the region. Presently, this area is one of the Himalaya's leading centers for mountaineering and trekking tourism, as well as a national park (Sagarmatha National Park), and a World Heritage (Stanley, 1993). "The booming Nepalese tourism industry owes its rise to Boris Lissanevitch a Russian emerge, when Nepal was still a forbidden mountain kingdom, a Shangri-La out of bounds to the western tourist" (Himalaya, 2008). Himalaya (2008) also mentioned that late King Tribhuvan was acquainted with his Club- Club 300 in Kolkata and Boris was invited during late King Mahendra's wedding because of his hospitality. Boris eventually arrived in Nepal in 1951 and opened the country's first international class hotel "The Royal Hotel," presently, known as the Yak and Yeti Hotel. Boris realized that Nepal is a potential destination for tourists. He was also succeeded to grant a 15-day visa for a group of 20 foreigners by requesting late King Mahendra. He played host to the country's first batch of tourists in 1955 (Himalaya, 2008). During more than half a century, Nepalese tourism industry became a country's biggest industry.

Since then tourism has opened up in the country manifold and as a result it is sometimes said to be the "third religion" of Nepal, as the country's most important industry that plays a large role in the economic activity of Kathmandu (Thapa & Thapa, 1969). It is a major source of income for most of the people of the city, with several hundred thousands of visitors annually. Hindu and Buddhist pilgrims from all over the world visit religious places located in Kathmandu such as Pashupatinath, Swayambhunath, Baudhanath and Budhanilkantha visited on regular basis. From a mere 6,179 tourists in 1961–62, the number jumped to 491,504 in 1998, but with political instability started as the maoist started armed movement in 1996 in the country till 2006, during this period the arrival of tourist dropped to 275,468 in 2002–03. However, since then it has shown a rising trend with the country turning into a Democratic Republic. In economic terms, the foreign exchange earning showed a remarkable trend, registering 7.9 per cent of the GDP in 2020 but after that it started declining (<https://knoema.com>, 2019). The main cause of decline is due to the pandemic of Covid-19. As the country remains closed for nearly 4 months. Even after the shut down the tourism industry is facing serious problem currently.

The neighbourhood of Thamel is the primary "traveller's stoppage" of Kathmandu, which is packed with guest houses, restaurants, shops and bookstalls catering to tourists from abroad. Another neighborhood of growing popularity is Jhamel, a name for Jhamsikhel coined to rhyme with Thamel (*Nepali Times*, 2009). Jhochhen Tol, also known as Freak Street, is the original traveller's anxiety of Kathmandu, which has been popular by the hippies of the 1960s and 1970s.

it is still popular next to Thamel. Asan is a bazaar and ceremonial square having dense buildings on the old trade route to Tibet and provides a fine example of a traditional neighborhood.

From 1960, Hotel Arrival Forms were started and the growth of tourist arrival increased. According to the report of Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation, the total numbers of tourist arrival in Nepal are different in different years (Table 1, Figure 1).

The growth rate of tourists flow raised high up to 1983 and decreased in 1989 and again it decreased in 2001, whereas the rate increased from 2003 to 2007 and again in 2008 it decreased, it is because of the civil war in the country. Likewise, in 1989, 1993, 2000 and 2001 the growth rates fell down. The main causes of this were the political instability due to the Maoist movement (Table 1). More than 80 per cent foreigners came through the air transport in 1970 AD, whereas only 21 per cent travellers used such a transport in 1999. 374,661 visitors came by air and the remaining 125,616 came by land route in 2008 AD. It is also revealed that there is no remarkable change in the average length of stay of tourists. With the exception of 2002, it has been more than 10 days since 1974. The flow of the international tourists increased rapidly increase from 2019-2014. The arrival got decreased in 2015 because a massive earthquake occurred in the country, where many foreign tourist become the victim of that earthquake because of avalanche in the Langtang region. This message spread all over the world so the arrival decreases. Whereas the number of tourist arrival increased again in 2016 as the country got political stability after the promulgation of new constitution on 2015 September. The effect of tourism industry is seen in the country after the spread of Covid-19. Till date the tourist arrival in the country is merely in 4 figures. This impact can be seen in the Thamel of Kathmandu and Phewa Lakeside in Pokhara.



Table 1: Mode of Transport and Length of Stay.

Year	Total		Mode of Transport		Average Length of Stay
	Number	Growth (%)	By Air	By Land	
1962	6179	--	--	--	--
1966	12567	103.4	11206	1361	--
1970	45970	265.8	36508	9462	--
1974	89838	95.4	74170	15668	13.20
1978	156123	73.8	130034	26089	11.8
1982	175448	12.4	153509	21939	13.3
1986	223331	23.4	182745	40586	11.2
1987	248080	11.1	205611	42469	12.0
1988	265943	7.2	234945	30998	12.0
1989	239945	-9.8	207907	32038	12.0
1990	254885	6.2	226421	28464	12.0
1991	292995	15.0	267932	25063	9.3
1992	334353	14.1	300496	33857	10.1
1993	293567	-12.2	254140	39427	11.9
1994	326531	11.2	289381	37150	10.0
1995	363395	11.3	325035	38360	11.3
1996	393613	8.3	343246	50367	13.5
1997	421857	7.2	371145	50712	10.5
1998	463684	9.9	398008	65676	10.8
1999	491504	6.0	421243	70261	12.3
2000	463646	-5.7	376914	86732	11.9
2001	361237	-22.1	299514	61723	12.0
2002	275,468	-23.7	218,660	56,808	7.9
2003	338,132	22.7	275,438	62,694	9.60
2004	385,297	13.9	297,335	87,962	13.51
2005	375,398	-2.6	277,346	98,052	9.09
2006	383,926	2.3	283,819	100,107	10.20
2007	526,705	37.2	360,713	165,992	11.96
2008	500,277	-5.0	374,661	125,616	11.78
2009	509,956	1.9	379,322	130,634	11.32
2010	602,867	18.2	448,800	154,067	12.67
2011	736,215	22.2	545,221	190,994	13.12
2012	803,092	9.1	598,258	204,834	12.16
2013	797,616	-0.7	594,848	202,768	12.60
2014	790118	-0.9	585981	204137	12.44
2015	538970	-32	407412	131558	13.16
2016	753002	40	572563	180439	13.4
2017	940218	25	760577	179641	12.6
2018	1173072	25	969287	203785	12.4
2019	1197191	2.05	995884	201307	12.7

Source: Nepal Tourism Statistics, 2019

Government of Nepal, Ministry of Culture, Tourism & Civil Aviation, Singha Durbar, Kathmandu

Tourists come to Nepal for different purposes like pleasure, mountaineering, business, official work, pilgrimage and others. Table 2 shows the purpose of tourists visiting Nepal in 2018 and 2019. The majority of the foreigners visited Nepal with the purpose of spending holidays for pleasure. In 2018, 703,843 visitors came here for pleasure, whereas this number increased in 2019. Similarly, tourist visiting for other purpose like business, official, conference are not available. The number of tourist for pilgrims purpose increased by 2757 in 2019 (Table 2, figure 2).

Table 2: Tourist Arrival by Purpose of Visit according to the year

Purpose of Visit	Year	
	2018	2019
Holiday Pleasure	703,843	778173
Trekking & Mountaineering	187,692	197786
Business	na	na
Pilgrimage	169,180	171937
Official	na	na
Conference	na	na
Others	112,357	49301
Total	1,173,072	1,197,191

Source: Nepal Tourism Board, 2019



Table 3: Tourists' arrival by month from 1991-2019

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
1991	17,917	19,382	25,323	23,721	21,952	19,808	19,362	24,429	23,224	39,339	32,507	26,031	292,995
1992	17,451	27,489	31,505	30,682	29,089	22,469	20,942	27,338	24,839	42,647	32,341	27,561	334,353
1993	19,238	23,931	30,818	20,121	20,585	19,602	13,588	21,583	23,939	42,242	30,378	27,542	293,567
1994	21,735	24,872	31,586	27,292	26,232	22,907	19,739	27,610	27,959	39,393	28,008	29,198	326,531
1995	22,207	28,240	34,219	33,994	27,843	25,650	23,980	27,686	30,569	46,845	35,782	26,380	363,395
1996	27,886	29,676	39,336	36,331	29,728	26,749	22,684	29,080	32,181	47,314	37,650	34,998	393,613
1997	25,585	32,861	43,177	35,229	33,456	26,367	26,091	35,549	31,981	56,272	40,173	35,116	421,857
1998	28,822	37,956	41,338	41,087	35,814	29,181	27,895	36,174	39,664	62,487	47,403	35,863	463,684
1999	29,752	38,134	46,218	40,774	42,712	31,049	27,193	38,449	44,117	66,543	48,865	37,698	491,504
2000	25,307	38,959	44,944	43,635	28,363	26,933	24,480	34,670	43,523	59,195	52,993	40,644	463,646
2001	30,454	38,680	46,709	39,083	28,345	13,030	18,329	25,322	31,170	41,245	30,282	18,588	361,237
2002	17,176	20,668	28,815	21,253	19,887	17,218	16,621	21,093	23,752	35,272	28,723	24,990	275,468
2003	21,215	24,349	27,737	25,851	22,704	20,351	22,661	27,568	28,724	45,459	38,398	33,115	338,132
2004	30,988	35,631	44,290	33,514	26,802	19,793	24,860	33,162	25,496	43,373	36,381	31,007	385,297
2005	25,477	20,338	29,875	23,414	25,541	22,608	23,996	36,910	36,066	51,498	41,505	38,170	375,398
2006	28,769	25,728	36,873	21,983	22,870	26,210	25,183	33,150	33,362	49,670	44,119	36,009	383,926
2007	33,192	39,934	54,722	40,942	35,854	31,316	35,437	44,683	45,552	70,644	52,273	42,156	526,705
2008	36,913	46,675	58,735	38,475	30,410	24,349	25,427	40,011	41,622	66,421	52,399	38,840	500,277
2009	29,278	40,617	49,567	43,337	30,037	31,749	30,432	44,174	42,771	72,522	54,423	41,049	509,956
2010	33,645	49,264	63,058	45,509	32,542	33,263	38,991	54,672	54,848	79,130	67,537	50,408	602,867
2011	42,622	56,339	67,565	59,751	46,202	46,115	42,661	71,398	63,033	96,996	83,460	60,073	736,215
2012	52,501	66,459	89,151	69,796	50,317	53,630	49,995	71,964	66,383	86,379	83,173	63,344	803,092
2013	47,846	67,264	88,697	65,152	52,834	54,599	54,011	68,478	66,755	99,426	75,485	57,069	797,616
2014	70,196	69,009	79,914	80,053	62,558	50,731	46,546	59,761	52,894	80,993	76,305	61,158	790,118
2015	38,616	58,523	79,187	65,729	17,569	18,368	22,967	38,606	39,050	56,584	58,304	45,467	538,970
2016	42,235	60,821	76,444	60,214	46,683	38,852	48,115	66,341	74,670	89,281	72,990	76,356	753,002
2017	62,632	84,061	106,291	88,591	62,773	55,956	42,240	73,778	68,634	112,492	99,804	82,966	940,218
2018	73,187	89,507	124,686	98,650	68,825	65,159	73,281	87,679	91,874	130,745	147,859	121,620	1,173,072
2019	81,273	102,423	127,351	109,399	78,329	74,883	70,916	94,749	92,604	134,096	130,302	100,866	1,197,191
Changes*	11	14	2	11	14	15	-3	8	1	3	-12	-17	2

Source: Source: Nepal Tourism Statistics, 2019.

\* *Figures in parenthesis represent percentage change over 2018.*

There has been a remarkable change in the age group of tourists visiting Nepal. Till 1970 the proportion of old tourists having the age of 61 or above was high but not as leading. Table 4 shows the age and sex composition of tourists visiting Nepal.

Table 4: The Age and Sex Composition of Tourists

Year	Sex		Total	Age Groups					
	Male	Female		0-15	16-30	31-45	46-60	61&Over	Not Specified
1991	177,574 (60.6)	115,421 (39.4)	292,995 (100)	17,174 (5.9)	96,634 (33.0)	94,539 (32.3)	54,320 (18.5)	30,328 (10.4)	- -
1992	197,051 (58.9)	137,302 (41.1)	334,353 (100)	18,624 (5.6)	105,123 (31.4)	111,096 (33.2)	65,651 (19.6)	33,859 (10.1)	- -
1993	179,178 (61.0)	114,389 (39.0)	293,567 (100)	15,289 (5.2)	91,947 (31.3)	96,665 (32.9)	59,768 (20.4)	29,898 (10.2)	- -
1994	205,389 (62.9)	121,142 (37.1)	326,531 (100)	20,097 (6.2)	96,016 (29.4)	106,260 (32.5)	66,174 (20.3)	37,984 (11.6)	- -
1995	224,769 (61.9)	138,626 (38.1)	363,395 (100)	22,878 (6.3)	106,603 (29.3)	120,212 (33.1)	76,647 (21.1)	37,055 (10.2)	- -
1996	233,055 (59.2)	160,558 (40.8)	393,613 (100)	22,185 (5.6)	94,924 (24.1)	116,307 (29.5)	89,751 (22.8)	70,446 (17.9)	- -
1997	251,358 (59.6)	170,499 (40.4)	421,857 (100)	23,840 (5.7)	121,286 (28.8)	126,828 (30.1)	107,111 (25.4)	42,792 (10.1)	- -
1998	267,871 (57.8)	195,813 (42.2)	463,684 (100)	26,763 (5.8)	122,103 (26.3)	151,846 (32.7)	121,190 (26.1)	41,782 (9.0)	- -
1999	286,161 (58.2)	205,343 (41.8)	491,504 (100)	30,967 (6.3)	150,307 (30.6)	155,985 (31.7)	113,314 (23.1)	40,913 (8.3)	- -
2000	266,937 (57.6)	196,709 (42.4)	463,646 (100)	19,136 (4.1)	119,816 (25.8)	148,063 (31.9)	125,140 (27.0)	51,491 (11.1)	- -
2001	213,465 (59.1)	147,772 (40.9)	361,237 (100)	14,608 (4.0)	95,801 (26.5)	115,678 (32.0)	93,621 (25.9)	41,529 (11.5)	- -
2002	174,710 (63.4)	100,758 (36.6)	275,468 (100)	12,425 (4.5)	67,774 (24.6)	99,622 (36.2)	67,017 (24.3)	28,630 (10.4)	- -
2003	204,732 (60.5)	133,400 (39.5)	338,132 (100)	16,056 (4.7)	78,357 (23.2)	99,740 (29.5)	5,753 (25.4)	58,226 (17.2)	- -
2004	255,303 (66.3)	129,994 (33.7)	385,297 (100)	38,734 (10.1)	84,125 (21.8)	128,267 (33.3)	96,920 (25.2)	37,251 (9.7)	- -
2005	257,972 (68.7)	117,426 (31.3)	375,398 (100)	30,429 (8.1)	57,115 (15.2)	114,103 (30.4)	106,077 (28.3)	67,674 (18.0)	- -
2006	218,818 (57.0)	165,108 (43.0)	383,926 (100)	37,433 (9.8)	75,626 (19.7)	123,541 (32.2)	95,260 (24.8)	52,066 (13.6)	- -
2007	290,688 (55.2)	236,017 (44.8)	526,705 (100)	38,870 (7.4)	112,879 (21.4)	164,488 (31.2)	130,756 (24.8)	69,927 (13.3)	9,785 (1.9)
2008	286,983 (57.4)	213,294 (42.6)	500,277 (100.0)	42,581 (8.5)	106,596 (21.3)	150,171 (30.0)	121,387 (24.3)	60,531 (12.1)	19,011 (3.8)
2009	288,155 (56.5)	221,801 (43.5)	509,956 (100.0)	84,891 (16.6)	140,805 (27.6)	141,955 (27.8)	99,197 (19.5)	39,638 (7.8)	3,470 (0.7)

2010	361,611 (60.0)	241,256 (40.0)	602,867 (100.0)	41,156 (6.8)	120,395 (20.0)	189,852 (31.5)	172,800 (28.7)	64,593 (10.7)	14,071 (2.3)
2011	352,059 (47.8)	384,156 (52.2)	736,215 (100.0)	32,795 (4.5)	171,081 (23.2)	212,176 (28.8)	177,983 (24.2)	82,726 (11.2)	59,454 (8.1)
2012	439,270 (54.7)	363,822 (45.3)	803,092 (100.0)	35,468 (4.4)	181,558 (22.6)	231,117 (28.8)	201,835 (25.1)	109,239 (13.6)	43,875 (5.5)
2013	449,058 (56.3)	348,558 (43.7)	797,616 (100.0)	46,262 (5.9)	190,630 (24.1)	237,690 (30.1)	195,416 (24.7)	115,654 (14.6)	11,964 (1.5)
2014	445,627 (56.4)	344,491 (43.6)	790,118 (100.0)	50,441 (6.4)	185,685 (23.5)	235,738 (29.8)	183,582 (23.2)	106,666 (13.5)	28,007 (3.5)
2015	289,158 (53.7)	249,813 (46.4)	538,970 (100.0)	19,614 (3.6)	123,444 (22.9)	157,416 (29.2)	129,614 (24.0)	74,518 (13.8)	34,365 (6.4)
2016	399,091 (53.0)	353,911 (47.0)	753,002 (100.0)	29,825 (4.0)	154,960 (20.6)	218,479 (29.0)	199,139 (26.4)	130,627 (17.3)	19,972 (2.7)
2017	509,585 (54.2)	430,633 (45.8)	940,218 (100.0)	35,332 (3.8)	217,143 (23.1)	292,827 (31.1)	244,342 (26.0)	141,316 (15.0)	9,258 (1.0)
2018	624,928 (53.3)	548,144 (47.7)	1,173,072 (100.0)	54,870 (4.7)	269,648 (23.0)	360,237 (30.7)	303,452 (25.9)	173,299 (14.8)	11,566 (1.0)
2019	634,392 (53.0)	562,799 (47.0)	1,197,191 (100.0)	57,523 (4.8)	254,399 (21.2)	383,155 (32.0)	305,651 (25.5)	176,872 (14.8)	19,591 (1.6)

Source: Nepal Tourism Statistics, 2019.

Table 4 shows that the percentage share of male visitors was greater than that of females. In 2019, the male female tourists were 53 and 47 per cent respectively. 1,197,191 tourists visited the country in 2019.

### Economic Benefit of Tourism in Nepal

The total foreign exchange earning in million Rs. In 2000/01 the earning is 8654.3, in 2009 the earning increases to 28139 but in 2010/11 it was decreased to 24 611. Similarly in 2017/18 it was increased drastically to 67094.6 and in 2018/19 this rate reached to 75808.56 whereas it was decreased in 427736 in 2019/20 (Table 5). Nepal government has declared the year 2020 as "VISIT NEPAL 2020", where the foreign exchange was expected higher. But the effect of COVID-19 seen in the world and in the country also, so foreign exchange earnings decreased in the six month period and now the government is making various plans and policies to trying boost up the tourism industry by encouraging the people of the country to travel to different parts of the country. It means government is trying to popularize the domestic tourism.

Table 5: Gross Foreign Exchange Earnings from Tourism by Fiscal Year, 2057/58 TO 2076/77\*

Fiscal Year	Total Earnings ( Net received)			% Change in US\$
	NRs.( million)	Annual Average Exchange Rate	US\$ (million)	
2057/58 (2000/01)	11,717.0		158.7	
2058/59 (2001/02)	8,654.3	-	109.7	-30.9
2059/60 (2002/03)	11,747.7	-	151.0	-37.6
2060/61 (2003/04)	18,147.4	-	245.9	62.9
2061/62 (2004/05)	10,464.0	71.76	145.2	-41.0
2062/63 (2005/06)	9,556.0	72.03	132.1	-9.0
2063/64 (2006/07)	10,125.0	70.19	143.6	8.7
2064/65 (2007/08)	18,653.0	64.72	286.9	99.7
2065/66 (2008/09)	27,960.0	76.58	363.7	26.8
2066/67 (2009/10)	28,139.0	74.24	377.5	3.8
2067/68 (2010/11)	24,611.0	72.07	340.4	-9.8
2068/69 (2011/12)	30,703.8	81.02	379.0	11.3
2069/70 (2012/13)	34,210.6	87.96	388.9	2.6
2070/71 (2013/14)	46,374.9	98.21	472.2	21.4
2071/72 (2014/15)	53,428.8	99.49	544.1	15.2
2072/73 (2015/16)	41,765.4	106.35	392.7	-27.8
2073/74 (2016/17)	58,526.9	106.21	551.0	40.3
2074/75 (2017/18)	67,094.6	104.37	642.9	16.7
2075/76 (2018/19)	75808.56		670.6	4.3
2076/77 (2019/20)*	42736.91		375.7	

Source: Nepal Rastra Bank. \* 1st six month of FY 2076/77

## Conclusion

Before the unification of Nepal by late king Prithivi Narayan Shah, tourism was closely related to religion, politics and business. Many visitors, mainly from the neighboring countries China, Tibet and India visited Nepal for the religious purpose. However, "Manjushree" is the first visitor in Nepal to make the valley fit for the human habitation. During the time of Lichhavi rulers the famous Chinese traveler Hiuen Tsang and Chinese envoy, Li-Y-Pio and Wang Hiuentse visited Nepal with their companions. After the unification of Nepal, visitors from Britain came to Nepal for the political purpose. Among them Knox, Hamilton and captain Kirkpatrick were notable persons.

Tourism, which is a rapidly growing phenomenon, has become one of the largest industries in the world. The impact of tourism is extremely varied. On the one hand, it plays an important and positive role in the country by offering new employment opportunities. It also makes the cultural understanding by creating awareness and respecting the diversity of cultures and ways of life. It has worked as a tool to create jobs. It has not fulfilled its expectations. At the same time, complaints from tourist destinations concerning massive negative impacts upon environment, culture, residents and the ways of life denote that there should be the involvement of people in the process of developing sustainable tourism.

Tourism in Nepal has contributed to reduce the negative balance of payment by providing the foreign exchange. The promotion of tourism in the true sense has started more or less only since the beginning of 1960 although the door to foreigners was opened towards the end of 1950's. Since then concrete steps have been taken to promote and develop tourism. A co-ordinate way was made when a high level 'Nepal Tourism Development Committee' was constituted in 1970 under the leadership of late Prince Himalaya Bir Bikram Saha Dev. After this establishment, tourism industry was developed to a large extent. Many new tourist centres have been developed in the county.

The tourism industry will require a government bailout. This is because many tourism stakeholders were in a weak financial state which was further exacerbated by COVID-19 pandemic. Even though, to revive the tourism business continuing the government of Nepal has to come out with relief Package cooperating with the tourism entrepreneur of Nepal. Government need to promote domestic destinations and offer suitable package and offer for domestic tourists with safety and security

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