

Book Review

Rudra Prasad Upadhyay (edited), (2008). *Readings in Rural Tourism*. Kirtipur, Kathmandu: Sunlight Publication (Student Books), pp. 376 + XXI, ISBN: 978-9937-8044-7-9, price NRs 400.

In Nepalese tourism one of the major facets is rural tourism. The book under review reminds several issues relating to rural tourism both theoretically and practically. This book includes ideas and writings of twenty scholars who have long, deep and insightful understanding on tourism of Nepal. It has filled the felt need of reading materials on rural tourism in a single book.

This book contains collection of 23 scholarly articles of which 21 are contributed by individual authors and 2 by separate authors. The editor has taken the opportunity to include two individual and two joint articles. Being involvement of 20 separate personnel in bringing the book in present shape and size sufficient space (9 pages) is given in introducing the contributors' before the beginning of the main text. Chapter division is absent in the book. Therefore, each article begins with its heading.

The opening article on "Concept of Tourism, Meaning, Component and Elements of Tourism" written by Hari Dutta Pandey introduces tourism in various perspectives. This article has focused on practical examples from Nepal, while discussing components of tourism. However, this article has over looked that cited materials must appear in the reference (60 per cent are missing). "Typology of Tourist and Tourism" written by Hari Prasad Shrestha is the second article embodied in this book. Shrestha in this article has elaborately discussed travel motivators along with typology of tourist and tourism. Karna Shakaya has contributed the third article on the title "Tourism: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" in Nepalese perspective. It discusses how different products of tourism flourished and how it was institutionalized. In explaining present situation of Nepalese tourism Shakaya writes "we are still offering the same old and outdated tourism products without a single innovative idea". He focuses on the need of field study based research to enrich the image of the country in tourism.

"Eco-tourism in Nepal: Status and Contribution" written by Hari Pradhan occupies the fourth sequence in this book. This article briefly discusses resources of eco-tourism, practices, efforts made and impacts of eco-tourism. Discussion of trekking, mountaineering, mountain flights, village tourism, religious and cultural tourism in the same sequence of resources of eco-tourism creates confusion to the reader whether they also belongs to the nature of eco-tourism. The next article on "Eco-tourism: Concept and Issues" jointly contributed by Bijaya Pradhan and Raman Grandon discusses how climate change, glacier melting, threat to fresh water and crowded mountaineering can effect eco-tourism development in the country. The sixth article of this book is "Agro-ecotourism in Nepal: Concept, Scope, Experiences and Status" contributed by Dharma Raj Dangol. In this article Dangol discusses agro-biodiversity and different farming practices of Nepal have high potentiality to integrate in tourism with the example form Institute of

Agriculture and Animal Science, T.U., Rampur. "Wetland and Tourism" written by Bishnu Bhandari is the seventh article which introduces notable wetland of Nepal including the concept. The article would have been more interesting if it had not overlooked the famous wetland of Pokhara Valley (7lakes) that are notably contributed for the development of Nepalese tourism.

"Socio-economic Impact of tourism in Nepal: Order or Paradox" contributed by Deepak Raj Joshi is the eighth article of the book. Joshi in this article attempts to find out the correlation between cultural and economic aspect with regards of tourism by knowing the impact of tourism in the economy, environment, culture and religion. Nabin Pokhrel contributed 9th article entitled "Tourism as a Socio-economic Force" focusing on the contribution of tourism in the economy and its effects in the socio-cultural aspects of Nepal. The 10th article entitled "Trend of Tourism Development: Global, Regional and National" is contributed by Dependra Purush Dhakal. It discusses Nepals' specialty on adventure country and she has to optimally harness it with a focus on rural tourism to address the poor and deprived community, and better future of Nepalese tourism.

In the 11th article "Rural Tourism Development Phenomenon and Marketing Concepts" the writer Rabi Jung Pandey attempts to examine tourisms' role in economic development with a special focus on concept, function and process of rural tourism and its marketing. Outline of steps involved in formulating a tourism plan, responsible organizations, market mechanism and the environment for tourism planning is discussed by Baikuntha Arya in the article "Tourism Planning: Steps and Procedures". The 13th article on Historical Account of Planning to Develop Tourism in Nepal written by Prachanda Man Shrestha attempts to review spaces and weightage given to tourism in all the national plans i.e. 1st to three year 1956/1961 to interim plan of 2008/2010 of Nepal. "Role of Government for Tourism Development" written by Rudra Prasad Upadhyay is the 14th article enclosed in this book. This article has listed numbers of points that are supportive to explain the development of tourism.

The 15th article entitled as "Nepal: A Land for All Seasons" enclosed in this book is written by Aditya Baral. Baral in this article discusses varieties of tourism supportive for making tourism in Nepal for all seasons. A brief assessment of the chronology of tourism development and corresponding impact on the shape of current tourism is made in the article "History of Tourism in Nepal" written by Kalia Bhandari. Ananda P. Shrestha in his article "Current State of Tourism in Nepal" discusses how tourism is going ahead and attempted to suggest tourism entrepreneurs that they need to alert their employees to treat all kinds of tourists with equal respect.

The article on "State of Tourism in Nepal- An Overview" written by Chandra Lal Shrestha provides a brief picture of the efforts made by different sectors in the process of tourism development and problems faced by Nepalese tourism. The article "Protected Areas in Nepal" jointly contributed by the editor himself and Tirtha Bahadur Shrestha focuses on the discussion of nine national parks, three wildlife reserves, three conservation areas and one hunting reserve. In this article writers argue that the protected

areas which are visited by less number of tourists needs to be developed and conserved from the high revenue generated national parks. Gyanendra Ratna Tuladhar in his article entitled "Approaches to Community based Ecotourism Management" discusses conceptual approaches including the review of different plans, policy and the role of organizations in Nepal.

"Case Studies of Rural Tourism in Sirubari, Bandipur and Ghalegaun" is the 21st article embodied in this publication which is contributed by the editor himself. In this book, perhaps it is the only article supported with field survey based information. Appraising the attractions of the respective sites of rural tourism Upadhyay in this article writes "Nepal has many destinations where community based rural tourism can be promoted. However, these three sites are at the forefront of rural tourism model. The article on "A Brief Introduction of Tourism Organizations" is jointly contributed by the editor Rudra Prasad Upadhyay and Ram Prasad Ghimire. This article has focused on the discussion and analysis of how tourism is organized at the national and international level. It briefly discusses all the major tourism organizations at international and, national and local level with their respective function, duties, role and responsibilities. Sumit Baral in the final article on "Modern Information Technology in Tourism Development in Nepal" discusses the relationship, influence and potentiality of information technology in developing and promoting community based tourism in Nepal.

Despite wide coverage, and wide discussion on various issues related to rural tourism, this book is not devoid of limitations. The most striking one is that several articles have no citation though they have included a long list of references. Similarly, articles have not been presented in the uniform format and style. Of the 23 articles only 14 have abstract. In the opening article 60 percent reference of the citation is missing. The third article has neither citation nor the reference. Similarly the references used in the chapters could have been made complete. The orders of the chapters are not well organized. For example the article 3rd and 10 are on the same issue but do not appear at the order. The book would have been looking more impressive if articles not repeated on the same theme and issue. Readers feel article 16th 17th and 18th, are the repetition.

On the whole, this book is a very useful document that contains several materials related to rural tourism in one volume. Therefore, this book will be very useful to those who are interested in study and research of rural tourism in general and Nepal in particular.

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