

**Pro-poor Tourism and Poverty-alleviation and its Linkage
with Reference to Two Villages of East Sikkim**

A Dissertation Submitted

To

Sikkim University



In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the
Degree of Master of Philosophy

By

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Submitted by **Amit Rai** under the supervision of **Dr. Amit Kumar Singh**, Assistant Professor, Department of Tourism, Sikkim University.

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Abstract

Tourism is considered the one of the fastest-growing industries and its contribution is also much higher in a country like India, it has been an important aspect of the country's development and even for the livelihoods and socio-cultural development. On the other hand, poverty reduction is becoming an important item on the tourism agenda. The United Nations World Tourism Organization “UNWTO” has identified poverty reduction along with climate change, as the global change in the tourism industry.

This study investigated tourism and its role in poverty alleviation and also investigated tourism and its role in poverty alleviation and the study also investigated the benefits and the use of pro-poor tourism as a mechanism for economic development, especially in the state like Sikkim rural areas where tourism has become one of the major sources of income for the local community. For this study rural areas Luing and Rankavillage region nearby Gangtok, Sikkim, have been chosen as the focus of the study. Thus, the purpose of the study is to identify the contributions of pro-poor tourism to poverty alleviation in the Sikkim rural regions. The objectives were set out to focus on the contribution of pro-poor tourism in alleviating the conditions of the local community in the context of Sikkim rural areas. As Sikkim has been a center of attraction for the domestic as well as an international tourist the prominent the popularity of the place is among the domestic tourists due to the lack of accessibility to the place at the same time it is very close to other north-eastern Indian states which are visited often, which resulted in the popularity among the domestic tourists which has become one of the most visited places by the surrounding destination.

This study was conducted in Sikkim rural region of Luing and Ranka and ideas from different literature and preliminary fieldwork. A quantitative research method was applied due to the nature of the study and its objectives which were aimed to understand the contributions of pro-poor tourism and poverty alleviation. Respondents were literate or semi-literate the sample of the study consisted of 150 respondents from the study areas. The methods of data collection that were used in this study were basically through interviews were questioned was self-designed questionnaire was framed and each respondent was made comfortable to reply to the question.

The study finding and analysis showed that tourism can contribute immensely to improving the general welfare of the local people through increasing income. It can also reduce income poverty by increasing local purchasing power.

Key Words: Poverty, Development and Socio-Economic, Socio-cultural, Social mobility, Income, Alleviation, Poverty Reduction, Community.

Chapter-1

Introduction

1.0: Introduction

This dissertation endeavors the study of pro-poor tourism and poverty alleviation which emphasizes the contribution of tourism in uplifting the standard of the rural area's population in terms of financial support. As tourism is considered one of the important businesses in the Sikkim and especially in the rural areas of the Sikkim. Sikkim because of its natural beauty has been an attraction to the different types of tourists. The picturesque view that Sikkim provides has been a treat for the tourists both domestic as well international tourists.

Tourism is a phenomenon where people travel from their usual place of residence to a new destination and return to the point of origin in a certain period with various motivation factors which motivates the people to move from their usual place of residence. Factors such as pleasure, relaxation, rest and recreation, health, participation in sports, curiosity, and culture, ethnicity and family, spiritual and religion, status and prestige, visiting friends and relatives, and professional or business-related travel motivation can be defined as factors that influence a person desire to travel. So based on the motivation tourism is also defined as the commercial organization and operation of the holiday which motivates to visit the place of interest. According to UNWTO "Tourism is the movement of people from one place to another to spend their leisure time for not more than one consecutive year and not less than 24 hours." "The first definition of tourism was made by Guyer and Feuler in 1905 which was later used by United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)." To prevent the disaccords to define "Tourism", in 1994 UNWTO defined tourism as indicated below. "Tourism comprises the activities of persons traveling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business, and other purposes."

Tourism is often considered an amalgamation of various industries; therefore, we can coin the term tourism as a service industry that looks after the different forms of tourists for their comfort and satisfaction when they are away from their usual point of residence. The people who are traveling from one place to another can be categorized as follows based on time and the length of their visit.

- A) Visitors (Day/Night)
- B) Excursionist.
- C) Traveler.
- D) Tourist.

UNWTO (United Nations World Tourism Organization) estimated that internationally people traveling has increased 56-folds as compared with just 25 million tourist arrivals in 1950 or the times just after the second world war. Now at present times, these numbers have increased to 1.4 billion (UNWTO,2019) per year which shall further increase in the next decade too thus, creating job opportunities for every level of people in a community of a country, which shall directly help in poverty alleviation for its poor people.

This research conducted a quantitative analysis based on the previous study has been conducted based on the study the researcher analysis the various understanding of the contribution of tourism to the local communities.

1.1 Background of the Tourism Industry

Travel as a wanderlust in some form or the other has attracted human beings from the earliest periods in history. The sages in India traveled to the Himalayas, sea shores, views of lakesides, and close forests for mediation. People of all faiths have since been visiting shrines established in every nook and corner of India Especially since the end of II World war in 1945. There has been rapid tour development into the important international industry. As a result of development, it has also become more equipped and professional, as the tourism industry is an amalgamation of other companies. With the creation of multiple scales of operations in various markets available. For example, growth in the aviation industry or passenger-carrying airlines, scientific development in information technology, and the flexibility in tour arrangements, and there is no doubt that it has all contributed to the present form of development and the characteristics of tourism industry.

The most important characteristics of tourism are.

- A) Creating job opportunities for unemployed ones based on gender equality.

- B) An increasing number of National/International tourists.
- C) Growing identification by major governments about the potential and important significance of tourism at National and Sub-National levels for economic growth.

1.1.1. Present Global Tourism Scenario

Tourism is the biggest contributing sector to the global economy. According to the World tourism organization (UNWTO, 2019), the travel and tourism industry directly contributes about 3.6% of World's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and on the other hand, it indirectly contributes about 10.3% of its GDP. The tourism industry not only is the biggest contributor to the global GDP it also gives direct employment to around 77 million people around the world which counts for about 3% of the world's total employment. The travel and tourism industry also plays a major role in the generation of indirect employment to the margin of 8.7% or 234 million of the total global employment. Moreover, about 12% of the world's total exports are represented by the tourism industry only.

1.1.2 Present Indian Tourism Scenario

The contribution of the travel and tourism industry in the year 2019 was around 247 billion (U.S dollars) to the country's gross domestic product (GDP) according to the latest report of the statistics research department of India. Moreover, India also witnessed over 10 million foreign tourists visiting India in the year 2019 mostly in urban and man-made tourist destinations, still, it managed in generating foreign exchange earnings of over 27.31 billion dollars (Statistic Research department,2021). This increase in the foreign exchange earnings and increasing numbers of the international tourist arrivals in a country through the tourism industry every year helps the poor communities to come out of poverty and to help those marginalized below the poverty line population in poverty alleviation or eradication and most importantly in the development of infrastructure through various government aids and support in the host community and host population to have a better quality of life and to fulfill the basic survival needs.

According to the Indian tourism statistics at glance-2020, The total number of international tourist arrival (ITA's), Arrival of non-residential Indians (NRI's), and

Foreign Tourist Arrival (FTA's) 2015-2019 (data from the past 5 years) are as follows.

TABLE 1.1: International tourist arrival.

YEAR (2015-19)	ITA's in India (In Millions)	FTAs in India (In Millions)	NRI's Arrivals in India (In Millions)
2015-16	13.76	8.03	5.74
2016-17	15.03	8.80	6.22
2017-18	16.81	10.04	6.77
2018-19	17.42	10.56	6.87
2019-20	17.91	10.93	6.98

Source: Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India, (2016-2019), *Indian tourism statistics at glance, 2020*.

The total contribution of the tourism industry toward the Indian economy. Estimates of Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEE) Rs. In Crore from tourism in India since 2015-2019 (Data from the past 5 years) from Inbound tourist arrivals in India is represented below, as a revised estimate (Reserve bank of India, RBI).

TABLE 1.2: Foreign exchange earnings.

YEAR	FEE's in Crore (Rs) from Tourism in India.
2015-16	134844
2016-17	154146
2017-18	177874
2018-19	194881
2019-20	211661

Source: Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India, (2016-19), *Indian tourism statistics at glance. 2020*.

1.1.3. Present Sikkim Tourism Scenario.

Sikkim is surrounded by huge stretches of Tibetan plateaus (Chumbi valley) in the north, Darjeeling district of West Bengal in the south, Bhutan in the east, and the territory of Nepal in the west (Geological Survey of India, 2011). Tourism in Sikkim attracts a large number of international tourists every year, moreover tourism in the state of Sikkim has become the new profession for the people of Sikkim as a result creating new job opportunities for the local and marginalized poor people because of its large natural potential such as Snow-capped mountains, diversity in flora and fauna, cultural difference, heritage sites, river sources, peace and security along with perfect climate which motivates the people to travel in the remote places, who in return invest money in the host destination, giving benefits to its poor community by its linkage with the tourism industry which gives a chance in poverty elimination by giving employment to the poor or by transferring skills to unskilled people in a host destination where the poor community exists, for their service to the tourist (International and national tourists).

According to the data released by the Sikkim tourism department, Govt. of Sikkim (Feb-2020), there is healthy growth in the number of tourists visiting Sikkim every year contributing to the Gross State Domestic produce (GSDP). The number of tourists visiting Sikkim in the year 2016 was 8.06 lakhs which was increased by 77% around 14.25 lakhs in the year 2017 compared with 14.2 lakhs in the year 2018 and over 16.21 lakhs of tourists who toured the state in the year of 2019. The total number of tourists who visited Sikkim in the past five years 2015-19 is represented below in a tabular form as per the data released by the Department of Tourism, Government of Sikkim.

TABLE 1.3: Total numbers of tourists visiting Sikkim.

YEAR	Numbers (in lakhs) of Tourist arrival in Sikkim.
2015-16	6.91 lakhs
2016-17	8.06 lakhs
2017-18	14.76 lakhs
2018-19	14.25 lakhs
2019-20	16.21 lakhs

Source: (*Department of Tourism, Govt. of Sikkim, Feb 2020*).

1.2. Meaning of Pro-Poor tourism

Pro-poor tourism: Pro-poor tourism (PPT) interventions aim to increase the net benefits for the poor from tourism, and ensure that tourism growth contributes to poverty reduction. PPT is not a specific product or sector of tourism, but an approach. PPT strategies aim to unlock opportunities for the poor, whether for economic gain, other livelihood benefits, or participation in decision-making (Government of South Africa, 1996). This "new tourism" is further described as being responsible, sensitive to host cultures, involving local communities in planning and decision-making, and ensuring their involvement in and benefit from tourism (Dwyer & Wickens 2011). As Pro-poor tourism is not a specific product or sector of tourism, but an approach to the industry. It involves a range of stakeholders operating at different levels, from micro to macro levels. Stakeholders include government, the private sector, and civil society, as well as the poor themselves who act as both producers and decision-makers (Ashley, Roe & Goodwin, 2001).

1.2.1 Defining Poverty and Poverty Alleviation

- **Poverty** - This can be broadly defined according to the 2015 MDG Program as the inability to attain a minimum standard of living by getting basic needs such as food, proper shelter, health facilities, education, and clean water. Poverty should be viewed as multidimensional so that, alongside its economic dimensions, poverty should be understood as being about inequality, vulnerability, lack of control, and loss of dignity (Tucker, 2011). Poverty is caused by various economic and sociological factors, such as having low or no income, lack of education and skills, poor health status, no social security, remoteness, exclusion, and severe weather conditions (Green and Hulme, 2005).
- **Poverty alleviation:** this refers to intervention processes or approaches that have the potential to reduce the pain and magnitude of poverty. Referring to the three-faceted understanding of poverty of money, poverty of access, and poverty of power, UNESCAP declares that planners and policy-makers in tourism must define the task of poverty alleviation through tourism as broader than the raising of income levels above the poverty line for the greatest number of people (Kashaya, 2007). Pro-poor tourism, as practiced,

differs depending on the specific conditions of the different cultural contexts within which it is applied. There is no common "blueprint" or widely practiced standard model for this type of tourism. Pro-poor tourism case studies from different projects in different locations elucidate the variety of forms taken, and challenges and opportunities faced, in different situations, as well as the commonalities among various examples (Scofield, Bauer, De Lacy, Lipman, & Daugherty, 2004).

1.2.2 Definitions of tourism concerning Pro-poor tourism (PPT)

There is great overlap and interconnection between Pro-poor tourism (PPT) and many other types of tourism such as sustainable tourism, eco-tourism, community-based tourism, Rural tourism, and Responsible tourism so it is important to clarify the differences between them all

Ecotourism

Initiatives may provide benefits to people, but they are mostly concerned with the environment. Conservation approaches emphasize the need for broadly distributed local benefits (often cash) as incentives for conservation, or they may support activities that provide an alternative to unsustainable actions. In contrast, PPT aims to deliver net benefits to the poor as a goal in itself. Environmental concerns are just one part of the picture (Ashley, et al., 2001).

Community-Based Tourism

Initiatives aim to increase local people's involvement in tourism. These are one useful component of PPT. But PPT involves more than a community focus – it requires mechanisms to unlock opportunities for the poor at all levels and scales of operation and responsible tourism (Ashley, et al., 2001).

Sustainable Tourism

The World Tourism Organization defines sustainable tourism in the following manner: "Sustainable tourism development meets the needs of present tourists and host regions while protecting and enhancing opportunities for the future (Ashley, et al., 2001).

Responsible Tourism

Responsible Tourism was defined in Cape Town in 2002 alongside the World Summit on Sustainable Development. This definition, the Cape Town Declaration is now widely accepted and was been adopted by the World Travel Market in 2007 for World Responsible Tourism Day. Responsible Tourism is about “making better places for people to live in”.

Rural Tourism

Rural tourism may be defined as the movement of people from their normal place of residence to rural areas for a minimum period of twenty-four hours to a maximum of six months for the sole purpose of leisure and pleasure. Rural tourism refers to all tourism activities in a rural area.

The Other Forms of tourism that are linked with poverty eradication, can be distinguished as:

- i) Domestic tourism**, involving residents of a given country traveling only within this country.
- ii) Inbound tourism**, involving non-residents traveling in the given country and
- iii) Outbound tourism**, involving residents traveling to another destination.

1.3 Problem Statement

The research problem is in connection with the study of Pro-Poor Tourism and Poverty alleviation linkage in rural areas i.e., “Luing and Ranka” Villages, East - Sikkim, which is another important aspect of tourism. As tourism is one of the important business aspects in the Sikkim development because of its natural settings and the natural beauty that has been the important factor for the development of tourism. Tourism has always been a great business to the Sikkimese people and it is doing great for the local communities to date but the questions arise when it is been benefiting the local rural village communities or not because they are the ones who should get benefit out the tourism business, as they are mainly unskilled people and doesn't have access to the outer world. But with the development of pro-poor tourism and poverty alleviation which mainly focuses on uplifting the standard of the rural

community, they uplift the standard the living. The continuous flow of income, it is always been a great support for the rural people to raise their standards. With the intervention of tourism, there is always been a great possibility to uplift the standard.

The study determines to identify the Pro-Poor Tourism and poverty alleviation contribution to the rural areas of Sikkim, Luing, and Ranka. The study will help the further researcher to understand the concept of Pro-Poor Tourism and its contribution to the development of the rural areas of Sikkim.

1.3.1 Aims and Objective of the Study

The study aims to identify the contribution of Pro-Poor Tourism, poverty alleviation and its linkage with reference to two villages of East Sikkim. The major aim of my study is to carefully examine the role or contribution of tourism and its linkage with poverty alleviation in rural and poor communities.

Further, this research gives an insight into some procedures of pro-poor tourism as it directly or indirectly benefits poverty reduction for the poor. Which is mainly by creating direct employment to benefit the poor communities i.e., from a small forum to an entire nation. moreover, this research shall focus on how pro-poor tourism plays a lead role in the daily livelihood of poor people. Further on the basis of literature reviewe, the following research n objectives are developed that shall be addressed by this research work. These research objectives are as follows;

Objective 1. Which are the existing tourism resources in the area and their use patterns by the locals as a source of income.

Objective 2. Identifying the existing tourism resources and linking them to eliminate poverty.

Objective 3. To examine the relationship between tourism and poverty alleviation.

Objective 4.To suggest measures for implementing various tourism policies/activities in the study area to ensure sustainable growth for the community.

1.3.2 Research Methodology

This study has explored both the Qualitative and Quantitative research methods. Qualitative research in the study area has explored the attitude, behavior, and

experiences of the key players in the tourism industry. The local community is associated with pro-poor tourism development. The quantifiable data set of the study area includes tourist trends, market analysis, factor analysis, impact assessment on the destination, and a part of eliminating poverty.

The primary data was collected through questionnaires, focus group discussions, interviews, and observations technique within the participants was carried out with the structured questionnaires. The Secondary data will be collected from various archived journals, articles, books, Websites, and published reports mainly from online sources. And other reports from Government/private organizations. The selected sample for the study was from two sample villages of Sikkim i.e., Ranka and Luing village, Gangtok, East Sikkim, with the help of a simple random sampling method. Purposive sampling was used to collect the data depending on the availability of tourists and host in the sample villages at the time of data collection.

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It has been assumed that this would not disturb results, as the sample village is small in size which is also a typical feature of Sikkim villages and communities, which are close-knit and homogenous. The tourist coming to the villages of Sikkim are also special interest tourists, visiting mainly for quaint experiences. Furthermore, the sample size of the study area consists of 150 respondents which are 75 respondents from each study area from service providers including local communities which are documented.

The significance of the result was examined using the statistical tool of IBM, SPSS and in terms of the test non-parametric applied depending on the characteristic of the data obtained. Further, the relationship among various variables was checked using the Chi-square test and frequency percent.

1.4 Significance of Research

Since tourism is very important and plays a major role or is directly involved in the economic growth of any country around the world mainly for underdeveloped and developing countries. As a result, tourism not only contributes to the economy of countries but on the other hand it helps in the rapid development of the infrastructure which in return plays a lead role in poverty alleviation or poverty reduction of its poor population. Some of the major contributions of the tourism industry are as follows.

- As the tourism industry is said to be the world's largest industry it creates and generates the highest number of EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.
- Tourism is considered a major tool for building the INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING.
- Tourism creates awareness about the beauty and rich natural heritage. Tourism gives importance not only to the national economy but also to the CULTURAL PRESERVATION.
- Tourism plays a vital role in the preservation and maintenance of NATURAL TOURISM PRODUCTS.
- Tourism encourages local culture and provides support to local HANDICRAFTS.
- Tourism gives job opportunities for both the SKILLED and UNSKILLED people.
- Tourism helps in the upliftment of all the classes of people in society through direct and indirect small-scale businesses.
- Tourism creates a sense of CULTURAL EXCHANGE between foreigners and local people.

Tourism is linked with society as a development strategy. It provides economic opportunities, direct benefits to environmental conservation and empowers the local community to manage its resources in a sustainable manner. The tourism industry and its enterprises can provide meaningful employment and alleviate income for its community member.

The major contribution and linkage of tourism with society in terms of poverty reduction and development of infrastructure in the destination where the consumer

travels to the destination, providing scope for the sale of additional goods and services where the poor and marginalized can become self-employed, exporters or entrepreneurs. Since tourism creates an important forum to multiply the local community economy. It can often be developed in poor and marginalized areas with few other export and diversification options.

Tourism and its linkage with society not only boost the revenue of the economy it also creates multiple jobs for unemployed youths, it develops the infrastructure of society.

Economic Significance of Tourism.

Tourism acts as a source of income for the poor society through various economic contributions which are listed below.

The major economic contribution of tourism.

- Foreign exchange earnings.
- Alleviates the income and the standard of living.
- Creates employment opportunities.
- Improves local economy.
- Contributes towards government revenues.
- Increases investment, and development and improves infrastructure.

1.5 Chapterization

Chapter 1: Introduction

This chapter contains the background information about the study, Problems, and gaps in human resource requirements for tourism in the study area. It also presents the research objectives and research questions of this study. It also summarizes the research rationale, significance, Research methodology, and limitations of the study.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

This chapter contains a review of the literature which demonstrate the linkages between pro-poor tourism and poverty alleviation in the study area. This chapter links academic and non-academic literary work to the research problem. The research gap has also been identified and presented for the study.

Chapter 3: Study Area

Elaborates on the geophysical setups, socioeconomic status, and background of the natural and cultural resources of the study area. Further, it also highlights the existing status of tourism and the enabling environment for pro-poor tourism promotion in the study area.

Chapter 4: Data Analyses and Interpretation

This chapter interprets the results of data analysis. The analysis applied for this study was Chi-Square and frequency percentage.

Chapter 5: Discussions, Suggestions, and Conclusion

This chapter contains Discussion, Suggestions, and Conclusions. It explains the key findings of the present research work.

Chapter-2

Literature Review

2.0: Literature Review

This chapter contains a review of the literature which demonstrate the linkages between pro-poor tourism and poverty alleviation in the study area. This chapter links academic and non-academic literary work to the research problem. The research gap has also been identified and presented for the study.

2.1 Introduction

Tourism is often considered as an economic driver (Rogerson & Lemon, 2002) and a vital tool in tackling poverty alleviation (Muganda, Sahil & Smith, 2010) but on the other hand, quite numbers of criticisms have been made by different scholars over the period accusing it to capitalist and a threat to the untouched and unspoiled tourism destinations and their people. India, a poverty-stricken country has its maximum population of poor people living in the rural areas. Though Sikkim is gaining a lot from tourism, the distribution of actual income generated from it is hardly studied. It is often argued that tourism is an urban and middle-man-centric business. Therefore, it is necessary to understand the linkage between tourism and poverty alleviation.

2.1.1 Review of Literature

Poverty is a disturbing and distressful situation and poses major challenges to the world. At the end of the year 2015, 12 % of the world population lives below the poverty line estimated at \$1.25 a day, which means 836 million people don't even make it to earn the basic needs required for survival. The condition is still worse in Sub-Saharan Africa (41%) and the few of Southern Asia (17%).

Despite the well-organized efforts of the UN, half of the employed category of people are still working in vulnerable conditions (United Nations, 2015). The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which were the product of various agreements and resolutions at international level conferences carried out by the UN in 1990 was kick-started as one of the first organized attempts towards eradicating poverty through its linkage with tourism. Following the formulation of MDGs, various attempts in the form of monetary loans, grants, sanctions, projects, programs, and structural

adjustments have been drawn upon towards eradicating poverty, yet all of them have shown limited progress (Scheyvens, 2008). The total participation of the number of countries having Least Developed Country (LDC) status was 24 in the year 1971 ("The Least Developed Countries: Historical Background) but despite all the extra efforts taken it has risen to 48 by the year 2015 (United Nations, 2015).

After the formulation of the Millennium Development Goals, United Nations urged major industries to engage towards the achievement of the eight goals developed in September 2000 with the postulations devised in the UN MDGs. Tourism, as one of the major sectors driving the world's economy, accepted the goals specified in the UN MDGs. It may be argued that tourism has its specific mechanism of working that supports poverty alleviation as in many of its developing countries or underdeveloped countries, which are home to most of the poor in the world and where tourism is either a major or growing sector. The growth rate of tourism which is stagnant in developed countries is increasing by a huge ratio mostly in developing countries of the world. World Travel & Tourism Council (World Travel & Tourism Council, 2015).

Besides the above-said facts tourism has been looked upon as a panacea to eradicate poverty, inequality, and to an extent conflicts too (IIPT,2004) . It is quoted as an informal sector that is labor-intensive and that fosters the inclusion of women based on the natural and cultural assets of the poor (Ashley & Roe, 2002:61). Also, each unit of capital invested in ruler tourism creates a greater number of jobs than for the similar capital invested in any other industry (Lickorish & Jenkins, 1997).

However, the voice stating that tourism helps in poverty alleviation isn't supported by all of the stakeholders, especially in the academic works. Tourism is criticized as a sector that is capitalist making the rich richer, and the poor poorer. It is also accused to be a threat to the magnificent destinations and the indigenous culture and heritage of those destinations. Yet another argument that can't be ignored is that the impact of tourism on the poor is only studied from the economic perspective ignoring many other catalyst dimensions like environment, culture, society, politics, etc. The portrayal of tourism as an agent of exploitation is quite explicit in many academic writings. At the same time, while analyzing the successful case studies of the positive impacts of tourism upon destinations and upliftment of the poor community's

livelihood nourishment. But on the darker side critics have said that It is also argued that tourism amplifies the commoditization of culture, disruption in the society, and degradation of the environment (Pluss & Backs, 2002: 12).

Pro-poor tourism, tourism's very own approach toward eradicating poverty is based on uncertain ideologies whereby it is not specified which pillar of tourism shall be used for alleviating poverty since even sex tourism also alleviates poverty (Harrison, 2008). Scholars of the post-colonial era comment that tourism makes the inequalities among developed and underdeveloped nations grow stronger resulting in the unequal power embodiments between 'the West and 'the Rest' (Hall & Tucker, 2004).

India is a very large and multi-destination country with diversified culture and tradition (Jaiswal, 2014) where each place is different from the other (Chaudhary, 1996) . Tourism is expected to contribute at the rate of 7.8% per year to Indian GDP during 2013-23(WTTC, 2012). All of the above-mentioned facts suggest a bright future for Indian tourism in the days to come. But India is still an example of being a poverty-ridden country. A study conducted by World Bank quoted that India is home to the world's 1/3rd. of the extremely poor population making it the home to a maximum number of poor people (World Bank, 2013). Moreover, 77 percent of poor people live in rural areas (World Bank, 1993). In this scenario, a major economic tool like tourism is expected to contribute to the development of poor people by poverty alleviation in rural areas.

Similarly, Sikkim has the same to offer as the natural artistic, and heritage-driven Sikkim has been blessed with a UNESCO world heritage site in July 2016, Becoming the first "Mixed Heritage" site of India namely Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve and Khangchendzonga National Park, a rural tourism site, the world-famous Palaces, and world oldest monasteries and end number of amalgamations of cultural, religion, rural and environmental embodiments. The place provides a unique experience to its tourists.

Moreover, there is a theoretical debate by many scholars over the impact of tourism on the livelihood of poor people (Scheyvens, 2008). India is a developing country and almost 68 %of its villages reside in about 7 million villages (GOI, Census, 2011). Though India is having higher potential to be a world-class destination, the economic impacts of tourism (Especially on the poor people) have to be measured. Also, there is

no clear idea about whether tourism is a boon or curse for developing countries where high volumes of poor people live.

2.1.2. Research Gap

Previous studies on the research theme of poverty alleviation linkage with tourism have been mostly carried out in the developed tourism areas only, but only a few studies have addressed this issue in the context of the state like Sikkim where it hosts 74.85% of the rural population which is 456,999 out of its total which is 6,10,577 state population as per 2011 census of the government of India. Hence, measuring the impact of tourism on the livelihoods of poor people becomes imperative (order). However, this study will solve this purpose and trace out the truth and myths about and behind the synergy between tourism and its linkage with poverty alleviation for the poor and marginalized population in the rural areas within the territory of Gangtok, Sikkim. This will be one of the few studies that will focus on the identification of tourism products in the study area and their use pattern linking it with the poverty alleviation through tourism and the nature of the livelihood of the people that tourism provides in the rural areas of this research.

Chapter-3

Study Area

3.0: Study Area

Sikkim is geographically and culturally different from other states of the country India. It was once a Himalayan monarchy and it was part of the fabled Sikkim Route China. As the 22nd state of India Sikkim came into existence in the year 1975. Sikkim is situated in the eastern Himalayas and shares its boundary with Nepal in the west, Bhutan in the East, Tibet in the North, and the West Bengal state of India in the south. Sikkim's major communities or three main inhabitants are Lepcha, Nepalese, and Bhutia.

Sikkim covers an area of 7,096 sq. km and measures approx. 114 km from the north to south and 64 km from east to west. It is spread below Mt. Khanchendzonga (8534 meters), the third-highest mountain in the world and revered by the Sikkimese as their protective deity. Sikkim has been divided into four districts and each district has further been bifurcated into two sub-divisions for administrative purposes.

Figure 3.1: Location Map of Study Area



Source:www.mapsofindia.com

3.1 About Sample Villages

The area of study is limited to the east district of Sikkim about which both primary and secondary data were collected for all aspects of local community participation in Tourism. For the primary survey two villages; Ranka and Luing village of East

Sikkim have been selected. A brief sketch of the socio-economic and demographic profile of the study area will point to the difference and similarities of the sample villages and that will help in understanding the differences or even the similarities in the attitudes of people from two different villages of East Sikkim in Tourism practices, its resources, its use patterns and its linkage with the poverty alleviation. The brief profile of sample villages is presented in table 3.1.

Table 3.1: Demographic profile of study villages.

Features	Study Area	
	1. Ranka	2. Luing
Area (sq. km)	136.75	416.42
Population	609	2019
Sex Ratio	289males/320females	989males/1030females
Literacy	73%	81%

Source: Based on the 2011 census, Government of India.

RANKA and LUIING villages in the east district of Sikkim is at sixteen and eight kilometres simultaneously from the capital town Gangtok which offers the best riverside view and rich multiple cultures, heritage homes of the Rai communities, private fish farms, seasonal fruits, orchards, exotic flowers gardens, homestays, offers adventure activities, Buddhist monasteries, etc. Moreover, it is a mixture of natural and man-made attractions which is still not been highlighted on the other hand it has a huge magnitude on tourism and can help benefit the locals in return.

3.1.1 Village Profile

i. Ranka Village

STATE	Sikkim
DISTRICT	East District
BLOCK/TEHSIL	Gangtok
LOCATION/VILLAGE CODE	261294

Source. Census 2011, govt. of India.

Ranka village has abundant natural resources as well as man-made resources and is still rural but fairly accessible through all the road transport. It is 16 km away from Sikkim's capital Gangtok and takes around 40 mins drive time by road. It is both

district and sub-district headquarter of Ranka village. There are about 135 houses with a total population of 609 people and covers 136.75 hectares of total geographical area (Census 2011). Ranka village comes under Sikkim parliamentary constitution and upper Burtuk assembly as per 2019 statistics. The nearest town to Ranka is Gangtok. Gangtok is also served by daily helicopter service operated by Sikkim Tourism Development Corporation (STDC) from Bagdogra and it takes 20 minutes flying time but this is subjected to the weather conditions. The village is inhabited by 70 percent Rai population and occupies a place of pride in one of the richest Rai culture heritages of Sikkim.

3.1.2 Famous Tourist Spots in Ranka Village.

i. Khangchendzonga Tourist Complex.

Present status- Closed (poor maintenance and connectivity)

The Khangchendzonga Tourist Complex, popularly known as KTC Ranka, is a one-stop solution for the myriad needs of both tourists and travelers. The complex completed in 2010 is a unique joint venture between The Government of Sikkim and Kolkata-based private builders Civil Engineers Enterprises Pvt. Ltd. KTC Ranka is the best example of an Amusement Park which is gaining popularity among the tourist and locals as well by giving the employment and job opportunities for the poor local people.

<i>Sl.no</i>	<i>Total local employee</i>	<i>Total non-local employee</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Salary</i>
1.	15	25	40	10-35 Thousand

Data collected from primary sources.

ii. Ranka Monastery

Ranka Monastery or Lingdum Monastery is a Buddhist monastery situated at Ranka East Sikkim Gangtok, and it is one of the most popular monasteries in Sikkim and among the most visited places in Gangtok. This Monastery was built in 1998 CE and is the seat of Zurmang Charwang Rinpoche. The present Rinpoche is the 12th successive incarnation of this lineage. It is interesting to note that the monastery is

mainly run by young monks. Further, the beauty of the monastery has attracted a lot of filmmakers from Bollywood too.

iii. Homestays.

Since the concept of homestays is the latest trend and locals have started functioning to serve guests and arriving tourists totally in the way that locals do like Hamro-Chula (Nepali) functioning since 2012 and Tashi Delek (Bhutia) home stays since 2014. Homestays in this area have helped create healthy job opportunities for poor and marginalized people of this village though there are a few more that are out of the limelight due to poor promotion and publicity. Some of the homestays here are.

<i>Sl.no</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Owned/leased</i>	<i>Registration year</i>	<i>Total employee</i>	<i>Income per season</i>
1.	Tashi Delek	Owned	2012	6-8 employees from the same family.	25-30 thousand.
2.	Hamro Chula	Owned	2014	8-10 members from the same family	40-50 thousand

Source; *Primary source.*

iv. Micro Tea Garden.

The micro tea garden is privately owned by native locals because of its small size. It is another product of the area which is well taken care of by the locals themselves even though its production is on less quantity to be used as a market product but it is used in surrounding areas and as part of their daily kitchen item and as a local delicacy. But whenever the product is in excess it is sold out to local vendors with the value of 2,500 INR/Kilo. However, these tea gardens are untapped for tourism activities but have the potential to attract tourists, who can see how tea is grown and learn the process of extracting its leaves for consumption by people.

v. Small Fruit Orchards

Ranka village is rich in the production of different fruits like oranges, guava, lemons, and more. Oranges grow in large quantity hence it is sold to buyers at a very low price

and it is the same for other locally produced commodities too like organic vegetables and seasonal exotic flowers like orchids and Rhoedendern as the local people are not aware of the inflation and cost of living.

3.1.3 Luing Village

STATE	Sikkim
DISTRICT	East District
BLOCK/TEHSIL	Gangtok
LOCATION/VILLAGE CODE	261305

Source. Census 2011, govt. of India.

Luing village is situated 8km away from Gangtok Tehsil of East District in Sikkim, India. Village Luing occupies 416.42 hectares of total geographical area with a population of 2,019 people. There are about 413 houses in Luing village (Census, 2011). According to 2019 stats, Luing village comes under Sikkim parliamentary constituency and Upper Burtuk assembly. It is both a district & sub-district headquarter of Luing village. As per 2009 stats Luing Parbing is the gram panchayat of Luing village. Gangtok is the nearest town to Luing village for the commuters.

• Famous tourist spots in Luing Village

i. Banjhakri Water Falls.

Present Status- Closed (Poorly Maintained, Less Publicity Since 2019).

Banjhakri Falls is also known to be Energy Park with local folklores display and ethnographic medicinal properties attached to it. It is a recreational center and a tourist attraction used for leisure and sustainable green energy near Gangtok in the state of Sikkim, India. A thickly forested park's statuary and other displays documents of the Ban Jhakri, or traditional shamanic healer who worships spirits living in caves around the falls. *The ban* means "forest", and *jhākri* means "healer". The **best time to visit** here is around October when you can feel the calming breeze on your face. A visit to **Banjhakri falls** is a must-have experience that will present to you the reflection of nature in its true sense and the **real culture poor community**.

The entry fee is 20rs per person. Car parking 50rs but they drop just at the entry to avoid parking. Shared cabs too are available for 1 or 2 people in day time after waiting for a while. This review is subjective and completely based on my personal observations.

Sl no.	Developed by/ Opening year	Employment of locals/non-locals	Occupation in the park.	Salary/month
1.	RMDD Department, Government of Sikkim. Started-2010	Locals- 15 only (including male and female). Non-locals- 26 (male and female together).	1. Entry gate kipper. 2. Gift shops. 3. Watchman. 4. Fast food. 5. photographer.	6000 INR. 12000 INR. 7000 INR. 15,000 INR 10,000 INR

Source; *Primary field source.*

ii. Homestays

Homestays in Luing such as "Riverside view" homestays run by local service providers who provide authentic and immersive experiences to tourists and local economic development to marginalized communities living in rural areas. These homestays provide a source of local employment and income opportunities to the poor and help in the conservation of the environment and local culture in its natural form.

Sl.no	Name	Owned/leased	Registration year	Total employee	Income per season
1.	Riverside view	Owned by local. Mr. Hem k. Chettri. Ph.no. 9735001919	2018	10-12 employees, including family members.	40-50 thousand.

Source. Primary source

iii. Paragliding and Adventure

Luing is one of the best places for an adventure such as Paragliding in Sikkim which is slowly getting popular among the locals and visitors for mountain viewing, valley, and magnificent view of the capital town from the air. Fly Sikkim Adventure and Sikkim paragliding adventure sports cooperative society limited in association with the department of tourism and

civil aviation are the major operators in this sector. Moreover, it has created lots of job opportunities for the youths in the local community.

Names of operators	Established year	Employee local/non-locals	Total number of Employees.	Income
1. Fly Sikkim Adventure. 2. Sikkim Paragliding adventure sports cooperative society limited. 3. department of tourism and civil aviation. Government of Sikkim.	YEAR=2011	Local=16 Non-Local=24 (Includes Drivers, Operators, booking officers, Pilots, and gliding instructors)	TOTAL=40	10-12 Lakhs

Source; Primary source.

iv. Fish Farming

Fish farming is also one of the major parts of the livelihood among the locals of this village. Though an almost small segment of the locals is engaged in such privately owned fish farming it is interesting to see the locals engaged in such occupation for small businesses or to be used as the source of food for their own. Grass carp is the major species of fish that is farmed by the locals. It is used as a source of income locally for 600 INR/Kilo (Primary source).

v. Rai Heritage home

Luing is a destination rich with Rai community heritage homes. The design and aesthetics depicted in architecture provide authenticity and add value to the visitor experience which helps in protecting and preserving the cultural heritage of the local community. The houses with a heritage value of more than 150 years illustrate the traditions and customs of multi-cultural and diverse indigenous groups in the area (Primary source). Heritage houses provide attractive income opportunities and cultural interactions between guests and hosts encouraging mutual respect for diversity and poverty alleviation. There are few old houses in this area. Most early

ones are two in number as the owner says such attraction has not been identified till today as tourist visits but have value in its own way for attracting tourist.

Sl. No	OwnerNames and Numbers	Heritage value	Engineering features.
1.	Mr. Sushil Rai Ph. No- 8348886617.	160 years	1. House built with hands using wood, mud, and stones only. 2. constructions are made in such a way that not a single piece of iron nails is used.
2.	Mr. Mandeep Rai Ph. No-8649855378	145 years	1. House built with hands using wood, mud, and stones only. 2. constructions are made in such a way that not a single piece of iron nails is used.

3.2 Unique and Common Features of the Study Areas

The district east in Sikkim is one of the best places to make this type of study given its status as a reputed tourism destination and has the presence of a large number of authentic and ethnic untapped villages as a tourism product along with a heterogeneous mixture of local people following different culture and religion living together with harmony. These villages are blessed with natural and man-made tourists attraction which has huge potential of attracting large numbers of tourist which not only gives employment to the locals but also helps in improving the quality of living for the local communities. It is a well-known fact that a large number of countries have an unseen arsenal of attractions that is still not been focused on and explored even in the tourism product publicity but can be a major product for the tourism industry as it directly benefits the local or poor communities in such rural areas in terms of improving the quality of life of its marginalized community people through tourism and linking it with poverty alleviation.

Farming (Organic Farming)

Organic farming is common in both the study area which is Luing and Ranka, where 71% of the local population taken together are engaged in farming. Since Sikkim as a state is the first in the world which is 100% organic. The policy implemented by the state government in January 2016 to stop the use of chemical fertilizer and pesticides, the state achieved a complete ban on the use and sale of chemical pesticides which in turn has benefitted a large number of poor farming families in the state which includes the Study area too. Rice is the staple food in these two-area followed by maize and different vegetables which are grown without the use of chemical fertilizer. Farming produce in my study area is not used for commercial production. However excess produce is sold to local vendors who make it to a market.

On the other hand, its focus only on cash crops and the rapid rise of population and heavy inflow of the tourist demands for more of its products which makes the state to be depended heavily on conventional produce, mostly from its neighboring states like West Bengal, this are the products which are cultivated with the use of chemical fertilizers to meet the demand of big population because local produce is in very less quantity to sustain its poor population.

Fast-foods

Another common similarity between both the study area is fast food and the absence of good restaurant or food outlets and hotels which offers multiple items for tourist. Though there are very few numbers of fast foods in these areas and the dishes offered by them are common dishes or as tourist demands.

Chapter-4

Data Analysis and Interpretation

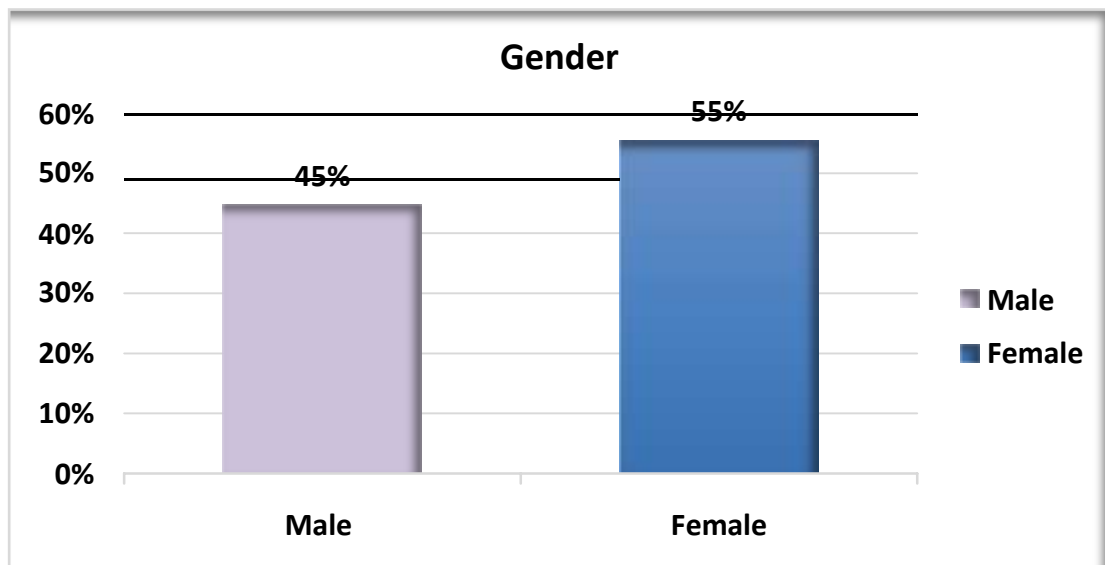
4.1 Introduction

This chapter interprets the results of data analysis. To answer the objectives of the study, this chapter underlies the results of the local community's data to understand the status of tourism development in the sampled village.

4.2 Demographic Profile of Host Community

The respondents representing the community are from sampled villages of Ranka and Luing village of East Sikkim. All 150 villagers were contacted for a questionnaire survey and out of which 45% were male and 55% were female respectively (Figure 4.1).

Figure 4.1: Number of male and female respondents



Source: Primary Data

Table 4.1 shows the marital status and different age groups of the local community members. Of the sampled population 57% were married and 43% were unmarried has been recorded. For the age group, the study has considered six categories of age group i.e., (i) 16-20 years, (ii) 21-30 Years (iii) 31-40 Years (iv) 41-50 Years (v) 51-60 Years (vi) ≥ 61 Years respectively. 18% of the respondents were from the age group (i) 16-20 years, 27% were from the 21-30 Years age group, 23% were from the age

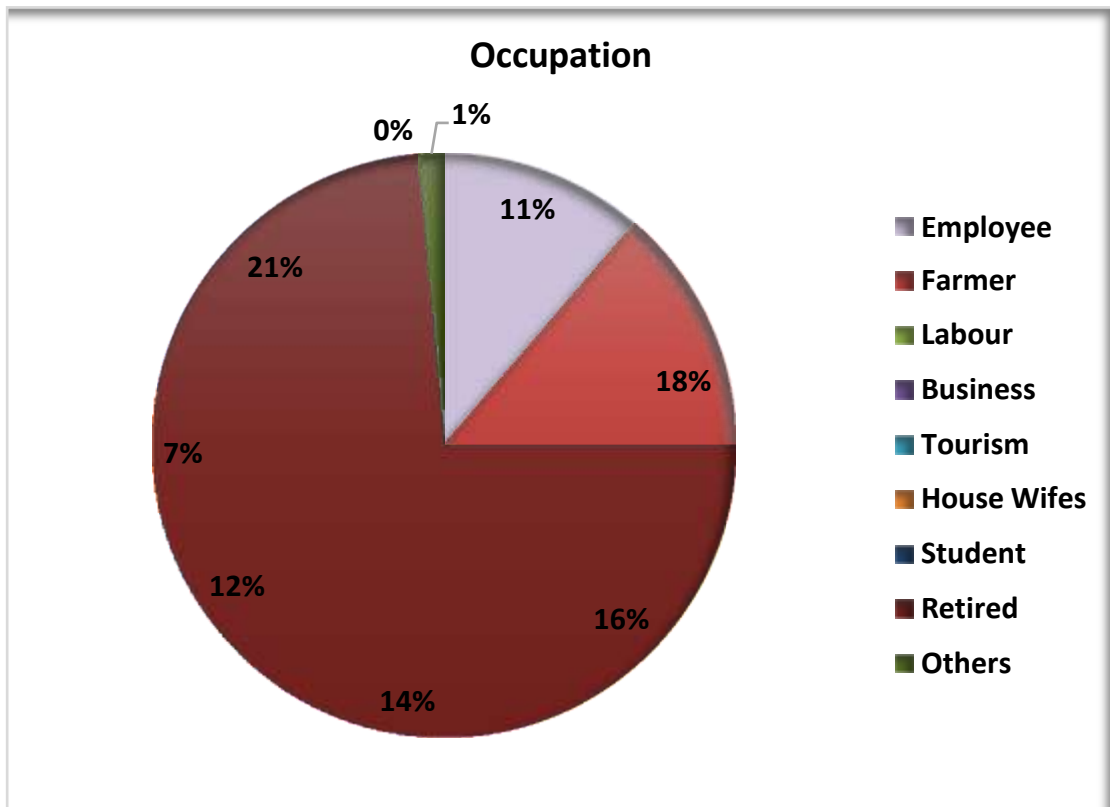
group 31-40 Years, 13% were from the age of 41-50 Years, 13% was from the age group of 51-60 Years and only 7% was from the age group of ≥ 61 Years. Further, the educational level of local communities shows a higher disparity among which only 9% of the respondents have attained their education level up to graduation and 30% of the respondents just have attended high school. 13% of the respondents from the study area have recorded dropouts (Table 4.1).

Table 4.1: Demographic profile of local community

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Married	85	57%
Unmarried	65	43%
Age group		
16-20 years	27	18%
21-30 Years	40	27%
31-40 Years	34	23%
41-50 Years	19	13%
51-60 Years	19	13%
≥ 61 Years	11	7%
Total	150	100%
Education		
Junior high school or below	42	28%
High School	45	30%
University Or College.	14	9%
Graduate	29	19%
School Drop Out	20	13%

Source: Primary data

Figure 4.2: Occupation of the local community

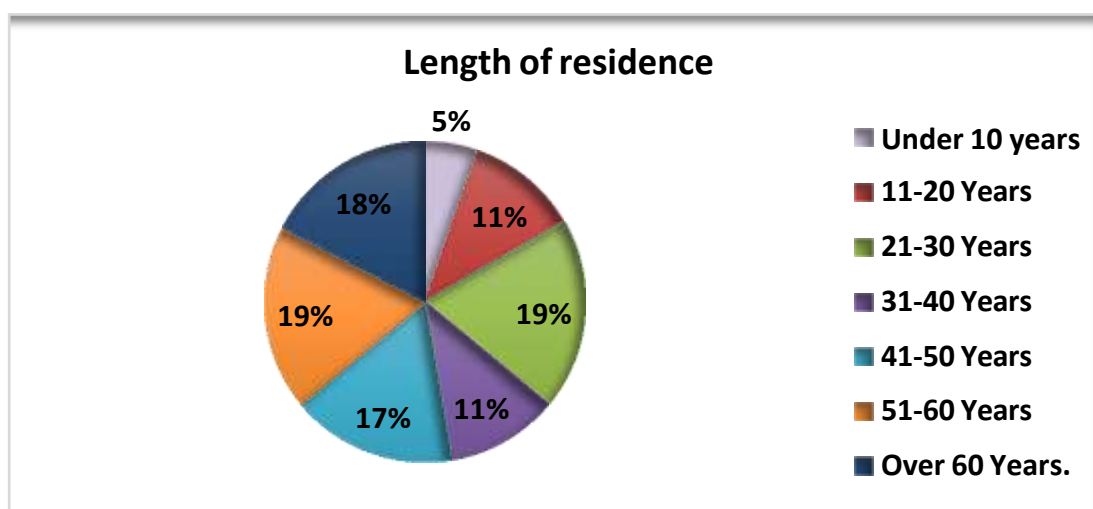


Source: Primary Data

- Occupation of the respondents

Figure 4.2 shows the occupations of the respondents of sample villages where 21% of the respondents were students followed by 18% of respondents were farmers, 16% of respondents were laborers, and 14% of respondents were engaged in personal business i.e., non-tourism related. 11% of total respondents were employees another 7% of the respondent were housewives. The other 1% were livestock keepers, potters, and watchmen. Whereas, only 12% of the total respondents were engaged in tourism-related business and services (Fig.4.2).

Figure 4.3: Length of stay of the locals

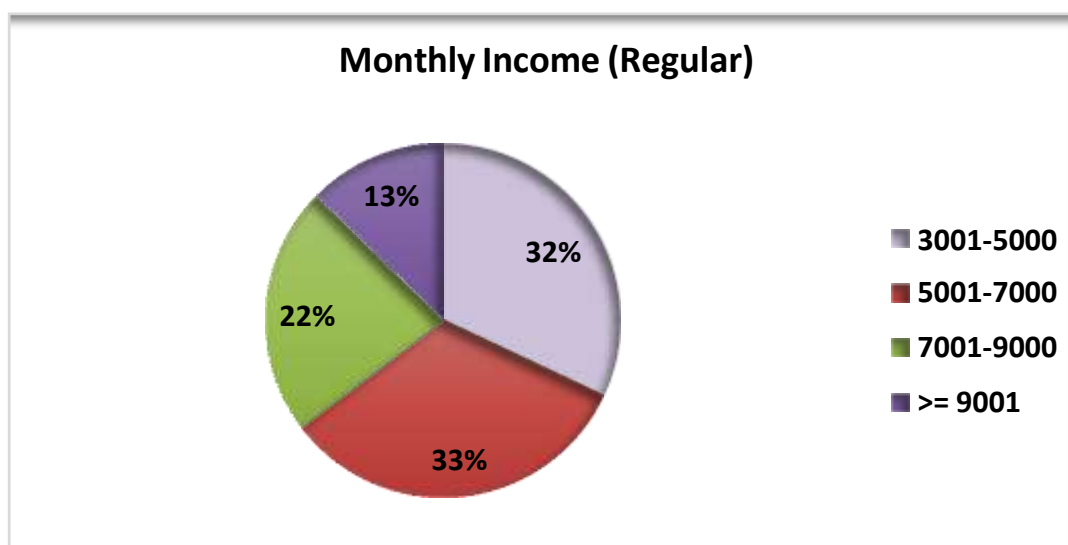


Source: Primary Data Lengths of local respondents

The figure 4.3 shows the length of residence of the respondents from the two sample villages where 19% of the respondent were the resident in the range of 51-60 years and another 19% were the resident in the range of 21-30 years, 18% of the respondent were the resident in the range over 60 years, 17% of the respondent were the resident in the range of 41-50 years.

Another 11% of the respondent were residents in the range of 11-20 years. Whereas only 5% of the total respondent were residents under 10 years.

Figure 4.4: Monthly income of locals from regular mode



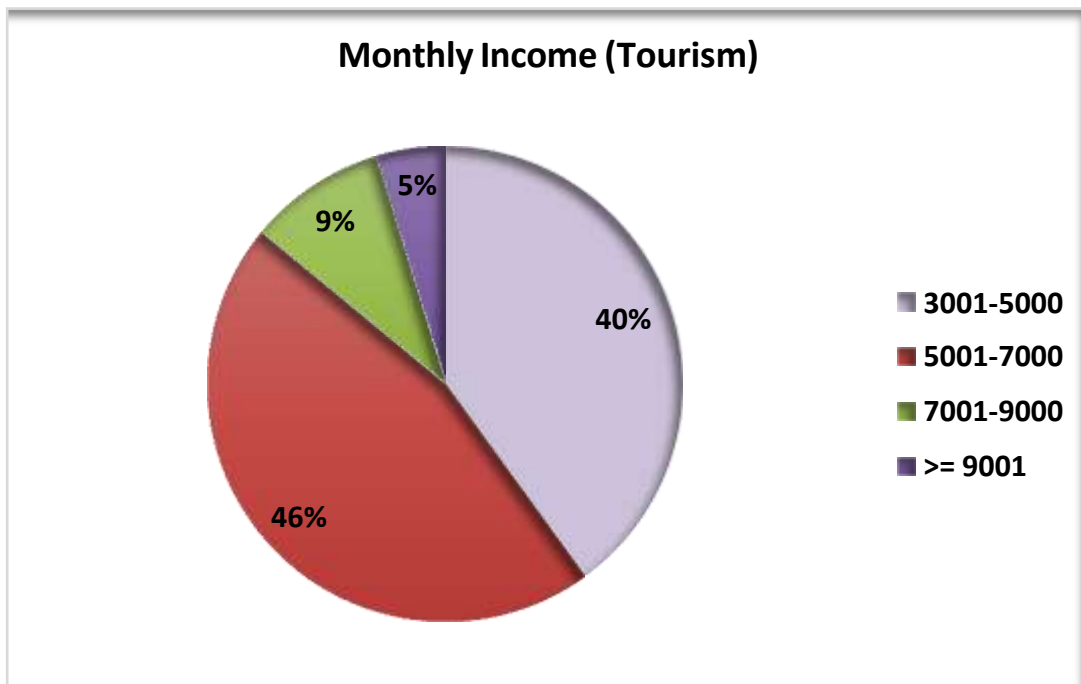
Source: Primary Data

- Monthly income from regular mode

The ways of income of the local community members have been divided into two parts i.e., (i) from the regular modes which basically means the income from non-tourism-related works and business and (ii) income from tourism-related business and services.

Further, income groups have also been divided into four groups (i) 3001-5000, (ii) 5001-7000, (iii) 7001-9000 (iv) ≥ 9001 . Figure 4.4 shows the income of the respondents from regular modes. Where 32% of respondents are earning (i) 3001-5000 and 32% are earning their monthly income from (ii) 5001-7000, 23% are earning (iii) 7001-9000 and only 13% of the respondents are earning (iv) ≥ 9001 respectively.

Figure 4.5: Monthly income of the local respondents from tourism



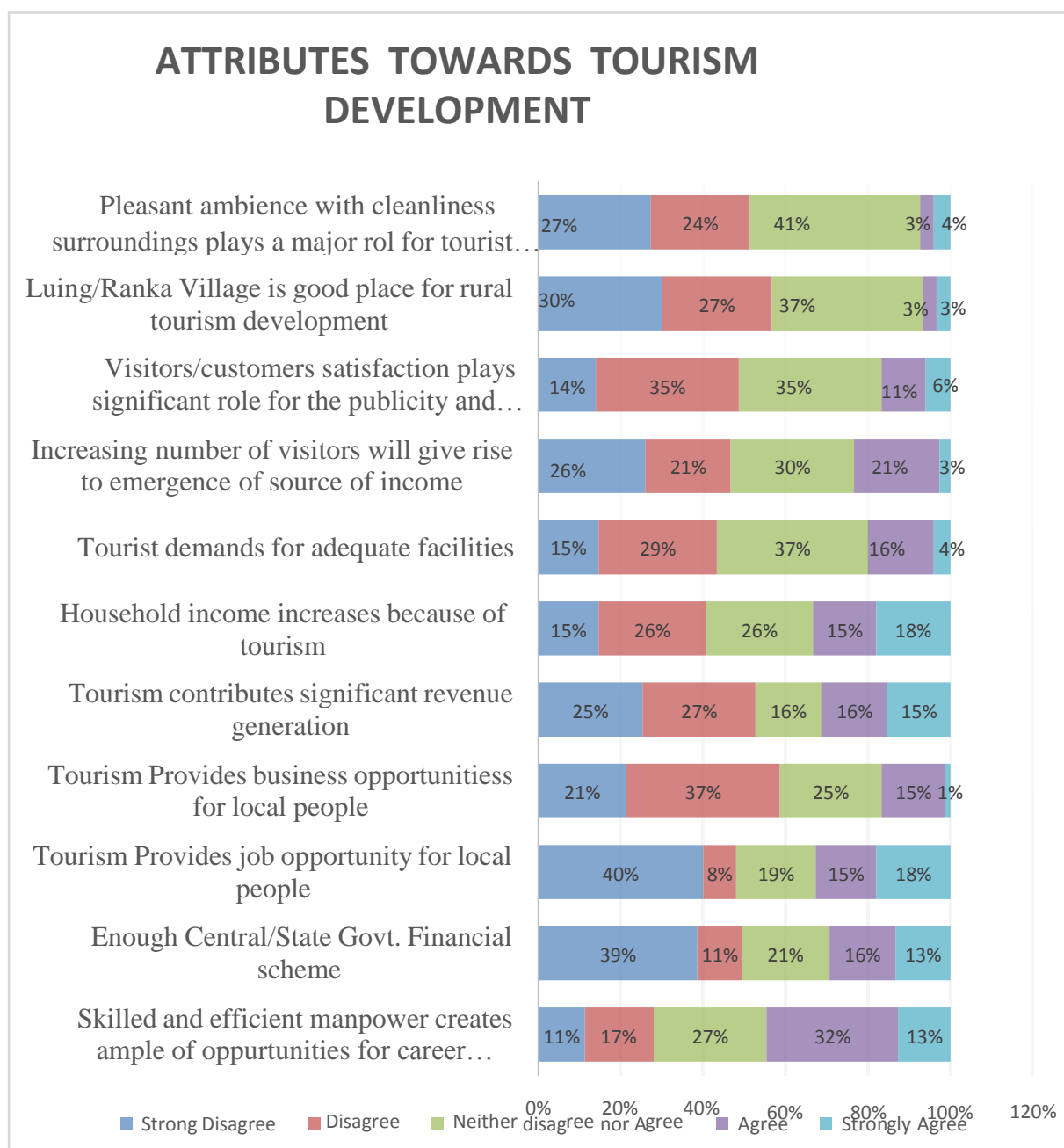
Source: Primary data

Figure 4.5 shows the level of income of the local community members from tourism. The income level from tourism have further divided into four groups i.e. (i) 3001-5000, (ii) 5001-7000, (iii) 7001-9000 (iv) ≥ 9001 respectively. In the income group of (ii) 5001-7000, 46% of the respondents are earning their monthly income, followed by 40% (i) 3001-5000, only 9% of respondents are earning their monthly income of

(iii) 7001-9000, and just 5% are earning upto (iv) \geq 9001. Here it shows the maximum number of respondents i.e., 46% are earning their income level up to 5001-7000INR per month (refer to fig. 4.5).

4.3 Awareness of Locals toward Pro-Poor Tourism Development

Table 4.2: Local communities' knowledge and awareness of tourism development



Source: Primary data

In order to understand the consciousness of local community members the study has analyzed several attributes relevant to pro-poor tourism and development in the selected study area. A total of eleven different statements have been asked during the field survey. For statement 6 "Household income increases because of tourism" 18% of respondents strongly agreed to it and 15% disagreed. For the statement "tourism provides job opportunities for local people" 18% strongly agreed and 40% strongly disagreed with it. For the statement "tourism generates significant revenue generation" 15% strongly agreed and 25% strongly disagreed with it. For the statement "Enough central and state financial scheme" 13% strongly agreed and 39% disagreed with it. For the statement "skilled and efficient manpower creates ample opportunities for career progression and alleviating poverty" 13% strongly agreed and 11% disagreed with it. For the statement "Visitor /customer satisfaction plays a significant role for the publicity and integrated development of the area" only 6% of the respondents strongly agreed and 14% disagreed. For the statement "Visiting tourists demands adequate facilities and advanced visitor services" only 4% of the respondents strongly agreed and 15% disagreed to it (table 4.2).

For the statement "Luing /Ranka village region is a good place for rural tourism development" only 3% of the local respondents agreed and 26% disagreed with it. Hence, the results show that tourism has contributed the household income and created job opportunities for locals in the study area.

4.3.1 Tourism Resources in the Study Area

- Existing tourism activities in the study area

Table 4.3 elaborates on the existing tourism activities in the study area. The activities like Interaction with local people, Adventure and recreational activities, farming with people, Ploughing the fields, Understanding the culture, preparing local foods, etc. was been asked during the survey. 33% of respondents said the existing tourism activity in the study area is "Adventure and recreational activities" followed by "Understanding the culture" 18% and "Interaction with local people" i.e. 17%. Plowing the fields 10% and only 8% for "Farming with people and Preparing local foods" (refer to table 4.3).

Table 4.3: Present tourism activities

Activities the tourists like to get involved	Frequency	Percent
Interaction with local people	25	17%
Adventure and recreational activities	49	33%
Farming with people	12	8%
Plowing the fields	15	10%
Understanding the culture	27	18%
Preparing local foods	12	8%
Others	10	7%

Source: Primary data

- Potential tourism activity in the study area

Many potential tourism activities can be expanded further for the benefit of locals in the village. For instance, cultural shows in the study area can be promoted as one of the major tourism activities to increase the tourist influx in the study area as 34% of respondents said it has a huge potential. 17% of respondents said there is a scope for day hikers, and 15% said different varieties of fruits orchards can be promoted as tourism resources in the study area. 11% of the respondents said there is also a river that can be an outreach for riverside camping (Table 4.4).

Table 4.4: Potential activities

Activities that can be offered to the tourists in the locality	Frequency	Percent
Day Hiking	25	17%
Different varieties of fruits orchards	22	15%
Fly fishing	8	5%
Cultural shows	51	34%
Rock climbing	6	4%
Swimming in river	8	5%
Riverside camping	16	11%
Heritage structure knowledge	13	9%

Source: Primary data

- The untapped potential of ecotourism activities in your village region

The study has huge potential for the promotion of many forms of ecotourism activities. For the promoting Farm fresh fruits and vegetables, 31% of respondents said it has the potential to promote. 22% of respondents from the study area said there is a huge scope for using hay and bamboo to build household items that can be promoted as an ecotourism product followed by 21% Wild animals and birds sightseeing.

Table 4.5: Untapped ecotourism activities

The untapped potential of ecotourism activities in your village region	Frequency	Percent
Farm fresh fruits and vegetables	47	31%
Different species of plants and flowers	15	10%
Using hay and bamboo to build household items	33	22%
Wild animals and birds sightseeing	32	21%
Organic Farming	23	15%

Source: Primary data

Hence, the results shows that the study area has huge potential for promotion of many untapped eco-tourism activities to upgrade the local economy.

- Lack of tourism infrastructure in the study area

Table 4.6 elaborates on the lack of tourism infrastructure and development initiatives in the study area. where, 25% of the local respondents said that there is an absence of governmental development support and 25% said that better transport, communication, and water facilities are absent in the study area.

Table 4.6: Absence of tourism infrastructure in the study area

Lacking basic touristic infrastructure in the study area	Frequency	Percent
Absence of governmental development support	37	25%
Absence of better transport, communication, and water facilities	38	25%
Absence of trained manpower	22	15%
Low profits in local produce	31	21%
Fewer tourist visits due to less destination marketing	22	15%

Source: Primary data

Furthermore, 21% of respondents said there are low profits in local produce followed by 15% each on the absence of trained manpower and fewer tourist visits due to less destination marketing (table 4.6). Hence, the government intervention for tourism development in the study area is necessary

- Future prospects of Tourism in the study area

The maximum number of respondents i.e., 59% of locals said that the intervention of tourism in the study area will have a great scope for poverty reduction in local communities. 32% of the respondents said there is an average scope for tourism development and only 5% said there is a downfall and decline in tourism in the study area (refer 4.7).

Table 4.7: Future prospects for poverty alleviation through tourism

Future prospects for poverty alleviation through tourism	Frequency	Percent
Bright and progressive	88	59%
Average	48	32%
Downfall and Declining	8	5%
No idea	6	4%

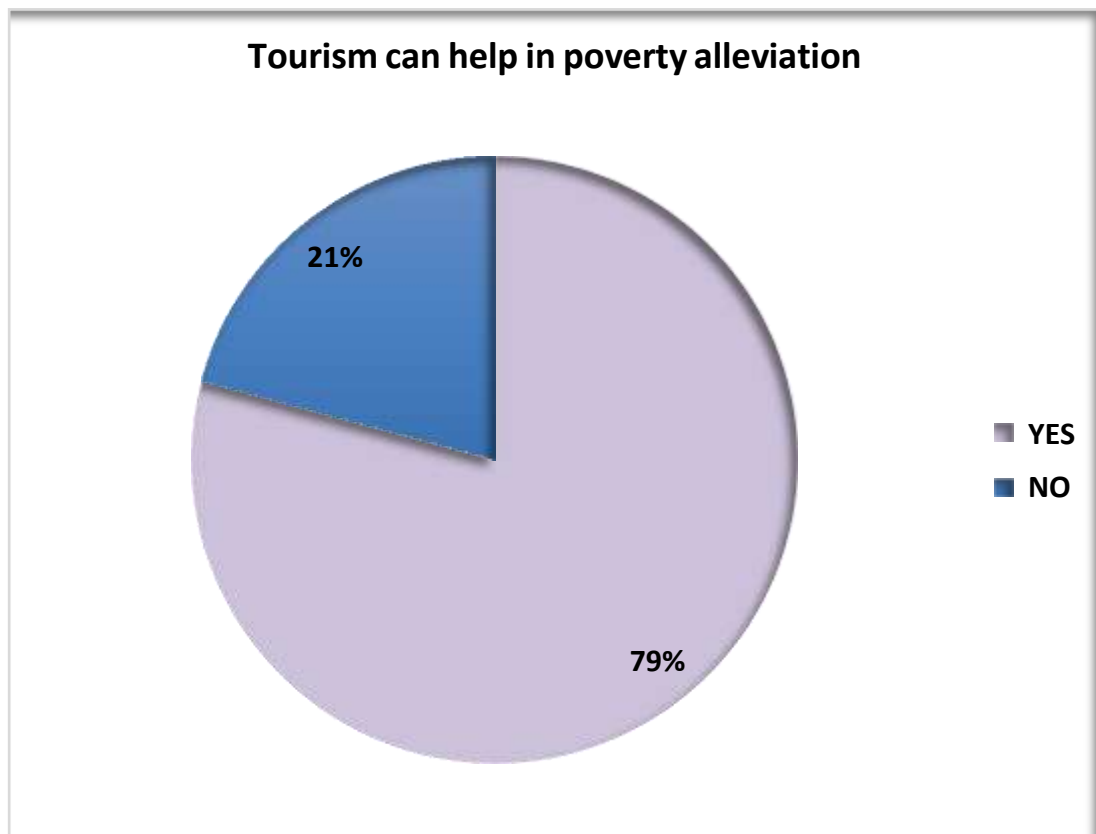
Source: Primary data

4.3.2 Local Community's Perspective on Tourism and Poverty Alleviation

To understand the perspective of local communities on whether or not tourism is alleviating poverty in the study area each respondent was asked about it. Where 79% of respondents said yes to the statement whether tourism has alleviated poverty and only 21% of the respondents said no to it.

Therefore, the results show that there is a huge scope for tourism and poverty alleviation in the study area.

Figure 4.6: tourism and poverty alleviation



Source: Primary data

- **Cross tabulation**

To validate the data collected during field survey on the question of “Can tourism actually alleviate poverty?”, the locals from both study villages have been questioned and it has been recorded that maximum numbers of respondents have said no to it. The outcomes from this statement show that there is minimal intervention in the tourism sector. Therefore, tourism development and promotion need to be done for both study villages to as to contribute the local economy (Fig.4.7).

Figure 4.7: Cross-tabulation across Ranka and Luing on tourism and poverty alleviation

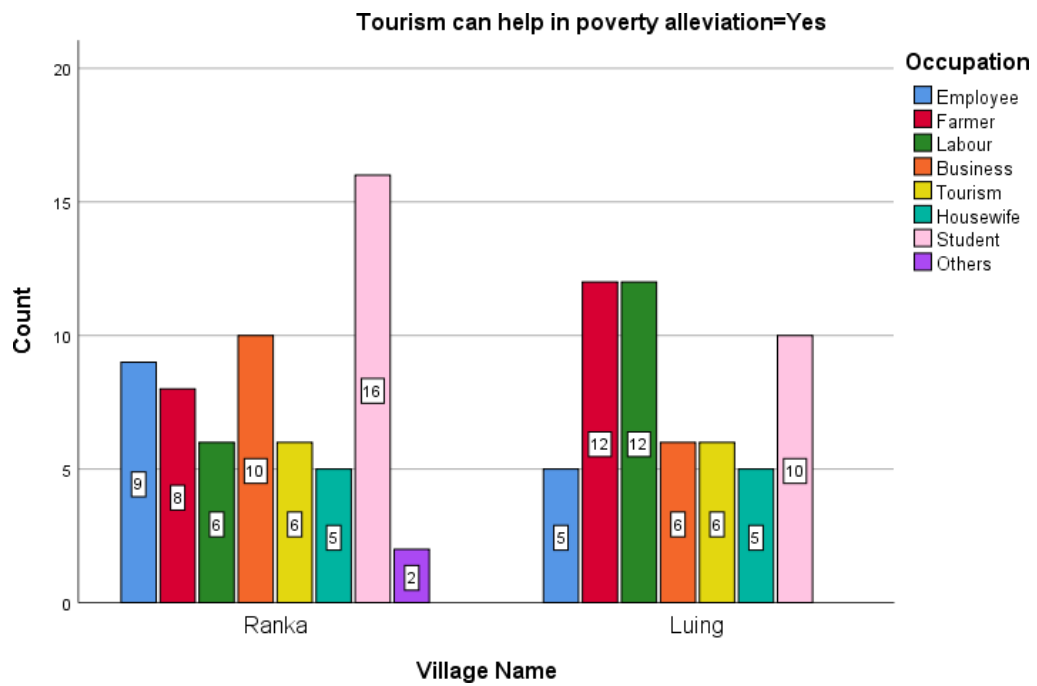
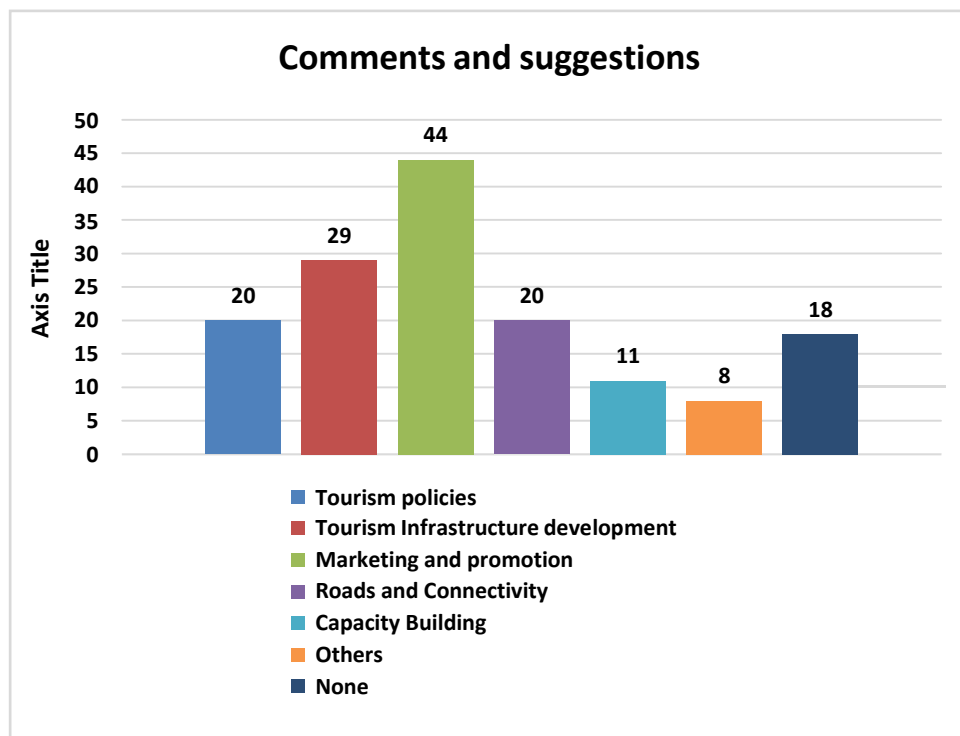


Figure 4.8: Locals' comments and suggestions



Source: Primary data

- **Suggestions from the local community members for tourism development in the study area**

The local community members have made several comments and suggestions during the questionnaire survey. The maximum suggestion was made for marketing the promoting of tourism products in the study area. Hence, there is a requirement for promotional and marketing approaches in the study area. Secondly, tourism infrastructure development in the study is also highly preferred by local communities. Furthermore, there are many areas to intervene in order to promote tourism in the study area for which the development of better transport facilities, capacity-building programs, and government policy intervention that have to be implemented in the study area (refer to fig.4.8).

Chapter-5

Finding, Discussions and Conclusion

5.1. Introduction

This chapter contains Findings, Discussion, and Conclusions. It explains the key findings of the present research work. This study set out to examine the impact of pro-poor tourism and poverty alleviation and its linkages in the rural areas of Sikkim. This research is crafted based on the aim and objectives, to evaluate the extent to which local people capitalize on their intangible and tangible culture in pursuit of sustainability of traditional tourism.

Moreover, this study intends to make recommendations for the local communities for the development of tourism and upliftment of the standard of the local people, educating the local rural areas people to certain extant and mobilization of culture into the development of Sikkim tourism for the benefits of the local communities in a long run.

5.2 Findings

Pro-poor tourism and poverty alleviation have been briefly explained on the basis of data analyzed and according to research design including opportunities and benefits in poverty alleviation and its linkage with tourism.

Finding 1: Lack of awareness and poor understanding of tourism's contribution to eliminating poverty for poor, marginalized people in my study area

The major drawback of pro-poor tourism is the lack of awareness and poor understanding of tourism's contribution to eliminating poverty for poor, marginalized people in my study area. It is due to the lack of government aid and support for the maintenance and development of tourism products in this study area. A large group of the young population lacks entrepreneurial skills. Moreover, the absence of proper infrastructure and poor connectivity, marketing, and promotion also makes a huge difference. On the bases of the above finding, it points out the constrain on resources and acts as a barrier to pro-poor tourism.

Finding 2: Pro-Poor tourism creates lots of job opportunities it needs to tap into new market trends that can be linked to the study area

Since pro-poor tourism creates lots of job opportunities it needs to tap into new market trends that are present in the local areas. One way of reaching out to these markets is through present advanced technology. As pro-poor tourism is an activity related to society that in return directly influences the life of poor people through poverty reduction. Moreover, the greatest success of pro-poor comes out from strong networking, looking and reaching out to partners belonging to other tourist destinations who share the same motive, interest, and goals. The findings of the research objectives section in this chapter have enlightened the unexplored phenomena, from poverty alleviation to pro-poor tourism.

Finding 3: Permanent policy framed aiming at maintenance, improvement, and sustaining of available resources is needed in the study area

For any community to flourish is only from its available tourism resources which are approachable. Moreover, the poor communities must have a permanent policy framed aiming at the maintenance, improvement, and sustaining of available resources. It can further bring change in the assessment of the local infrastructure, access through the land, and development of accessibility to the market for the locals. However, if large numbers of locals are given tourism-related training shall bring them forward with a high level of participation and active involvement in the decision-making process concerning tourism. This is only possible with the partnership between locals and the local and central governments together. Therefore, pro-poor tourism implementation requires governmental support by proper investments and by policymakers for the benefit of the poor community in eliminating poverty through tourism.

5.3. Discussion and Conclusions

This chapter talks about the critical analysis and the findings of the research on the basis of data observed and analyzed. The contribution further explores the development of Sikkim tourism. As the previous research showed that there's a need for marketing and at the same time educating people is also an important role in the development of tourism in the village.

The level of income of the local community members has a great influence on the development of tourism. This resulted in the level of income and their groups had been another factor in the encouragement of tourism. In order to understand the consciousness of the local community members, the study has analyzed the several attributes relevant to pro-poor tourism and development in the selected study area. A total of eleven different statements have been asked during the field survey. Hence, the results show that tourism has contributed the household income and created job opportunities for locals in the study area. statements2: Local communities' knowledge and awareness towards tourism development.

Further to understand the Existing tourism activities in the study area. The activities like Interaction with local people, Adventure and recreational activities, farming with people, Ploughing the fields, Understanding the culture, preparing local foods, etc. was been asked during the survey. 33% of respondents said the existing tourism activity in the study area is "Adventure and recreational activities" followed by "Understanding the culture" 18% and "Interaction with local people" i.e., 17%. Plowing the fields 10% and only 8% for "Farming with people and Preparing local foods" (refer to table 4.3).

Furthermore, to understand the Local community's perspective on tourism and poverty alleviation the perspective of local communities on whether or not tourism is alleviating poverty in the study area each respondent was asked about it. Where 79% of respondents said yes to the statement whether tourism has alleviated poverty and only 21% of the respondents said no to it. This shows that there is a huge scope for tourism and poverty alleviation in the study area.

The local community members have made several comments and suggestions during the questionnaire survey. The maximum suggestion was made for marketing the promoting of tourism products in the study area. Hence, there is a requirement for promotional and marketing approaches in the study area. Secondly, tourism infrastructure development in the study is also highly preferred by local communities. Furthermore, there are many areas to intervene in order to promote tourism in the study area for which the development of better transport facilities, capacity-building programs, and government policy intervention have to be implemented.

The interviews describe that the locals are very well satisfied with their work because it has been creating jobs for the skills and unskilled locals of the village which makes them more confident in the context of making earning. Looking at the tourism point of view it creates a job opportunity for the locals if they can meet the demand of the tourists and they found that these forms of tourism have a lot of contributions to Sikkim tourism. Further, the tourist who have an idea about the

Great desire to understand the local's forms of tourism art so that they can use its benefits, and some they develop. In this study, it is found that the sometimes quality of Promotion didn't meet the expectations and the infrastructure that should be provided to the small stakeholders. Developing tourism would not be enough and the education and promotion are important because they are the one who deals directly with the tourists and if they couldn't able to give the details can be problematic. Though till now they are giving the details information about Tourism based on the knowledge that they have been procuring.

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