

## Socio - economic Aspects of Tourism Development in Chitlang Village, Makwanpur

Anjana Lamichhane<sup>1</sup>

Anup K. C.<sup>2</sup>

Bishal Sharma<sup>3</sup>

### Abstract

*This paper examines how the local community of Chitlang village perceives the tourism impact on their community and how their socio-economic characteristics influence their perception towards tourism. Self-administered questionnaires were interviewed to the local people. For this, a 5-point Likert-type response scale was used. Data from 54 completed questionnaires were analyzed quantitatively by various statistical techniques, including factor analysis and cluster analysis. The impacts on the local community were condensed into eight factors: community development, economic impacts, local production, local environment, youths' consumption pattern, social impacts, occupational pattern, and land prices. Simultaneously, all respondents were segmented into six groups according to the socio-demographic factors (gender, age, education level, and occupation) by cluster analysis. The relationship between eight factors concerning tourism's impacts and those six clusters groups with different socio-demographics were established. Educated youth were paying great attention to economic benefits and were concerned with the positive and negative impact of tourism on the local environment. Senior citizens with lower education levels perceived development of the locality from tourism, and other adult groups saw changes in occupational pattern changes.*

**Keywords:** *Tourism development, Socio-economic aspects, Local's perception, Chitlang Village.*

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- 1 Ms. Lamichane works at Department of Economics, Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal.
  - 2 Mr. K.C. works at Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management, Clemson University, South Carolina, USA, and Department of Environmental Science, Amrit Campus, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal. Corresponding author. Email: [kcanup04@gmail.com](mailto:kcanup04@gmail.com)
  - 3 Mr. Sharma works at Department of Environmental Science, Amrit Campus, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal, and Environment Protection and Study Center (ENPROSC), Kathmandu, Nepal

## Introduction

Tourism is one of the important alternatives for economic growth in developing countries. It can be a viable opportunity to improve local residents' quality of life by providing jobs, generating income, diversifying the economy, protecting the environment, and promoting cross-cultural awareness in developing nations and developed nations (Kozhokulov et al., 2019). It has supported the livelihood of the local communities involved in tourism by providing social, economic, cultural, and economic benefits (K.C. et al., 2015). Mainly, in rural areas, it is taken as a supplementary source of income in addition to the income from agriculture and service sectors (Khadka et al., 2019).

With the potential to support local communities in economic diversity, tourism is one of the largest and fastest-growing industries (Allen et al., 1993; McGehee & Andereck, 2004; Abdollahzadeh & Sharifzadeh, 2014). The tourism sector has become a key contributor to global gross domestic product (GDP) during the last several decades because of its rapid growth and development (Budeanu, 2005; Eraqi, 2007). It contributed 10.4 percent of global GDP in 2019, a share of its GDP decreased to 5.5 percent in 2020 due to ongoing restrictions on mobility. In 2020, 62 million jobs were lost, representing a drop of 18.5 percent, leaving just 272 million employed across the sector globally, compared to 334 million in 2019 (WTTC, 2020).

Rural tourism and community-based homestay tourism are considered an essential aspect of tourism these days as it directly benefits the local community involved in it (K.C. et al., 2020). Also, tourists receive different types of benefits by visiting these areas. There are opportunities to see distinctive culture and lifestyles in rural places rarely captured with the modernization and another lifestyle. To see the real picture of people's lifestyle of any nation, tourists visit rural areas where traditional lifestyles and cultures are conserved in their primitive form (Katz-Gerro, 1999). In the context of Nepal, many rural tourism destinations are famous for their natural and cultural attractions. In these areas, tourists enjoy natural beauty and the unique local culture (Dahal et al., 2020).

Tourism has the potential to create both positive and negative impacts on the economy, society, culture, and environment (Huong & Lee, 2017). In recent decades, the concept of sustainable tourism development has evolved as a necessity for ensuring an efficient tourism industry based on three primary components: environmental concerns, socio-cultural aspects, and economic demands of the communities involved (Muresan et al., 2016). This concept is more successful in different parts of the world in the form of ecotourism, community-based tourism, homestay tourism, agro-tourism, and trekking tourism (K.C., 2018). When tourism activities were developed, some people benefit while others suffer unfavorable consequences (McGehee & Andereck, 2004). It is necessary to make sure that the benefits should always outweigh the costs associated with tourism. For this, policies, guidelines, and projects are developed with the active participation of local communities, and their perceptions towards tourism are taken care of for sustainably running tourism (K.C. et al., 2020). So, it is necessary to address the locals' perceptions to determine the appropriateness of tourism development (Abdollahzadeh & Sharifzadeh, 2014).

Domestic tourism, which represented 71.2 percent of all tourism spending in 2018, had the most substantial growth in developing nations. It provides opportunities by expanding the development infrastructure, receiving regional economic benefits, and enhancing national pride. But due to the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic in 2020, it was decreased by 45 percent of all tourism spending (WTTC, 2020). Domestic and international tourism in Nepal also suffered a lot in 2020 due to the partial and complete lockdown throughout the country. International tourists decreased significantly, and domestic tourists' movement was less throughout the country in 2020. Many tourism operators were closing their businesses themselves to save their families from this disease (Sah et al., 2020). This shows the importance of local people's participation in tourism development.

Many tourism researchers have taken socio-economic factors to explain resident perceptions (Gu & Wong, 2006; Abdollahzadeh & Sharifzadeh, 2014; Muresan et al., 2016; Dhakal et al., 2017; Huong & Lee, 2017). Variables like gender, age, education, occupation, income, and ethnicity have been used in many cases to assess resident perceptions. Tourism participation and non-participation were taken by K.C. and Thapa Parajuli (2014) and K.C. et al., (2015). Employment opportunities, empowerment, and economic benefits were taken by Dahal et al., (2020).

Among many rural tourism destinations of Nepal, the Chitlang Village of Makawanpur district is a crucial place capable of attracting domestic tourists from Kathmandu valley and its surroundings. So, this study was conducted in Chitlang Village with the purpose of assessing the perception of local people towards tourism impact on their community and how their socio-demographics influence their perception towards tourism development. This study will be beneficial as a reference for Chitlang village, and it will provide valuable information for tourism authorities and planners.

## **Methodology**

### ***Study Area***

The study was conducted in Chitlang Village of Makawanpur District, Nepal, which lies in the south-west of Kathmandu Valley in the mid-hills, Mahabharat range. Located in an ancient Newar settlement with mixed cultures, Chitlang is popular among tourists for enjoying nature, culture, and history. By seeing the craze of tourists in the village, the resort was first started in 2010, and later, the homestay was started in 2011. Now, there are many private homestays and resorts established to attract tourism. This place is taken as an essential weekend holiday destination by domestic tourists of Kathmandu Valley.

### ***Data Collection***

Data collection was carried out from December, 2019 to February, 2020 using a convenient sampling method. The questionnaire was organized into two sections: Demographic profile and perception on socio-economic impacts of tourism development

in Chitlang Village. Twenty-two variables were incorporated into the questionnaire. The destination's apparent variables have been formulated to understand the dimensions of tourism impacts, based on a 5-point Likert type response scale, which ranged from 1 denoting *strongly disagree*, 2 denoting *disagree*, 3 denoting *moderate*, 4 denoting *agree*, and 5 representing *strongly agree*. The scale was generated following the structure proposed by Gu and Wong (2006) as an initial guideline because their scales were developed for tourism products and experiences. A total of 60 self-administered questionnaires were taken from the local households. Out of 60 questionnaires, 6 were excluded due to the missing data; thus, only 54 questionnaires were coded for further data analysis.

### ***Data Analysis***

Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) 22 was adopted to analyze the collected data. Descriptive statistics determined the mean and standard deviation scores in locals' perception towards the socioeconomic impact of tourism activities in the village. For ensuring the data normality, Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test and univariate statistics such as frequencies, means, and standard deviations were also calculated. Exploratory factor analyses using principal component analysis with varimax rotation were conducted to minimize the 22 variables into several factors based on their correlation matrix. Four items with a factor loading of less than 0.50 were deleted to consider statistically significant, and 18 items were retained for further analysis. Bartlett's test of Sphericity was 254.605 and  $P < 0.001$  indicated that all data are suitable for factor analysis.

Furthermore, a hierarchical cluster analysis was performed to cluster the samples. Cluster analysis is used as it aims to establish a set of clusters/groups such that cases within a cluster/group are more similar to each other than they are to issues in other clusters/groups. Similarities are a set of rules that serve as criteria for grouping or separating cases. These similarities can be based on a single dimension or multiple dimensions, with each dimension reflecting a practice or condition for grouping objects. In this study, three dimensions (gender, age, education level) were considered for testing the similarities of 54 respondents. The respondents with similar gender, age, and educational level were grouped into one group, and six cluster groups with distinct personalities were created. The relationship between these six groups and the eight factors was then established.

### **Results and Discussion**

The respondents' profile includes age, gender, education, occupation, and religion. As table-1 shows, the respondents' sample was very evenly divided in terms of gender, with 40.74 percent female. The majority of the respondent's age group was 31- 40 age groups. Most of the respondents (48.15%) attended only primary school education, and only (7.41%) respondents attended university degrees. This education pattern is typical in many rural tourism destinations of Nepal, as supported by the study of K.C. et al., (2020). Agriculture (48.15 %) and small retail business (25.93%) were the most

frequently reported occupation groups. Agriculture is the main occupation of people living in a rural village of Nepal besides tourism involvement (K.C. & Thapa Parajuli, 2014). And most of the respondents (77.78%) follow the Hindu religion.

**Table 1: Socio-Demographic Profile of the Respondents**

S.N.	Description		Gender		Total	Percent
			Male	Female		
1	Age	< 30	5	2	7	12.96
		31- 40	8	7	15	27.78
		41- 50	5	6	11	20.37
		51- 60	5	6	11	20.37
		> 60	9	1	10	18.52
2	Education	No Education	4	6	10	18.52
		Primary school	18	8	26	48.15
		Secondary school	6	4	10	18.52
		High School	2	2	4	7.41
		University Degree	4	0	4	7.41
3	Occupation	Agriculture	12	14	26	48.15
		Small retail Business	10	4	14	25.93
		Service Sector	4	2	6	11.11
		Others	6	2	8	14.81
4	Religion	Hindu	21	21	42	77.78
		Buddhist	9	1	10	18.52
		Christian	2	0	2	3.70

Source: Field survey

### Impacts of Tourism Developments on Local Community

Table 2 presents the results of local household's attitudes about tourism, and the mean value of operator's attitudes is arranged in descending order. In the present scenario, the highest impacts were expressed for the statement regarding microeconomic impacts, 'tourism increases the demand of local production' (Mean = 4.41) and 'tourism increases price of local production' (Mean = 4.41) in the village. An increase in the price of local products in tourism destinations of Nepal is reported by different researchers, including K.C. et al., (2020). On the other hand, the negative impact on the local environment (Mean = 2.52) was expressed in the lowest impact. It shows that benefits were much higher than the cost associated with tourism, similar to that reported by Dahal et al., (2020).

**Table 2: Local Perception in Socio-economic Impact of Tourism Activities**

SN	Descriptions	Mean	S.D.
1	Tourism increases demand of local production	4.41	0.94
2	Tourism increases price of local production	4.41	0.69
3	Tourism risen land prices	4.33	0.95
4	Employment opportunities for villagers too	4.02	1.02
5	Opportunities to local households to earn income by selling domestic goods	3.96	1.27
6	Tourism program has pulled some development in the village	3.85	1.19
7	Improvement in sanitation of the village after the implementation of homestay and resorts	3.85	0.92
8	Tourism has helped in women empowerment	3.80	1.09
9	It has preserved looks and culture of the village	3.74	1.20
10	To meet rising demand, it has caused production and construction activities in the village to increase	3.63	1.01
11	Tourism increases retail business in village	3.33	1.24
12	The risen imports in the village due to expansion of tourism activities have put unfavorable effect on local taste, looks and culture	3.30	1.33
13	Risen interaction with guests and widen external network have improved lifestyle, knowledge and awareness of the villagers	3.28	1.29
14	Tourism changed the occupational pattern	3.00	1.45
15	Increase connection with the outsiders have changed youths' consumption pattern unfavorably	2.83	1.41
16	Increased arrivals of outsiders through homestay and resorts have caused to weaken social security	2.76	1.36
17	Tourism strengthen social bonding	2.69	1.34
18	Increased arrivals of outsiders through homestay and resorts have caused local environment to spoil	2.52	1.46

Source: Authors' Calculation.

### Factor Analysis

Four items with a factor loading of less than 0.50 were deleted, and 18 items were retained for further analysis. Furthermore, to identify the common features of the 18 impact variables, Principal component analysis with varimax rotation was applied, which produces eight orthogonal factor dimensions with eigenvalues greater than 1.00, accounting for 75.22 percent of the total variance. The communalities varied from 0.49 to 0.87, meaning that each original variable's variance was reasonably explained by the eight common factors taken together. Most factor loadings were greater than 0.60, which

indicates a good correlation between variables and related factor groups. Each factor has been named community developments, economic impacts, local production, local environment, youths' consumption pattern, social impact, occupational pattern, and land prices. The results of the factor analysis are presented in Table 3.

Factor-1 is associated with five items which can be described as 'Community Development'. For instance, with the increase in tourism business in Chitlang Village, the item 'increase in trade businesses' gave a high positive loading (0.827) to factor-1. To meet rising demand, tourism has caused production and construction activities in the village (0.794), such as building homestays, resorts, view tower, and road construction, which increases the employment opportunity for the villagers, so it is also closely related to factor-1. Most women have started their own business in the form of homestays and resorts, which has helped empower women. This was supported by the study of K.C. et al. (2020), as homestays were registered mainly by females.

Factor-2 consisted of three variables related to the economic impact on the village. For instance, the item 'Pulled some development' provides a high loading (0.799) to this factor. In fact, tourism development in Chitlang pulled some development activities, raised interaction with guests, and widened the external network. It has improved the villagers' lifestyle, knowledge, and awareness and has created an opportunity for local households to earn income by selling domestic goods. This was supported by the study of Dahal et al. (2020) as local people in a homestay village were generating revenue by providing local products.

Factor-3 reflected three items that represent 'Local Production'. The item 'tourism increases the demand of local production' gave a high loading (0.858) to this factor. Promotion of local product could provide more economic benefits to the community and promoting domestic tourism helps to recover tourism during the time of adversities (K.C., 2017). Additionally, the higher demand leads to a higher equilibrium price, and the item is also linked to this factor, with a high factor loading (0.757). This was also supported by the study of K.C. et al., (2020), where homestays had increased the demand and price of local products.

Factor-4, which includes five items, can be interpreted as deterioration of the 'Local Environment' in the form of both positive and negative impacts. Improvement in the sanitation of the village after the implementation of homestays and resorts business contribute high loading (0.750) to this factor. The cleanliness and hygiene of homestays were also reported by the study of Biswakarma (2015). But the increased arrivals of outsiders through homestays and resorts have caused the local environment to spoil, providing a moderate loading (0.625). The generation of a higher amount of solid waste in homestay villages was also observed by Dahal et al., (2020). It has weakened the social security providing an average loading (0.601) and risen imports in the village due to the expansion of tourism activities. It has caused an unfavorable effect on local taste, looks, and culture, providing a moderate loading (0.513).

**Table 3: Factor Analysis of Tourism Impacts in Chitlang Village**

SN	Factors / Description	Communalities	Factor Loading	Eigen-Value	Percent of Variance	Cumulative % of Variance
<b>1</b>	<b>F1: Community Development</b>			<b>3.024</b>	<b>16.798</b>	<b>16.798</b>
a	Increase retail business	0.789	0.827			
b	Increases production and construction activities	0.728	0.794			
c	Women empowerment	0.721	0.791			
d	Employment opportunities	0.686	0.532			
<b>2</b>	<b>F2: Economic Impact</b>			<b>2.460</b>	<b>13.666</b>	<b>30.464</b>
a	Pulled some development	0.796	0.799			
b	Improved lifestyle, knowledge, and awareness	0.872	0.767			
c	Earn income by selling domestic goods	0.819	0.609			
<b>3</b>	<b>F3: Local Production</b>			<b>1.887</b>	<b>10.482</b>	<b>40.946</b>
a	Increases demand of local production	0.779	0.858			
b	Increases price of local production	0.767	0.757			
<b>4</b>	<b>F4: Local Environment</b>			<b>1.407</b>	<b>7.817</b>	<b>48.763</b>
a	Improve in sanitation	0.799	0.750			
b	local environment to spoil	0.493	0.625			
c	Weaken social security	0.671	0.601			
d	Unfavorable effect on local taste, looks and culture	0.701	0.513			
<b>5</b>	<b>F5: changed Youths' Consumption Pattern Unfavorably</b>	<b>0.872</b>	<b>0.913</b>	<b>1.312</b>	<b>7.289</b>	<b>56.052</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>F6: Social Impact</b>			<b>1.272</b>	<b>7.064</b>	<b>63.116</b>
a	Strengthen social bonding	0.712	0.825			
b	Preserved looks and culture	0.678	0.51			
<b>7</b>	<b>F7: Changed the Occupational Pattern</b>	<b>0.853</b>	<b>0.887</b>	<b>1.121</b>	<b>6.227</b>	<b>69.343</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>F8: Tourism Risen Land Prices</b>	<b>0.805</b>	<b>0.886</b>	<b>1.059</b>	<b>5.885</b>	<b>75.227</b>

Source: Authors' Calculation.

**Note:** Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis. Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization. Rotation converged in nine iterations.

Factor-5 refers 'changing youths consumption pattern unfavorably' shows very high loading (0.913). Factor-6 consisted of two manifest variables related to the socio-cultural impact of tourism. Tourism strengthens social bonding giving a very high loading (0.825), and it has also preserved the looks and culture of the village, providing a moderate loading (0.51) to this factor. This was also observed by different researchers in Nepal, including K.C. et al., (2015). Factor-7 which refers to the agricultural production system, comprises only one item with high loadings to it- 'tourism changed agricultural production system in the village'. Only one item gave a high factor loading (0.887) to the factor. This factor is significant as this item has a high commonality (0.853), indicating the item is significantly interpreted by factors. Factor-8 refers to land prices, and only one item, 'tourism has risen land prices' had a very high loading (0.886) to it. This item has high communalities (0.805), indicating that factors significantly interpret the item. An increase in the price of land in a tourism destination was also reported by K.C. et al., (2020).

### **Cluster Analysis of Respondents**

In order to find the correlation between the eight factors and the socio-demographics of the local residents, cluster analysis was conducted, and the socio-demographic characteristics, such as gender, age, education level etc. were used to portion the 54 local residents into groups. Cluster -1 is characterized by the 'respondents' socio-demographic characteristics: 'middle-aged respondents with the lowest education'. This group comprises only seven (13%) respondents. Five members (71.4%) were females within this group, and two members (28.6%) were males. Two members were 31-40 (28.5%), two members were 41-50 (28.5%), and three members (43%) were 51-60 years old. Additionally, the educational level in this group is the lowest as three members (43%) have no academic background, two members (28.5%) have only primary education, one person (14.25%) has a secondary education, and only one person (14.25%) has high school education. Most of the respondents (71.4%) were engaged in agriculture. Two members (29.6%) were involved in small businesses such as grocery shopping and tea stall, probably because they have difficulty engaging in other occupations without proper education. As K.C. and Thapa Parajuli (2014) observed, local people with higher education benefit from tourism.

Cluster - 2 represents 'youngest citizens with middle-level education'. This group comprises eight respondents (15%), of whom four (50%) were female, and another four (50%) were male. One member (12.5%) was below 30 years, four members (50%) were 31-40, and another three members (37.5%) were aged 41-50, 51-60, and 61 above, respectively. Compared with other groups, these members were young. Four members (50%) had primary level education, three members (37.5%) had secondary school background, and one member (12.5%) had a university degree. The younger generation has started going to school, which increases the literacy rate in rural tourism destinations (K.C. et al., 2015). Cluster-3 represents 'middle-aged citizens with middle-level education'. This group also comprises eight respondents (15%), of whom six were

female (75%), and another two (25%) were male. One member (12.5%) was below 30 years, two members (25%) were 31- 40, 2 members (25%) were 41-50, another one member (12.5%) was 51- 60, and two members (25%) were aged above 60. One member (12.5%) had no education, four members (50%) had primary level education, one member (12.5%) had a secondary school background, and one member (12.5%) attended high school. Also, one member (12.5%) had a university degree.

Cluster-4 is characterized by ‘senior citizens with middle-level education’. This group consists of 10 members (18%), seven were male, and three were female. Senior citizens characterize this group as compared to other groups, of whom three members (30%) were 51-60 years age group, another three members (30%) were above 60, one member (19%) was 41-50, two members (20%) were 31-40, and remaining 10% members were below 30. Two members (20%) have no education, five members (50%) have primary education, two members (20%) have secondary level education, and only one member (10%) has a university degree. Cluster-5 is the dominant group (22%), representing ‘senior citizens with low-level education’. This group comprises 12 members, eleven male (92%), and only one female (8%). One member (8%) was below 30 years, three members were 31-40 age group (25%), four members were 41-50 (33%), and another four members were above 60 age group (33%). Two members had no education (16.67%), eight members had only primary education (66.66%), and only two members had attended secondary school (16.67%).

Cluster-6 represents ‘youngest citizens with high-level education’. This group consists of nine respondents (17%), of whom six were male, and three were females. Three members were below 30 years (33.33%), two members were 31-40 (22.22%), one member was 41-50 (11.11%), another two members were 51-60, and the remaining one member was above 60. Two members have no education, two members have a primary school education, two members have a secondary school education, two members attended high school, and one member had a university degree.

**Table 4: Mean Value of Socio-demographics and Mean Factor Scores**

Items	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6
Gender	1.71	1.50	1.75	1.30	1.08	1.33
Age	3.14	2.63	3.13	3.50	3.25	2.56
Education	2.00	2.75	2.75	2.30	2.00	2.78
Occupation	1.29	2.00	2.13	1.50	2.25	2.22
Factor - 1	0.620	-0.128	-1.045	0.117	0.481	-0.280
Factor - 2	0.228	0.532	-0.702	0.038	-0.751	0.909
Factor - 3	0.166	-0.090	0.787	-0.641	-0.245	0.271
Factor - 4	-0.167	-0.293	-0.216	0.266	-0.153	0.508
Factor - 5	0.650	-0.733	0.972	0.947	-0.947	-0.581

Factor - 6	0.828	-0.442	-0.278	-0.180	-0.225	0.404
Factor - 7	0.961	0.836	0.518	-1.006	-0.449	-0.341
Factor - 8	-0.229	0.590	0.176	0.314	-0.199	-0.560
<b>Note:</b> Gender: 1=Male, 2= Female, Age: 1= <v30, 2= 31- 40, 3v= 41-50, 4v= 51-60, 5v= >v 60						
Education: 1 = No Education, 2 = Primary school, 3 = Secondary school, 4 = High School, 5 = University Degree						
Occupation: 1 = Agriculture, 2 = Small Business, 3 = Service Sector, 4 = Others						

Source: Authors' Calculation.

Finally, combining the cluster analysis and factor analysis results, the relation between eight tourism' impact factor and local respondents' socio-demographic characteristics was evaluated. It can be seen that cluster-1, 'the middle-age respondents with lowest education,' has a very high factor score (0.961) to factor-7 and (0.828) to factor 6. This means group-1 believed that the most apparent impact of tourism on the community was an occupational pattern. This is probably because most of the respondents of this group were female, with agriculture as their primary profession. Now, they can see the benefits of the tourism business in the village. They also have concern that tourism has caused 'decreased social bonding of the community' and 'tourism help to preserve looks and culture of the Chitlang Village', which are associated with the social impact of the village. K.C. et al., (2015) reported that both males and females were involved in tourism. Females who were previously engaged in agricultural and household works are running tourism businesses these days. The most important thing is that tourism helps to save local culture.

Cluster-2, including youngest citizens with middle-level education, has a high factor score (0.836) to factor 7, 'tourism changed the occupational pattern of villagers' as well as moderate factor score (0.590) to factor 8, 'land price rises due to tourism increment in the village'. Cluster-3, comprising 'middle-aged citizens with middle-level education', displays a very high score, 0.972 on factor-5 'impact on youth's consumption pattern' and moderate impact 0.787 on factor-3, increase demand and price of local production. It means that the members of this group are more concerned about the microeconomic effects of the village. They realized the increment of demand and price of local products like local meat products, vegetables, local fruits, local wine, dairy products, etc. An increase in demand and price of local products is a severe issue of a tourism destination affecting the livelihood of poor people not involved in tourism (K.C. et al., 2020). Local people realized the negative impact on youth consumption patterns, such as eating, drinking, dressing, etc.

Cluster-4, representing 'senior citizens with middle-level education' displays a high score, 0.947 to factor 5, 'impact on youth consumption pattern'. Like Cluster-3, the senior citizens in this group pay much attention to the youth consumption pattern. Cluster-5, including 'senior citizens with low-level education' has a high factor score of 0.481 on

factor-1, 'community development'. These senior citizens, who have knowledge and experience living in Chitlang Village, can realize the impacts of tourism on community development. Cluster-6 scores high on the 'economic impacts' (0.909) and moderate on the 'local environments' (0.508). They are the 'youngest citizens with high-level education'. The young respondents of the Chitlang Village are concerned with tourism impacts on the local economy such as 'tourism pulled some development in the village', 'improved lifestyle, knowledge, and awareness of the villagers', and 'villagers get opportunities to earn income by selling domestic goods'. According to K.C. and Thapa Parajuli (2015), tourism had a positive impact on the income and livelihood of the local people. In Chitlang, young educators are concerned with both the positive and negative impacts of tourism on local environments.

### **Limitations and Implications of the Study**

Rural tourism has supported the livelihood of local communities empowering women. It has enhanced the socio-cultural benefits of local people. To grab the socio-economic benefits from the rich nature and culture, it is necessary to identify potential tourism destinations. It can be done with the support of local government or by local communities themselves. Despite these implications, this study has some limitations and research implications. The number one limitation is it is considering only one tourism village: Chitlang. It is recommended to conduct further investigation on other tourism villages following local people perspectives. The second limitation of this study is: it is completed in only one season of a year. But, for better analysis, impacts should be assessed in a regular time interval for a more extended period of time. Also, there might be a need to assess tourism potential of a particular destination to run tourism projects sustainably (Neupane et al., 2013).

This study examines the impacts of tourism development from residents' perspective. It provides valuable information for tourism authorities and planners to consider local concerns and resolve existing issues. It is also beneficial for tourism authorities to consider the perceptions of the local community, who are the most familiar with the local socio-cultural and natural environment, to assist in making appropriate decisions to achieve sustainable tourism development in the local community. This tourism development impact research serves as the basis for building a community involvement process, establishing measures to prevent negative consequences, and determining the extent and density of tourism growth in Chitlang Village.

### **Conclusion**

It identifies that specific socio-demographic characteristics (age, gender, education, and occupation) can influence residents' perceptions. The youngest citizens with high-level education pay attention to the economic benefits brought by the tourism development. They are also concerned with the positive and negative impacts of tourism on local environments. Middle-aged respondents with the lowest education level believed

that the most apparent effect of tourism on the community was an occupational pattern. Senior citizens realize the impacts of tourism on community developments. Overall, tourism has provided socio-economic benefits to the local people of Chitlang Village.

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