

## **Book Review**

*The System of Tourism Development Planning in Nepal (An Integrated Approach)*, by Prof. Dr. Om Sharma. Kathmandu: Nawaraj Pandey, Ananda Chand and Saraswati Sharma, 2012. Pages 280 (including Bibliography, Index and Appendices). Price: NRs 300.

The book under review is a scholarly product of an experienced personality Dr. Om Prakash Sharma, Professor of Economics, Tribhuvan University, Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara. The book is well organized and divided into seven chapters. The first chapter gives the general background of the study and the second chapter deals with the growth and pattern of tourism in Nepal. Chapter three to six comprise the main body of the study carried out by the author. In these chapters the author has done comprehensive analysis of the different facets of tourism development and planning in Nepal based on sound theoretical and methodological rigor and with the support of primary and secondary information. The last chapter is devoted to summary and suggestion of the study, where the author has presented the conclusion as well. Apart from this, the inclusion of 'Index' just after the Bibliography has further increased the quality of Dr. Sharma's book as it can help readers to easily and quickly locate the reference of authors and subject matter.

Dr Sharma has followed the modern approaches of analysis that shows the rigor of the research work as it incorporates varieties of economic tools like various equations, regression models, Hirschman – Gini concentration index, ordinary least square technique and Granger method to test causality. It is a remarkable strength of the book and certainly, it is an appreciable contribution of the author. Dr. Sharma has tried to highlight the role of tourism in economic development with respect to its impact on gross domestic product, aggregate saving and exports / imports. He concludes that proper tourism development planning is essential for fostering the country's economic development. He has suggested that some special areas related to tourism like organizational trekking, infrastructure development in most exotic trekking sites, starting package tourism by both public and private sectors, proper pricing of tourism products and initiating free trek program in Mid Western / Far Western Regions are to be given more emphasis while formulating plans for tourism development.

Even after all this, the book has also some weak aspects that are worth to be mentioned so that the author does not repeat them in the next edition. The first one is the lack of concerned time series data without which the trend analysis and projections for which the author boasts of should not be made and, if made, these may not be reliable. He has mostly taken the data of the year 1998. He has mentioned 2010 also. But, it does not have all that data which are of 1998. If he had made a comparison between 2008 and 2010 in all selected aspects, his analysis would have been better. But, he has not done this so far. Time series data were essential to be given somewhere in the book, especially at 'Appendix' for showing major aspects like earning from tourism and tourists' expenditure along with the amount of gross domestic product, national saving and export that have been chosen as the major variables to assess the impact of tourism on national economy. Besides, some abbreviations are wrongly given. For example, the full form of MPS and FITA cannot be 'Supply of Trained Manpower' and 'Total Tourist Arrival'. Similarly, NPC

must be 'National Planning Commission' instead of Nepal Planning Commission. In the same way, there are some printing mistakes at different pages of the book. Some mistakes that are at the very ' Preface' and quickly attract the attention of readers are given here. One is 'in' that must be 'is' at the second line just after the word 'Nepal'. In the same way, 'due' is not necessary at the last sentence.

However, the book is highly useful and also helpful to the concerned government as well as the private sector policy makers and practitioners to formulate a sound planning for tourism development. Besides, it is also very much supportive to researchers, scholars and other readers who want to have a deep insight on to the economic aspects of tourism in Nepal. The continuous flow of views and ideas through the appealing sentences show author's intellect and his good command in English. This aspect has further enhanced the quality of the book. After all, Dr. Sharma's book is an asset in the field of development and planning and for intellectual community in Nepal as well.

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