

DEMOGRAPHY, LAND UTILIZATION AND LIVELIHOODS IN SARANGKOT VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF KASKI DISTRICT, NEPAL

Narayan P. Bhusal

Reader Department of Geography Education

T.U., Nepal

Abstract

Poverty alleviation has always remained as a major challenge for overall development in Nepal and Sarangkot Village Development Committee (VDC) in Kaski district also is under such circumstances where tourism and other off-farm economic activities would be the successful vehicles for overall development. Availability of better demographic conditions, sustainable agricultural production system and proper utilization of existing resources for the development of off-farm economic activities are the important livelihood assets. It is in this light this paper is trying to present the demographic conditions, land use pattern, agricultural production from the cultivated land, livestock raising and food sufficiency from the production of land in Sarangkot VDC. As the survey result indicated that the food sufficiency from the production of land is not sufficient in order to maintain the livelihood conditions of the local people. Therefore, this paper also deals about the available off-farm economic activities that are supporting for the economic welfare of the people.

Key Words: Population, sustainable, livelihood assets, agriculture, off-farm economic activities eco-tourism

INTRODUCTION

Sustainable livelihood is achieved through access to a range of livelihood resources (natural, economic, human and social capitals) which are combined in the pursuit of different livelihood strategies (Ian, 1998). The use of land provides a key link between human activity and the natural environment. Although land is a resource; it is different, it is peculiar, and it is not the same as other resources that support our economy, society and livelihoods (Owens, 2007). A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources) and activities required for a means of living (Chambers and Conway, 1991). People's ability to escape poverty depends on access to assets. Livelihood is affected by the diversity and amount of assets and the balance between assets. Assets help to determine livelihood options and that are transformed into livelihood outcomes. Many rural dwellers in Nepal are dependent on land for subsistence agriculture and faced with a booming population and a rapidly deteriorating natural environment, the call for alternative and sustainable livelihood options has become the need of the day (Campbell, 2008). Sarangkot VDC is located in the north-west part of Pokhara Sub-Metropolitan City where the land is extended from 500m adjoining Pokhara valley in the east to 1590m of altitude towards the west at Sarangkot Hill-Top, one of the most important tourism sites in Pokhara Valley (Bhusal, 2010). Because of the unfavorable slopes

the agricultural production from the available agricultural land is not sufficient for the subsistence of the people. Therefore, employment opportunities with the urban functions in Pokhara and promotion of tourism related economic activities in the VDC are more promising alternative livelihood options for the people living in the VDC. It is in this light the present paper is an attempt to familiarize the demographic picture, land utilization for agricultural production and livelihood options for the people living in.

STUDY AREA

Sarangkot is one of the 43 VDCs in Kaski district that lies to the northwest of Pokhara Sub-Metropolitan City in the central part of the Western Development Region of Nepal. This VDC covers 1625 sq. km. of area that borders the Hemja VDC in the north, Pokhara Sub-Metropolitan City in the south and east, Kaskikot and Chapakot in the west. The altitude of this VDC ranges from 500m to 1590m above the mean sea level (amsl) (Fig.1). In the upper part of the VDC bedrock is more metamorphosed than in the lower part. Soils are widely variable whereas lower part of the VDC is a region of moderately metamorphosed sedimentary materials and soils are extremely variable reflecting differences in bed rock, geomorphology, micro-climate and land use. Slopes of up to 30 degrees are terraced using traditional methods.

In general the sub-tropical climate exists in the area below the altitude of 1500 m; temperate climate exists from 1500m–2000m amsl. Almost all the northern flank of the VDC is covered by dense forest that makes the green and natural surrounding attractive and amusing. Natural vegetation varies with altitude ranging from subtropical rain forest to temperate. The dominating vegetation species are Schima wallichii, Castanopsis indica, Bombax ceiba, and so on. Shorea robusta is found to some extent in the lower parts and as the altitude increase the species of temperate vegetation are the dominant.

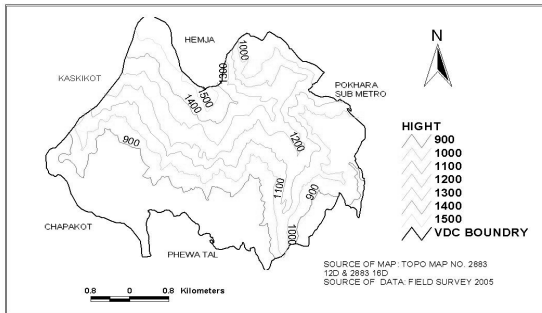


Figure 1: Sarangkot Village Development Committee in Kaski District

According to local residents, the number of wild life is increasing gradually in this VDC as per the growth of species and extension of forest density. At present, this VDC has been the shelter of common leopard, jungle cat, crab eating mongoose, and birds like cattle egret, kingfishers, barbets, dark kite, black partridge,, sparrow, crow, jungle fowl, partridge, dove, pheasants and so on. Harpan Khola, Yamdi Khola and Seti River are the major perennial water bodies that are drained the VDC. Fewa Lake that lies in the southwest boarder of the VDC is the wonderful view from the Sarangkot hill and the major attraction for the tourists who visits in Pokhara.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

Rapid/participatory method was used in order to collect relevant data and information from the study area. In order to collect the data and information A resource survey format was developed. A number of group meetings were organized in different wards of the VDC in order to collect the necessary information. Besides, relevant data and information

were collected from Sarangkot VDC office, schools, health post, mother groups, forest user’s groups, local clubs and NGOs that are located in the VDC. Available maps and air photos of different time periods had been taken for field verification and update. On the basis of field verification, a map of land utilization was prepared by applying Geographic Information System (GIS).

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

According to the census taken by the Sarangkot VDC in 2005 the total population was 6,787 that constituted 53 percent female and 47 percent male population. As shown in Table 1, the child population from the age of 0 to 5 was 1,080 of which 54 percent represented girls. The school going population from the age of 6 to 16 was 1,675 and in this age group male population dominates (53 percent). The economically active population from the age of 17 to 65 was 3,417 (female: 1862 male: 1555). The population of elderly people, above 65 of age, was 615. In this age group female population (53 percent) was higher than male population (47 percent).

Table 1: Population by age and gender

Age-group	0-5	6-16	17-65	Over 65	Total
Male	501	881	1555	266	3203
Percentage	46.38	52.59	45.50	43.25	47.19
Female	579	794	1862	349	3584
Percentage	53.92	47.41	77.03	56.74	52.51
Total	1080	1675	3417	615	6787
Percentage	15.92	24.67	50.34	9.07	100.0

Source: Village Survey, 2005.

ETHNIC COMPOSITION

In this VDC, altogether 1052 households (HHs) with 11 ethnic groups were found, there distribution is presented in Table 2. The average family size for all the groups was 7 members, the highest being 8 of Gurung and Magar and the lowest 6 for Brahman and Chhetri.

Table 2: Ethnic groups by household and family size

Ethnic Group	Family Size	No. of HH		No. of People		
		No	Percent	Male	Female	Total
Brahmin	6	380	36.1	1065	1215	2280
Chhetri	6	413	39.3	1139	1339	2478
Gurung	8	9	0.9	30	37	672
Magar	8	43	4.1	143	158	301
Others	7	207	19.7	787	869	1656
Total	7	1052	100.0	3164	3618	6783

Source: Village Survey, 2005.

MIGRATION

In the last 10 years, altogether 21 households of Brahman and Chhetri ethnic groups were reported to be out migrated permanently from this VDC to Chitwan, Bardia and Kathmandu for economic and social reasons. Likewise, in last 10 years 13 households of Brahman, Chhetri, Rai, Newar and Gurung ethnic groups were in-migrated permanently from Parbat, Shyangja and VDCs of Kaski districts to this VDC for economic reasons. Temporary and seasonal migration of young population to the urban centers of Nepal, India and other third world countries for livelihood earnings is a regular phenomenon.

RELIGIONS

Like other villages of Nepal the Hinduism and Buddhism are the common religions of the population. Gurung, Tamang, Thakali and Rai population perform their own socio-cultural activities and regular ceremonies that are based on Buddhism whereas other ethnic groups such as Brahmin, Chhetri, Newar, Damai, Kami and Sarki are the follower of Hindu religion. There are some HH who follows the Christian religion too.

FESTIVALS

Dashain, Tihar, Maghesakranti, Chaite Dashain, Baisakh Sakranti (New Year Day), Ashadh Pandra, Saune Sankranti, Krishna Janmastami, Teej etc. are the major festivals are also the common festivals for the Hindu Community that are also celebrated by the Buddhist people as well. Losar (Paush Pandra) and Buddha Purnima (Baisakh Purnima) are the major and most important festival of the Buddhist population specifically the Gurung community.

LANGUAGE

Almost all people in this VDC speak Nepali. Gurung and Newar ethnic groups may also speak their own language but Nepali is common. Also young generation can speak English and Hindi languages that is supporting while tourists visit in their area.

EDUCATION

Of the total population 64 percent of this VDC above the age of 6 were reported to be literate. Altogether two secondary, two lower secondary and six primary levels (including two privately managed schools) of educational institutions are distributed in different wards of this VDC. One Sanskrit school by the name of Chisa Khola Veda Vidyashram (Sanskrit School for teaching Hindu rites and rituals) is located in Chisa Khola. Two Children Development Centers are located in this VDC for the welfare of children. As the VDC is close to Pokhara where most of the students go for their further education or even for secondary education and about nine percent of the total population is recorded with the education of above SLC level.

Of the total students (1,941) enrolled for the year 2005 in the different level (Primary to Secondary) of education, 1027 (52.9 percent) are girls and 914 (47.1 percent) are boys (Table 3). The number of student enrollment in the primary, lower secondary and secondary level is recorded as 591, 120, and 1,230 respectively in that year. The proportion of the girl enrollments in the schools is higher as that of the boys, which indicates the local people's awareness regarding the right of education for the girls.

Table 3: Number of students by level and gender

Level	Number of Students					
	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage
Primary	278	30.4	313	30.5	591	30.4
Lower Secondary	50	5.4	70	6.8	120	6.2
Secondary	586	64.1	644	62.7	1230	63.4
Total	914	47.1	1027	52.9	1941	100.0

Source: Village Survey, 2005

HEALTH

There is a sub-health post located in ward no. 3 of this VDC where two working technical staff: a Health Assistant and a Nurse are serving to the local people for the minor treatment (Table 4). This sub-health post often organizes health and sanitation awareness programmes, basic vaccination, mother-child services, nutrition programmes and family planning advice services. A Village Household

Clinic Programme is also implementing by this health post in every month in different villages of the VDC to serve local population. For the treatment of the major diseases, a number of medical facilities (private and public hospitals, nursing homes and clinics) are available in Pokhara Bazaar that is easily accessible from this VDC.

Table 4: Health situation

	Health post	Hospital	Dhami/Jhakri
Nearest medical care	Yes	No	No
Location of medical care	Ward NO-3	-	-
Distance from VDC office	3KM	-	NO
No of Doctor/Health In-charge	1Health Assistant	-	-
No. of Nurse	1Mashika	-	-
Present status of Medical care	Good	-	-
Name of diseases prevailing	Cold, Cough, Diahoria etc.		

Source: Village Survey, 2005.

DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION

Out of the total household (1,052) in this VDC, about 78 percent HH is served by piped drinking water system, 15 percent HH fetch their drinking water from spout and 7 percent HH from the stream (Table 5). A total of 33 water supply systems are supplying 338 water taps in different wards of the VDC.

The water supply system that was supported by Lions Club has not been functioning properly (in ward no. 1, 3 and 8) due to lack of proper maintenance and damage caused by the road construction. Only 29 percent of the total population has access to toilet facility and rest of the people are using open grounds/ riversides for the toilet purpose

Table 5: Drinking water supply

Water Source	No. of HH Access to Drinking Water in Ward No.									Total (% Of total HH)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Piped	20	85	33	66	275	110	80	60	90	819 (77.9)
Well/Spout	12	15	-	16	18	44	13	28	12	158 (15.0)
River/Stream	-	5	-	30	25	5	10	NO	No	75 (7.1)
Total	32	105	33	112	318	159	103	88	102	1052 (100)
No. of System	5	7	4	2	5	3	2	3	2	33
No. of tape		42		27	51	36	17	30	40	338
		55								
		40								

Source: Village Survey, 2005.

SETTLEMENT

In this VDC distribution of settlement is concentrated more in the southern and eastern slopes that is dispersed in nature and linear/nucleated along the Bindabasini-Sarangkot road. The distribution of settlement in different wards is presented in Table 6.

Table 6: Distribution of settlement

Ward No.	Name of settlement
1	Sarangkot, Deurali, Patan, Haredanda, Dhakaltar,
2	Khattrithar, Pandeli, Kharpaudi
3	Simtal, Kamigaun,
4	Khadkathar, Bhakundebagar
5	Toripani, Bhanjyang, Aramja, Chankhapur
6	Netachautari, Nayabasti, Methalang,
7	Gyarjati, Shiva Bhanjyang, Setibar
8	Gothadi, Dharakopandhera
9	Bindeshwaripakha, Lamagaun, Gharelu

Source: Field Survey, 2005

Sarangkot hill area is the main tourism trade centre. Other tourism trade centers (settlements) along the road side (hiking route) from the Bindabasini temple (east of Sarankot) are Lamagaun, Rohotepani, Gharelu, Binacular, Gothadi and Simsare. A number of lodges/restaurants, provisional shops, fruit shops, curio good shops and so on are distributed in order to provide the services for tourists and

in return the people from these settlements are maintaining their livelihoods so far.

LAND UTILIZATION

Access to land for agriculture is obviously important within a largely agrarian society. Also important is what people can do with that land. Aerial photographs of 1:50,000 scale taken in 2001 by the Department of Survey of of Nepal Government were used for the preparation of the land use map and field checks were undertaken during the field survey. The area of major land use categories such as cultivated land, forest land, grass land, swamp and lake area are presented in Table 7 and Fig. 2.

Table 7: Land utilization

Land Use Type	Area in Square Km.	Area in Percentage
Cultivated land	12.94	59.6
Forest land	7.08	32.6
Grass land	0.84	3.9
Swamp	0.72	3.3
Lake	0.12	0.6
Total	21.6	100.0

Source: Air Photo of 2001 and Field Check, 2005.

Access to land for agriculture is obviously important within a largely agrarian society. Also important is what people can do with that land.

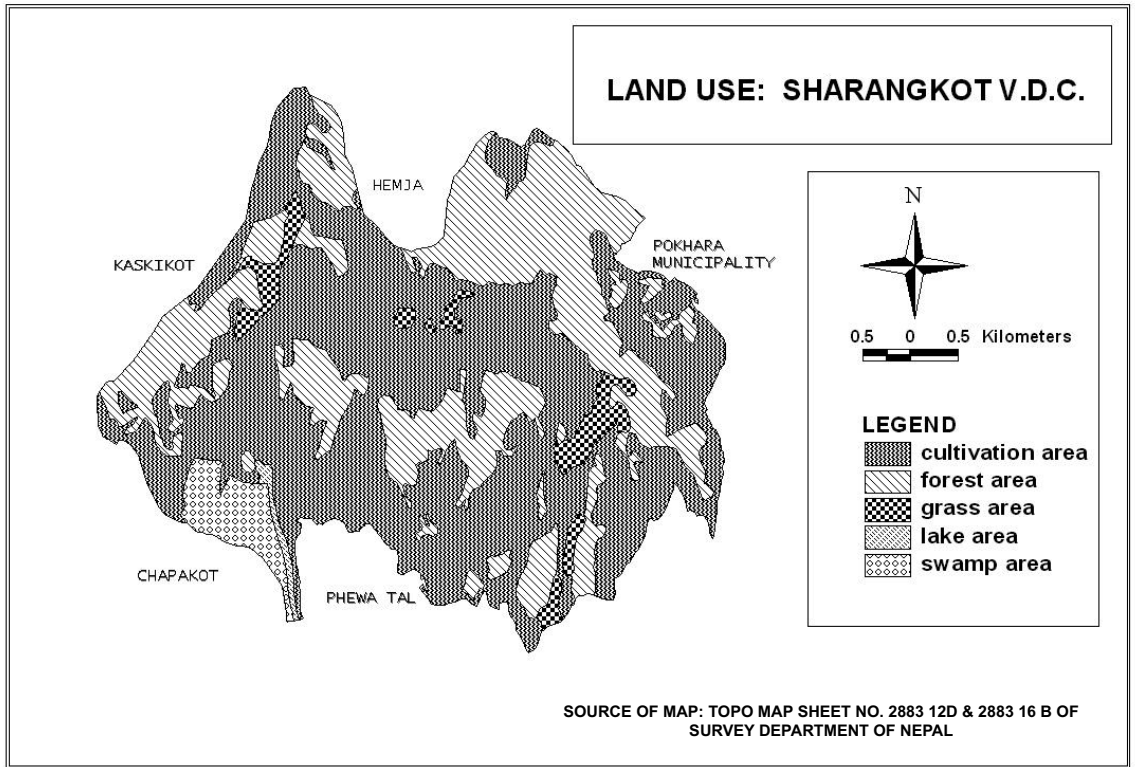


Figure 2

LAND OWNERSHIP

As shown in Table 8 land ownership distributions in this VDC are uneven. According to the data solicited from the group discussion, 11.6 percent of the total households own more than 20 Ropani, while 32.5 percent of the farmers owned up to 20 Ropani of land. Of the total households 39.9 percent hold 5 to 10 Ropani and 11.4 percent owned up to 5 Ropani

of land. Altogether there are 48 households (11 percent) that have no land. Therefore most of them work as laborer in the VDC and in the Bazaar area for their livelihood. The table indicates that people in this area are not holding sufficient amount of land. In other words, agricultural production from the land is not sufficient for the population living in the VDC.

Table 8: Land ownership pattern

Land Holdings	No. of HH in Ward No.									Total (% of totalHH)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
1-5 Ropani	14	31	31	4	7	1	7	7	8	120 (11.4)
5-10 Ropani	15	21	16	36	205	55	50	12	10	420 (39.9)
10-20 Ropani	5	28	18	21	36	21	51	23	39	342 (32.5)
Above 20 Ropani	-	26	2	3	7	4	-	34	46	122 (11.6)
Landless	6	-	-	5	15	5	6	5	6	48 (4.6)
Total	40	106	67	69	270	96	214	81	109	1052 (100.0)

(1 ropani = 508.5 sq.m or 19.66 ropani – 1 ha)

Source: Village Survey, 2005

LAND TENURE

In this VDC about 17 percent of the total households (some of them include land less households) are renting in and 13 percent are renting out their land

for food grain production (Table 9). For the sake of accessibility, some households renting other's land close to their home and renting out their owned land located at the farther distance.

Table 9: Land tenure

Type	No. of HH in Ward No.									Total (% of Total HH)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Renting in others land	20	40	33	15	20	19	10	4	15	176 (16.7)
Renting out the land	12	25	49	10	5	19	10	4	15	159 (15.1)

Source: Village Survey, 2005

CROPPING CALENDAR

March, April, May and June are the busiest months of the year, as plantation of paddy, maize and millet takes place. August, September and October are the second busiest months, with the harvesting of maize, millet (August) and paddy (September and

October). Weeding activities of the different crops takes place in the months of February (potato), March, April (wheat), May, June (maize and millet) and July and August for paddy (Table 10).

Table 10: Cropping calendar

Crops	Plantation Date	Weeding Date	Harvesting Date
1. Paddy	May, June, July	July, August	September, October
2. Maize	March, April	May, June	August
3. Millet	May, June	May, June	August
4. Wheat	October, November	March, April	March, April
5. Potato	November, December	February	March

Source: Village Survey, 2005.

PRODUCTIVITY OF LAND

Like other agricultural villages of Nepal, chemical fertilizer and improved seeds are used for paddy, maize, wheat, potato and different vegetable productions. According to the local people, sometimes excessive use of chemical fertilizer has the negative impact on the productivity of the soil, therefore not more than necessary quantity of chemical fertilizer is recommended to use for the particular crop production in order to maintain the productivity of the soil.

CROP PRODUCTION

Major crops grown in this VDC are paddy, maize, millet, wheat and potato and households growing different crops, area covered by the crops, productivity of different crops and total production are presented in Table 11.

Table 11: Production and productivity of different crops

Crops	No. of HH growing (% of total HH)	Area in Ropani	Production/ Ropani	Total Production
Paddy	130 (12.4)	390	1.81Muri	705Muri
Maize	180 (17.1)	540	1.67Muri	902Muri
Millet	23 (2.2)	69	1.30Muri	90Muri
Wheat	280 (26.6)	840	1.66Muri	1392Muri
Potato	53 (5.0)	159	200Muri	31800Muri

1 muri = 90.9 liter

Source: Village Survey, 2005

FOOD SUFFICIENCY

So far as the food sufficiency from the agricultural production in the VDC is concerned, approximately 20 percent of the households have sufficient supplies

for up to three months, 27 percent for 3 to 6 months, 30 percent for 6 to 9 months and 21 percent for 9 to 12 months. And only 2.2 percent have food secure and sell surplus (Table 12).

Table 12: Status of food sufficiency

Agr. Production Sufficient for:	No. of HH in Ward No.									Total (% Of total HH)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Upto 3 Months	7	16	12	25	20	33	12	25	57	207 (19.6)
3-6 Months	21	31	32	20	90	25	29	15	25	288 (27.4)
6-9 Months	8	35	19	20	80	35	35	35	50	317 (30.1)
9-12 Months	11	33	19	24	35	24	25	27	19	219 (20.7)
Enough to Sell	-	-	-	5	10	5	-	-	3	23 (2.2)
Total	47	115	82	94	235	122	101	102	154	1052 (100.0)

Source: Village Survey, 2005

HORTICULTURE/KITCHEN GARDEN

Main fruits grown in this VDC are banana, pineapple orange papaya mango, guava and so on. The fruits produced in this VDC are mainly for local consumption and to some extent orange and other fruits are supplying to the restaurants for tourist. Majority of the households in this VDC produce the different type of vegetable and main vegetables grown in this area are cauli-flower, radish, green sag, garlic, tomato and so on. Majority of the household produce green vegetables for own consumption and only a small number of farmers along the border sides of the Pokhara Sub-Metropolitan City are supplying to the local vegetable market.

LIVESTOCK

Animal husbandry plays an important role in the economy of the people in this VDC. This activity is also important in crop production because livestock are required for draft power and manure for crop production and ghee, milk and meat for household consumptions. As presented in Table 13, the livestock reared in this VDC are cow (1315), oxen (1938), buffalo (1278), goat (2684), (pig 195) and chicken/duck (4025). One of the major sources of income for the household expenses comes from the sale of animal products such as milk and ghee from cow and buffalo, meat from goat, pig and chicken/duck/eggs. Market for the animal products is easily accessible and available that is Pokhara Bazaar.

Table 13: Distribution of livestock

Name	No. of Livestock in Ward No.									Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
1.Cow	70	80	65	137	230	115	200	198	220	1315
2.Oxen	5	120	42	161	600	210	250	230	240	1938
3.Buffalo	50	160	78	90	363	117	150	120	150	1278
4.Goat	45	212	250	300	510	317	360	320	370	2684
5.Pig	20	25	-	-	-	-	50	40	60	195
6.Chicken	300	550	605	500	670	800	200	190	210	4025
Total	570	1147	1040	1188	2373	1559	1210	1098	1060	11455

Source: Village Survey, 2005

USE OF FOREST PRODUCTS

One of the environmentally positive sounds of this VDC is that the barren Sarankot hill area has been converted into forested land in few decades due to local efforts. As presented in Table 14 the distance

to collect the forest products such as firewood, fodder/grass and timber is decreasing gradually during 15 years of time period. This indicates the people's awareness and participation regarding the conservation of forest area.

Table 14: Distance to collect forest products

Forest Products	Distance to Collect Forest Products			
	15 yrs ago	10 yrs ago	5 yrs ago	At present
1.Firewood	4Km	3Km	2Km	1Km
2.Fodder/Grass	10Km	8Km	5Km	2Km
3.Timber	30Km	20Km	15Km	15Km

Source: Village Survey, 2005

OFF-FARM ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES FOR LIVELIHOOD

A livelihood comprises capabilities, assets and activities required for a means of living (Chambers and Conway 1991). In this VDC agricultural land is one of the most important assets where occupational structure has been dominated by agriculture and directly or indirectly almost all households are associated with agricultural activities. However, above 70 percent of the households do not have sufficient food supply and about 5 percent of the total households are land less. Therefore, these households are depending on farm laboring/wage earning, share cropping and tourism related activities in the VDC and in Pokhara Bazar for their livelihood. According to the survey findings, occupational structures of Sarankot VDC has been dominated by agriculture, providing employment for 5227 (86.2 percent) people that followed by business/hotel (9.4 percent) and service (7.9 percent). Service includes employment in governmental and non-governmental organizations and private business including lodges and hotels (Bhusal, 2010).

The livelihood diversifications of the majority of people living in Sarankot VDC are directly related to different urban functions that are distributed in Pokhara Bazar. These urban functions including government and non government organizations are the accessible sources of short term/temporary to long term/permanent employment opportunities for their livelihood.

TEMPORARY AND SEASONAL MIGRATION FOR LIVELIHOOD

In this VDC temporary and seasonal migration is a common phenomenon where altogether 834 people (12 percent of the total population) are involved in the temporary and seasonal migration to different urban areas of Nepal and India for their livelihood earnings. As presented in the Table 15 there are 510 people (7.5 percent) migrated for up to 3 months, 181 (2.7 percent) for 3 to 6 months and 190 people (1.8 percent) were migrated for 6 to 12 months. Major destinations for the temporary and seasonal migration of the people in this VDC are Kathmandu,

Narayanghat, Damauli and other urban centers and different urban centers in India. Seasonal migration occurs during the off-season from agricultural activities and one people earn in an average approximately NRs 3000.00/month. There are 84

people who were migrated for more than one year and destinations of these people are United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, Korea and Japan. In an average these people earn approximately NRs. 20,000.00/month (U.S. \$ 1 = 98 NRs).

Table 15: Temporary and Seasonal Migration

Duration	No. of People Migrated from Ward No:									Total (% of total population)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Up to 3 Months	50	60	65	44	46	65	50	55	75	510 (7.5)
3 to 6 Months	30	25	15	19	18	22	17	14	21	181 (2.7)
6 to 12 Months	12	9	16	13	25	7	12	10	15	119 (1.8)
More than 1 Year	12	6	8	11	15	5	7	9	11	84 (1.2)
Total	104	100	104	87	104	99	86	88	62	834 (12.3)

Source: Village Survey, 2005.

REMITTANCE FROM NEPAL, INDIAN AND BRITISH ARMY

In this VDC one of the sources of income for some of the local people is the remittance/pension from the British and Indian army. Altogether there are 129 people are working presently in Nepal, Indian and British army (Table 16). Also there are 60 persons from Nepal army and 55 persons from Indian army are retired and they receive pension from Nepal and Indian Governments regularly that is supporting for their livelihood.

Table 16: No of people in soldiers

Name of Army	No of People Working	No of People Retired
Nepal Army	50	60
Indian Army	75	55
British Army	4	-
Total (% of Total Population)	129	110

Source: Village Survey, 2005.

TOURISM RELATED ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING LIVELIHOOD

Eco-tourism is one of the basic phenomena in this VDC where local people have considered the

tourism as one of the most important source of earnings to support their livelihood. Most of the local people in this VDC have been involved in this sector directly/indirectly: some have involved as hotel/lodge and restaurant owners/workers, some as handicrafts and souvenir shopkeepers and some as tourist guides/porter. These are the tourism related economic activities in this VDC that are supporting in the livelihoods of local community (Bhusal, 2010). Paragliding is one of the tourism activities in this VDC where local people have some opportunity in order to earn for their livelihood support.

Tourism has played a positive role in changing women's condition in the VDC where women are involved in managing hotel/restaurant, souvenir shop, kirana/cold drinks shop and in small cottage industries, Ama Samuha (Mothers Groups) and other local women groups are involving in the area of skill development for women who can produce a number of tourism related goods by mobilizing local resources. Local people felt that residence of Sarangkot who are associated with tourism activities (including women) have notably learnt to respond their business in foreign language, especially in English.

CONCLUSION

In this VDC only 21 percent of the total households have sufficient agricultural production for 9 to 12 months. Therefore, majority of the households are

dependent on the animal husbandry and off-farm economic activities (e.g. operation of hotels/lodges, wage labor porter, tourist/trekking guide and so on) for their livelihoods. Poverty alleviation has always remained as a major challenge for overall development in Nepal and Sarangkot VDC also is under such circumstances where tourism can be a successful vehicle for overall development of the area (Bhusal, 2010). A prospect of eco-tourism in the Sarangkot VDC is high in terms of the available of tourism resources and easily accessibility. In this contest, eco-tourism can provide better opportunities in order to support for better livelihood of the people living in this VDC. A number of problems are that are hampering to attract the tourists for longer time/over night stay in the VDC. The government and local organizations have to take incitation to solve these problems.

REFERENCES

- Bhusal, N. P. 2010 Role of Tourism in Local Development : A Case of Sarangkot Hill-Top in Pokhara, Western Nepal, *The Third Pole: Journal of Geography*, 8-10
- Campbell, J. G. 2008. Sustainable mountain development: Reflection on supporting the development policies in the Himalayas. In Rasul, G. & Karki, M. (Eds.) *Policy Priorities for Sustainable Mountain Development*. ICIMOD: Lalitpur.
- Chambers, R., and Conway, G. 1991. *Sustainable Rural Livelihoods: what Contribution Can We Make?* London: DFID
- Morse, S., McNamara, N. and Moses, A. 2009. *Sustainable Livelihood Approach: A Critical Analysis of Theory and Practice*. Geographical Paper No. 189. Department of Geography, University of Readings, UK.
- Ian, S. 1998. *Sustainable Rural Livelihoods: A Framework for Analysis*. IDS Working Paper 72, UK.