



## Tourism in Nepal: The Models for Assessing Performance of Amaltari Bufferzone Community Homestay in Nawalpur

**Rajan Binayek Pasa, PhD**

Lecturer at Central Department of Rural Development

Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Email for correspondence: [rajan.pasa@cdrd.tu.edu.np](mailto:rajan.pasa@cdrd.tu.edu.np)

---

### Abstract

*This study assesses performance of Amaltari Bufferzone Community Homestay that received best homestay award in 2017. For the survey study, the data collected from 236 sample respondents were theorized based on social capital, ecotourism, asset-based community development and sustainability approach that are then supported by the empirical findings. An index was developed to describe the overall performance of the homestay by compositing five thematic indexes: relevancy, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, sustainability. The index value 92.65 from the range of minimum 48 and maximum 240 for the overall performance provides the strong quantitative evidence to answer the question “why did Amaltari receive the best award among”. The multiple regression model (R-square value 0.99) for overall performance also proves that independent variables describe the dependent variables by 99 percent. Among the independent variables relevancy and effectiveness indexes are more likely to describe dependent variable- the overall performance index. The evidence shows that Amaltari homestay has performed well due to the technical/financial supports of WWF, proper mobilization/utilization of conservation fund and homestay community fund, strong social capital, and quality leadership that has transforming the livelihoods of Tharu, Bote and Mushar indigeneous people. However, they have some concerns like waste management in bufferzone areas, reviving the cultural organizations for preserving and transmitting culture from generation to generation, minimizing the modernization and demonstrative effects due to the excessive flow of the tourists and upgrading road connectivity. Hence, the local government, homestay and bufferzone users committee should collectively implement integrated tourism development programs for addressing such concerns.*

---

**Key words:** Tourism, homestay, Amaltari bufferzone community homestay, performance assessment, the model

### Background

Nepal is known as popular destination in international tourism market due to its natural and cultural attractions (Joshi, 2008). The tourism products around natural, social and cultural events are thus becoming major attractions of ecotourism, adventure tourism and rural tourism. The latest data shows that 11, 72073 international tourists visited last year that contributed 7.5 percent on GDP (Rs 2.876 billion) and also created employment to the 427,000 people (NTB, 2019). The Government focuses on creating employment in rural areas including women and marginalized communities, distributing

tourism benefits at grassroots level, and enhancing community participation in rural tourism activities (MoCTCA, 2010). Rural tourism simply represents lifestyle, experience, adventure, efforts for the conservations and above all nature adventure-oriented economic benefits to the local people. The trends of offering rural tourism in general and homestay tourism in particular are increasing since decades. Homestay tourism itself is a vehicle for supplementing in poverty alleviation of the country. Being the key strategy for economic growth such types of tourism leads village economy by generating income, employment and agro based and craft based rural industries. This indicates that homestay tourism can be a foundation for community development, rural tourism development that can contribute overall development of the country. If appropriate and relevant policies are adopted to develop, promote and monitor homestay tourism in more potential villages it could be a miracle to improve living standard of the rural people and enhance rural economy.

Homestay tourism can be flourished in remote village areas where tourists participate in their daily livelihood and learning about their way of life whereas villagers built, own, and operate tourism service and facilities themselves (Brown, 2006). Thus, planning and implementing of the successful rural tourism does not require large capital investment but it seeks the local's sensitized effort to organize, control, and minimize the negative socio culture impacts (Kunwar, 2006). During the Interim Plan (2010-13)- one of Periodic Plans of Nepal, Homestay Regulation Guideline, 2067 BS (2010) was developed for the successful implementation of Visit Nepal Year 2011. Since then, homestay tourism has been becoming key strategy for improving rural economy by generating income, employment and agro-based and craft based rural industries. There are more than 700 community and private based homestay in Nepal (HOSAN, 2019). We witness that western part of Nepal is one the appealing tourist destinations in Nepal.

Gandaki Province, lying in western part of Nepal is regarded as hub for homestay tourism destinations. There are 272 community homestays (having 5425 rooms and 9666 beds) operated by 3402 households (MoITFE, 2018). This shows that tourism was/is becoming prominent sources of family economy of Nepalese people in general and people of Gandaki Province<sup>1</sup> in particular. If appropriate and relevant policies are adopted to develop, promote, and monitor homestay tourism in more potential villages, it could be a miracle to improve living standard of the rural people and to enhance the rural economy. Among others, the villages located around Khumbu, Langtang and Annapurna regions are found more benefited from rural tourism. And Gandaki province is becoming hub for homestay (P. Sharma<sup>2</sup>, PhD personal communication, October 4, 2016).

This study assess overall performance of Amaltari Bufferzone Community Homestay (ABCH) that is located in Nawalpur district having 12 major tourism destinations (Maula Kalika Temple, Triveni Dham, Daunne Devi Temple, Ghumari Ghat, Shashwat Dham, Akala Devi Temple, Devchuli and Barchuli Peaks, Kailash Sanyash Ashram, Lhosedhara, Rudrapur Gadhi, Taruwa Lake and Madhyawarti Jungle) in Kawasoti Municipality coordinated at 27° 38'25.05" N latitude and 84° 7'28.6 E longitude and 170 kilometer west from the capital city. The municipality is located in the middle of the East-West Highway. Adjoined with Devachuli municipality and Chitwan National Park

- 1 There are 103 major tourism destinations in the province located in 11 districts of Gandaki Province (MoITFE, 2019).
- 2 Mr Sharma has been working as a key advisor in Homestay Association of Nepal (HOSAN), Village Tourism Promotion Forum (VITOF) and also working as an emeritus in Tribhuvan University, Central Department of Rural Development, Kirtipur

on East, Madhyabindu municipality on west, Hupsekot rural municipality on north (Mahabharata range) and Chitwan National Park and Narayani river on south. The total area of the municipality is 114 square kilometer that is elevated at 180 meters from the sea level. The Kawasoti city is also known as a green city in which more than 60 percent of total land is occupied by the forests. In case of municipality, 66.35 percentage of the total land area is covered by agricultural land, 28.62 percentage land is occupied by forest and 5.03 percentage by river stream, respectively.

The Amaltari village is adjoined by Narayani river bank and Gundahai Dhakaha bufferzone community forestry of Chitwan National Park (CNP) established in 1973. It covers an area of 952.63 Km<sup>2</sup> and is located in the subtropical inner Tarai of south-central Nepal covering Nawalpur, Parsa, Chitwan and Makwanpur Districts. CNP's altitude it ranges from about 100 m (330 ft) in the river valleys to 815 m (2,674 ft) in the Churia Hills (DNPWC, 2027). There are eight buffer zone users committees in CNP. Out of that Amaltari is significantly rich in terms of natural and cultural biodiversity as well as conservation and development activities. This is one of the 37th community forestry of Kawasoti Municipality effectively managing by 96 sub committees (49 women & 47 men) (ABUC, 2019).

ABCH was established in 2070/02/05 in the auspicious occasion of *20th anniversary of wildlife fund* with collective efforts of Tharu, Bote and Mushar indigenous people (P. Sharma, PhD personal communication, December 17, 2018). There are 31 homestay (24 Tharu homestay +7 Bote homestay) and dozens of restaurant, lodge, hotel, and resort operating by local indigenous and incoming entrepreneurs. This destination is popular for delicious local organic vegetable and food items such as Chichar (A kind of stream rice traditionally cooked by local woman), Dhikari (steam wheat bread), Fish, Ghongi (snail), Numaicha, Gundruk, Chicken, Duck, Raksi and Chhyang. The host community also perform wild animal trade fare, cultural dances such as Lathi nach, Jhumranach, Jogedanach, Jharranach and Tharu remix nach of Tharu community; Goleninach of Bote community and Hurka nach of Mushar community in community building having capacity of 300 + individuals. And the major tourism activities are sightseeing at Tharu village, community forestry, wetland and pastureland, elephant safari/bath, jeep safari, bird watching, boating and sun set, cart riding and village walk around Tharu villages and 24 hours health service at community health clinic and overnight security services are the major tourism activities managing by homestay management committee (Pasa, 2020, p. 3). The ABCH is becoming popular in domestic and international tourism market even in short time periods due to the community homestay, good hospitality, and local organic products as well as natural and cultural attractions. The fact shows that more than 70,000 inter/national tourists visited ABCH in between 2014-2018 that generated total NRs 46070655 economy (the significant amount) to the local people (ABCH, 2019). At the same time, ABCH also won the *Best Homestay Award-2017*. That is why this study has tried to explain why *performance of Amaltari is the best?* In doing so, the performance indicators such as relevancy, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability are used to assess overall performance.

## **Objectives**

- To examine socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents.
- To explain relevancy, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability of homestay tourism activities.
- To assess overall performance of Amaltari bufferzone community homestay.

## Methods and Methodology

The study adopts the survey one of the quantitative research design as the study method. The survey is conducted in Amaltari village of Kawasoti Municipality. The required data were collected from 236 sample respondents selected by randomly. In total of 80 elected representatives/local intellectuals, 57 direct tourism beneficiaries and 99 indirect tourism beneficiaries that are generated with 95 percent confidence level and 5 percent marginal error by using sample size determination formula (Krejcie & Morgan, 1970). More so, household survey technique was applied for collecting reliable data. The Cronbach alpha value for reliability was 0.891 (highly reliable) and values of item total statistics for relevancy, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability were 0.883, 0.850, 0.864, 0.879 and 0.844 respectively (Cohen et al., 2007; Taber, 2017).

Similarly, the correlation coefficients for content validity of dependent variables; relevancy, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability were 0.79, 0.87, 0.83, 0.78 and 0.88 respectively that are significantly correlated with independent variables overall performance at the 0.01 level (2-tailed). Finally, likert scale indexing method (Sava, 2016) and multiple regression model (Field, 2009) are used for analyzing data from social capital (Bourdieu, 1986; Coleman, 1988; Ponthieux, 2004), asset based community development approach (Ellis & Sheridan, 2014; Phillips & Pittman, 2009), ecotourism (Pradhan & Gradon, 2008; Villepontoux, 2013) and UN sustainability approach on development (Wills, 2005; Hada, 2007) theoretical viewpoints.

## The Results: Socio-demographic Characteristics

The respondents were divided into three different categories: direct, indirect and the duty bearers dividing the sample to 24 percent, 42 percent and 34 percent of total respectively. The duty bearers included elective representatives, local politicians, social workers and journalists, local think tanks and development activists, municipal government staffs and tourism committee members. Most of them had visited and stayed in this homestay many times and well known about homestay service delivery practices of host community members. The 96 percent respondents were from 15-59 years age group. This age group is the economically active population. By gender, 63 females and 173 male participants, i.e., 26.69 percent and 73.30 percent respectively were selected for the study. Interestingly, all the respondents claim that agriculture is their foremost primary occupation. In this regards, 82%, 58% and 46% of the direct, indirect and duty bearers claim so. In addition, their second claims are other activities like business (17%), foreign employment (19%) and other activities (27%), respectively.

Among the respondents, 43 percent completed their basic education (1-8), 20 percent completed their secondary education (9-10) and 37 percent completed their high school and above degrees. Among the duty bearer respondents, 60 percent has completed high school and above degrees. Similarly, 54 percent of the direct beneficiaries and 62 percent of indirect beneficiaries have completed only basic level education. Also, 66 percent of the parents have enrolled their children in public school and only 7 percent of them have enrolled in the private school. Out of total 35 students enrolled in private schools, 60 percent of them are belongs to the families of duty bearers. To our dismay, 17 percent of the children from indirect beneficiaries are not studying in the schools. This figure is quite less, only 6 percent in the case of direct beneficiaries. In addition, 69 percent children of the study area are studying in public college and remaining other in private college. Here, 33 percent of the children from indirect beneficiaries and 7 percent from the direct beneficiaries are not studying in the colleges.

Out of 16 children enrolled in private colleges, 25 percent, 19 percent and 56 percent are from the families of direct beneficiaries, indirect beneficiaries and duty bearers respectively. The government report also claims that the educational institutional drop out is relatively high in Nepal (MoE, 2009).

Similarly, the direct beneficiaries have received different trainings like culinary art, hospitality, crafts making and farming. The indirect beneficiaries have received trainings like farming, trekking and guide and hospitality. Likewise, the duty bearers have also received skill development trainings related to farming, crafts making, and tourism. Nearly 70 percent of the direct beneficiaries, who are operating different tourism related enterprises like homestay, resort, guest house, cottage, restaurants have received the culinary art trainings. Interestingly, the number of farming related training recipients is quite high in the case of indirect beneficiaries, which is 64 percent. The national data also shows that agriculture has the highest contribution in the GDP of Nepal, which was 27.59 percent in the last fiscal year (Ministry of Finance, 2019). While “the direct contribution of tourism to the GDP was NRs. 99.8 billion in 2017, which is 4 percent of the total GDP. This is forecast to rise by 4.9 percent in 2018 and then by 3.8 percent annually to NRs. 152.4 billion in 2028” (The Kathmandu Post, 2018, March 28, para 5).

In the case of mother tongue language, the data indicates that 89 (37.7%) Tharu and 60 (25.4%) Bote and 6 (2.9%) Majhi/Mushar indigenous people are speaking in their mother tongue. Remaining 33 (14.0%) are speaking Nepali language and 47 (19.9%) respondents speak Nepali language were not interested to response. This indicates that ABCH is not only rich in terms of biodiversity but also famous for its cultural and linguistic diversity that is another attraction to the guests. For the information on caste, ethnicity and religion, the data indicates that out of 223 responses, 81 from Tharu, 59 from Bote and 27 from Mushar community which count 36 percent, 26 percent and 12 percent respectively. The representations of indigenous group (Janajatis) were 185, Dalit were 29 and BCT were 22, i.e., 79 percent, 12 percent and 9 percent respectively. A large number of respondents, i.e., 86 percent belong to Hindu religion. It is followed by 13 percent Christianity. On this, nearly 50 percent of the people following the Christianity are Mushar which is one of the most deprived Dalit communities in Terai region. The Constitution of Nepal (2015) has declared Nepal as a secular country, so all the people belonging to different caste/creed and religion can enjoy the same rights here. Indigenous people in Nepal, known as the Adivasi/Janajati, constitute about 40 percent of the total population. However, the Adivasi/Janajatis have faced marginalization during the modern history of Nepal such that their representation and participation in state structures has been far from reflective of their statistical representation” (ILO, 2019).

### **Performance Assessment**

The performance of the Amaltari bufferzone community homestay was measured through five assessment indicators: relevancy, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability. In order to understand the perceptions regarding the studied variables, the respondents were asked the questions through 5-point Likert scale like; strongly disagree (1), disagree (2), neutral (3), agree (4), strongly agree (5) and not applicable (0). The perceptions are analyzed by applying Summative scale analysis method (Sava, 2016) and multiple regression model (Field, 2009) as well.

**Relevancy.** The relevancy of Amaltari bufferzone community homestay has been measured by computing 10 Likert index variables highlighted below in standardized coefficients values of

relevancy. By computing Likert index variables help to calculate single construct relevancy index (minimum 10 and maximum 50, mean 39.90 and standard deviation 0.90) that proves that most of the denser views are the consistently with closer to agree statement. This index value is further used for developing multiple regression model that describes probability or likelihoods of dependent variable relevancy index through the help of 10 Likert scale independent variables.

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \dots + \beta_6 x_6 + \varepsilon$$

Where

y is dependent variable

$\beta$ s are regression coefficients

xs are independent variables

$\varepsilon$ = error terms

The R-square value found  $0.98 > 0.8$  that means the independent variables describe the dependent variable relevancy index by 98 percent (the model explains all the variability of the response data around its mean) as well. And the Durbin-Watson value also found 1.87 (lying between 1.5- 2.5) means there is no issue of autocorrelation. The ANOVA test was found significant and it means the sample is random and model can be explained. The constant value found 2.057. The standardized coefficients Beta for the variable homestay committee members are demonstrating effective commitment (ownership) found 0.13 with 1.79 VIF; institutional, human and financial capacities of the host community has been increased found 0.32 with 1.11 VIF (means no issue of multi-collinearity); homestay has been generating family and rural economy found 0.31 with 1.09 VIF; family earning has been investing in productive sectors of the economy found 0.15 with 2.00 VIF; homestay has been creating agriculture and serviced related self/employments found 0.12 with 1.49 VIF; homestay tourism helps to preserve traditional culture of the local people found 0.13 with 2.65 VIF; homestay tourism is need of the host community members found 0.13 with 1.86 VIF; bufferzone management committee members are demonstrating effective commitment (ownership) found 0.15 with 1.88 VIF; Amaltari bufferzone helps conserving forest resources and wildlife animals found 0.11 with 1.67 VIF and Amaltari bufferzone is need of the local people found 0.13 with 1.69 VIF respectively.

The coefficients values indicate that the independent variable such as institutional, human and financial capacities of the host community has been increased, homestay has been generating family and rural economy, family earning has been investing in productive sectors of the economy and bufferzone management committee members are demonstrating effective commitment (ownership) are more likely to describe dependent variable relevancy index whereas the variables homestay has been creating agriculture and serviced related self/employments and Amaltari bufferzone is need of the local people are less likely to describe dependent variable. Since VIF for each of the coefficients is less than 10, the multi-Collinearity is not the issue for the model

Tourism and agriculture are prominent source of family earning of the people living around Amaltari bufferzone community homestay. The minimum and maximum earning from tourism for 57 direct beneficiaries or tourism entrepreneurs are 250,000 and 2400000 respectively with mean earning 300283 as well. And the minimum and maximum earning from agriculture for 206 all types of all types of respondents are 50,000 and 150000 respectively with mean earning 107776 as well. Minimum, maximum, and average total family earning from different sources of income such as

tourism, agriculture, business, govt. job, private job, remittance and others are 150,000, 27, 00000 and 394502 respectively. In the reference of social capital theory, host community members equally from sociological and economic perspectives. Sociologically, they are collectively working in a social and cultural environment, with norms, rules, and obligations (Coleman, 1988). And economically they are becoming self-interested, independent, and thoughtfully seeking to fulfill their expected goals related to improvement of daily life and livelihood through organic commercial farming and homestay tourism activities (Coleman, 1988). Lamsal (2018) also reveals that tourism is not only creating self-employment and earning opportunities to the Tharu people offering homestay tourism in Bachhyauli Village of Ratnanagar Municipality but also help to preserve their traditional culture and perform organic farming practices around the Tharu Village.

**Efficiency.** The efficiency of Amaltari bufferzone community homestay has been measured by computing 10 likert index variables highlighted below in standardized coefficients values of efficiency. Computing likert index variables help to calculate single construct efficiency index (minimum 10 and maximum 50, mean 36.05 and standard deviation 0.78) that proves that most of the denser views are the consistently with closer to agree statement. This index value is further used for developing multiple regression model that describes probability or likelihoods of dependent variable efficiency index through the help of 10 likert scale independent variables.

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \dots + \beta_6 x_6 + \varepsilon$$

The R-square value found  $0.93 > 0.8$  that means the independent variables describe the dependent variable relevancy index by 93 percent as well. And the Durbin-Watson value also found 1.48 that means there is no issue of autocorrelation. That means the sample is random and model can be explained. The constant value found 3.21. The standardized coefficients Beta for the variable government and Non-Government agencies are providing technical and financial supports to the homestay committee found 0.17 with 1.57 VIF; homestay management activities have been monitoring by the key stakeholders found 0.16 with 1.55 VIF; bufferzone management activities have been monitoring by the key stakeholders found 0.17 with 1.60 VIF; villagers are equally benefitted from tourism earning found 0.18 with 1.68 VIF; tourism activities have been achieving expected end community wellbeing found 0.15 with 1.52 VIF; service charges are differ to the international and domestic guests found 0.15 with 1.62 VIF; lodging, fooding and entertainment services are offering according to itinerary found 0.14 with 1.56 VIF; homestay management committee has developed code of conducts to the guests and hosts found 0.15 with 1.88 VIF; efficient services have been delivering to the guests based on homestay guideline 2011 found 0.12 with 1.65 VIF and hosts participated in hospitality management and culinary art training before starting homestay found 0.15 with 1.41 VIF respectively. The coefficients values indicate that the independent variable such as villagers are equally benefitted from tourism earning, homestay management activities have been monitoring by the key stakeholders and government, bufferzone management activities have been monitoring by the key stakeholders and Non-Government agencies are providing technical and financial supports to the homestay committee are more likely to describe dependent variable efficiency index whereas the variables homestay management activities have been monitoring by the key stakeholders; lodging, fooding and entertainment services are offering according to itinerary; homestay management committee has developed code of conducts to the guests and hosts are less likely to describe dependent variable. Since VIF for each of the coefficients is less

than 10, there is no issue of multi-Collinearity.

For the efficiency of homestay service facilities, local people are collectively working in/informal association with common interest (Phillips & Pittman, 2009) and receiving technical/financial assistance from govt. and non-govt. agencies. The assistance was/is invested for constructing 3 welcome gates, community building infrastructure, cultural museum, road networks, park and also sharing their experience and physical assets to the others (Phillips & Pittman, 2009). Pasa (2019) also highlighted that homestay tourism activities in Sirubari are not only building social capital, developing rural infrastructures, maintaining community well-being and conserving biodiversity in village level but also becoming homestay and forest resources management learning center to the villagers belonging to Aandhikhola Rural Municipality, Syangja District and beyond. From the vantage point of social capital theory, the accommodation facilities operating by indigenous and incoming entrepreneurs shows good networking of bonding and bridging social capital. That is not only uplifting their collective cooperation (Sorheim, 2003; Ponthieux, 2004) but also helps achieving economic, cultural, and symbolic capitals in the village and beyond (Bourdieu, 1986). Further, they are establishing linking relationships with politicians, bureaucrats and development stakeholders working in conservation and development sector (Coleman, 1988).

**Effectiveness.** The effectiveness of Amaltari bufferzone community homestay has been measured by computing 10 Likert index variables highlighted below in standardized coefficients values of effectiveness. Computing Likert index variables help to calculate single construct effectiveness index (minimum 10 and maximum 50, mean 35.10 and standard deviation 0.85) that proves that most of the denser views are the consistently with closer to agree statement. This index value is further used for developing multiple regression model that describes probability or likelihoods of dependent variable effectiveness index through the help of 10 Likert scale independent variables.

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \dots + \beta_6 x_6 + \varepsilon$$

The R-square value found  $0.96 > 0.8$  that means the independent variables describe the dependent variable relevancy index by 96 percent as well. And the Durbin-Watson value also found 0.98 that means there is no issue of autocorrelation. That means the sample is random and model can be explained. The constant value found 2.14. The standardized coefficients Beta for the variable government revenue has been investing according to the national park's policy and plan of actions found 0.15 with 1.66 VIF; National park revenue has been investing to implement community development projects found 0.16 with 1.70 VIF; National park revenue has been investing to implement income generate activities found 0.15 with 1.33 VIF; National park revenue has been investing to implement physical infrastructure development projects in local levels found 0.15 with 2.81 VIF; National park revenue has been investing to provide capacity/skill development trainings to the hosts found 0.14 with 2.42 VIF; Internal/external sources of fund has been investing according to tourism management committee's policy and plan of actions found 0.14 with 1.35 VIF; Tourism basket fund has been investing to implement community development projects found 0.15 with 1.62 VIF; Tourism basket fund has been investing to implement income generate activities found 0.14 with 1.59 VIF; Tourism basket fund has been investing to implement physical infrastructure development projects in local levels found 0.16 with 1.71 VIF and Tourism basket fund has been investing to provide capacity/skill development trainings to the hosts found 0.14 with 1.63 VIF respectively. The coefficients values



indicate that the independent variable such as Tourism basket fund has been investing to implement physical infrastructure development projects in local levels; national park revenue has been investing to implement physical infrastructure development projects in local levels and government revenue has been investing according to the national park’s policy and plan of actions are more likely to describe dependent variable efficiency index whereas the variables tourism basket fund has been investing to implement income generate activities; tourism basket fund has been investing to implement community development projects and national park revenue has been investing to provide capacity/skill development trainings to the hosts are less likely to describe dependent variable. Since VIF for each of the coefficients is less than 10. So, there is no issue of multi-Collinearity.

From theoretical gaze of ecotourism, over 0.9 million bufferzone people from 27 districts are benefited from park revenue in protected land (MoFE, 2017). In case of CNP more than 2, 00000 tourists visited in which 60 percent of them were domestic tourists (it was 30% in previous year) (Kantipur National Daily, 2018). Similarly, more than 70,000 inter/national tourists visited ABCH now to then. It has generated more than NRs. 46070655 until fiscal year 2018. The national park revenue also has been investing for sustainable communities’ initiatives project. There is a provision to utilize certain amount of revenue such as 10 percent for providing conservation related awarness raising training, 20 percent for IGAs, 30 percent for community development and another 30 percent for physical infrastructure development projects (Pradhan & Gradon, 2008). More so, 96 forest users groups of Amaltari Bufferzone are directly or indirectly benefitted from conservation fund allocating more than NRs. 32, 00,000 annually. Bhatia (2011) exclaims tourism is contributing much to the economic and cultural growth in different regions of Nepal. He also says that country not only earns foreign exchanges and provides jobs and employment but also provides lots of basic needs comfort and modern amenities to locals and corrects regional disparities by developing various infrastructures for tourism.

**Impact.** The impact of Amaltari bufferzone community homestay has been measured by computing 7 likert index variables highlighted below in standardized coefficients values of impact. Computing likert index variables help to calculate single construct impact index (minimum 7 and maximum 35, mean 26.46 and standard deviation 0.78) that proves that most of the denser views are the consistently with closer to agree statement. This index value is further used for developing multiple regression model that describes probability or likelihoods of dependent variable impact index through the help of 7 Likert scale independent variables.

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \dots + \beta_6 x_6 + \varepsilon$$

The R-square value found 0.94>0.8 that means the independent variables describe the dependent variable relevancy index by 94 percent as well. And the Durbin-Watson value also found 0.79 that means there is no issue of autocorrelation. That means the sample is random and model can be explained. The constant value found 6.02. The standardized coefficients Beta for the variable Villagers themselves are managing wastages properly found 0.21 with 1.27 VIF; Villagers are successfully maintaining good health and sanitation programs found 0.23 with 1.34 VIF; Farmers are supplying organic products to the guests and others found 0.20 with 1.72 VIF; Women and children are becoming active and interactive found 0.21 with 1.67 VIF; Traditional cultures of Tharu, Bote and Majhi people have been transmitting from generation to generation found 0.20 with 1.67 VIF; Mutual relationships

among Tharu, Bote and Majhi people have been increased found 0.19 with 1.88 VIF and the family and rural economy have been increased annually found 0.20 with 1.60 VIF respectively. The coefficients values indicate that the independent variable such as villagers themselves are managing wastages properly; women and children are becoming active and interactive and villagers are successfully maintaining good health and sanitation programs are more likely to describe dependent variable impact index whereas the variables mutual relationships among Tharu, Bote and Majhi people have been increased; family and rural economy have been increased annually and farmers are supplying organic products to the guests and others are less likely to describe dependent variable. Since VIF for each of the coefficients is less than 10, there is no issue of multi-Collinearity.

In the reference of Asset Based Community Development approach, local development actors and stakeholders including homestay committee are promoting community development activities in sustainable manner (Ellis & Sheridan, 2014). WWF and Amaltari Bufferzone Users Committee are collectively implementing *Sustainable Communities Initiatives Project* for 212 beneficiaries' households (55 Tharu, 72 Bote & 85 Mushar). In doing so, they are realizing individual are the means and end of community development whose knowledge/skills need to be recognized and identified (Phillips & Pittman, 2009). Pasa (2019) also argued that there are two ways contributions between tourism development and rural development. In one way, Sirubari became role model Village throughout the country. Villagers use forest resources for tourism development. Neighboring villagers of Sirubari and other Nepalese villagers learned lesson from Sirubari about homestay management and forest resource management. In another way, because of the homestay service, Sirubari owned community pride and also established its identity in national and international tourism market. After involving in tourism services, Gurung people could not manage time for farming activities. In such a situation, they gave their land to the Dalits on contract farming that helped to increase family food sufficiency and empowering Dalit community from rural development perspective.

**Sustainability.** The sustainability of Amaltari bufferzone community homestay has been measured by computing 11 likert index variables highlighted below in standardized coefficients values of sustainability. Computing likert index variables help to calculate single construct sustainability index (minimum 11 and maximum 55, mean 39.93 and standard deviation 0.79) that proves that most of the denser views are the consistently with closer to agree statement. This index value is further used for developing multiple regression model that describes probability or likelihoods of dependent variable sustainability index through the help of 11 likert scale independent variables.

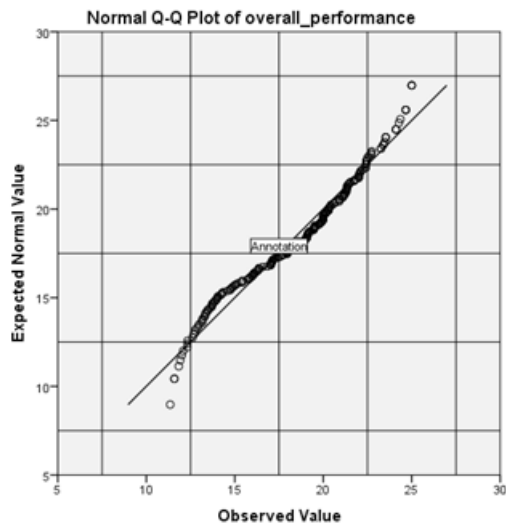
$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \dots + \beta_6 x_6 + \varepsilon$$

The R-square value found  $0.91 > 0.8$  that means the independent variables describe the dependent variable relevancy index by 91 percent as well. And the Durbin-Watson value also found 1.42 that means there is no issue of autocorrelation. That means the sample is random and model can be explained. The constant value found 2.14. The standardized coefficients Beta for the variable Necessary measures been taken into account to enhance the role of women and youths found 0.14 with 1.55 VIF; Necessary measures been taken to address the environmental sustainability found 0.15 with 1.65 VIF; Private sector are investing for promoting tourism development activities found 0.14 with 1.36 VIF; Key stakeholders acquiring the necessary institutional and human capacities to ensure the continued flow of benefits found 0.14 with 1.89 VIF; Homestay committee has been receiving

grant from government and non-government agencies found 0.14 with 2.00 VIF; there is appropriate mechanism to collect complaints of the guests for homestay management found 0.14 with 1.73 VIF; this homestay management committee has received the best homestay destinations form central and local governments found 0.15 with 1.62 VIF; There is a provision of internal audit system of homestay management committee found 0.14 with 1.81 VIF; Homestay management committee conducts at least 12 meetings in the year found 0.14 with 1.97 VIF; the trend of youth involvement in tourism and agriculture sectors have been increased found 0.12 with 1.61 VIF and local youths are enrolling in tourism related technical education and vocational training found 0.14 with 1.48 VIF respectively. The coefficients values indicate that the independent variable such as this homestay management committee has received the best homestay destinations form central and local governments and necessary measures been taken to address the environmental sustainability are more likely to describe dependent variable sustainability index whereas the variables the trend of youth involvement in tourism and agriculture sectors have been increased; key stakeholders acquiring the necessary institutional and human capacities to ensure the continued flow of benefits and homestay committee has been receiving grant from government and non-government agencies are less likely to describe dependent variable. Since VIF for each of the coefficients is less than 10, there is no issue of multi-Collinearity.

Pasa and Adhikari (2019) also reveals that the increased tourism activities around Sundarijal and Mulkhark settlements of Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park have reduced the number of people going to abroad for working. They have begun some innovative income generating works in the tourism sector at their place. They seem aware of the socio-economical, environmental and cultural impacts of the tourism industry and have expectations from the local government to lead on minimizing the possible hazards, which could hamper their livelihood activities shortly. Pasa (2019) also argued that educated people are becoming both the human and social capitals in Sirubari and Panchmul. They often support for rural infrastructure development projects, work for livelihood and family well-being and also work together for biodiversity conservation and mobilization. They have played a leadership, networking and advisory role for tourism, agriculture and rural infrastructure development projects thoughtfully.

**Overall performance.** The overall performance of Amaltari bufferzone community homestay has been measured by computing 5 composite index values such as relevancy index; efficiency index; effectiveness index; impact index and sustainability index. Computing likert indexed values help to calculate single construct overall performance index (minimum 48 and maximum 240, mean 92.65 and standard deviation 3.43) that proves that most of the denser views are the consistently with closer to agree statement. This index value is further used for developing multiple



regression model that describes probability or likelihoods of dependent variable overall performance index through the help of 5 independent scaled variables mentioned above.

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \dots + \beta_6 x_6 + \varepsilon$$

The R-square value found  $0.99 > 0.8$  that means the independent variables describe the dependent variable relevancy index by 99 percent as well. And the Durbin-Watson value also found 0.32 that means there is no issue of autocorrelation. The value of sum of square also found significant ( $2724.82 > 0.000$ ) with 5 degree of freedom. That means the sample is random and model can be explained. The constant value found 1.62. The standardized coefficients Beta for the variable sustainability found 0.23 with 3.22 VIF; for the impact found 0.22 with 2.00 VIF; for the effectiveness found 0.24 with 2.52 VIF; for the efficiency found 0.22 with 2.98 VIF and for the relevancy found 0.26 with 1.77 VIF respectively. The coefficients values indicate that the independent variable such as relevancy and effectiveness are more likely to describe dependent variable impact index whereas the variables sustainability, efficiency and impact are less likely to describe dependent variable. Since VIF for each of the coefficients is less than 10, there is no issue of multi-Collinearity. The Q-Q plots for overall performance also show that the residual is almost normally distributed thus the regression model does not has issue of hetero scedasticity.

From the viewpoint of sustainability approach, local development actors and stakeholders including homestay committee and bufferzone user committee are collectively working for sustainable livelihood. They are giving high priority for forming and mobilizing human, social, physical, financial and natural capital in general and through social mobilization in particular (Hada, 2007). For that purpose, annually around NRs. 50, 00,000 National park revenue has been investing for implementing skill development trainings, IGAs, community development, infrastructure development related projects around Amaltari bufferzone areas. However, homestay committee still need to establish partnership with govt. and non-govt. agencies, CBOs and private sectors for upgrading its facilities and activities as well as sustaining its effective and efficient performances for brining positive impacts on the lives of bufferzone people (UN, 1990).

## Conclusion

This study comes to the conclusions that ABCH has performed well due to the technical and financial supports of WWF and proper mobilization of conservation fund of Chitwan National Park. Performances of ABCH is becoming popular because of strong social capital among indigenous people, proper utilization of conservation fund and homestay community fund, good networks of physical assets as well as ethical and quality leadership. ABCH thus help bringing positive impacts in the lives of indigenous Tharu, Bote and Mushar people having their own typical traditions, culture, norms/values, dress up, varieties of local food and organic farm productions. They are serving tourism activities with inborn quality hospitality characters and performing cultural programs due to bonding, bridging and linking social capitals. The participation of the female and young generations in homestay and other tourism and agriculture sector is quite impressing.

The bufferzone users committee under ecotourism development principle becoming effective while conserving biodiversity, wildlife, natural environment and forest resources. The conservation fund and homestay community fund are investing in conservation, climate change, and vocational related capacity and skill development trainings and physical infrastructure development projects. The

people living around Amaltari have sustainable livelihood due to the diversified livelihoods created by tourism, agriculture and the sustainable community initiative project implemented by conservation fund. However, they have some concerns like waste management in bufferzone areas, advertising local products in national and international tourism market, reviving the cultural organizations for preserving and transmitting culture from generation to generation, promoting organic farming and equal benefit sharing. The locals have a concern that ABCH should be proactive in minimizing the modernization and demonstrative effects due to the excessive flow of the tourists. The large numbers of direct beneficiaries offering homestay, cottage/guest house, restaurants, teashop, paying guest and hotel/resort have more concerns about upgrading road connectivity and marketing facilities. Hence, the local governments like the ward office and municipal office, homestay committee and bufferzone users committee should collectively and seriously take lead role for addressing such concerns.

## References

- Amaltari Bufferzone Community Homestay (ABCH). (2019). *Annual tourism statistics, 2019*. Author.
- Amaltari Bufferzone Users Committee (2019). *Annual progress report, 2019*. Author.
- Bhatia, A. K. (2011). *Tourism development, principles, and practices*: New Delhi Publications.
- Bourdieu, P. (1986). The forms of capital, in: J. Richardson (Ed.) *Handbook of theory and research for the sociology of education* (Westport, CT, Greenwood Press).
- Cohen, L., Manion, L., & Morrison, K. (2007). *Research method in education* (6th ed.) London: Taylor & Francis Group.
- Coleman, J. (1988). Social capital in the creation of human capital. *American Journal of Sociology* 94, 95-120. Author.
- Department of National park and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC). (2017). *Annual report Chitwan national park-2017 Conservation Outlook Assessment*. IUCN World Heritage Outlook. Retrieved from <https://www.worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org>
- Ellis, S. & Sheridan, L. (2014). A critical reflection on the role of stakeholders in sustainable tourism development in least-developed countries. *Tourism Planning & Development*, 11 (4), 467-471.
- Field, A. (2009). *Discovering statistics using SPSS* (3rd ed.). London: Sage Publication Private Limited.
- Gupta, C. B. & Gupta, V. (2015). *An introduction to statistical methods* (23rd ed.). Delhi: Vikas Publishing House.
- Hada, G. B. (2007). *Sustainable rural development*. Kathmandu: DikshantPustakBhandar.
- Homestay Association of Nepal (HOSAN). (2019). *Homestay darpan*. Kathmandu: Author.
- International Labor Organization. (2019). *Promotion of indigenous peoples' rights in the constitution making and state-reform process in Nepal*. Retrieved from [https://www.ilo.org/kathmandu/whatwedo/projects/WCMS\\_114394/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/kathmandu/whatwedo/projects/WCMS_114394/lang--en/index.htm) on October 24, 2019
- Joshi, D. R. (2008). Socio economic impact of tourism in Nepal order or paradox. In R. P. Upadhyay (Ed.), *Reading in Rural Tourism* (pp. 111-132). Kathmandu: Sunlight Publication.
- Kawasoti Municipality (2018). *Profile of Kawasoti municipality, Nawalpur District*.
- Krejcie, R. V. & Morgan, D. W. (1970). Determining sample size for research activities. *Educational and Psychological Measurement*, (30), 607-610.
- Lamsal, S. (2018). *Impact of cultural tourism: A survey study of Bachhyauli village of Ratnanagar municipality, Chitwan*[Unpublished MA Thesis]. Submitted to the Central Department of

- Rural Development. Kathmandu: Tribhuvan University.
- Ministry of Education (2009). *Vulnerable community development framework (VCDF)*. Kathmandu: Author
- Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE). (2017). *Shivapuri Nagarjun national park and bufferzone management plan (2017/18-2021/22)*. Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation.
- Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forest and Environment (MoITFE). (2016). *Samudayik homestay darpan*. Pokhara: Gandaki Provincial Government of Nepal.
- Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation (MoTCA). (2010). *Home stay working procedure 2067*. Kathmandu: Author. Retrieved from <http://tourismdepartment.gov.np/uploads/default/files/04b8169080b363b3432317b32d8e8b11.pdf> on October 24, 2019
- Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forest and Environment (MoITFE). (2019). *Major destinations for tourism in Gandaki province*. Pokhara: Provincial Government of Nepal.
- New Constitution of Nepal (2015). *Constitution of Nepal 2072 BS*. Kathmandu: Lumbini PustakPasa, Exhibition Road, Kathmandu.
- Pasa, R. B. & Adhikari, D. (2019). Ecotourism in changing the lives of bufferzone People: The case from Shivapuri Nagarjun national park, Nepal. *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science (IOSR-JHSS)*, 24(10), 14-22. doi: 10.9790/0837-2410101422
- Pasa, R. B. (2019). *Interfaces between education, tourism and rural development: The case of Panchamul, Nepal* (Unpublished Doctoral Dissertation, Tribhuvan University). Kathmandu: Faculty of Education.
- Pasa, R. B. (2020). Performance evaluation of Amaltari bufferzone community homestay of Kawasoti municipality in Nawalpur, Nepal. *IOSR Journal of Humanities And Social Science (IOSR-JHSS) Volume 25, Issue 7, Series 4 (July), pp. 01-10*. DOI: 10.9790/0837-2507040110
- Phillips, R. & Pittman, R. H. (2009). (Eds.). *An introduction to community development*. Routledge Publication. 2 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4RN
- Ponthieux, S. (2004). *The concept of social capital: a critical review*. 10th ACN Conference. Paris: 21-23 January. Author.
- Pradhan, B. & Grandon, R. (2008). "Ecotourism: Concept and issues". In *reading in rural tourism*, Upadhaya, R. P. (Ed.). Kathmandu: Sunlight Publication.
- Sava, A. M. (2016). Weighting method for developing composite indices: Application for measuring sectoral specialization. *Journal of Applied Quantitative Methods*, 2(3), 77-84.
- Taber, K. S. (2017). *The use of cronbach's alpha when developing and reporting research instruments in science education*. doi: 10.1007/s11165-016-9602-2. Retrieved from [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/317777374\\_The\\_Use\\_of\\_Cronbach's\\_Alpha\\_When\\_Developing\\_and\\_Reporting\\_Research\\_Instruments\\_in\\_Science\\_Education](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/317777374_The_Use_of_Cronbach's_Alpha_When_Developing_and_Reporting_Research_Instruments_in_Science_Education) on October 24, 2019
- The Kathmandu Post (2018). *Travel and tourism pumps NRs 195 billion into economy*. Kathmandu Post, March 28, para 5.
- Villepoux, S. (2013). *Ecotourism, concept and reality. What are perspectives? Towards a sustainable earth system environment in Asia Pacific and beyond*. SONKHLA, Thailand. <hal-00834646v1
- Wills, K. (2005). *Theories and practices of development*. USA: Routledge Publication.