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TOURISM AS A CATALYST FOR PEACE
Analyzing the Bright Sides of Tourism in Nepal

ABSTRACT

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Much has been said and written about tourism, its dimensions, benefits and costs. But one of the most important roles tourism has been playing has not been spotlighted as much as it should have been-that tourism promotes peace. Being one of the most successful global industries, tourism not only has made economic contributions, but also has created a harmonious ground for all people to exchange cultures, understand each other and co-operate. By bringing people together, reducing prejudice and raising awareness on crucial issues such as social justice, equality and human rights, tourism has made significant contributions in making societies more peaceful. If requisites of a peaceful society such as strong economy, opportunities for all, and sustainability can be met through tourism, definitely tourism has a catalytic nature promoting peace. Hence, the thesis was aimed to demonstrate the catalytic nature of tourism in building peace. To prove the fact that tourism duly promotes peace, positive impacts of tourism in Nepal were analyzed.

The nature of the thesis topic demanded a suitable research method by the use of which the desired objectives could be met. By making the use of secondary data analysis research method, more precisely documentary sources, some remarkable stories from Nepal that have been positively influenced by tourism were chosen in order prove that tourism does have the potentiality of bringing changes and establishing peace. The documentary sources included in the empirical part were chosen considering the aim of the thesis, and the degree of validity and reliability. While the theoretical framework focused on elements of peace, the empirical part analyzed the role of tourism in addressing such elements.

The outcomes of the research revealed the extraordinary dimensions of tourism. Not only did the research part become evidence of the fact that tourism truly is something that causes positives changes, it also indicated that tourism is becoming the social force that leads our world to become a more peaceful place to live in. The thesis, focusing on the dramatic role of tourism in catalyzing the elements of peace such as justice, education, opportunities and equality, explored that tourism, in the context of Nepal, has been aiding peace and prosperity.

Key words
Documentary sources, education, equality, justice, Nepal, peace, peace requisites, secondary data analysis, tourism, war

ABSTRACT

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ABBREVIATIONS

CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
CPN	Communist Party of Nepal
EWN	Empowering Women Nepal
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GPI	Global Peace Index
ICB	Identity and Class Based
ICPTR	International Centre for Peace through Tourism
ILO	International Labor Organization
MoCTCA	Ministry of Culture Tourism and Civil Aviation
NDP	Netherland Development Programme
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NTB	Nepal Tourism Board
READ	Rural Education and Development
TRPAP	Tourism for Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children´s Education Fund
UNO	United Nations Organizations
UNWFP	United Nations World Food Programme
UNWTO	United Nations World Tourism Organization
WTO	World Tourism Organization
WTTC	World Travel and Tourism Council

1 INTRODUCTION

In these early decades of the 21st century, there is hardly a place which has not been a part of the massive tourism industry, or not been influenced. The industry, which only began on a massive scale in the 1960s, has intensified rapidly and steadily over the past decades, and by now has successfully become one of the largest economic stories (Theobald 1998.) Having become a successful economic story, it is logical when tourism is said to be an instrument of economy promotion, but limiting the positivity of tourism only to economic benefits is not the whole story. Tourism, a movement of people from one place to another, certainly is the cause of change that occurs in tourists, hosts and host communities. Mostly, the changes are positive. Along with economic benefits, tourism also has the potential to contribute to peace, to address current realities such as globalization, gender equality, social justice migration, conflicts, prejudice and poverty. These benefits help forming the foundation of peace and contribute to the rescue of our world from becoming a challenging place to live in. Such benefits may not include all the required conditions for peace, but certainly are the pillars of peace. In this thesis, the focus has been made on tourism contributions to elements that help building a more peaceful society.

The theoretical framework of the thesis will be written starting with the definition of peace. Peace, as will be described in the theoretical framework, is not just merely the absence of war but, in fact, is the presence of other elements as well such as prosperity, harmony, justice, equality and equal opportunities. Highlighting the significance of such elements, the theoretical framework will make a connection between tourism and peace in its second phase. The fact that there is vast relationship between tourism and peace will be the center of focus in the third chapter of the thesis. It will be there highlighted that tourism is advantageous not only in terms of economy. However, the significance of economic benefits of tourism for prosperity will not be underestimated. Along with economic benefits, other equally positive impacts of tourism that are the preconditions for building and stabilizing peace will be presented with supporting examples. Somehow, the theoretical framework shall be a reflection of the topic. Finally, the last part of the theoretical work will enter the main part of the study, peace through tourism in Nepal, where tourism contributions to Nepal for peace will be highlighted. Making a sufficient supporting theoretical framework for the research the theoretical framework will be full stopped at chapter four.

Although sufficient information will be provided already in the theoretical framework of the thesis, it will still be needed to establish the link between tourism and peace which could provide evidence that the targeted aim of the thesis is achieved. The bright sides of tourism in the context of Nepal will be analyzed in the research part of the thesis. Basically, there are two reasons behind choosing Nepal as the study case. One is, that Nepal, geographically small and tucked away between two massively huge countries, India and China, has undergone violence, hosted armed conflicts and been revolutionized in its history. All such activities were carried out seeking peace and development, but the results somehow turned out to be rather devastating. However, tourism in such critical circumstances had been the gleam of light, addressing issues such as poverty, education, opportunity and equality, which form the base of peace. Therefore, research will be done analyzing tourism contributions for peace in Nepal. The other is, having been a Nepalese national and a tourism student has keenly interested the author in exploring the catalytic nature of tourism for peace in Nepal. Secondary data analysis, more precisely documentary sources, will be used as the research method to meet the aim of the thesis.

Followed will be the findings derived from the research work. The findings of the research will measure the degree of connection between the written theoretical framework and conducted research. The degree of validity and reliability will also be measured after the research work to ensure that the study is valid and can be relied on. The findings of the research will be followed by the author's personal recommendations, which could possibly help escalate the catalytic nature of tourism for peace in Nepal. Finally, the thesis will be concluded briefing the theoretical framework, process and findings.

The thesis will strikingly demonstrate how tourism can be a vital tool in the process of making peace. The objective of the thesis is to theoretically prove that peace requires a lot more than just the absence of war. Practically, it will be presented in the research part how tourism has made significant contributions to the process of peace making in Nepal. Therefore, the cases that will be taken under study in the research part of the thesis will be directed at achieving the objective.

Furthermore, in order to establish a link between tourism and peace and make it the clearest possible, the thesis will be bound within certain limitations. Since the aim of the thesis is to establish the fact that tourism is a causative factor of peace, particularly in Nepal, no

such things that promote or market tourism in Nepal will be included in the thesis. Although it will, at some points, touch the political situation of Nepal, the thesis does not have anything to do with the political causes, happenings and transitions. The thesis, throughout the whole process, will be focused on tourism contributions, possibilities and potentials for peace.

2 PEACE AND REALITY

An introduction to peace will be given in the beginning of this chapter, the definition that the world knows and the amount of reality in it will be discussed in different parts of the chapter. The chapter will proceed by focusing on the factors that are the vitals of peace. The importance of peace in our world, things that contribute to peace and factors that affect the state of peace will also be presented in the chapter. The current situation of peace in the world and the ongoing situation will be the conclusion part of the chapter.

2.1 Understanding peace

History is the evidence that the human planet has hosted a number of wars and armed conflicts in different eras. The beginning of conflicts and wars lies in the evolution of human being, the difference is just that in ancient times people used to fight to survive and now to become powerful, ways of fighting were traditional and now have become more technological than ever before. The fact, that the so called powerful nations in the world that invest more money on arms rather than on citizens' welfare, questions if that is how a peaceful society is built. It has also been tried to be clarified by many of those nations that heavy investment made on arms is ultimately to protect the country and its inhabitants, but the truth, that citizens of the same countries do not feel as secure as they ought to considering the measures their nation has been applying to assure the security level, remains unchanged. Hence, the need of peace has always been felt, not only in developing economies but also in developed economies. However, the countries that are in immediate need are the developing ones.

The term 'peace' mostly defined as the absence of war, is a more complicated matter than just that. Along with the absence of war and armed conflicts, there is more to peace. Hundreds of lives make their way to death every day because of hunger despite the fact that our world has more than enough food, easily curable diseases take lives and natural catastrophe victims die helpless. One part of the world is still suffering from illiteracy and human right violation when the other has reached its maximum point of modernization, where humans have even started seeking pet rights. The gap between the poor and the rich is becoming

wider and wider. All such things show a kind of society that has been built up where people are of two categories, one with more than enough and the other with less than nothing, which does not lead to a peaceful society. (Moufakkir 2010.)

The world cannot be said to have developed as long as such serious matters remain unaddressed. The absence of war can be regarded as the basic criterion of peace, but only that is not sufficient to make a society peaceful. The presence of justice is what peace requires. A peaceful environment is where human rights are fully protected, where everyone plays by the same rules, where no discrimination or social protection exists. The absence of a peaceful environment is spotted where humans are denied fundamental needs such as education, shelter, food and health services. Therefore, a peaceful society needs the presence of such things and not just the mere absence of physical war. (Moufakkir 2010.)

2.2 Underpinning peace - peace foundations

Underpinning peace simply means supporting peace from beneath or making a foundation. Foundation is the first support to anything that is going to be built on it; a strong house must have a strong foundation. Likewise, a peaceful environment can only stand on human friendly foundations. The simplest possible foundations can be the best sometimes; it is just a matter of usage. Similarly, a peaceful society can also be built up on simple peace foundations like fair play, protection of fundamental human rights and so forth.

A region with an ongoing violence is referred to having the absence of peace. Therefore, the absence of war must be present in order to strengthen the foundation of peace. Equality among people harmonizes society. Equality in this context has to do with justice. Every war ends up taking lives, destroying infrastructures and violating the minds of people. Thus, the contribution of wars to peace can rarely be seen, as the process involves injustice despite the good stance it may have carried. Although some wars are fought for justice and equality, the beginning of the journey to peace starts only after the war is ended. (Anderson 1999.)

However, just the end of wars in all cases would not establish peace. Peace is a more complex and fickle element which otherwise becomes fragile if all necessary conditions are

addressed. Peace is more a process; the more it is cultured, the more strongly it can be stabilized. Education can be one of the most important elements through which the culture of peace can be transmitted. Furthermore, the presence of highly qualified elites is equally important to transform the culture of peace. Such elites help promoting justice and liberty by exercising moral authority over the societies, and contributing to state development as well. Therefore, peace to be underpinned preliminarily requires some basic elements such as education, and over time when it becomes a culture it reaches a stable state. (Murray & Lacey 2009, 4-5.)

2.3 Peace - the fundamental of living

Every human being, regardless of his/her nationality, is entitled to a certain set of rights by birth, called fundamental rights. Fundamental rights are normally protected by the constitution of the country. The most basic human rights such as freedom to speech, right to justice, freedom to move and so forth, have been written down as the set of fundamental rights everyone is entitled to. However, words written down in constitutions have not in practice reflected what is happening in reality. The fact that the protection of fundamental rights is is possible only where peace and harmony exist, can be hardly denied. Therefore, peace can be considered as the prerequisite of fundamental rights, as no other human rights can be fully enjoyed in the absence of peace.

The word 'peace' is often pronounced when a war or a violent conflict is present. No surprisingly, it is widely seen that nations have been deploying the wisest measures to prevent war, which is expected to maintain peace. Reality is that even when there has not been any armed conflict among the world's major powers, people have not yet completely agreed that just the absence of war symbolizes peace. Indeed, the absence of war must be present for peace, but the absence of war alone does not lead to peace. The state of 'Peacelessness' or fragile peace can still be seen in developing countries, even when in the absence of physical violence. Instead, the presence of peace can be seen where harmony, equity, justice within and between societies exist. Therefore, peace can be pointed out as one of the first and most important fundamental rights everyone is entitled to. (Satani 2003-04.)

In developing countries, where no physical war is currently present, peace has not yet been rooted. A glance at existing starvation, human trafficking, poverty, illiteracy, human rights and violation in the world we live in shows that violence is not over yet, just the form has changed. The situations may not be the same everywhere but as long as violence in such form exists in some parts, our planet cannot be said to have become peaceful. A survey carried out in Nepal in 2010 by the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) showed that over 20% infants suffered from different curable diseases, 41% adults were illiterate, 12% of the population lack access to improved drinking service and 34% children were exploited to child labor. Similarly, increasing migration rates and human trafficking activities show a degrading state of peace in Nepal. The existence of such facts has proven that fundamental rights have not been enjoyed by the people in Nepal, even when no physical violence is occurring. This indicates to a kind of situation where peace is in words is present in words, but not in reality. A peaceful society is where such problems are prevented and human rights are enjoyed to the fullest. (UNICEF Nepal Statistics 2010.)

2.4 The making of peace

Nothing on earth is big in itself; the composition of small particles makes every big thing look big. Similarly, peace-building is regarded as something massive, but in fact it is not. Peace is just a simple composition of essential elements, the absence of war, and the presence of equality, justice and harmony. Making the world a more peaceful place is a process, and things that assist the process can be considered as the contributors to peace.

Peaceful relations between the nations must be present if the world is to be made a more peaceful place. Internal issues of any country can be best solved when international relationships are harmonious and cooperative. Then comes the system the country is ruled under, if social justice is fairly practiced or not, if everyone is entitled to similar opportunities or not, if everyone plays by the same rules or not, and if the distribution of resources within the country are fairly done or not. Additionally, the importance of a harmonious democracy is equally massive in building a peaceful society. Another equally important contributor to peace, which cannot be kept separate, is education. No other thing like education can have a bigger influence on the peace building process as if students are educated about

cooperative living, conflict resolving in a constructive way, so that they are prepared to make the society they live in peaceful and are for each other rather than against. Actually, the system under which a country will be ruled tomorrow depends on how students are educated today. One more thing to be considered, especially if the country has undergone civil wars or ethnic and religious conflicts, is reconciliation. Reconciliation investigates the happenings of conflict periods, brings the offenders to the court of justice and helps inflicted grieved parties forget the past. An example of South Africa can be taken which for years went through destructive disputes between Blacks and Whites, and transformed into a harmonious nation after the end of disputes. The significance of reconciliation is massively appreciated harmonizing South Africa in the post war period. In addition to these things, many other things contribute to a more peaceful society, known but not practiced as much as they should have been. (Morton 2012.)

Tourism can be one of the factors that can significantly contribute to a more peaceful society, bringing series of positive changes into a society and fostering harmony among people. Tourism has become a mean of culture exchange as tourists come across different cultures whilst they travel, which builds harmony among people with different cultural backgrounds, leaves behind the chances of conflicts and creates ground to resolve possible conflicts peacefully. Tourism raises awareness among people at the same time. On the other hand, tourism has proven across the globe what it is capable of when it comes to building economies, as it is itself the most successful economic story. Tourism, thus, helps making societies harmonious, prosperous and economically strong, which leads to reduced conflicts, harmony and justice. (Burtner 2010.)

2.5 The present state of peace on our planet

How far would the human civilization and development have gone if no conflict would ever have taken place among people? The disturbance the human race has faced in the name of wars and conflicts must have interrupted the intensity of both development and civilization. Nevertheless, humans have achieved what they have imagined, proving nothing is impossible if it is truly desired. The modernization of the 21st century world seems to have forgotten some crucial aspects of civilization though. People all across the world have always had desires of peaceful life, a peaceful environment, a peaceful nation and a peace-

ful world, and the desire is still alive but quite unfulfilled. If people seek peace, it implies that there is an absence of peace.

The findings of Global Peace Index (GPI) 2012 have shown that the world has become slightly more peaceful than in the previous year. The GPI shows how noticeably internal peace has worsened over the last few years, whilst external peace has stepped up a bit. According to the GPI, some of the largest economies have cut off military expenses and been ranked higher on the list of peaceful nations. Despite the cut offs, the amount of money being spent on military expenses still seems to be enormous; enough to feed the poorest humans ceasing lives every day because of hunger. It is a pity that some have enough to fight battles while some lack enough to fight hunger. Another significant finding revealed by the GPI, is the state of peace in the Middle East and North Africa, countries suffering civil wars. The degradation of the peace status in those countries is clearly because of the government type, social injustice and human rights violation. The situation seems to have improved in countries like Bhutan and Sri Lanka, where such peace keeping factors are seriously addressed. The results of the findings show that the state of peace in some countries is very good, satisfactory in some and poor in many, which proves that the world has yet much to be improved in order to be more peaceful. (GPI 2012.)

A seed of harmony sown in the soil of violence hardly grows up, it just grows very slightly even if it does. Several facts show that the investments made on war and violence were way too many compared to those invested on building harmony between and inside nations. Similarly, assumptions on the direction we are heading towards can be made considering the current situation of the world, where enormous sums are being spent on wars rather than on preventing poverty. Rebels are being supplied with arms, but children are denied decent education. The world peace status needs to be improved massively. Otherwise, violence will certainly continue on earth, and possibly transform into a global disease. (Donovan 1985.)

In fact, everyone wants a peaceful life, a peaceful environment and a peaceful world. Making the world a more peaceful place could be a tough task, but not impossible. There would be no violence if everybody stood up for each other rather than against, as simple as that. The world itself is not violent or unequal to people, people have made it that way. There-

fore, making people more peaceful would simply make the world a more peaceful place to live in. (Donovan 1985.)

3 PEACE THROUGH TOURISM

This chapter named "Peace through Tourism" will present how significantly tourism leaves positive impacts on peace elements and fosters peace. The inspiration behind the thesis that tourism contributes in harmonizing societies through social and economic means will be elaborated under different sub-headings of the chapter. Furthermore, the chapter will take some related examples on how tourism has acted as a catalyst in establishing positive changes.

3.1 A broader view of tourism

The rapid growth of tourism is said to have begun since the creation of the airline industry after the Second World War. Later, with the development of the Jet aircraft, tourism expanded to become one of the largest economies on earth, employing more people than any other industry. The process of expansion has not stopped, nor has the diversification. Along with contributions to social and economic development, tourism has also been a promoter of mutual understanding in societies as it became a mean of contacts between people and cultures. In turn, understanding among people and cultures is what enhances harmony. (Theobald 1998.)

It is a well-appreciated fact that tourism promotes development. Apart from the economic contribution, tourism also contributes promoting development of other sectors such as hospitality services, tour operators, low cost airlines, sports and recreational activities, better water and sewage system, and improved health services. These essentials of tourism obviously help tourism growth as well as make impacts on the local business and market at the same time. As a result, an intermingling point is created. For example, airports and highways constructed in order to promote tourism make local markets accessible to everyone. Although difficult to measure, there is a relationship between tourism and evolving skilled manpower. Tourism, providing opportunities to everyone, motivates people to equip themselves with skills required to meet those opportunities. Somehow, tourism contributes in generating productive manpower. The more productive manpower a society has, the faster

it develops and peace is very likely to be present in developed societies. Therefore, tourism has a clear role in leading societies towards development and peace. (Theobald 1998.)

3.2 Benefits of tourism

The massive form of today's tourism industry has shown that it has got a lot of positive aspects. Obviously, it would not have grown to be as big as it is today if benefits were not substantial. The World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) stated that nearly 260 million jobs were supported by the tourism industry in 2011either directly or in related sectors. And those jobs were beneficial not only to the employees, but also to their families. According to the World Tourism Organization (WTO), international arrivals worldwide have more than doubled since 1990, rising from 675 million to 940 million in 2010, and to 1.035 billion in 2012. Basically, these figures show how significantly the growth in travel and tourism has occurred over the past decades. Definitely, the rise of tourism would not have taken such a magnificent speed without carrying positive aspects and potentials. All the advantages of tourism are difficult to be scripted; some direct benefits will be discussed in the following sub-paragraphs. (WTTC 2011.)

3.2.1 Economic benefits

Tourism carries a wide range of positive impacts, increasing foreign exchange earnings and contributing to government revenues. The direct contribution of tourism can be seen on sales, profits, jobs, tax revenues, and income in the primary hospitality sectors such as transportation, hotels, museums, parks and restaurants. The export and import of goods and services earn revenue to the economy of a host country and influence investments for the development of other sectors. As a consequence, infrastructures such as airports, roads and bridges are developed for tourism. Moreover, these infrastructures benefit not only tourists or tourism, but also host residents. Another crucial benefit of tourism is flow of money. Tourists travelling from developed economies, that are comparatively rich, travel to different places including developing countries. The movement of tourists from developed to developing countries helps maintaining economical balance between countries in the world. (Satani 2003-04.)

Regardless of the place, domestic or international, tourism is a source of income for both businesses and individuals that supply goods and services to tourists. Direct expenditure by tourists on goods and services is the primary source of income, whereas expenditure by tourism businesses on goods and services in the economy, hotels for example, involves the purchase of food, beverages, equipment, power and water supplies and so on, as well as the construction industry also relates to indirect source of income generation. Likewise, employment opportunities created by tourism also boosts the economy. Tax earned through employees and their higher purchasing power which is spent in the local economy as induced expenditure. Employment opportunities in developing countries, especially where tourism is seasonal, offers more benefits to the locals as they enjoy part-time tourism employment and have time to be engaged as well in everyday working life such as agriculture (Sharpley & Telfer 2008, 180-183). The wide gap between visitors and host residents narrows down as tourism contributes to economic development. As a result, the host-guest relation becomes prosperous. On the other hand, employment opportunities offered by tourism alleviates poverty, which results in decreasing crime rates. Therefore, tourism helps creating a healthy environment, both physical and human. (Satani 2003-04.)

3.2.2 Environmental benefits

One of the essentials of tourism is the environment, a tourist fascinating factor. Tourists are attracted by the natural beauty of the region, historical and cultural monuments, landscape and interesting wild life. The economic contribution of tourism plays a vital role in conserving the environment, as has been stated in the previous sub-chapter. Both the amount of money spent by tourists at the sites and the revenue earned by the government through tourism can be usefully spent in managing and conserving heritages that are environmentally valuable. Similarly, local residents and representatives learn the importance of environmentally sensitive heritages and work together to keep them sustainable, so as to generate economic benefits continuously. People working together build understanding, harmony and prosperity, without which an environment can hardly be peaceful. Tourism also plays a vital role in informing, both visitors and host residents, about environmental problems and the value of nature. Hence, by raising awareness tourism prevents environmental degradation. (Satani 2003-04.)

It is inevitable that tourism can be a cause of change in the environment, both negatively and positively. The development of tourism infrastructures, facilities and attractions transforms the natural environment and may lead to pollution and erosion. Although such impacts may not be caused by tourism but by other human or economic activities, local and national concern is needed in order to avoid them. Tourism, in reality, urges environmental conservation and improvement through activities such as park creation which definitely leads to positive environmental consequences. (Sharpley & Telfer 2008, 186-189.)

3.3.3 Socio-Cultural benefits

The diversity of tourism is wide, and so is the tourists' desire. Tourism amazingly preserves culture, as tourists are interested in experiencing cultures from ancient times. In fact, many cultures for instance New Zealand's Maori culture, which is believed to be more than a thousand years old but is still adding unique and dynamic experience for New Zealand visitors, are still alive only because of tourism. Had there been no tourists to experience it, the Maori culture would have faded away a long time ago or at least would not have been of the same value as it is now. Development of the tourism industry can be a good way to preserve and manage cultures sustainably. Subsequently, cultures are preserved for and through tourism which are not only economically worthy but also of civic pride. (Satani 2003-04.)

Furthermore, tourism creates a space where cultures are exchanged, understood and respected among hosts and guests. It enhances harmonious relations, prosperity and reduces their preconception of other cultures. Leastwise, the chances of conflict become fewer, because mutual respect is constituted and parties with conflicts go for a peaceful solution. Hence, preserving culture, tourism at the same time creates a fertile ground for friendly relationships among people which is definitely a creditworthy role of tourism in establishing peace. (Satani 2003-04.)

3.3 Creditworthy tourism

A declaration on responsible tourism was signed in 2002 in Cape Town by 280 attendees from all sectors of tourism representing over 20 countries. The declaration agreed that responsible tourism shall minimize negative economic, environmental and social impacts, enhance the well-being of host communities by generating greater economic benefits, represent local people in decisions that concern their lives and life opportunities, contribute positively to the protection of natural and cultural heritages, offer more exciting experiences for tourists through friendly relations with locals, provide access for physically disabled and be culturally sensitive, encourage respect between tourists and hosts, and builds local pride and confidence. Responsible tourism, creditworthy tourism in other words, is tourism that creates better places to live, and better places to visit. However, the goals of creditworthy tourism and sustainable tourism are identical in terms of environmental integrity, social justice and maximizing local benefits. (Cape Town Declaration 2002.)

Based on the declarations agreed upon in Cape Town, tourism can be thought to be one of the strongest instruments that have the potential of founding harmony and mutual understanding among people with different cultural backgrounds. It has also addressed the potential negativity tourism might bring into host communities, and mentioned that all the negative impacts should be minimized. This would result in such a healthy host-guest relationship that both parties learn something, something positively beneficial. The issue of social injustice has also been pointed out. Social injustice leads to dissatisfaction and friction among people, and armed conflicts at the worst. History is the witness of how issues over slavery resulted into civil war in America in the first half of the 19th century, causing deaths of thousands of people and destruction throughout the country. The reconstruction era began only after the slavery system or social injustice came to an end. Ultimately, by addressing the essential elements of a peaceful society such as social justice, mutual understanding and respect among different cultures, harmonious relationship among people and equal opportunities for all, tourism shows how incredibly it acts as a catalyst for peace. (Cape Town Declaration 2002.)
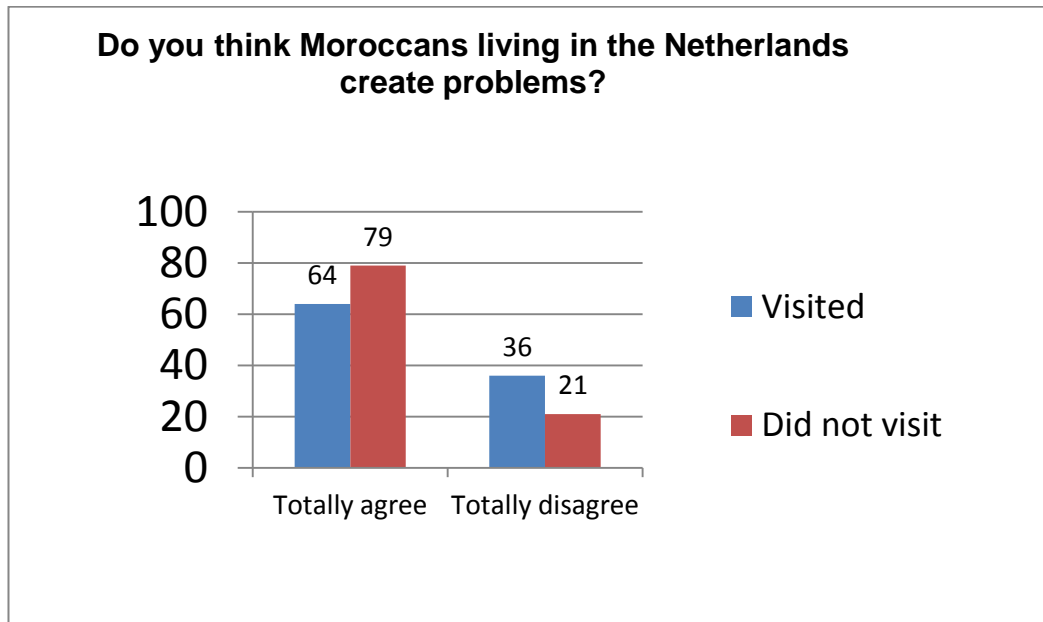
3.4 Tourism as a catalyst for peace

The early decades of the 21st century have introduced the world with surprising inventions and amazing developments, such as sophisticated electronic devices, high-speed internet and advanced medical technologies. Such inventions represent the track of modernization one part of our world is walking on. In 2010, while some parts of the world experienced the best technological inventions, some other parts witnessed the deaths of 21,000 children due to hunger, according to the United Nations World Food Programme (UNWFP). Reading the fact, the chasm between the two parts of the globe, developed and developing, can be evidently seen. The highest number of infant mortality rate was observed in the poorest economies. Therefore, the need of money flow from economies that are relatively rich into developing economies is extremely urgent. While identifying the means that transport money from rich economies down to the poor ones, tourism can also be considered as one of the fastest and most convenient means. (UNWFP 2011.)

The Oxford dictionary defines catalyst as "a substance that increases the rate of a chemical reaction without itself undergoing any permanent chemical change". (The Oxford English Dictionary 2013.) Tourism does exactly the same; it acts as a substance that fosters cross-cultural understanding, mutual respect and economic development, strengthens and promotes identities of communities, and opens doors to opportunities for everyone, and remains as a never ending process. Tourism also encourages international cooperation, which reduces the risks of tension and conflicts. These elements are the requisites of peace, between and inside nations. Since it affirms harmonious relations between and inside nations, tourism can be said to have the special catalytic nature which promotes peace. The vital role of tourism in international relations and world peace has been accounted by organizations like the WTO, and the positive impacts of tourism in reducing prejudice and tension have been witnessed in many countries. (George, Mair & Reid 2009, 130-131.)
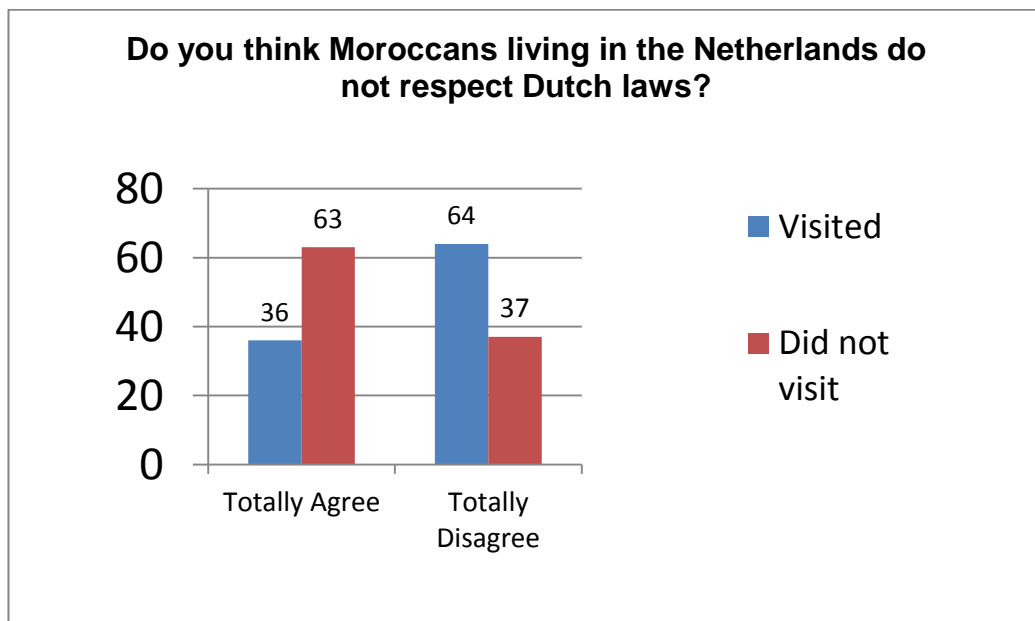
3.4.1 The case of the Netherlands - Dutch perceptions of Moroccans

A demographic survey shows that the Dutch population comprises of a large number of Moroccans. The presence of a large number of Moroccans, having Islamic cultural backgrounds, in a Christian society was very likely to clash two completely different cultures,

and it did. As a consequence, the Dutch started prejudicing Islamic culture; linking the Moroccans with crimes and involvement in illegal activities. Meanwhile, the International Center for Peace through Tourism (ICPTR), conducted a survey among the Dutch to find out their perceptions of Moroccans living in the Netherlands. The result of the survey is graphed below, where 'visited' refers to the amount of people that have been to Morocco and 'did not visit' to those who have not been there. (ICPTR 2010.)

GRAPH1. Dutch perceptions of Moroccans (adapted from ICPTR 2010)

GRAPH 2. Dutch perceptions of Moroccans (adapted from ICPTR 2010)

The above graphs, Graph 1 and Graph 2, depict how surprisingly travel and tourism can reduce prejudice. As shown in the graphs, Dutch people that have visited Morocco were found to have less negative perceptions of Moroccans. Graph 1 shows that Dutch people who visited Morocco, disagreed more on the statement that Moroccans create problems in the Netherlands than those who did not visit. Having received good hospitality during their time in Morocco might have changed the pre-existing perceptions. Similarly, the second graph shows that Dutch people who have been to Morocco denied to agree that Moroccans do not respect Dutch laws, whereas those who have not been there seem to believe that Moroccans break Dutch laws. Surely, people who visited Morocco have played an important role in spreading the positive image of Morocco and the Moroccans in the Netherlands. However, some of the participants were still found to have negative perceptions of Moroccans even after visiting Morocco, which hints to situations that need to be improved in Morocco and by Moroccans. (ICPTR 2010.)

The survey has shown the amazing role of tourism in cultural exchange and mutual understanding. As most of the problems arise due to cultural misunderstanding and prejudice, tourism, as it fosters understanding, can be a tool in avoiding such problems to a large extent. Conflicts are very unlikely to erupt where prejudice does not exist. Therefore, tourism plays a key role in creating grounds where people get opportunities to know each other and each other's cultures, which ultimately leads to a more peaceful society. (ICPTR 2010.)

3.4.2 The Mulala Cultural Tourism Enterprise, Tanzania - an inspiring story

The Mulala Cultural Tourism Enterprise was established by eight local women from the Mulala village of Tanzania. The enterprise works on the joint support of the Tanzania Tourist Board and the Netherlands Development organization (SNV) to create tourist activities that benefit local populations, alleviate poverty and offer a tourism experience to complement conventional safaris. Tourists receive a warm welcome upon their arrival by the women of Mulala and are encouraged to visit Mt. Meru Forest Reserve and take tours designed to showcase local cheese-making, dairy keeping, gardening and farming activities, bread-making, tailoring or coffee growing. Although the enterprise is run by the group of eight women, the benefits are limited not just to them or their families. The entire 2,500 Mulala community has felt the sense of gain as the enterprise enhances village develop-

ment by contributing with a fund for activities such as improvement of school buildings, local dispensary and other community development projects. Furthermore, establishing contacts with tourist lodges, the group has also created an opportunity to sell homemade cheese. Not only does that become an important source of income for the members of the women's group, but also for farmers in the village from whom milk is purchased to produce cheese. (ILO 2011.)

One of the toughest challenges facing the developing countries is the severity of inequality in welfare between men and women, specifically in regards to education, employment and quality of life. The example of Tanzania is a breakthrough in empowering women. Such inspirations make the foundation of social justice stronger as well as enhance development in societies. Developed societies together make a developed nation, and peace is very likely to prevail where justice and development is rooted. (ILO 2011.)

The two examples above were used to illustrate the catalytic behavior of tourism. There are many other inspiring examples of social, economic or cultural development through tourism. In fact, tourism has at times played significant roles in reducing tension between nations. The amazing feature of tourism is that it is possible everywhere, brings changes regardless the place, and mostly the changes are positive. As tourist desires are becoming more and more diverse, tourism could possibly become an even more important tool in the near future.

3.5 The next generation tourists

Yeoman (2008) mentions in his book that there is a growing desire to find experiences and products that are original and real, not contaminated or fake. A large number of tourists all across the world prefer natural destinations to artificial cities. Such destinations offer a genuine experience of the place and local people. According to Yeoman, experiencing a meaningful tourism activity is becoming more popular and is very likely to grow bigger in the near future. As people are becoming more aware of larger issues like sustainability or poverty in the Third world, the focus of their tourism activity is moving beyond luxury and services. The trend of making travel the most worthwhile is growing everywhere. Therefore, there is a very large probability that the future generation of tourism will be concen-

trated on searching places that need help, and not just that offer luxury. (Yeoman 2008, 166.)

The trends of taking a career break to experience meaningful activities such as volunteer tourism is becoming a subject of interest among people. Many organizations such as the UK based changing-worlds provide opportunities for 3-6 months working in schools, orphanages or charities in developing countries. Many people do that individually. Such activities can be very meaningful for both parties; volunteers gain experience of a lifetime whilst children get education or other forms of aid. Assisting children can have a very significant impact on their lives, realizing that they have been helped in need; they can be the helping hands in the future to those that need help. In that way, people start to be for each other and not against which is the process leading to building philanthropic societies. Societies like that, where people stand for each other rather than against, together make a country peaceful and peaceful nations standing together makes the whole world a more peaceful place. (Yeoman 2008, 166-167.)

Similarly, spirituality is also becoming more and more popular among people. People have desires to live a more purposeful life and wish to contribute positively to society in some ways. An increasing number of people think about what to do during holidays rather than where to go for holidays. People have been seen making contributions to societies by raising funds for a purposeful work as they seek a sense of purpose in their lives. When such desire grows, there is a very probable chance that tomorrow's tourists will be concerned about making their holidays more useful, useful in the sense that they care about doing something meaningful while discovering different places. This is surely a bright side of tourism, especially for those places where people need help. Therefore, it would not be illogical to predict that tomorrow's tourists will seek something they cannot get from the big cities or at the sky-touching scrapers. In the future, tourism is likely to become the wind of change and tourists the catalyst of change. (Yeoman 2008, 176-177.)

4 TOURISM AND PEACE IN THE CONTEXT OF NEPAL

The focus of this chapter will be centered on the role that tourism has vitally played in the context of a developing country like Nepal. First, the chapter will take a look at the history and current state of the Nepalese tourism industry. Secondly, the chapter will highlight tourism potentials, opportunities and challenges and their significance in Nepal. Thirdly, the state of peace in Nepal will be presented, marking some events that have had an impact on peace related issues. Finally the chapter will discuss the instrumental role of tourism for peace in Nepal, and will make way for the research part.

4.1 Tourism in Nepal - how it was and how it is

Tourism in Nepal is said to have begun since the ancient times, Chinese and Indian people being the first tourists. Some other forms of travels though Nepal are also said to have happened, some commercial trips attracted by the Nepalese wool and some trips to India via Nepal. However, tourism had not made any significant impact on Nepalese economy until the democratic revolution in 1951-1952, which opened the doors of opportunity for the foreigners to visit one of the most exotic lands on earth. The real phenomenon of tourism began in Nepal only since then. Hence, Nepalese tourism has a short history, which started only in the fifties. (Gautam 2008, 63.)

After the dawn of democracy, Nepal made some significant movements such as expansion of friendly and diplomatic relations with many countries, and membership in the United Nations Organizations (UNO) and WTO. Over time, Nepalese tourism has witnessed some major turning points such as drafting of a Tourism master plan in 1972, and the formation of the Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) in 1995. Actually, the tourism master plan resulted in the NTB, which now works as an institution between public and private sectors, and for infrastructure improvements for tourism. Tourists visiting Nepal, more precisely mountaineers, back in the second half of the twentieth century, have also made crucial contributions in promoting Nepalese tourism. The table drawn below shows the results of such movements that were seen over years. (Gautam 2008, 63-64.)

TABLE 1. Tourist arrivals and growth, 1992-2011 (adapted from Nepal Tourism Board 2011)

Year	Annual Growth (in number)	Annual Growth Rate (%)
1992	334,353	14.1
1994	326,531	11.2
1996	393,613	8.3
1998	463,684	9.9
2000	463,646	-5.7
2001	361,237	-22.1
2002	275,468	-23.7
2004	385,297	13.9
2006	383,986	2.3
2007	526,705	37.2
2008	500,277	-5.0
2010	602,867	18.2
2011	736,215	22.1

The above drawn Table 1, pictures the fluctuations observed in tourist arrival in Nepal in between 1992-2011. The table shows that Nepalese tourism did not witness any significant growth in the last decade of 20th century. The reason behind Nepalese Tourism's regress in the end of the last decade was mainly the Nepali civil war, 1995-2006, an armed conflict between governmental forces and Maoist fighters. The presence of armed conflict inside the country had catastrophic effects on tourism, which were seen over years as the tourist inflow gradually decreased. The decade long war did not only worsen tourist arrivals, but also gave a negative image of the country to the potential tourists. The scars of the decade long conflicts are still apparent in the country. The table also indicates the significant growth in tourist inflow from the year 2006, after the signing of the comprehensive peace accord between the government and Maoists. The significant rise in tourist inflow in 2010 and 2011, as shown at the bottom of the table, shows the progressive form of Nepalese tourism. (Nepal Tourism Board 2011.)

4.2 Tourism assets of Nepal

In between two huge countries, India and China, and in the lap of towering mountains, lies the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal. The country that was almost closed off to the third world until the 1950s is home to some eight of the ten tallest mountains in the world, including Mount Everest. Nepal is where earth meets the sky. In addition to the exotic mountains, Nepal's overwhelmingly beautiful landscape, which is divided into three different regions, Mountain, Hilly and Plain, makes it even more fascinating for visitors. The tremendous diversification in culture within its 56,827 square miles (147,181 square kilometers) territory, housing up to 40 different ethnic groups speaking 70 different languages is another attracting factor of Nepal. Furthermore, Nepal is the homeland of the Siddhartha Gautama (Gautama Buddha), the founder of Buddhism. (Bhattarai 2009.)

Another unique attraction of Nepal is its religious heritage. Hinduism and Buddhism are the two most practiced religions in Nepal, more than 80% of the country people practice one or both faiths. Relatively low, but Christianity and Islam are also practiced in Nepal. Thus, Nepal has a remarkable diversity in religion. And despite the diversification, there has been no conflict between the religions. Nepal is rich not only in religious diversity, but also in religious heritages. The Hindu temples in Nepal, which are believed to be from the ancient times, are the destination of Hindu pilgrims, whereas Lumbini (birthplace of the Buddha) is the sacred site of Buddhists all over the world. (Bhattarai 2009.)

Similarly, natural beauty cannot be concealed whilst Nepal is being introduced. The amazing physical grandeur, surprising climatic conditions and natural heritages are the country's nature gifted properties. The majestic mountains do not only shine, but also surround valleys and give them a fantastic appearance. And, the fast flowing rivers, originating from the womb of the Himalayas, flowing across the valleys, are incredibly beautiful. Forests that are densely spread all over the country not just make the environment beautiful and healthy, but also are home to wildlife. In fact, Nepalese forests are home to some of the most endangered animal species such as the Bengal tiger, clouded leopard, red panda, Asiatic rock python, one horned rhino and some more. The natural parks located in different parts of the country provide an opportunity to observe these species closely. On the other hand, the climatic condition of Nepal is astonishing, subtropical climate in the lowlands, mild in the hill region and frigid in the mountains. (Bhattarai 2009.)

Furthermore, Nepal is amongst the developing countries in Southern Asia, which not just makes it a cheap destination but also draws attention of business minds. Relatively low labor cost and availability of two huge markets across the borders could be an attracting feature for investors. Therefore, Nepal can possibly become one of the best destinations for all sorts of tourists if opportunities are properly understood and challenges are identified.

4.2.1 Opportunities

As has been mentioned previously, the Nepalese tourism industry has witnessed a significant rise in tourist inflow since its doors to foreigners were opened in the 1950s, hosting over half a million tourists in 2011. The role of tourism in the economic growth of the country was realized already in the 1990s, and several steps were taken to enhance tourism development. Such steps included the formation of a Tourism Council in 1996 which after a year was transformed into the Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) and started working as an autonomous institution, and worked for the promotion of Nepalese tourism Industry in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Civil Aviation. Such opportunities led to the further development of the tourism industry, which despite the decade long armed conflict, remains a major component of the Nepalese economy. (Gautam 2007, 78-80.)

The growing outbound tourism of economical apparent and most populous neighbors, India and Chin reflects the massive potential for the tourism sector in the near future. In addition, a flow of tourists to Nepal from bordering destinations of India and China is likely to happen. The natural beauty, towering mountains, unique diversity in culture and several other distinctiveness, have made Nepal a well-known place on the world tourism map. Recently opened destinations and constructed mountain paths are the indicators to further potentiality of tourism growth in Nepal. Growing demands on adventure tourism is another opportunity for Nepalese tourism as there is a huge potential of adventure tourism in the mountains and rivers of Nepal. Recent improvised political situations and the peace agreement with the Maoists has made the country's global image safer, and has contributed to tourism growth. Therefore, understanding the fact that tourism is a major source of foreign exchange earnings, the government has placed high priority on tourism. Priority pro-

grams include promotion of destinations, development of infrastructures and security. (Tourism Vision 2020.)

4.2.2 Challenges

The political state of the country, which still is in its transitional phase, is one of the major challenges Nepalese tourism comes across. First, the unstable political condition of the country since the last two decades has given a negative image to the world which is yet to be bettered. Secondly, the frequently changing government has not been able to do much to promote the tourism sector. Another challenging factor to the promotion of Nepalese tourism would be global terrorism. Having hosted a decade-long civil war, Nepal still has much to improve on safety matters in order to present it as a safe tourist destination. (Tourism Vision 2020.)

Similarly, poor air connectivity with the rest of the world and inadequate infrastructures inside the country are additional challenges. The global economic turndown has also declined the figures of tourist inflow to Nepal. More significantly, competitive threats from stronger markets, especially from countries such as India, China, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand where transportation is better, both air and ground, and travel is economic, place additional challenges on Nepalese tourism. Thus, the dim infrastructure development has a significant negative role. (Tourism Vision 2020.)

4.3 The significance of tourism in Nepal

According to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Nepal is on the list of some of the least developed and poorest countries in the world. Indexes such as infrastructures, living standard, health and education facilities and per capita income were taken into account before the list was compiled. In the case of Nepal, almost one-quarter of the population was found living below the poverty line with very poor access to proper health and education facilities, infrastructures were poor and per capita income was very low. Despite the fact that Nepal has achieved significant progress in poverty reduction over the past years, it still remains as a country where serious reforms are massively needed. Such severe situa-

tions of the country not just indicate development but also picture the peace status of Nepal. Therefore, elements that vitally contribute to the betterment of such critical situations must be identified. Of some major elements, tourism can also be one with huge potential in improving such critical situations of the country, which would strengthen the country economically, accelerate development of infrastructures and ultimately establish peace in Nepal. (THE WORLD FACTBOOK 2013.)

4.3.1 Economic significance

The economic significance of tourism in Nepal can be clearly seen looking at the figures provided by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC). According to WTTC, tourism directly contributed 53.5 billion NPR (Nepalese Rupee) in 2011, which was 4.0% of the total GDP and was forecasted to rise by 4.7% in 2012. The amount contributed by tourism is not big in itself, but considering the situation of Nepal it is a huge economic support for Nepal. In the same year, tourism supported 412,500 jobs which was 3.3% of the total employment and was expected to rise by 3.7% in 2012. Those jobs not just help employees' well-being but also support their families. There had also been massive progress in decentralizing job creation by promoting rural tourist destinations, which has helped creating opportunities for the locals in rural areas. (WTTC 2011.)

The impacts of tourism are actually wider. Tourism contributing to economic growth and employment opportunities makes a significant impact on development indexes of countries like Nepal. Economic and employment status are the indexes of development of a country. Tourism contributes to development directly whilst building economies and creating jobs. The significance of such vital contribution is very high everywhere, mostly in developing economies like Nepal. The economic status of a country determines the peoples' standard of living; citizens of economically strong nations enjoy more social benefits. Therefore, tourism indirectly entitles people to more social benefits and makes the government-people relationship healthier, which ultimately leads to a peaceful environment. (WTTC 2011.)

4.3.2 Socio-cultural significance

To a certain extent, economic impacts of tourism have some consequences on the socio-cultural life of host communities. As mentioned in the previous section, tourism can lead to increasing opportunities to both individuals and societies, aiding equality and other positive changes in host communities. Tourism can encourage protection and transmission of cultural and historical traditions, which often leads to sustainable management of natural resources, protection of local heritages, and rebirth of indigenous cultures, arts and architectures. In addition, tourism also contributes to raising local awareness about the financial value of natural sites and can stimulate a feeling of local pride. Interest in conservation of such heritages is more likely to happen as soon as their natural and financial value is realized. Particularly in developing countries like Nepal, where plenty of cultural heritages lie, tourism can enhance local participation in identifying culturally valuable resources which would benefit the local residents as well as preserve them. (Shakya 2009, 121-122.)

Nepal has generated numerous benefits through tourism since its borders were opened to the foreigners in 1950, in terms of economic growth, employment opportunities, health and education facilities, infrastructures and transportation. These elements indicate the overall development of a society, developing societies being the symptoms of a developing nation. Specially, rural areas where living was a tough challenge until some years ago, are now enjoying improved road, electricity and health facilities, which perhaps would have taken longer to happen if tourists did not flow into those regions. Additionally, tourism has had a significant impact on women empowerment in Nepal, opening gates to opportunities for women and protecting them from sexual and physical exploitation. On the other hand, local cultures and cultural heritages in several places have been managed sustainably since their value was identified as a result of awareness through tourism. Furthermore, tourists have made direct financial contributions to charities and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) working there for protection and management of heritages. Therefore, assisting promotion of societies and protection of cultures, tourism, in developing countries like Nepal, has proven its socio-cultural significance. (Bindloss & Mayhew 2009.)

4.3.3 Environmental significance

The quality of environment, both natural and physical, is essential for tourism. However, tourism has a complex relationship with the environment. It involves activities that can have both positive and negative effects on the environment. Impacts such as the construction of general infrastructure for tourism can hamper the environment, whereas public awareness through tourism can be a huge step towards environment conservation (Newsome, Moore & Dowling, 2012). In developing countries like Nepal, there is a huge risk of environmental degradation while developing infrastructures. Thus, the educative character of tourism can be of high significance in making environments sustainable in Nepal.

Tourism can have some significant impacts on the environment in Nepal, where environmental conditions are degrading everyday due to pollution, deforestation and unmanaged urbanization. Tourists visiting Nepal can be the potential innovators of sustainability at destinations. Actually, tourists have already been contributing immensely in such matters. Some activities shown by tourists in the mountain regions, such as choosing ecological accommodation facilities that have solar-power for instance, picking up rubbish found on walking routes, avoiding buying of items made from endangered species and using resources responsibly, have been inspiring. Such inspiring activities do not only conserve the environment but also provide examples to local residents who might never have acted for a sustainable environment. Furthermore, economic earnings made through tourism can also be used to preserve the environment. (Bindloss & Mayhew 2009.)

4.4 State of peace in Nepal

Nepal has been a victim of conflicts in each decade. Structural, identity and class-based (ICB) and politico-ideological conflicts have occurred there. The mass revolutionary movement in 1990 is marked as a significant milestone of the Nepalese history, which overthrew the autocrat monarchy and restored multi-party democracy system. The amended constitution after the dawn of democracy was given the mandate to understand the sentiments of all human classes, economic sectors and geographical regions of the country. To some extents it did, to some it did not. As a consequence, the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN), the Maoists, decided to choose the path of violence to liberate people from eco-

nomic, social, political and gender-based disparities and discrimination. It took little over a decade for the Maoists to finally come to the table of Negotiation. In 2006, an agitation formed between the Maoists and the Seven Party Alliance resulted in the mass revolution II, which not only reinstated democracy but also abolished a 250 year-long monarchy. Followed was the signing of a comprehensive peace agreement by the Maoists and the government, committed to respecting people's mandate for democracy, peace and progress. (Einsiedel, Malone & Pradhan 2012, 37-42.)

The years after the successful settlement of the armed conflict were expected to be the transformation period of Nepalese political, social and economic form. Unfortunately, such expectations have been turned down by the political reality of power struggle and a policy of isolation. The failure of the constituent assembly 2008 to promulgate the new constitution even after extending the deadline twice, led the whole country to a political deadlock. The failure of the constituent assembly did not just lead politics to a state of darkness but also caused huge economic costs for the country. Such huge investments could have massively helped other severe sectors of Nepal like poverty or education. Even after the end of conflict, human right violation cases like unlawful use of force by security forces were documented. Political parties of Nepal were seen lacking adequate democratic and participatory mechanisms, mostly personality-oriented and centralized. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Nepal is placed in the low human-development category ranking 138th position out of 169 countries. Its welfare regime is underdeveloped and insufficient to contribute to maintaining a good living standard of the people. Nepal still remains one of the poorest countries in the world, despite minor progress in per capita income over the past years. Environmental sustainability has been affected due to overgrowing population and development in the education sector has been poor. Such critical matters indicate the status of peace in Nepal. Therefore, in order to establish peace, addressing such matters is as important as the absence of war. (UNDP Annual Report 2011/12.)

The presence of such problems, mentioned in the previous section, might become the grounds for another armed conflict. Having experienced an armed conflict once in the history, it is really important that such problems, which might lead to violence, are duly addressed. Addressing the social, economic and political problems would create a peaceful environment as well as enhance state development. Therefore, elements that contribute to

avoidance of such problems, both direct and indirect, should be identified and mobilized. Having great potentials in some sectors, tourism could help mending such situations. However, tourism alone cannot make such situations better.

4.5 Tourism as an instrument for peace in Nepal

In the context of Nepal, it is clear that peace is not just merely the absence of war. If it was so, the country would have achieved the state of peacefulness after the end of armed conflicts. Although the Nepali civil war was fought for the development of both the people and the country, no remarkable progress occurred in the post war period. Nevertheless, some political movements that gave an end to autocracy and reestablished democracy can be regarded as positive outcomes of the armed conflict. According to the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) 1989, peace is more than just the end of an armed conflict. It is a fundamental right, implanted commitment to the principles of liberty, justice, equality and commonness among all human beings. This definition resembles exactly what Nepal is lacking. However, regardless of the political instability, tourism has made significant contributions in Nepal, on a national and individual level. (Records of the General Conference 1989.)

Tourism can be the most productive source of economic growth in a country like Nepal. There would be unlimited opportunities for the citizens if all the tourism resources were identified and mobilized, which would not just provide job offers to the people but also become beneficial for the government. Having people engaged at work generates tax as well as harmonizes the environment. There is a huge gap between the rich and the poor in Nepal. Tourism could bridge the gap by offering opportunities, fostering mutual understanding and enhancing development. One of the major problems Nepal is facing at the moment is increased criminal activities, which possibly is a result of poverty, lack of education and unemployment. Tourism could fulfill employment demands to a huge extent, whereas revenue generated by the government directly through tourism can support education and poverty. Mostly poor and unfairly treated groups of people become insurgents of armed conflicts. Therefore, tourism contributing to economy strengthening, both local and national, can have an important role preventing physical violence. (Ale 2010.)

Tourism has a multi-dimensional form. That is also why there is no standard definition of tourism. The new dimensions of tourism, such as volunteer and philanthropic tourism contribute even more significantly than the normal tourism industry. Volunteer tourism is one of the most preferred tourism activities. Commonly, volunteer tourists coming to Nepal are from the western countries that are comparatively more educated. Such tourists can have a huge impact on education and raising public awareness. Similarly, philanthropic tourists make donations in sectors like education and health. One noteworthy example is Rural Education and Development (READ) which was established in 1991 to improve literacy in Nepal by building a network of self-sustaining community libraries. The READ has built many libraries and supplies books. Private donations and local contributions fund those types of activities. (Timalsina 2012.)

Therefore, tourism is a wind of change, which mostly brings positive changes to places where it blows. Nepal has always enjoyed the benefits offered by tourism. There is a lot more benefits yet to be generated through tourism for the people, prosperity and peace. The way to limitless benefits would be even wider if tourism potentials inside the country are wisely identified and mobilized.

5 RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES

The challenging part while producing any document is that there is always so much more to understand about the subject, where every piece of knowledge may have been connected to another but still needs to be informed better through investigation and experimentation aimed at the discovery, interpretation of facts and revision of accepted theories. Meaning, that there is a need of a certain systematic investigation into, and study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach conclusions, which in other words is referred to as "research". Generally, research method is determined according to the nature of the topic. What the topic demands determines the research type; if a major piece of new information should be set down in writing for the first time or just the continuation of a previously original piece of work is enough, whether an empirical research that has not been done before should be carried out or originality can be shown in testing somebody else's idea. More possibilities include, using already known material but with a new interpretation, taking a particular technique and applying it in a new area and adding to knowledge in a way that has not previously been done. However, only a few methods apply best and are considered applicable in leisure and tourism. (Taylor, Sinha & Ghoshal 2006, 12-14.)

Basically, research is a complex process which starts with identifying the area of research, selecting a specific topic, deciding research strategy, deciding research methods, collecting data, deriving information and presenting findings (Taylor et al. 2006, 15). A similar process has been tried to be implemented in the research project of this thesis. In the context of social sciences, methods and traditions of social sciences are used to carry out research. Noting in his book that social science deals with people and their social behavior, Veal (2006, 3) indicates to the constantly changing social world where people in different parts of the world behave differently at different times, social science research differs from the physical science or natural science. However, in social science things can be made known which were previously unknown, or can be viewed from a different angle which has not been done before. (Veal 2006, 3-4.)

The feature research provides, as has been mentioned before, is to look at the areas that people in the discipline have rarely looked at before, will be used to carry out research in this thesis. Considering validity and reliability, research information will be put together

using documentary sources. The choice for this particular research method has been made taking into account not just the time and cost it would take collecting primary information, but also the limitation of the study. The fact that documentary sources lie somewhere between literature and management data as an information source for research, makes it a wisely selected research method. In this particular case, text analysis can also be seen as one of the possible methods to be used, but the fact that text analysis heavily borrows text from the original source, which shall not be done in this thesis, leaves out the option and makes documentary source, which falls under secondary data: sources and analysis method, the most suitable research method. (Veal 2006, 147,162-163.)

5.1 Documentary sources

"Documents abound in everyday life. They comprise pieces of written, printed or electronic material that contain information of some sort" (Taylor, et al. 2006, 114). According to this definition, documents are the wealthy source of information which is practicable, not only in business and personal matters, but also in research of various kinds, and practically in the social sciences. Documents are simply a written text produced for a specific purpose and stored either electronically or in printed form. The most important characteristic is that regardless of the form, its content is information or evidence based on which various researches can be carried out. Analyzing the historical events, things happened in the past, can be best done using documentary sources. However, documents are different types; primary, secondary, public, private and official. Using such documents must be done carefully as the writers of documents may have had a specific purpose of producing it. Nevertheless, in spite of such limitations, documents may provide key information for researchers to achieve the aim of the study. (Taylor, et al. 2006, 114-116.)

If primary information is to be gathered to carry out a research, then it would be somewhat unsure that the results come out as positive. Since the research aim in this thesis was to prove the fact that tourism plays a significant role in promoting peace, successful published stories about tourism contributions to Nepal were taken as secondary sources of information. As has been mentioned earlier, the whole thesis has focused on the vitality tourism possesses in peace building, no other method could have been more appropriate to prove the fact. Veal says documentary sources lie somewhere between literature and management

data as an information source for research. This makes the area of information sources even broader for the researcher. Therefore, the use of documentary sources will be made for this research purpose, which according to Veal is also secondary data analysis. (Veal 2006, 162-163.)

5.2 Presenting the research results

From the very beginning of this thesis, peace and tourism have been said to have a deep relationship with each other. Generally, the presence of the former is a prerequisite for the existence of the latter. But, how the later can visibly contribute to the former has been the topic of this research. As peace has been defined as the presence of justice, equality, harmony, opportunities and not just merely the absence of armed conflicts, stories chosen for the research purpose are based on tourism contributions addressing all such issues. The research will be a composition of five different remarkable stories, which included peace making contributions of tourism at national, social and individual levels. The source of information included previously explored cases, organizational materials and documents available on the internet. While a clear role of tourism in the process of peace-making during the Nepali civil war would highlight national level contributions, other stories from societies and individuals would provide evidence to peace foundations built through tourism. Although peace building requires a lot of other factors, in this thesis the focus has been placed on the significant role of tourism in fostering peace.

As has been mentioned previously, the information required for the research work was gathered mostly through sources available on the internet. However, the sources were not primarily published on the internet, they have been made available on the internet which made it convenient for the researcher to include them in the in the research part of this thesis. All the stories presented in this research were primarily documented for different purposes such as dissertation, annual reports and news article. A table has been drawn below which shows the cases that were studied and the sources from where they were taken. Following the table will be the analysis of all the cases in a chronological order.

TABLE 2. Research cases and sources

S:N	Research cases	Sources
1	Tourism amidst insurgency	The Journal of Tourism and Peace research by Pranil Kumar Upadhya, Ulrike Muller-Böker and Sagar Raj Sharma
2	Tourism for equality and Social Justice	The three sisters of the Himalayas reported by the ILO annual report 2011
3	Tourism in rural villages	Bringing the poor into the export process: Nepal case of tourism export and poverty reduction by Gourish k. Kharel.
4	Tourism for Poverty alleviation	The economic contribution of tourism to Nepal reported by the WTTC 2011
5	New dimensions: amazing Volunteers	An article written on the New York times magazine 2010.

5.2.1 Peace through tourism - tourism amidst insurgency

The tourism sector of Nepal had been hit hard since the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) (Maoists) fired the first shots of the People's War on February 12, 1996, attempting to destroy constitutional monarchy and establish a people's republic. The impoverished Nepal became a fertile ground for the rebellions where firmly established poverty and social inequalities existed. People practicing extreme life conditions were likely to become Maoist cadets to fight for freedom, wellbeing and equality. And they indeed did. It took almost a decade before the disputes were brought to the table of negotiation. The then situation of Nepal denotes that only the absence of physical violence is not sufficient to establish peace. Therefore, preventive measures taken to cool off the war had to effectively address such severe conditions of the country people. Among several factors, tourism played a crucial role in preventing the everyday heightening conflict. (Upadhya, Muller-Böker & Sharma 2011.)

The fact that poverty was one of the root causes of the armed conflict and the absence of peace in Nepal was undeniable. Even international development agencies such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and Netherland Development organization

(NDP) realized that establishing peace would not be possible without substantially overcoming such problems. As a result, UNDP, NDP and the Department for International Development (DID) backed the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation (MoCTCA) to put through a project titled "Tourism for Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme (TRPAP)" in September 2001. TRPAP, with a fund of US$ 18.72 million, ran for a five years period, and targeted 6 pilot districts, 48 villages and 28,337 households. (Upadhya et al. 2011.)

TRPAP, with synthesis base approach, centered on empowerment of economically inactive women, disadvantaged ethnic groups and other socially deprived communities through participatory decision making in the execution of rural tourism. It intended to mainstream pro-poor tourism by working out a sustainable tourism policy for adoption by MoCTCA. These policy documents included: (1) a Pro-poor tourism policy, (2) a Tourism Industry Strategic Plan, (3) a 15 year tourism marketing strategy, (4) district development and management plans for all six pilot districts, and (5) the *Sagarmatha* (Everest) national park and tourism plan. (Upadhya et al 2011.)

Despite the intensifying insurgency and absence of elected representatives at the local levels, TRPAP became substantially beneficial to those areas because of its people-concentrated programs and locally recruited staffs. The policies of TRPAP have assisted in establishing sustainable and participatory tourism practices which are oriented towards equity, equality and social justice. These elements are the fundamentals of peace. (Upadhya et al. 2011.)

5.2.2 Tourism for equality and social justice-an inspiring example

Despite the fact that women outnumber men in population, women in Nepal are found to be treated unequally. One of the reasons why such problems existed was the Hindu religious belief which generally subordinates women to men virtually in every aspect of life. In this deeply patriarchal society, restrictions on women's mobility render most single women housebound and most married women unemployable. Over time, things have changed, people believe in equal participation of men and women in everything but still the situation has not changed much. Gender inequality still remains as one of the major

problems of Nepal. Equality among genders, castes, races and religions are the initials of peace, which are not addressed seriously enough. Empowered women can not only support their families but can also make significant contributions to changing society positively. In a remote village of Nepal, three inspiring sisters have done so, empowered themselves, empowered women and aided to peaceful society. (ILO 2011.)

Responding the demand of women guides in an otherwise male-dominated sector in the Himalayas, the three chhetri sisters, Lucky, Dicky and Nicky, founded the Three Sisters Adventure and Trekking Company in 1994 to provide a women-only trekking option for tourists. Within only five years, the three sisters registered Empowering Women Nepal (EWN) as an NGO. Nepali women are trained by the company as tourist guides and porters regardless of their religion, caste and race, and offered empowerment training to cope with discrimination as well. Over the last decade, EWN has successfully trained and motivated over 800 Nepali women to enter the tourism industry and many are under training. The pioneering sisters currently employ 100 women in their trekking company, who earn a minimum of 120,000 rupees per year (US$1,709) once after becoming experienced guides. Such an extraordinary approach is empowering women and on the other hand providing skillful womanpower to the Nepalese tourist industry. The Nepalese trekking industry may still be a male dominated business but the three sisters are tardily chipping away the business. (ILO 2011.)

5.2.3 Villages in a transitional phase - tourism in rural areas

Villages cover more than half of the Nepalese territory. The underdevelopment seen in villages somehow shows the overall development status of the country. Most of the villages lack proper access to transportation, communication, electricity, health services, education and water supplies. As a consequence, the flow of migration from villages to towns seeking facilities has been observed. This not only leaves villages underdeveloped but also leads to unplanned urbanization, pollution and insufficient facilities in the cities. In a country like Nepal, development without developing villages sounds highly unrealistic. However, developing such rural villages can be rather easy compared to developing towns if development potentials are identified and properly utilized. Since nature has gifted Nepal unlimitedly throughout its territory, tourism can be one of such potentials transforming

rural villages. Some villages have already taken the benefits and progressed whereas some are yet to be benefited. (Kharel 2003.)

Back in 2003, a comparative survey was conducted between two rural villages, Namche and Juphal, by Tourism for Rural Poverty Alleviation through Tourism. Namche village is the gateway to the Mt. Everest whereas Juphal is a rural village in Dolpa located in the western high mountainous region of Nepal but with lower tourism business. Interestingly, the results of the survey showed that Namche village had progressed much in terms of income generation and living standards compared to Juphal village. Over the years, a significant rise in employment opportunities was seen which directly influenced household incomes. In turn, Namche became one of the wealthiest villages in Nepal. Namche village had gained not only in terms of economic benefits but also had taken a step towards environment conservation. It was revealed that only less than half of the population in Namche was dependent on woods for energy compared to 99.44% in Juhpal. Namche is just a principle example; many other rural areas in Nepal have benefited much through tourism. Tourism wherever it is, mostly brings significant positive changes. (Kharel 2003.)

5.3.4 Tourism for poverty alleviation - narrowing down the gap between the rich and the poor

One of the most significant challenges facing Nepal in these early decades of the 21st century, is the challenge of maintaining the living standard of its inhabitants. It is not the case that all Nepalese people are poor; the case is that some have more than enough and some even lack the basics of living. This shows that there is a huge class division between rich and poor. It has been said that poverty leads to limited access of basic social services but the consequences of poverty are more adverse than just that. Poverty can be one of the reasons making Nepal not only one of the poorest but also one of the most corrupt countries in the world (Shakya 2009, 2-5). Simply, when people know that there is no social protection, they start thinking of illegal alternatives of making money and go corrupt. Poverty also leads to increased criminal activities, especially when the gap between the rich and the poor is too wide. The same situation has been observed in Nepal; some enjoy unlimited prosperity and some experience extreme poverty. In the case of Nepal, poverty and the gap between the rich and the poor has been the root cause of several conflicts. A decade-long

Maoist insurgency period was also a result of such a chasm. Therefore, if peace is to be cultured, these issues must be addressed sincerely. Creating employment opportunities for people can possibly bridge the gap, and tourism has been doing that over the past years.

A handbook published by the WTTC in 2012 presented the overall tourism contributions to Nepal. According to the handbook, in 2011 tourism alone supported, directly and indirectly, 7.7% of the total employment (952,500 jobs). These jobs promote living standards of not only the jobholders, but also their families. The number was forecasted to rise by 3.8% in 2012, supporting 988,000 jobs, and rising by 3.1% per annum it would support 1,341,000 jobs in 2022. According to the WTTC, tourism contribution to employment would be 8.3% of total. Mentioned figures clearly indicate to the undeniable role being played by tourism in promoting economic wellbeing of the people which certainly narrows down the gap between the rich and the poor. Additionally, the WTTC has also shown that visitor exports generated NPR28.6bn in 2011 (24.5% of total exports) and was forecasted to grow by 2.8% in 2012. Growing tourism exports indicates to the fertile market provided by tourism for not only urban but also rural inhabitants for local productions. The government investment in the tourism sector was also forecasted to rise noticeably in 2012 in order to generate increased benefits through tourism. The above mentioned figures describe the essence of tourism narrowing down the gap between the rich and the poor, and ultimately making society a more peaceful place. (WTTC 2011.)

5.3.5 New dimensions - amazing volunteers

Volunteer tourism is an increasingly prevalent approach to international travel that combines typical tourist activities with some type of service project in a developing country. Volunteer tourism, often heard as sharing knowledge and brightening up societies, is a philanthropic process of giving a sense of help to the ones that are in desperate need (Yeoman 2008, 166-167.) It can be educating children in rural areas of developing countries or helping them out providing health services, raising awareness or participating in conservation programs. In fact, volunteer tourism has limitless dimensions. In the context of Nepal, volunteer tourism has had an extraordinarily positive impact especially on children's welfare. Many organizations as well as individuals have been volunteering for children's welfare in Nepal. Among such, Maggie Doyne is one of the most innovative activists working for the children's welfare in a rural village of Nepal. A 19-year-old girl from

New York City takes a year break after high school graduation, sets off on an airplane to discover Nepal, and what she comes across there becomes the turning point of her life. Subsequently, the turning point of her life brings an incredible change in the future of hundreds of innocent children. (The New York Times Magazine 2010.)

Maggie Doyne, at the age of 19, was not the one with the most resources, or the best tools. Initially, she hiked her way up to the mountains of the mid-western region of Nepal to discover naturally enriched villages and the glorious mountains. She ended up in a gorgeous Himalayan village but devastated by the war that had ended just a year ago. The village had been burnt down into rebel camps, and children were found hit worst by the war. Most children could not afford school and had turned into child labor. Maggie felt a sense of responsibility for the children who would spend their days with hammers, breaking rocks into gravel to sell, instead of being in school and weaving their future dreams. Eventually, she took a girl to school and paid for her school fees and uniform so that the girl could enter kindergarten. Maggie's big heart for children could not feel good helping out just one child, she became addictive and started working on helping more and more children living the same situation. Maggie had a dream to open a children's home for the homeless kids and to make it happen she flew back to the United States and started raising funds. After a few months, she moved back to Nepal with the money she had made doing odd jobs in New Jersey to oversee construction of the shelter, called the Kopila Valley Children's Home, on a piece of property she had bought with her baby sitting money. Shortly after the children's home, Maggie opened a school called Kopila Valley Primary School, which now offers free education to over 300 children in the remote village of Surkhet district of Nepal. The school now runs classes from kindergarten through sixth grade as well as a library, a cafeteria and auditorium. (The New York Times Magazine 2010.)

Maggie has been awarded with different prizes recognizing her outstanding philanthropic work. Not only has she won prizes, she has also been the source of inspiration for those who want to be involved in such activities. Hundreds of volunteers rising from all over the world have supported Maggie's children project. Educating the children of a remote village, particularly girls, Maggie has taken them beyond the risk of exploitation. Another considerable evidence of educating girls is in the developing world is, that it leads to lower birth rates and a more skilled and productive labor force. Having come as a tourist initially, Maggie has transformed the lives of hundreds of children, who without her would still be

breaking rocks by the sides of a riverbed. Maggie is one of those extraordinary people who are cultivating innovations across the globe and believe that it will probably take some time, but someday our planet will certainly become the world we want to live in. (The New York Times Magazine 2010)

5.3 Findings

The study analyzed the bright sides of tourism reducing the risks of war escalation and for the elements of peace after the end of the war in the context of Nepal. The stories presented in the research part of this thesis were chosen in order to establish the overwhelming relationship between tourism and peace. The cases at national, regional and individual level were studied to prove the significance of tourism in transforming developing economies into peaceful societies, where peace is in a fragile state. Following will be the paragraphs revealing the findings of the research work.

The first story of the research work showed how poverty led to violence inside the borders of Nepal. Providing succor to the impoverished regions had to be done to reduce the daily heightening civil war, and the role of tourism was witnessed right there. The role MoCTA played in cooperation with some other organizations had been beneficial for the rural areas not only at the time of war also in the post-war period because such policies were brought up considering a long term vision. The research has also shown that participation of local people was encouraged, disabled were offered opportunities and women were empowered through TRPAP. The research also showed that the program targeted particular districts from where the first shots of violence were fired. It not just turned out to be a remedial measure in poverty alleviation, but also became a tool that prevented many from participating in the war as well as brought many back home from the battlefield. The study showed that the role of tourism was substantial in preventing the everyday peaking war.

The study also explored how significantly tourism promotes gender equality. As presented in the research part, the problem of gender inequality has been addressed importantly through tourism. The three sisters' story chosen for the research work shows the pure role of tourism in empowering women. The number of women found to have been empowered may not big in itself, but the process of change the three sisters have brought definitely is a

huge step towards equality. Having gender equality helps produce more skillful manpower and ultimately leads to progress of individuals, societies and the whole nation. Had there been no tourism potentials in the Himalayas, the three sisters would have had to figure out some other way to do what they have shown successfully through tourism. The research also disclosed that changing things is a process and tourism provides a fertile ground for such positive changes. Thus, the research in the second part made an indication to some positive changes that must occur for peace to be founded.

The research revealed through the third story how dramatically villages are transforming; peoples' life standards have been uplifted and people are aware about even environmental sustainability. Taking a comparative look into two of the rural villages of Nepal, the study has demonstrated that innovations are possible anywhere through tourism. As mentioned earlier, the change in itself may not be too massive but the wind of change tourism has blown there certainly is. The study pointed out, that not only the people in touristic destinations were benefited through tourism, but also the level of awareness was improved. It showed how sincerely people were concerned about sustainable usage of resources so that the next generation, which possibly would be wiser and more educated, could generate larger benefits. Sustainable usage of resources not only keeps tourism potentials alive, but also gives a sense of responsibility to tourists. The research also showed that tourism, by offering economic benefits, prevented people from becoming rebels, who possibly could have chosen the path of violence which was at the peaking stage at that time. Instead, tourism potential available in the region was seen to have people engaged in generating more and more benefits. Thus, the study exhibited that tourism plays an equal role in preventing violence as it does in promoting peace.

The fourth case of the research was chosen to present the significance of peace within the country and among the people, and the role of tourism addressing it. It revealed how important it is that the gap between the rich and the poor should not be too wide in order to make a society peaceful. Taking a glimpse at the rich-poor situation of Nepal, the research disclosed some amazing figures achieved through tourism creating jobs, generating revenue and enhancing investments. Not only did it present the priorly received benefits, the research work also forecasted an amazing growth of the tourism industry which indicates more economic benefits to be received in the future. The research, centered on the significance of tourism in bridging the rich-poor gap, showed that tourism can be one of the ele-

ments that bring prosperity in societies, and in a developing country like Nepal the degree of significance is even higher. It also revealed the substantial role tourism has been playing over the years and predicted in advance the upcoming benefits in the near future. Thus, the study showed that tourism alone has been a vital tool in narrowing down the rich-poor gap, and has the potential to make it even narrower in the future. The narrowing gap between the rich and the poor indicates a more peaceful society.

The fifth and last research part analyzed an extraordinary effort of a tourist who initially worked as a volunteer. The research there revealed that tourism does not limit itself just to economic benefits. Innovative activists like Maggie represent all the volunteers who are working around the world and making significant contributions for a better world. It has been revealed that tourism enhances the dream of a peaceful tomorrow, and tourists are the peace ambassadors. The research showed how tourism works as a mean in transporting ambassadors to places that are in desperate need of help. The extraordinary dream project Maggie has set up in a rural village will emphatically help the needy children grow to be leaders and end cycles of poverty and violence in our world. There may be millions of such children in our world who are denied decent education that Maggie alone cannot help out, but with sharing a dream full of humanity she definitely has begun the process which will someday erase words like poverty and child labor from the dictionary. It is only through tourism that such an innovative activist became a helping hand for the children in a remote village of Nepal. Thus, the research has shown that peace is more a process than something huge in itself and sending people who begin such process is the character of tourism.

5.4 Validity and reliability

"Validity is the extent to which the information collected by the researcher truly reflects the phenomenon being studied" (Veal 2006). The toughest part of research conduction is to gather information from which findings that relate to the hypothesis can be delivered. The accuracy level of secondary data analysis can be comparatively higher than that of primarily collected source, as secondary sources generally have a pre-established degree of validity which need not be re-examined by the researcher who is re-using such data. However, the use of secondary source of information for a research work cannot make it absolutely

sure that the information is valid as the information may have been gathered for some other purpose. (Veal 2006, 153.)

The research method chosen in this thesis was secondary data analysis, making use of secondary sources of information which included mostly published sources, available on the internet. The fact that the internet is the most scientific way of finding information makes the research work valid. All the research cases taken under study in this thesis were available on the internet, and links to the sources were provided wherever needed to ensure the validity of the research work. Not all the sources of information used in the research work were primarily documented for research purpose but they somehow relate to the problem of the thesis. The possibility that internet sources may not be genuine was seriously considered and sources that were available not just over the internet but also in the webpages of reputed organizations like UNO and magazines like The New York Times Magazine were used. The findings that arrived after the research process also prove that the research work relates to the hypothesis of the thesis and is valid.

"Reliability is the extent to which research findings would be the same if the research was to be repeated at a later date or with a different sample of subjects (Veal 2006)". While doing a research work, it is very important that the sources of information chosen are reputable and the information produced is consistent to the sources. According to Veal, reliability of a research work can be said to exist only if identical results are produced under the same conditions, regardless of time and place. However, this is rarely the case that happens in tourism research, because mostly tourism research deals with human beings and ever-changing social situations (Veal 2006, 41.) The sources of information used for research in this thesis were not primarily produced to relate to similar hypothesis. Therefore, there is a chance that results may not be identical than that of this thesis if an experiment for a different purpose was done. However, considering the valid sources and logical outcomes, the research work can be relied upon.

5.5 Recommendations

Throughout the whole thesis, the bright sides of tourism have been put forward. However, to make the bright sides even brighter, there are certain things to be considered. The first

effort has to be made by the Nepalese government for tourism growth, by upgrading the image of the county in terms of security. Since Nepal has undergone a decade long civil war, there is still the violent image of the country in the minds of the First world people, who probably would visit Nepal if they knew that it is actually safer than they think. The government of Nepal has to implement proper security measures which would ensure tourist security and better the image of the country. There is an equal role to be played by NTB in promoting Nepalese tourism industry, by marketing Nepal as a tourist destination and letting the world know that the violent situation has ended years ago, and the country is now in a safe state awaiting discovery.

Secondly, the political situation of Nepal must cross the transitional phase the soonest possible and come to a stable state, which would enforce infrastructure development. Political stability would not only enhance development such as air transportation and accommodation, but would also help highlight destinations that have not yet been discovered. Mainly tourism is centralized in some major cities like Kathmandu, Pokhara and Lumbini which limits tourism benefits to the cities. Therefore, with modern infrastructure plans and scientific marketing policies, areas that have not yet drawn attention of tourists can also enjoy tourism benefits. Decentralizing tourism and distributing benefits can promote living standards of people which ultimately will lead to improved peaceful conditions.

Thirdly, there is a significant need of awareness among people about the advantages of tourism. Tourists have been found becoming victims of cheats and frauds. Such things should be controlled so that the image of Nepal as an attractive destination does not get manipulated. People like Maggie Doyne who are dedicated to bringing positive changes should be assisted as much as possible, both by the government and the locals, so that others can also be inspired to come and make such incredible contributions for the transformation of societies.

Last, there should be more professional tourism education provided at school and university levels, which helps producing tourism experts that will pioneer tourism development in the future and import increased tourism benefits. These experts would benefit Nepalese tourism industry not only economically, but would also intensify issues such as sustainability and marketing. Having become equipped with professionals in the industry, Nepalese tourism can achieve significant growth, provide quality service to the tourists, and ulti-

mately make societies prosperous by offering unlimited treasures. Prosperity in society is the foundation of peace, and peaceful societies indicate the establishment of stable peace in the whole nation.

6 CONCLUSION

The inspiration behind naming the thesis "Tourism as a catalyst for peace" was the belief the author had that the positivity of tourism goes far beyond economic benefits. Commenced in the thesis was the relationship between tourism and peace. Therefore, the aim of the thesis was to establish the fact that tourism fosters peace on the ground that it brings people together, promotes mutual respect and understanding, creates a base for culture exchange, offers economic and social benefits and even reduces the chances of possible tension. The bright sides of tourism were described in the theoretical framework and evidences that support the theoretical concept were brought up to be the part of the research work.

Tourism may not change things, but certainly is the cautious factor of change. The positive changes tourism has brought about in Nepal have been analyzed in the research part of the thesis. However, it is not the case that the research part of this thesis has covered everything tourism has successfully promoted or helped promoting. Only the most appropriate cases were chosen to be analyzed for the research work to link the theoretical concept with the aim of the thesis. The focus has been made on how significantly tourism promotes prosperity, equity, equality and philanthropy. These elements are the pillars of peace.

Tourism can remedy some of the significant challenges our world is facing today. One of such challenges is that people do not find it safe enough or uncomfortable working with people from different cultural backgrounds, which shows that there is a lot to be understood about each other. That is all because of prejudices and misperceptions. Tourism could be the most effective measure that best minimizes such problems. The raised examples in the thesis about the Dutch and Moroccans showed the possibilities how surprisingly tourism could be a force to improve and restore relations. Improving relations among people and between nations is what is needed to make the world a more peaceful place to live in.

Like a coin, tourism also has two sides; one side is extremely bright which has been the center of this thesis. The other is dark to some extent. Terrorism through tourism is one of the darkest sides of tourism. It is difficult to identify whether one is a tourist or a terrorist. Some inhuman terrorist attacks have shaken our world and questioned if tourism is a good

thing. Another dark side of tourism is the large scale of negative impacts brought down by mass tourism. The same way that tourism can encourage the preservation of socio-cultural authenticity of host communities, mass tourism may also erode traditional values by introducing foreign elements which are in conflict with the cultural, historical, and religious heritage of the community. Therefore, there are certain things to be taken into consideration to minimize negativity and escalate positivity of tourism. Tourism should be for the people and environment rather than against.

Despite certain drawbacks, tourism significantly contributes to a more peaceful world. All nations must be peaceful if the world is to be made a more peaceful place. The definition of peace may vary from person to person and situation to situation but the fact that peace is regarded as just the mere absence of war can hardly be accepted. Peace requires not only the absence of war, but also peaceful relationships between groups or communities, between individuals, and between people and nature. Tourism is, as was defined in this thesis as a special movement of people beyond cultural boundaries, an experience which brings substantial changes in destinations. Tourism is becoming more a voluntary movement of people. Therefore, also in the long run, tourism is very likely to be the cause of positive change, by building and stabilizing peace.

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