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## Causes of Park-People Conflict in Chitwan National Park of Nepal

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### Abstract

Conflict is associated with the human nature. Conflict may arise when two or more parties show their wants, needs and beliefs in different ways. If conflict can be handled positively then it will give the positive result whereas if it is handled negatively then it will give the negative result. There are different causes of conflict based on the personal factors, organizational factors, political situations, economic condition, socio-cultural values and believe system, and environmental factors ...etc. the study aim to identify the causes of park-people conflict in Chitwan National Park of Nepal. The study collected data from 385 respondents living near by the Park. The random sampling was used to select the respondents by using the structured questionnaires. The statistical model used to analyse the data. the result found that crops and cattle damaged by wild animal, weak provision of compensation, regular disturbance from wild animal, restriction to enter into the park to collect the grass and fire-wood and security of wild animal in park were the main causes of conflict. The community people wanted to resolve the conflict by ensuring the security of people from the attack of wild animal decide the provision of compensation of loss and damage and protection of wild animal within the park. The concerned authority should be responsible to settle these problems with the active involvement of community people.

**Keywords:** Cause, Chitwan, Conflict, National, Nepal, Park, People

### Introduction

Chitwan National Park is established in 1973 is the first national park in Nepal. It is designated as a World Heritage Site in 1984. The park covers an area of 932 sq km. It is situated in the subtropical inner Terai lowlands of South-Central Nepal at an elevation range of 142 m to 815 m above sea level. The park is bordered to the east by Parsa Wildlife Reserve and to the southwest by international boundary with India. Valmiki Tiger Sanctuary and Udaipur Sanctuary lie across the Indian boarder in Bihar, India. The Rapti River, lies within the Chitwan district and forms the natural boundary in the north, while the Narayani River, with the parts of Nawalparasi district forms the western boundary for the park. Time to time, there is problem of conflict between the park and people living near to park. Conflict is as old as mankind. It is a salient feature of the human society. Men must fight even if they do not possess arms or when tools of violence are not within reach; and as Morgenthau posits, when there are no arms to fight, men will fight even with their bare fists. From birth, a baby begins the journey of conflict by crying, which is a flash of conflict. As he grows up, he bites with his teeth or scratches with the nails on his tiny fingers when he is upset (Morgenthau, 1948). Conflict is an existing state of disagreement or hostility between two or more people (Nicholson, 1992). Wright stated that the word conflict is derived from the Latin word configure meaning to strike together. It was anticipated that conflict may occurred in a physical sense when two or more different things moves to occupy the same space at the same time which there is logical inconsistency and the process of solution are identical (Wright, 1990). Conflict may involve individual or group disagreements, struggles, disputes, quarrels, or even physical fighting and wars. It ranges from work issues of responsibility, power, authority, and ethics to interpersonal matters like misunderstandings, difference of opinion and poor communication between two persons. Conflict can be harmful to employee satisfaction and job performance if it becomes excessive and unmanageable

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(Salleh & Adulpakdee, 2012). In politics, conflict is more explicitly defined. Conflict is said to exist when two or more groups engage in a struggle over values and claims to status, power and resources in which the aims of the opponents are to neutralize, injure or eliminate the rivals (Jeong, 2000). Conflict is a demonstration of cross-purposes of distinct or similar political groups which often ends in political violence, and when it is contextualized in the Weberian sense, according to Anifowose, in his Violence and Politics in Nigeria (1982), is an acceptable weapon to ventilate anger. Conflict also connotes different perceptions, which may not necessarily result in hostility. This way, conflict simply means ‘a different perception’ or view to an issue or situation (Barash & Webel, 2002). De Janasz, et al stressed that conflict is a fact of life in organizations. Conflict is not something that is a tangible product but it lies in the minds of the people who are parties to it. It does become tangible when it manifests itself in arguing, brooding, or fighting. The problem lies with the inability for people to manage and resolve it effectively. If managed effectively, conflict can be constructive. If not, conflict can be a destructive force in people and organizations (De Janasz, Dowd, & Schneider, 2006). In relation to the above discussion, the study also has tried to know the cause of conflict between the Chitwan National Park and surrounding people. Chitwan is tourism destination, many tourist visits from the different countries which directly contributing in rural development so considering its importance, and the conflict should be managed for the promotion of tourism and development of rural community. Organizational conflict occurs at several levels and appears in different forms (Champoux, 2003). Rahim divided organizational conflict into two types: Intra-organizational conflict which occurs within the organization and inter-organizational conflict which occurs between two or more organizations (Rahim, 2001). In this study, Chitwan National Park is one organization and community people are the local stakeholders who are direct beneficiaries of Park. The Park has different types of wild animals: elephants, buffalo, rhino, pigs which destroys the crops time to time which is one cause of conflict between

park and people. The study did in-depth study to explore the fact of conflict.

**Method**

The study is based on the quantitative data analysis. The data was collected from the individual household close to the Chitwan National Park of Chitwan district of Nepal. The study covered the 385 respondents; one from selected household. The random sampling technique was adopted to select the respondents. Structured questionnaire survey was done to collect the data. The statistical analysis was done; frequency table and mean value was calculated to analyze the data.

**Result and Discussion**

The study measured the causes of conflict between park-people. The following table reflects particular reasons. The study divided the causes as general causes and main causes as follows:

**General Causes of conflict**

Cause of damage of crops option for cause of conflict 50.3% strongly agree with it. 7.4% just agree, 5.0% neutral, 2.4% disagree and 6.4% strongly disagree with 1.8961 mean agreement. Another cause, damage or loss of cattle followed 41.1% strongly agree, 9.7% agree, 4.5% neutral, 3.9% disagree and 3.3% strongly disagree with 1.9325 mean agreement. In the case of cause of conflict through population growth; follow 24.4% strong agreement, 8.4% agree, 8.6% neutral, 8.8% disagree, 8.0% strong disagree with 2.4649 mean agreement. Conflict due to dissatisfaction with the park rules; 34.7% strongly agree, 7.8% agree, 8.6% neutral and 3.3% strongly disagree with 2.1745 mean agreement. Due to fragile relation with security personals 26.9% shows strong agreement, 8.7% agree, 9.0% neutral, 7.5% disagree, 5.2% strongly disagree with 2.3299 mean agreement. Due to illegal act collection of eatable things from park; 28.6% strongly agree, 6.4% agree, 8.7% neutral, 11.2% disagree, 8.8% strongly disagree with 2.5247 mean agreement.

**Table 1:** Causes of Park-people conflict in Chitwan National Park

Causes of park people conflict												
		Strongly Agree (1)		Agree (2)		Neutral (3)		Disagree (4)		Strongly Disagree (5)		Mean
		N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	
Causes of conflict <sup>a</sup>	Damage of crops	181	50.3%	123	7.4%	44	5.0%	14	2.4%	23	6.4%	1.8961
	Damage/loss of cattle	148	41.1%	162	9.7%	40	4.5%	23	3.9%	12	3.3%	1.9325
	Population growth	88	24.4%	140	8.4%	76	8.6%	52	8.8%	29	8.0%	2.4649
	Dissatisfaction with the rule of Park	125	34.7%	131	7.8%	76	8.6%	40	6.8%	12	3.3%	2.1745
	Fragile relation with security personals	97	26.9%	146	8.7%	79	9.0%	44	7.5%	19	5.2%	2.3299
	Illegal collection of eatable things from Park	103	28.6%	107	6.4%	77	8.7%	66	11.2%	32	8.8%	2.5247
	Illegal deforestation of tress	155	43.1%	141	8.4%	38	4.3%	34	5.8%	17	4.7%	2.0052
	Illegal gazing ground	95	26.4%	135	8.1%	91	10.3%	42	7.1%	20	5.5%	2.3655
Collecting firewood & grass from Park	154	42.8%	109	6.5%	72	8.2%	40	6.8%	9	2.5%	2.0651	

Attack of wild animals	230	63.9%	86	5.1%	36	4.1%	19	3.2%	14	3.9%	1.7039
Using the land of Park - encroachment	131	36.4%	133	8.0%	63	7.2%	36	6.1%	22	6.1%	2.1818
Security concern of reserved areas habitats	114	31.7%	119	7.1%	67	7.6%	60	10.2%	25	6.9%	2.3844
To go to watch the scenario of Park	53	14.7%	54	3.2%	84	9.5%	85	14.4%	109	30.1%	3.3714
Hunting the wild life in Park	210	58.3%	84	5.0%	38	4.3%	34	5.8%	19	5.2%	1.8779

Likewise, deforestation or trafficking tree illegally from the park; 43.1% strongly agree, 8.4% agree, 4.3% neutral, 5.8% disagree, 4.7% strongly disagree with 2.0052 mean agreement. Illegal expansion of gazing ground; 26.4% strongly agree, 7.1% agree, 10.3% neutral, 7.1% disagree, 5.5% strongly disagree with 2.3655 mean agreement. Cause of illegal collection of fire wood and grass from the park; 42.8% strongly agree, 6.5% agree, 8.2% neutral, 6.8% disagree, 2.5% strongly disagree with 2.0651 mean agreement. Due to attack of wild animals; 63.9% follows strong agreement, 5.1% agree, 4.1% neutral, 3.2% disagree and 3.9% strongly disagree with 1.7039 mean agreement. Utilizing the park land; 36.4% strongly agree, 8.0% agree, 7.2% neutral, 6.1% disagree, 6.1% strongly disagree with 2.1818 mean agreement. Discussion for security concern about habitat in park areas; 31.7% strongly agree, 7.1% agree, 7.6% neutral, 10.2% disagree, 6.9% strongly disagree with 2.3844 mean agreement. Go to watch the scenarios of park; 14.7% strongly agree, 3.2% agree, 9.5% neutral, 14.4% disagree, 30.1% strongly disagree with 3.3714 mean agreement. Hinting animals in park; 58.3% strongly agree, 5.0% agree, 4.3% neutral, 5.8% disagree, 5.2% strongly disagree with 1.8779 mean agreement. Cause of damage of crops and cattle, illegal act like hunting, gathering wood & grass and mostly the attack are the cause of conflict between Park-people.

**Main cause of conflict**

The community people were asked the main cause of conflict between the park and people. The data shows: 92.7% of 357 people stated that wild animals enter into community as a main cause of conflict. More likely to people couldn't enter into the park followed by 74.5% among 287 people and provision of low compensation 59.0% out of 227 people. Finally others among 28 follow 7.3%.

**Table 2:** Main cause of conflict

Main_cause of conflict		Responses	
		N	Percent
Main causes of conflict	Wild animal entered into community	357	92.7%
	People couldn't enter into park	287	74.5%
	Provision of Low compensation	227	59.0%
	Others	28	7.3%

Data clearly entrance of wild animal, restriction for public to enter into park and low provision of compensation are the crucial factors of conflict between par-people. These should be necessarily fixed to reduce the conflict among

park-people.

**Conclusion**

The study explored the different types of causes of park people conflict. The community people reported 14 causes comprising the crop and cattle damaged by wild animals, population growth, Illegal deforestation of tress, Illegal gazing ground, collecting firewood & grass from Park, land encroachment by community, Security concern of reserved areas habitats, Hunting the wild life in Park ...etc. among them, crops and cattle damaged, attack of wild animals and hunting of wild life are reported by majority of respondents as major causes of park – people conflict. From the discussion with community people, regular disturbance from the wild animal into the community and attack on the crops, people and cattle was the main problem of surrounding people. There is certain restriction from park to community people to enter into the park for the collection of grass or fire-wood; it also frequently created the conflict with park. Besides that majority people reported the very weak provision of compensation of destruction by wild animals. Community people said that yearly they were facing the loss of crops damaged and sometimes attack on domestic animals and human being also by wild animals; basically from the elephants but they were not getting the compensation as they lost. It was the main reason which made community to do the conflict with park. The study observed the need of proper control of wild life to enter into the community. Security provision of human being from the attack of wild life as well as security of wild life within park from the illegal hunting should be strengthened. Similarly, Nepal Government should decide the provision of compensation to community people on the basis of their loss and damaged.

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