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Health, Sanitation and Security in Homestay of Nepal

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Abstract

Homestay is one key stakeholders of tourism industry which has been promoting the rural tourism and improving the livelihood of remote areas by creating employment for local people. Nepal government has developed the 'Home Stay Operation Procedures-2067 B.S' which had to be followed by the Homestay operators. Healthy environment, proper sanitation and security should be maintained by Homestay so the objective of this study was to identify the health, sanitation and security in Homestay of Nepal. The data was collected from the 348 homestay of nine districts. The result shows that more than 90% Homestay had managed the healthy environment, proper sanitation and peace and security in Homestay. The further researcher should study about the economic contribution of Homestay.

Keywords: Health, Homestay, Nepal, Sanitation, Security

Introduction

Nepal is rich in natural resources such as forest, water and bio-diversity. Tourism is the largest industry and one of the key sources of foreign exchange in Nepal. Nepal is a unique destination for mountaineering, trekking, and rafting and jungle safari. It possesses eight out of 10 highest mountains in the world. Ecologically the country is divided into three regions, running east to west. They are the Mountain, the Hill and the Terai (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2014).

Tourism is one important sector for the economic development of Nation. Mansour Zali and Mahin Zali studied on the topic of "The impacts of tourism industry on host community" they found that tourism was an element of community enrichment and it can contribute to the economic growth of a region (Zali & Zali, 2013). Homestay is key stakeholder of tourism industry. It has promoted the rural tourism. Anna Davtyan found that home stay tourism is a popular type of tourism which boosts the economy of developing country's remote areas livelihood by creating job for locals (Davtyan, 2016). Though, in Nepalese context, there is no accurate record of actual numbers of Homestay and its economic contribution to Nation. It has been promoting the rural tourism, providing employment opportunity of youth, transforming the urban tourism income to rural society, promoting the small scale business in rural areas. Nepal Government had developed the basic standards of home stay operations entitled 'Home Stay Operation Procedures-2067 B.S' which has set the basic standard related to structure of home and rooms, toilet and bathe room, kitchen management, health, sanitation and security status (Government of Nepal, 2011).

Security of tourist in tourist destination comes first concern of tourists and it is the first priority of Government also. Previous literatures have stated that tourists may be the targets of terrorism because of their tourism styles which may demonstrate conspicuous consumption. Inevitably, resentment that is created against tourism can turn into dangerous forms of bitterness. Tourists decide where and how to spend their holidays in a safe place before deciding to set off, so that they make their holidays more determined. In the case of choosing a crime-prone destination, this outcome could be considered undesirable. Risk as the probability of an undesirable incident that leads to the possible negative consequences of a consumer's behavior (Prideaux & Laws, 2005). The risk can be real or perceived and still affect travel decisions (Bottam, 1989, pp. 113-131). Wahab and Tarlow agree that tourism is targeted by terrorists because it is seen as outsiders representing a mode of neo-colonialism

or a threat to their social norms, traditions and religious convictions (Wahab, 1996; Tarlow, 2005). The perception of safety and security is a major determinant in travelers' decisions to visit a place (Beirman, 2003, pp. 43-68) Tourist perception is positive and their experiences are beyond expectations based on cultural enrichment and local people friendliness plus local hospitality facilities (Chheang, 1998, Vol.6, No.2). If a tourist feels unsafe or threatened at a holiday destination, he or she can develop a negative impression of the destination. In general, tourists make their travel decisions based on perceptions rather than reality (Roehl & Fesenmaier, 1992, pp. 17-26).

In this connection, it was necessary to know the proper compliance of standard operating guideline of Homestay so this study was conducted to identify the health, sanitation and security status of Tourist in Homestay of Nepal.

Materials & Methods

The study was conducted in the nine districts (Kaski, Kailali, Kavre, Kathmandu, Chitwan, Tanahun, Bhaktapur, Syangja, Nawalpur) of Nepal. The study had collected the data from 348 respondents of selected districts following the cross-sectional design. The study was based on the descriptive design. Homestay owners were selected

purposively for the survey. It was quantitative study because the data was collected by using the structured questionnaire survey. Close-ended question was asked having with 'Yes' and 'No' option. The researcher had visited the field and observed the environment as well as asked the question with respondents. The collected data was analyzed statistically from the statistical software (SPSS v. 20) and presented in tabular form.

Result and Discussion

Health, sanitation and security of tourist should be the first priority of each Homestay and hotel operators. Healthy and organic food, better management of hygiene and sanitation and peace environment are the major attraction of Homestay because of its natural and rural setting. Tourist from the different country want to visit the rural society than the urban society to enjoy with natural beauty, local cultural and local people. In this connection, the study had explored the surrounding environment of Homestay from the health, sanitation and security perspective. The data presented in the Table 1 shows the health, sanitation and security factors that need to consider in the homestay according to the government of Nepal.

Table 1: Health, sanitation and security

Health, sanitation and security										
		District								Total
		Kaski	Kailali	Kavre	Kathmandu	Chitwan	Tanahun	Bhaktapur	Syangja	
Safety and security from rats, bugs, flea etc., and available of first aid treatment	Yes	89.8%	66.7%	89.5%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	93.3%
Eco- friendly environment, conservation of natural heritage, priority of plantation and public toilet in your home stay	Yes	73.9%	92.6%	89.5%	100.0%	100.0%	88.9%	100.0%	100.0%	92.1%
Maintain peace and calm in home stay	Yes	84.0%	81.5%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	95.2%

Source: Field Survey 2018

According to the data presented in the table in the context of having kept the area odorless and safe from rodents and bugs, most of the participants responded positively (93.3%). It is important for the homestay to be clean and free from rodents or flies that might transfer diseases. It is important to maintain proper cleanliness so as to prevent the visitors from getting sick because of the rodents like rats and bugs or fleas etc.

There should also be peace maintained in the houses with homestay facilities so as to make it more suitable for the guests that visit the homestays to learn about new cultures and traditions. If there is no peace maintained, guests are not likely to re visit and suggest the place to others. The study shows that 95.2% homestay owner responded positively to having maintained peace and calm in the homestay.

In the context of having maintained eco-friendly environment, conservation of natural heritage, priority of plantation and public toilet in the homestay, most of the participants responded positively (92.1%). This means that there must be a proper balance between the ecological factors of the village and the development in the homestay which leads in the increase of temporary inflow of people which can cause harm to the ecology of the villages.

In the overall analysis, in all the districts it is important for

the homestay operators to maintain proper cleanliness in the villages with homestay facilities and it has been maintained in mostly all these districts. Along with proper cleanliness, there must be peace and calm maintained in the homestay. Most importantly, it is important for the homestays to maintain a proper balance between the increase in population that could affect the natural beauty and ecology of the villages. Excess increase in population with improper guidelines on the nature conservation can cause irreversible damage to the beauty that these homestays have to offer in the form of nature, rich culture and architecture of these places. So, the tourism department of Nepal government needs to make sure that there is a balance between the natural beauty perseverance. From the observation of surrounding environment of Homestay, it was noticed that Homestay operators were happy to run the homestay in their community with the motivation of promoting rural tourism as well as supporting to improve the socio-economic status of community people. They were aware on the standard rules and compliance of Nepal Government and tried their best to follow that standard. The standard had provision of proper maintenance of healthy environment, hygiene and sanitation and full security of tourists in homestay.

Conclusion

The study had observed the Homestay of Nine districts from the health, sanitation and security perspectives. This is one mandatory provision as the standard guidelines of 'Home Stay Operation Procedures-2067 B.S' developed by Nepal Government. The study found that more than 90% Homestay had managed the healthy environment, proper sanitation and peace and security in Homestay. The status was satisfactory in the study districts. The natural beauty, homely environment, organic food, local cultural and daily lifestyle of local people was main attraction of Homestay for tourists. Attraction of tourist is increasing day by day in Homestay so massive promotion of Homestay is must. The further study on economic contribution of Homestay may give new knowledge so the future researcher can study on it.

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