CHAPTER 5
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Conclusions

5.1.1 Objective 1

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5.1. Conclusions
The data collected from secondary and primary sources has been analyzed in chapter 3 and 4 respectively and conclusion for the objectives of the study are made hereunder along with the test results of hypotheses on Community Based Tourism Development-A case study of Sikkim. The recommendations of the study are based on conclusions and other observation made during the course of work.

5.1.1. Objective 1
The first objective was to identify and map of Community Based Tourism resources in Sikkim.

This objective was accomplished using the tools of Community Based Tourism Resource Matrix, SWOT analysis and Sikkim Benchmarked against Key Performance Indicator of Community Based Tourism.

The analysis brought the following inferences:
Many types of tourism were identified suitable for Community Based Tourism in Sikkim. Some of these are already in practice while others are almost negligible. The communities/sites were also identified where additional types of tourism can be introduced.
The activities to be promoted, socio-cultural and economic issues were also identified for each site that suggest that tourism development shall be highly contextual to be successful in these small places. A brief of types of tourism, communities/sites identified is given below.

Table 5.1. Existing Sites where Additional Tourism Activities can be Introduced

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Village</th>
<th>Existing Tourism</th>
<th>Additional Activities</th>
<th>Main Concern</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Lachen, North Sikkim</td>
<td>Rural Tourism/Eco Tourism</td>
<td>Cultural Shows and Making Handicrafts</td>
<td>Social</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chumbung, West Sikkim</td>
<td>Rural Tourism</td>
<td>Religious Sites and Bird Watching</td>
<td>Economic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tingchim, West Sikkim</td>
<td>Rural Tourism</td>
<td>Natural Trails and Bird Watching</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maniram Bhanjgyang, West Sikkim</td>
<td>Rural Tourism</td>
<td>Butterfly Watching and Cultural Shows</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rong, West Sikkim</td>
<td>Rural Tourism</td>
<td>Cultural and Natural Trail near Village</td>
<td>Cultural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Srijunga Martam, West Sikkim</td>
<td>Rural Tourism</td>
<td>Bird Watching and Teach to prepare Local Food.</td>
<td>Economic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darap, West Sikkim</td>
<td>Rural Tourism/Eco Tourism</td>
<td>Prepare Local Handicrafts and Bird Watching</td>
<td>Environmental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastanga, East Sikkim</td>
<td>Rural Tourism/Adventure Tourism</td>
<td>Cardamom Farming and Cultural Shows</td>
<td>Social</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pendam Gadi Budang, East Sikkim</td>
<td>Rural Tourism</td>
<td>Interaction with Local Communities and Natural Trail to Village</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tumin, East Sikkim</td>
<td>Rural Tourism</td>
<td>Butterfly Watching and Cultural Shows</td>
<td>Cultural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village</td>
<td>Tourism activities to be introduced</td>
<td>Main attraction</td>
<td>Main Concern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lachung, North Sikkim</td>
<td>Rural Tourism/Adventure Tourism/Community Based Tourism</td>
<td>Local Culture, Traditions and Landscape</td>
<td>Cultural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dzongu, North Sikkim</td>
<td>Rural Tourism/Eco Tourism/</td>
<td>Landscape and Bio Reserve</td>
<td>Environmental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namchi, South Sikkim</td>
<td>Rural Tourism/</td>
<td>Culture, Monasteries and Char Dham</td>
<td>Social</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Type of Tourism</td>
<td>Sights and Features</td>
<td>Focus Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kewzing, South Sikkim</td>
<td>Rural Tourism/ Community Based Tourism</td>
<td>Homestay and Landscapes</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aritar, East Sikkim</td>
<td>Rural Tourism</td>
<td>Lake, Culture and Border of Bhutan</td>
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<td>Rango, East Sikkim</td>
<td>Adventure Tourism</td>
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<td>Economic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lachung, North Sikkim</td>
<td>Adventure Tourism/ Eco Tourism</td>
<td>Landscape, Snow and Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Timi, East Sikkim</td>
<td>Rural Tourism and Tea Tourism</td>
<td>Tea Plantation and Culture</td>
<td>Economic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The SWOT analysis clearly indicated the inherent strength of Sikkim for Community Based Tourism that can be strengthened through proper infrastructural development and marketing of the state. The policies of the state government are already adding value to the brand Sikkim as a sustainable destination.

Benchmarking of Sikkim against Key Performance Indicator of Community Based Tourism presented a very positive picture of existing model of Community Based Tourism Development in Sikkim as it benchmarked well on most of the parameters except that it needs to make efforts to make every project self propelling after initial external support.

5.1.2. Objective 2 and Hypothesis 1, 2, 3 and 4

The second objective was to examine the potential of Community Based Tourism in Sikkim.
H1  Ho  There is high potential of Community Based Tourism in rural Sikkim.

H1  There is low potential of Community Based Tourism in rural Sikkim.

The analysis was assessed with the help of awareness of tourists about Sikkim and rural holidays, their participation in community based activities and involvement of communities in various activities for tourists. The data shows the result that both the domestic and international tourists know about Sikkim and were there for rural (CBT) holidays. From this we come to know about the potential of Community Based Tourism in Sikkim.

*In the view of the positive result, the null hypothesis is accepted and alternative hypothesis is rejected.*

Further the same topic was sub divided into three parts or study to find out the potential of Community Based Tourism in Sikkim, which will are discussed below:

i. **To study the interest of tourists in various community based activities**

H2  Ho  Tourists coming to rural areas of Sikkim to participate in community based activities.

H1  Tourists coming to rural areas of Sikkim do not participate in any community based activities.

The analysis is based on interests of tourists in various community based activities. Both domestic and international tourists are interested to involve in various community based activities like a day hikes to pilgrimage sites near village area, natural trail nearby village and cultural shows. Some of the international tourists like to explore the area by involving in trekking, bird and butterfly watching.

*In view of result, it shows tourists coming to rural areas of Sikkim to participate in community based activities except few activities. Therefore, Ho is accepted and H1 is rejected accordingly.*

ii. **To study the engagement of local communities in various community based activities where tourists do/can participate**
H3  Ho  Local communities take interest and participate in community based activities that interest tourists.

H1  Local communities do not take interest and do not participate in community based activities that interest tourists.

H4  Ho  Local communities are ready to engage in Community Based Tourism.

H1  Local communities are not ready to involve in Community Based Tourism.

Here the analysis based on the engagement of local communities in various community based activities where do/can participate. There are vast array of community centric lifestyle activities and most of the tourists both domestic and international likes to involve in one and another activities like interacting with homestay family and local communities, volunteer to teach in local school and traditional games and sports. The other activities offered by communities are basket weaving, ploughing the field, planting rice, milking cows and preparing local food but not all tourists are interested and the result is normal. The analysis also came out with the fact that local communities are ready to engage in Community Based Tourism in villages of Sikkim.

In view of result, it shows that the local communities involvement, interest, engagement and ready to engage in various community based activities where tourists do/can participate but somehow all the tourists are not interested to involve in such activities. Therefore the hypothesis is partially accepted.

iii. To study the role and activities of Non Governmental Organizations and Government in the promotion of Community Based Tourism

The analyses were done on the basis of the role and activities of Non Governmental Organizations and Government in the promotion of Community Based Tourism. The assistance in Community Based Tourism villages by NGOs and Government was accessed in various categories like creating employment, supports skill building through training programmes, support equitable distribution of revenue for all participants, support in development of the villages and overall satisfaction.
It was found that most of NGOs (local, national and international) and government (local and national) are taking keen interest to promote Community Based Tourism in seven villages and provided assistance, support in development and create jobs in the villages. Host communities are satisfied with the assistance.

*In view of result, it shows the NGOs and governments are actively assisting the communities and villages for the promotion Community Based Tourism*

5.1.3. Objective 3 and Hypothesis 5

The third objective was to study the satisfaction level of tourists from the Community Based Tourism in Sikkim.

**H5** Ho Tourists are satisfied with Community Based Tourism in Sikkim.

**H1** Tourists are not satisfied with Community Based Tourism in Sikkim.

The analysis was based on the satisfaction with overall tour experience in villages of Sikkim. The tourists were very much satisfied with the overall tour experiences in the villages and due to this they pleased and decided to visit this place again the visit to these villages exceeds their expectations. They strongly recommend their friends and relatives to visit these villages because the tradition and culture of Sikkim is unique.

*In view of result, tourists are very much satisfied with overall tour experience in villages. Therefore, Ho is accepted and H1 is rejected.*

5.1.4. To Study the Impact of Community Based Tourism in Sikkim.

The fourth objective was to study the impact of Community Based Tourism in Sikkim.

**H6** Ho There is a positive impact of Community Based Tourism in Sikkim.

**H1** There is a negative impact of Community Based Tourism in Sikkim.

The analyses in Chapter 4 based on the impact of Community Based Tourism in Sikkim. The three major impacts were covered for better outcome of the result. They are Economic and Infrastructural Impact, Socio-Cultural Impact and Environmental Impact. The result shows that there is positive impact as well as negative impact in economic and infrastructural
because in one hand Community Based Tourism is creating jobs in the villages and the jobs created are good but in other hand incomes of the villagers have increased, roads have been developed for tourists.

In socio-cultural the result shows that the villagers are satisfied to adopt tourism in their villages because tourism has helped host communities in preserving and promoting their uniqueness and villagers take pride for developing their villages for Community Based Tourism. Villagers even learn new things from the tourists. Here the negative part is tourists do not know how to behave and bad behavior such as thefts, alcoholism and drug abuse has increased with tourism.

In environmental impact the result shows all the local communities are very much concern in this matter and they agree that the natural resources are better managed for the tourist and good care has been taken to reduce the negative impacts but garbage and vehicular pollution is increased in the village which is not good.

*In view of the mixed result about the impact of Community Based Tourism in Sikkim, the above hypothesis both null and alternative, only partially accepted.*

5.2. **Recommendations**
Community Based Tourism can be a double edged sword. It provides many pros and cons, depending on the implementation, management and mindset of the people involved. Working with local villagers to achieve their support and cooperation has long been emphasized by various practitioners. The importance of community participation is undeniable. Sikkim government has various projects especially for the communities and villagers.

In this thesis we have taken a close look at two concepts which are crucial for Community Based Tourism projects; community participation and tourism impact satisfaction. Most important is this study, however, is the relationship between these two concepts, which is also at the core of the central research question. To explore the relationship between participation and tourism impact; seven case studies in Sikkim were selected.

Using the findings, the study has established that there are proper policy issues, which need to be addressed for the effective involvement of local people in the tourism decision making
process, in the sharing of tourism benefits and in tourism’s contribution towards poverty alleviation:

- Cultural tourism, which requires relatively low investment capital, is the major tourist attraction in the study area. As the communities vary from village to village and their culture are unique. Especially given this type of tourism is associated with activities such as cultural shows, curio shops, and handcraft sales which do not require high education. In addition, the income accrued goes directly to the community involved.

- Lack of proper education has been identified as a bar to efforts by local people accessing tourism employment opportunities. In order to increase the contribution of tourism to poverty alleviation, there is a need to institute training programme at the community level that will ultimately provide opportunities for the local people to be employed in various tourism businesses.

- Although the results have established that local communities participate in the tourism decision making process through their leaders, who are the members of the decision making bodies (local NGOs) overall the local communities in villages of Sikkim felt they were generally not involved. This was in part caused by people's reluctance to attend village general meetings, which eventually posed barriers to communicate outcomes. This suggests the need to raise people’s awareness through which public opinion can be collected and feedback from leaders can be communicates.

Apart from the above recommendation the following specific recommendations are suggested for the betterment of the communities and villagers:

5.2.1. Code of Conduct for Visitors

The following guidelines for tourists should help to make the visit of a Community Based Tourism community a constructive and rewarding experience for host and guests. These guidelines should not be seen as patronizing or discouraging for the tourists, but more as guide to help them feel better prepared and more comfortable while visiting local people.

i. Respect for Local Customs:
• Be aware of your actions and appearance, and how they may be perceived by your hosts. Learn about the customs of your host based on your own cultural background—perceptions of punctuality, manner, formality, etc. often vary.
• Follow guidelines given by your hosts; if in doubt ask your guide.
• Dress conservatively.
• Recognize that you are much wealthier than your hosts; don’t flaunt your affluence.
• It is generally ill-advised to initiate discussions on local politics, religion, or economics. Be careful not to offend your hosts by criticizing their government or religious practices.
• Respect the privacy of others. Seek opportunities to enhance your understanding of the local culture, but use discretion to avoid intruding on the private lives of others.
• Don’t take someone’s photo unless you have asked his/her permission first. Do not be offended if they refuse.
• Avoid nudity and intimate displays of affection in public.

ii. Economic Contribution:
• Be aware of the social consequences of your travel choices. Dealing directly with CBT enterprises assures maximum retention and spread of income.
• Realize that private operators may undercut CBT enterprises by cutting corners and reducing benefits to others.
• Pay your hosts a fair price.
• Buy local supplies from food and craft vendors.
• Buy handicrafts in the community.
• Consider a donation for community projects.
• If you want to bring gifts for your community, think of education and usefulness. A contribution to the village school (pens, exercise books) is in most cases a very helpful gift. Ask your guide if you are not sure what to give (e.g. money, T-shirts, shoes?).
• Gifts are often presented to a group through village elders, headman, and community leaders who can distribute them as needed.
iii. Environmental Practice:

- Lead by example. Do not leave trash, and pick up the trash of others. Always carry a plastic bag and keep it easily accessible for putting trash in.
- Stay on trails and do not disturb wildlife.
- Don’t use soap or detergents in natural water bodies.
- If you observe poor environmental practices among your hosts or fellow travelers, politely suggest improvements.
- Consider the implications of buying plant and animal products. Find out if they are rare or endangered, taken from the wild (e.g. animals skins, orchid, rhododendron and blue puppy).
- Do not introduce any plants or animals to the local environment. This can disrupt the delicate balance of the eco-system you are visiting.
- Keep pollutants out of water sources. All camping activities should take place at least 70 meters (200 feet) away from streams or lakes.

iv. General Aspects:

- Inform your tour operator if you observe any management problems during the trip.
- Should your local guide or tour operator violate regulations or act disrespectfully towards the environment in an effort to make your visit more exciting or interesting, express your concern in a polite way.

Sources of the above mentioned guidelines: adapted from Center for Biodiversity and Conservation (1998); Wesche/Drumm.

5.3. Suggestions for Further Studies in the Gap Areas
The study focuses on the interest level of local participants in Community Based Tourism Development in Sikkim. The local community, tourism businesses and government officials were interviewed using a questionnaire during 2009 to 2013. However, the CBTD in Sikkim may not be the only element needed for their participation. There are other components that merit further study. The suggestions are as followed:

1. Although the findings suggest that there are some indications that tourism is contributing positively towards poverty alleviation, more research work is required to
analyze and quantify the extent of such contribution in economic terms, especially at the household level. This would shed light on how local community could increase their earning from tourism.

2. Study the changes that are needed so that the CBT can maximize the benefits for the host community. This type of tourism would encourage the participation from local people in the study of background, planning, decision-making, problem solving, implantation, evaluation and tourism activities.

3. Study the suitable and specific practices for tourists, when they travel and stay at villages of Sikkim in term of sustainability concept since rapidly growing tourism arrivals tend to be associated with crowdedness as well as air and noise pollution, in order to determine the suitable number of tourists on a particular area.

4. Study the cooperation of the local community, tourism businesses and government officials in Community Based Tourism Development in other villages of Sikkim.

5. Study economic sustainability which is one of the most important factors for poor society. Therefore, a poverty improvement principle for CBT should be prepared so that it could be practiced in all states of India.

6. Study on the comparison of Community Based Tourism Development in Sikkim and other states for propose to sharing experiences.

These studies are to be combined with Community Based Tourism in order to implement positive, successful and sustainable tourism in the region. Once this has been done, the populace will have started down the road towards what has been proven to be the most fruitful and beneficial course; both for the residents and visitors in the beautiful and thriving villages of Sikkim.