CHAPTER II
OUTLINING THE PROBLEM AREAS IN THE CONFLICT ZONE: A REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This work aims to distinguish between two points of view and to resolve the potential for ecotourism in the National Park. The initial part of the thesis is about theoretical concepts of protected area conservation and community-based ecotourism management. The latter part, have made an attempt to correlate people and the Park, trying to find out loopholes between policy and practice. Finally, the aim is to develop a channel between people and the Park which leads to conservation and sustainable development of resources.

Planning and execution of any research work should be preceded by a thorough review of literature on the particular topic. The review helps to familiarize the researcher with the work that has been already been done in the chosen area and helps him/her to locate the differences or in exploring areas for future research. A literature review is an account of the literature applicable to a particular field or theme. It gives a general idea of what has been said, who the key writers are, what are the existing theories and hypotheses, what questions are being asked, and what methods and methodologies are suitable and functional. As such, it is not in itself primary research, but rather it reports on other findings. Keeping in view the importance of this aspect the researcher undertook a thorough review of the available literature on the subject. In brief, literature review is a task in which researcher finds, locates, identifies, reads and evaluates the content, summary and outcome of his/her desired study area. Serious and intense review of literature helps in the refinement of ideas and better understanding of concepts. The study of earlier work and its findings provide researcher sound knowledge of previous studies that relate to the present problem. Earlier researchers had tried to explore all the possible available work related to Community Participation in the conservation of forest resources. A gist of findings is given as a review of literature.

Although the basic concept of conservation and protected area management has been extensively studied for the last many decades, yet very little concentrated attempt has been made to formulate to establish the loop hole between the policy, practice and women’s involvement in conservation.
However a number of researchers have worked on National Parks, Conservation issues, peoples’ participation and so on. More significantly, contributions related to the research problem include management problems. The current research work highlights community involvement by putting a major emphasis on women and ecotourism as a tool for the natural resource management and employment generation.

The review of literature has been divided into three parts – international, national and regional. It has been further divided into sub-parts to get a clear understanding of the issues and acquire a lucid idea about the work done in the field of conservation and protected area management.

2.1 International Studies

Hardin (1968) highlighted the National Parks present an additional instance of the working out of the tragedy of the commons. The tragedy of the commons is a concept which highlights the dilemma arising from the condition in which numerous individuals, acting solely and independently seeking their own self-interest and benefit, will ultimately exhaust limited resources. Study pointed out population grows without limit but parks themselves are limited in extent. The values that visitors seek in the parks are steadily eroded. Clearly, there must be cease to treat the parks as commons or they will be of no value to anyone.

Pimbert and Pretty (1997) found out that reforms needed to be encourage and sustain community based conservation in situations where rural people were directly dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods. Emphasis was placed on strengthening diverse local livelihoods through more decentralization and local control of conservation and natural resource management.

Glossing (1999) found out that ecotourism could contribute to safeguard biodiversity and ecosystem functions in developing countries, even though meeting the requirements for ecotourism was extremely difficult. Human activities had contributed to an increase in species extinction, which had made the implementation of safeguarding strategies an essential issue. Work had emphasized that the positive development of Ecotourism was dependent on successful strategies to limit tourist inflow, education and awareness among both visitors and locals and to manage and control the area effectively and efficiently. The economic potential of ecotourism has
remained largely unrealized. This study suggested various ways to raise the economic potential through ecotourism.

Tosun (2000) highlighted the nature of community participation expected by various interest groups with special reference to a local destination in Turkey and found out that different interest groups expected different types of community participation to achieve their own aim that may conflict with each other. The study came out with the result that the expected nature of community participation by interest groups varies from non-participation to a form of spontaneous participation. This study particularly focused on the nature of community participation expected by interest groups including local community, local agencies, local tourism operators and central bodies with special reference to the specific tourism destination, Urgup, Cappadocia in Turkey. The main aim of the study was to explore the forms of community participation desired by these interest groups.

Lovelock (2002) has made the historic and contemporary role of one Canadian environmental non-governmental organization (ENGO) in the operationalisation of sustainable tourism. His work had used - relations perspective to explore the position, influence, and relationships of one ENGO active within Canada’s National Park tourism policy domain. His study had demonstrated that conflict had an extremely important role to play within this domain of sustainable tourism in a protected area.

Lee and Han (2002) estimated the use and preservation values of natural and cultural resources in the five distinctive National Parks in South Korea using a dichotomous choice-contingent valuation method. Five National Parks were selected as study areas because they each represented different types of recreation resources, such as mountain-oriented, culture-oriented and marine-oriented. Their work’s empirical results show that natural and cultural resources of the sample National Parks possessed considerable use and preservation values, outweighing current admission fees and maintenance costs per visitor. The outcome of their result showed that values of natural and cultural resources were different across five distinctive National Parks, indicating the possibility of employing different admission fees according to Park characteristics.

Harada (2003) examined the local residents' attitudes towards conservation in Gunung Halimun National Park in West Java, Indonesia. Results of questionnaire surveys and informal interviews revealed that almost all people knew about the existence and laws of the Park. His findings suggested that the local community did
not have enough information about the Park. Secondly, local conservation knowledge and the global objectives of Park management could not be harmonized because of the lack of information and agreement concerning the park between local people and government authorities.

Stepp, et al.; (2003) explored some of the remarkable properties that set human ecosystems apart from nonhuman ecosystems. By the term "human ecosystem" they refer to human-dominated ecosystems in which the human species is a central agent. Their work had discussed several manifestations of human cognitive and behavioral abilities, termed "remarkable properties" of human ecosystems. Their work strived to establish an anthropological understanding of human ecosystems, drawing upon holistic efforts to understand human cultural, i.e., non-biological, variation and change by using the compositional techniques and scholastic background of more mature ecological disciplines.

Stronza (2004) carried out a study on the anthropology of community based ecotourism in the Peruvian Amazon. Her work highlighted the various methods and insight gained during the period of research on a community-based ecotourism lodge located in Peru. As a joint business venture between a private company and a local community, it represented a new standard for local participation in ecotourism.

Agnes (2004) carried out a study in correlating CBET and biodiversity conservation and highlighted that biodiversity must pay for itself by generating economic benefits, particularly for the local people. The attraction of CBET was the prospect of linking conservation and local livelihoods, preserving biodiversity whilst simultaneously reducing rural poverty, and of achieving both objectives on a sustainable (self-financing) basis. Her study found out that for biodiversity conservation, ecotourism was fairly good for land use, but not good as an effective protection. It could generate some income and contribute to community development, but within limits.

Reid, et al.; (2004) reported on the creation of a self assessment instrument implemented as a part of community centered tourism process undertaken in several Canadian locations. The emphasis of the work was on focused discussion around fundamental issues facing communities as they engaged with tourism. Their work presented an analysis of the outcomes of the implementation of a Community Tourism Self-Assessment Instrument (CTAI), a tool derived from the initial research
results and design to measure residents’ feelings about and readiness for, tourism in their locales as well as to generate dialogue about development more generally.

Jones (2005) found out the concept of social capital to generate an understanding of the process of social change leading to, and resulting from, the development of community-based ecotourism ventures in the Gambia. Here, the findings gave empirical weight to the assertion that social capital was a “slippery concept”.

Blangy and Mehta (2006) highlighted the untold damage to most endangered ecological systems due to tourism development and suggested ecological development as an important approach to sensitive tourism planning. Their work emphasized the need for restoring biodiversity and focused the important role of ecotourism in the field of ecological restoration. Phinda Game Reserve, South Africa and Baboon Sanctuary in Belize were taken as two examples of private and community-based ecotourism incorporating Ecological Restoration.

Straede and Treue (2006) stressed the findings of an in-depth study of the importance of natural resources to the livelihoods of 18 households living inside and in the buffer zone of Royal Chitwan National Park, Nepal. The study showed that products from Royal Chitwan National Park were of great importance to the livelihoods of the local people. The study illustrated that, irrespective of buffer zone forestry, there was still a gap between local people’s need for supplementing natural resources and their rights to satisfy them on a legal basis, which was likely to be unsustainable in the long term. Their work suggested a thorough evaluation of the actual Park-People relations.

King (2007) evaluated how rural households access environmental and economic resources to produce livelihoods, and how these access patterns impact their views of the project. It is argued that there are significant livelihood variations within the community that shape the ways households engage with, and benefit from, conservation planning. His work demonstrated that disaggregating the community to investigate various livelihood systems reveals that certain patterns produce negative perceptions of community conservation.

Stronza and Gordillo (2008) described ecotourism as an incentive for conservation, especially when it triggered positive economic change. It was responsible for many changes to communities; positive and negative, social and economic. They had considered Ecotourism as an alternative to tourism, which would
further lead to sustainability. Their comparative study had been conducted between the leaders of three Ecotourism partnerships in the Amazon region of Peru, Ecuador, and Bolivia. This study was called “Trueque Amazonico”. The aim was to bring a local voice to the fore in ecotourism analysis.

Gurung and Seeland (2008) analyzed the present state of tourism in Bhutan and highlighted the prospects for the development of ecotourism. They pointed out the prerequisites for a substantial promotion of ecotourism would be changes in the Bhutanese tourism policy to encourage the diversification of tourism products. Their work had provided insights into the Bhutanese tourism policy and prospects of ecotourism development in the protected areas.

Lovelock (2009) explained that though technical fixes are crucial in coping with present and prospective conditions, they cannot return the Earth to stability. Lovelock has introduced the world to the seductive idea of Gaia, which says the Earth behaves as though it were an organism. The concept first reached a wide audience in 1975 in an article published in New Scientist. In Vanishing Face of Gaia he highlighted the ultimate root of the environmental crisis is the present level of human population. He pointed the disease that afflicts the Earth is not just climate change, manifest by drought, heat and an ever-rising sea. Added to this there is the changing chemistry of the air and the oceans, and the way the sea grows acidic. Then there is the shortage of food for all consumers of the animal kingdom. As important is the loss of that vital biodiversity that enables the working of an ecosystem. All these affect the working of the Earth's operating system and are the consequences of too many people.

Curran, et al.; (2009) highlighted an ongoing debate over the impacts of protected areas on rural communities in central Africa has become increasingly polarized in recent years, even as definition of displacement have shifted from outright expulsion to economic dislocation precipitated by lost access to natural resources. Study was an attempt to recognize the shortage of data precludes impartial evaluation of the possible impacts of economic dislocation of local communities living adjoining to protected areas. Their study get forth there were hundreds of thousands of “conservation refugees” in Central Africa and it would be an obvious moral case to be made against conservation. Major findings of their work suggested that there is an urgent need to work together to objectively assess the real impacts of conservation, not only on the local societies, but also on the conservation of biodiversity.
Weidenfeld, et al.; (2009) carried out a study on clustering and compatibility between tourism attractions in Cornwall, England. Their research questioned whether and how spatial and thematic clustering was related to tourist movements between visitors’ attractions. Their work had sought to improve understanding of the associations between visitors attractions in terms of product types, spatial organization and appeal.

Curtin (2010) reported on the self presentation and self-development of serious wildlife tourists in United Kingdom. His study was based upon serious wildlife tourism participants for whom studying flora and fauna was the primary motivation for travel. His findings had demonstrated how the culture of serious wildlife tourism was made up of individuals who differentiated themselves from other tourists in terms of dress, behavior, development of skills, equipment and intellectual capital, illustrated by their desire to scope, identify and photograph wildlife.

Lele, et al.; (2010) highlighted the fact that the loss of biodiversity in general, and in tropical forests in particular, had been a source of major concern for modern society. Their work had reported there were over 100,000 protected areas that covered 12% of the Earth’s land area of which 28% (by area) were in the tropics. Their study was an overview of the critique of exclusionary conservation and alternative approaches in the developing tropics had highlighted several issues relevant to conservation policy. Their findings suggested that research on conservation strategies should define success along multiple dimensions, monitor these dimensions more rigorously, and develop more nuanced propositions about the links between social process, tenure, economics and outcomes.

2.2 National Studies

Singh (1997) carried out developing human resources from the tourism industry with reference to India. Her work pointed out the contribution of education/training bodies the world over and then focuses on their status in a developing country like India, where conditions are more complex. Her work had made an attempt to suggest viable measures for ascertaining success in quality manpower development efforts.

Sundar (2001) argued that what mattered was not the degree of Government intervention, that was more or less devolution, or the degree of social capital among local communities, but state accountability. It could not be ensured through
addressing questions of political reform. Her work highlighted the attempt at
devolution in Bastar, which could be seen in the light of long history of state
appropriation of forest from communities. Her work threw light light on the condition
of Bastar as a state which was doubtly alien to ordinary citizens. Not only was it run
in the interests of rich and powerful within the administration at all levels were largely
from outside and from the upper castes.

Kuniyal (2002) had done detailed study on mountain expeditions and
minimizing the impacts. He highlighted the biotic pressure due to expeditions,
trekking and tourism by shepherds was continuously increasing in the last two decades.
The study conducted in one of the expeditions to the Pindari Valley of Indian
Himalayas showed that 60.68% non-biodegradable waste problems could be resolved
by reuse (39.34%) and recycling (21.34%). He had suggested under such high biotic
pressure, problem of solid waste, high melting rates of glaciers and rational use of
local resources was urgently needed.

Maharana, et al.; (2000) carried out work regarding valuing ecotourism in the
sacred lake of Sikkim and found out that a large number of lakes in the Hindu-Kush
Himalayan regions, if properly managed and marketed for ecotourism, could bring
economic development that could be linked with conservation.

Bhattacharya and Kumari (2004) carried out a study on ecotourism as a
developmental tool in Sikkim, which aimed to protect natural environment and
cultural diversity by attracting ecotourists and generating sources of revenue for local
people without harming nature. In this age of globalization, there was indeed a strong
case for government in developing countries to scrutinize tourism activities, organize
workshops and public debates to check types of developmental activities. People
should be involved in each step of project, which might safeguard local resources and
culture. Participatory research and holistic case studies on the local impact of
ecotourism could help the government to design project and policies.

Singh and Singh (2004) found that judicious park management should point
more to Integrated Conservation Development Project (ICDP) than restoring to the
traditional “fences and fines” approach. ICDP ensures the conservation of biological
diversity by reconciling the management of the Park with social and economic needs
of the local people who have limited access to resources and few alternative means of
livelihood.
Chhatre and Sabarwal (2005) examined the conservation policies and practices as they have played out in the Great Himalayan National Park over past two decades. Their work was an attempt to get the better understanding of the gap between conservation policy and practice. Their work suggests that conservationists need to build political bridges with the local communities if they are to use electoral power for rather than against conservation.

Bhattacharya, et al.; (2005) examined emerging issues underlying responses to human environment problems in policy-making and institutions. The issues were organized in relation to three overarching themes: cultural perceptions, knowledge systems, and tourism and education. They highlighted many natural resource management systems and conservation strategies which still separate people from their environments, freezing and stereotyping both cultures and ecosystems. They pointed out that ecological, culture and agrotourism can provide important opportunities to link conservation and development. Their study had concluded that cultural tourism could serve to educate people about the importance of cultural diversity, as well as the importance of the latter for the conservation of biodiversity, provided the risks mentioned are taken into account. Tourism and recreation can be linked to environmental education, fostering knowledge about the functioning of ecosystems and provoking tourists to critically examine human–nature relations.

Arjuna, et al.; (2006) evaluated the conservation attitudes of the local villagers living adjacent to the Kalakad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve in the southern India six years after implementation of a World Bank funded ecodevelopment project. They assessed attitudes towards three facets of conservation; the tiger, the forest and the forest department. There findings suggests that there was significant association wealth, sex, age and both tiger and forest conservation provide benefits had not changed the underlying attitudes of the communities. The final conclusion was developmental initiative provided by the World Bank funded eco-development project had not adequately addressed the issue of forest based livelihoods.

Silori (2006) examined the perception of the Bhotiya tribal community on the use and conservation of natural resources in the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve, north-western Himalayas in India, with an objective of identifying the sustainable management of forest resources of NDBR through people’s participation. His work had attempted to highlight the tradition of natural resource conservation being practiced for many generations by the local people and unfortunate failure of
management authorities to capitalize on such tradition to achieve conservation goals in NDBR. The main findings of the study understood the perception of resource dependent population must be considered as an important step in the notification and management of the protected area.

Nautiyal and Kaechele (2007) carried out a study to test the hypothesis that all Himalayan conservation approaches lead to the same results concerning to the forest conservation. To test this hypothesis they had studied forests of each conservation regimes and evaluated them based on identified indicators. Their research concluded that community conservation approaches had greater significance for biodiversity conservation and management in Himalayan region.

Rai (2007) discussed the characteristics and application of traditional ecological knowledge of aboriginal people in northeast India and its role in natural resource management. His work concluded that the traditional ecological knowledge systems and institutions could serve as entry points into the sustainable utilization and management of natural resources.


Rishi and Moghe (2008) had analyzed the hierarchy of needs and motivational strategies for eco-development planning in two National Parks of India. The study had uncovered the needs patterns of rural communities living around the Bandhavgarh (BNP) and Ranthambore (RNP) National Parks of India. The study highlighted the awareness about attitudes providing guidelines for predicting their behavior in different situations and prepared the socially, culturally, and personally acceptable eco-development plan for them. The results highlighted a moderate to low level of satisfaction of basic level needs. Their study had suggested stepwise motivational plans for the better implementation and acceptability of eco-development planning among rural communities, which would motivate people to provide their help towards effective conservation of the eco-system.

Singh (2008) carried out a study on tourism development in a small town of Garwal. The findings had highlighted the argument that the discernment of the purpose and limits of the destination of development are crucial for its sustainability. The research illustrates how a relatively sustainable tourism destination digresses into an unbecoming urban space to threaten its own economic environmental viability. She had raised questions regarding the “why” of development and equally relevant
questions of “what type” and “for whom”. The research findings have recommended that interest groups focused their attention on the long term viability of the core product, primarily, to avoid unacceptable product innovation.

Karanth, et al.; (2008) examined the conservation attitudes, perspectives and challenges in India. Their study had made a survey of Indian conservationists about the conservation effectiveness of protected area and charismatic species, as well as the status of conservation and research efforts. They examined participants’ opinion on conservation policies like Project Tiger and Elephant, The Forest Right Act, and the Tiger Task Force Report. The study had highlighted the differences and commonalities in opinion that existed among Indian Conservationists.

Muhammed and Jagathyraj (2008) highlighted the challenges faced by the Kerala Tourism Industry. Their study had been made to analyse the problems and prospects to tourism in Kerala and manage Tourism effectively by employing new management strategies. Their study had thrown light on weaknesses, short comings and plain realities associated with the management of the tourism industry in Kerala.

Ogra (2008) carried out a study on feminist political ecology approach to examine these two problems of human-wildlife conflict and gender in protected area borderlands in an agriculture village located at the border of Rajaji National Park in Uttrakhand, India. The study had highlighted for participants in this study, costs of human wildlife conflict included decreased food security, change in workload, decreased physical and psychological well being, economic hardship and at times an increase in illegal or dangerous activities. The major findings of the study illustrates the importance of addressing both visible and hidden costs of human wildlife conflict for the members of park communities and supported a call for gender-sensitivity in human wildlife conflict research.

Sharma and Mishra (2009) explored the relationships between tourism service quality and the tourist budget at different involvement levels. The major emphasis of study was to visualize tourist the tourist budget that could assess the current service quality level of Rajasthan Tourism. The main aim of study was to investigate how the tourist budget contributed to the quality of tourism services of Rajasthan and also to provide a vivid description of the qualified view of tourism service quality.

Cochran and Ray (2009) investigated how equity in rainwater harvesting program was understood and practiced in two Rajasthani communities. They pointed out that though equity was central to community
based development efforts, community perspectives on equity were seldom examined in the development literature. The main finding of their work was a continuing sense of community despite heterogeneity was itself a form of symbolic capital.

Agarwal (2000) focused on the reason behind women’s limited participation in local institutions and emphasized on women’s proportional strengths and importance in enhancing women’s participation in governance, not just nominally but effectively.

2.3 Regional Studies

Gaston (1997) carried out a study on the biological monitoring dealing mainly with important biological indicator, especially those relating to biodiversity. The study was carried out on two important protected areas: The Kala Kad Mudanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR) in Tamilnadu and the Great Himalayan National Park under the FREEP funded by The World Bank and it highlighted the fact that Eco-development was a relatively new concept in India and it was important to monitor carefully the impact of Eco-development both on local people, communities and on the flora and fauna of the protected area.

Pandey and Wells (1997) highlighted the protected areas in India as the major effort aimed at biodiversity conservation at the national level. They pointed out that the sustainability of protected areas are heavily influenced by local people who are largely dependent on natural resources (fuel, fodder, minor forest products) for their livelihood. The main aim of the study was to explore eco-development planning at India’s Great Himalayan National Park for biodiversity conservation and participatory rural development.

Tucker (1997) reported the historical development of human impacts on Great Himalayan National Park and pointed out villagers in the eco-development zone were the key to preserving biodiversity in the Great Himalayan National Park (GHNP), since their use of natural resources in GHNP and surrounding areas, and their responses to outside pressures largely determined the human impact on the park.

Baviskar (1998) carried out a study on the socio-economic conditions of people in the Great Himalayan National Park and highlighted the current
resources use practices and perceptions, specifically examining local
dependence on the environment and the part played by the diversified
household survival strategy, the possible correspondence between the use of
different ‘ecological niches’ and particular social groups.

De Coursey (1998) reported on community-based eco-tourism
management in the Great Himalayan National Park and highlighted the role
of CBET both as a conservation and rural development strategy. The author
has highlighted the CBET as conservational and rural developmental.

Bhardwaj and Kumar (2000) carried out a study of the biodiversity
through a survey and found out an important step for preserving the
biodiversity of the Himalayas. An attempt was made through Eco-
development projects in the Park conservation area. They identified 832 plant
species representing 128 families and 427 genera (which cover 26% of the
total flora of the state) from the Park conservation area and 31 species of
mammals.

Nangia and Kumar (2001) gave a comprehensive account of the environment
and biodiversity interface. Their study was an attempt to assess the impact of
population environment and development interface in the Great Himalayan National
Park and its Ecodevelopment Zone. Their findings suggested that the generation of
alternative resource management systems based on the existing customs had more
chances of successful incorporation by rural societies.

Mehra and Mathur (2003) highlighted the multidisciplinary research
project undertaken in the Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area
(GHNPCA) and assessed the overall status of biodiversity in the GHNPCA in
relation to livestock grazing using a landscape approach. Their study
revealed that the landscape harbours a rich floral and faunal diversity
including several endangered species. The study also revealed a
disproportional distribution of forests, alpine pastures and permanent snow
cover among four administrative constituents of the landscape. Their study
had recommended that livestock grazing in the region be practiced on sound
principles of spatiotemporal use of grazing resources instead of
overburdening particular parts of the landscape at any given point or time.

Mathur, et al.; (2005) presented an overview on research and
monitoring activities to Indian protected areas (PA). Research and
monitoring have been recognized as two indispensable activities to support and strengthen the protected area management, but they have remained on a low priority than protection, management of endangered species and their habitats, eco-development, and ecotourism even in the prominent protected areas. Out of two broad monitoring approaches; traditional “blind data gathering” and monitoring of “vital signs of selected taxa later on had been applied for the first time in India in Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area (GHNPCA).

Pandey (2004) reported the design of the Great Himalayan National Park management in such a way that the research findings were helpful including planning and implementation of eco-development activities simultaneously.

Miller, et al.; (2008) described the Great Himalayan National Park as a site of series of conservation efforts utilizing societal development as a tool for protecting biodiversity. Their study was an attempt to test whether the ban on natural resource collection in the GHNP impacted biodiversity. The Study had compared the population abundances of Himalayan Monal (Lophophorus impejanus), Koklass Pheasant (Pucrasia macrolopha biddulphi), and western Tragopan (Tragopan melanocephalus) between 1998 to 2008. Their major findings suggested that biodiversity conservation can accommodate multiple stakeholders through active regulation of natural resource use that involves mutual agreement with local communities.

Pandey (2007) highlighted the efforts made at the Great Himalayan National Park to address the emerging relations between people and the park. It was very difficult to manage a habitat for the wild animals and plants if unsustainable local use and practice continued. In GHNP, the Park management started working with the local people so that the animals and plants could remain safe from their interference. The eco-development planning at GHNP for biodiversity conservation and participatory rural development started with the commencement of a World Bank Project. So the main aim of the study was to document the lessons learnt from the previous projects and how experiences gained could further help in conserving the biological diversity of GHNP. His main findings suggested that efforts made at the settlement of the rights of local people at the GHNP, as well as the
creation of income generating activities in the adjacent villages to compensate for the lost income from the collection of medicinal plants and other forest produce within the park, have become prominent examples of eco-development attempts in India.

Pisharoti (2008) carried out a study on livelihood changes in response to restrictions on resource extraction from the Great Himalayan National Park. Her study investigated the effectiveness of conservation targeted alternate income generation (AIG) schemes in reducing dependence on extraction for cash income from protected areas (PA). The main findings of her study was alternative income generation programmes in reducing dependency on protected area can be maximized only by ensuring adequate participation of people from socially marginalized households.

Singh (2008) made a study of a small town of Himachal Pradesh, Manali. The study was to testify to the fact that planning and development agencies rationalize the violation of thresholds on the growth of tourism. Her work commenced with the argument that the discernment of the purpose and the limits of destination of development are crucial for its sustainability. Her study had recommended that interest groups focus their attention on the long term viability of the core product, primarily to avoid the unacceptable product innovation.

The above discussion shows some reflection on the scenario of man and nature relations in the state. Various works done by the researchers, scientists and institutions tried to put forward the multidimensional aspects of park and people relationship. Many social, ecological and economic spheres have been touched to highlight the conservation scenario. The element of tourism has been seen from two both ways as being both positive and negative. Few of the researchers had taken ecotourism as a development tool and others considered it as a pollution creator.

2.4 Women’s Studies

Agarwal (1992) conducted study on “The Gender and Environment Debate: Lessons from India” she argued that women, especially those in poor rural households in India are victims of environmental degradation in quite gender specific ways parallel they are agents of environmental protection and
regeneration. Her work had examined the opposing dimensions of women as victims and women as actors in concrete terms. Though the work focused on India but clearly relevant to the other parts of Third World as well. She concluded an alterative transformative approach to development.

Agarwal (1994) carried out a work on a much neglected issue the links between gender in inequities and command over property. It outlines why in the rural South Asia, where arable land is the most important form of property, any significant improvement in women’s economic and social situation is crucially tied to their having independent land rights. She pointed out why a complex range of factors social, administrative and ideological are found to underlie the persistent gap between women’s legal rights and their actual ownership of land and between ownership and control. Her study has suggested today for women to gain effective rights in land will require not only removing existing gender inequalities in the law, but also ensuring that the laws are implemented. It will involve strengthening women’s ability to claim and retain their rights in land as well as their ability to exercise effective control over it. In other words it will involve contestation and struggle at every level - the household, the community, and the State and on both economic and non economic fronts.

Agarwal (2000) demonstrated how institutions for natural resource management (such as community forestry groups), which appear to be participative, equitable and efficient, can be found lacking on all three counts from a gender perspective. She pointed out women are inherently more conservationist than men. Her work outlined the factors that can constrain or facilitate women’s participation in formal environmental management groups.

Aryal and Zoebisch (2004) carried out study to understand the role and perceptions of women farmers in land management and conservation, and to identify possible pathways for better representation of women’s needs in on farm land management and conservation. The study was conducted in a typical watershed in the Middle-Hill region of Nepal, with a high diversity of age, casts and education amongst the women. They highlighted Women with school education are able to understand extension messages more easily and they usually have a more ‘scientific’ approach to understanding. Their work concluded that perceptions and priorities of women do not depend upon age, castes or education alone. It is generally assumed that
educated women are more aware of land degradation and measures of conservation; but the knowledge of women who actually spend more time working on the land should not be underestimated. The contributions of women to agricultural production in the area are crucial. Therefore, the women’s potentials and capabilities need to be strengthened. The local knowledge base of women on land management needs to be further explored.

Deda and Rubian (2004) reported that women’s local and traditional knowledge is fundamental to guarantee food security and conserve biodiversity. Their study had analyzed how gender-equitable initiatives tend to assume an ad hoc character with few governments effectively involving women in their sustainable development strategies. Their work had provided insight regarding the benefits of women’s involvement in the conservation saga.

Jarvilehto (2005) in his Masters’ thesis entitled “Men and women of the forest: Livelihood strategies and conservation from the gender perspective in Ranomafana National Park, Madagascar” investigated how men and women living near the Ranomafana National Park buffer zone differ in their natural resource use and livelihood. Secondly, he showed how the establishment of the Park has influenced people living in the buffer zone from the gender point of view. His work suggested that the gender perspective had to be taken into account in protected area management to assure that the voices of the people, who are in a weaker position in their communities, often women, will be heard and that their position will not be weakened by the conservation activities. According to him, more research on the gendered impacts of nature conservation is needed.

Panda and Agarwal (2005) highlighted the unexplored factor underlying women’s risk of marital violence namely women’s property status. They had tried to correlate the various factors associated with women like household characteristics, socio-demographic characteristics, education, women’s economic status – employment and property ownership. Their work had highlighted the measures to improve women’s access to immovable property such as housing and land are important not only for well recognized reasons of enhancing women’s livelihood options and overall empowerment but also reducing their risk of marital violence.

Kamerimbote (2006) had studied women, land rights and the environment in Kenya. She pointed out that land and environmental resources were central to the lives of people living in countries whose economic development and subsistence
depended on the resources. She focused on environmental resources, women’s access to and control over forests, as well as water and wildlife. These issues have come into sharp focus as it has become clear that the performance of women’s day-to-day chores was anchored to these resources. Her work had made an attempt to understand and clarify the fact that environmental laws do not recognize the roles of women and facilitate their performance thereof. Indeed wildlife, forest, water and agriculture laws are gender neutral. The only innovation that has recently been introduced in a bid to decentralize natural resource management is the involvement of communities in resource management.

2.5 Aims and Objectives of the Study

The thrust of the present study was to conserve the protected area through community participation. It aims to correlate people and Parks by providing employment opportunity to the population surrounding the protected area zone. Furthermore this thesis explains the effect of eco-development project in the conservation of the study area. With this point of view, the researcher hopes that this thesis helps to illuminate issues relating to these “People and Park conflict” and indicates the way forward. In the light of the above, the specific objectives of present study are as follows

1) To study and analyze the benefits and problems (socio-cultural and economic) of community-based Eco-tourism Management in the Great Himalayan National Park.

2) To establish the linkage between community-based people’s participation, sustainable development and socio-economic upliftment in the Park.

3) To study the effects of Eco-development projects in conservation of the GHNP.

4) To study the role of women in conservation and development.

5) To study the need of the local people with respect to the GHNP and how these may be sustainably fulfilled.
2.6 Need and Significance of the Study

The problems of the protected areas require better measures to check its further decline and degradation. It is the need of the hour to introduce community-based participation work in the protected areas for its sustainable development. The present study involves a systematic and social approach to CBEM (community-based eco-tourism management). The main purpose of thesis is to investigate the peoples' participation in conservation of natural resources. Here major emphasis has been given on role of women and CBEM as conservation tools in protected area. Furthermore this thesis explains how to achieve goals of conservation by involving local people. The results occurring from the present study will help bring forth the better management and conservation of national parks by enhancing its relation to community based work. The study shall be useful in evaluating socio-economic impacts due to eco-tourism. The data collected from the present research work would help in establishing proper planning and management of protected areas. The results will help in making fruitful suggestions and recommendations for remedial measures and designing strategies for the development and conservation of protected areas. With this point of view researcher hopes that this thesis facilitates to illuminate the issues related to the people and park conflict in Great Himalayan National Park and indicates the way forward. After reviewing the literature available on the issue and the survey conducted in and around the study area, the aims and objectives of the research work were clearly stated. Based on this, the research needs to be approached with the right methodology. With the purpose of getting the correct and the latest data required for the above aims and objectives, various methods like interviews, questionnaires, observation and surveys were used. The next chapter discusses the methodology used in data collection for the purpose of research.