

# Mini-Nepal of Nepal and Ghumte Peak, Baglung: An Economic Potentialities

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**Abstract:** This article aims to explore economic potentialities of Ghumte Peak, Baglung in terms of tourism, herbs/shrubs and livestock. It is the results of combining qualitative information and feedbacks derived from field observation, opinion survey, and interviews with locals, telephone conversation with tourism experts and quantitative data obtained from corresponding VDCs, DDC and Ghumte Development Forum (GDF), Baglung. Owing to heart-touching culture, trekking, wildlife observation, rock-climbing, site seeing, hunting, slate mines, organic production, herbs/shrubs and livestock potentialities of Ghumte Peak and its surrounding area, this area is found as an asset/nectar tree. But it depends on multi-pronged approach of development and co-operation among civil society, development partners, local/national/international governments and financial institutions.

**Keywords:** economic Potentialities, Ghumte Peak, herbs, livestock, Nepal, tourism.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Nepal is a small country in between two big emerging economic powers of Asia, China in the North and India in the East, West and South with open borders. Nepal is highly diverse in geography, culture and religions and at the same time very rich in natural resources [1],[2]. Nepal territory (147,181 km<sup>2</sup>) is double the size of Srilanka, 3.5 times greater than Switzerland and 6.7 times greater than Israel on the one hand and 22 times smaller than India and 6.9 times less than the size of China on the other. It has all assets of 28.5 million people, 6000 rivers, 5000 species of plants, 175 species of animals, 850 species of birds and 6000 species of butterflies (1 Dahal, 1990). Three ecological belts: Mountains in the north, Hill in the middle, and Terai plain in the south, endowed with distinctive resources, extend from east to west for 800 kilometers. It has a four major river systems; Koshi, Gandaki, Karnali and Mahakali that have been a perennial source of civilization, nation, state and economic development from time immemorial [2],[3],[5].

Baglung, the head quarter of district and Dhawalagiri zone is located under western development region of Nepal where there are 59 VDCs and one municipality. The total population of this district is about 268,613 with 61,522 households at the present [4]. It seems like Nepal in shape and size so that it is known as mini-Nepal of Nepal.

*Ghumte* Peak is at the heart of Baglung district. Its height is about 3,120 meters and lies in between Malma, Pandavkhani, Harichaur and Hill VDCs which are the center of 16 VDCs of Galkot area. In this area, there are various economic potentialities notably tourism, herbs and livestock.

In Nepal about 83 percent of total area is covered by Mountains thus providing increased opportunities for nature and adventure based tourism including trekking, mountaineering, rafting, paragliding, cycling, wildlife observation and bird watching and cultural experiences. Tourism development in Nepal dates back to the early 1950's following the successful ascent of Mount Annapurn by Maurice Hergoz (French Mountaineer), and three years later the successful ascent of Mount Everest, world's highest peak by Tenzing Norgay (Nepalese mountaineer) and Sir Edmund Hillary (Newzealand mountaineer). But the income earned from tourism is not shared in all parts of Nepal. This has lead to tourism

entrepreneurs and development workers to seek alternative ways on how to diversify the tourism benefits to other parts of the country. Baglung, known as suspense bridge district and mini-Nepal of Nepal, has enormous areas of tourism potentialities like *Ghumte* Peak. No fruitful efforts for developing tourism infrastructure have been made from government side except publicity programs like *Ghumte Laligurash Mahotsav* and other religious programs conducted by local community in the participation of local development partners.

Tourism is a progeny of the globalization. It is smokeless vocation decentralize, service multi-faceted and legitimate industry. Now, it is studied as a golden goose that lays golden eggs. In Nepal, it is the largest industry and thus the largest source of income. Revenue generated from this source has increased and reached up to Rs. 3070.38 Crore. Its share on GDP is about 1.8 Per cent. About 160 thousand people are getting opportunities to employ directly [5]. Regarding *Ghumte* peak of Baglung district, Gurung [6] mentions that *Ghumte* peak is rich in forest, herbs and wildlife as to *Amisan* Mountain of China in bio-diversity. The author further says that organic cereal and cash crops, traditional occupations adopted by different castes of local level, different cultures of *Magars, Damai, Gaena, Bahun and Chhetri* are the tourism as well as economic potentials of that locality. He concludes and remarks that level of living of the people can be improved through the promotion of local tourism as in China but government should be responsible to develop tourism infrastructure that will be helpful to form that area as tourism village [6]. Similarly, Thapa [7] argues that no place like *Ghumte* is found anywhere. Owing to this reason, this area can be developed as religious as well as cultural centre, natural beauty and research centre by which local economy boosts up. Besides this, Khattri and Thapa [7] mention various types of herbs and tourism's enormous potentials as the assets of *Ghumte* peak [7]. But no study so far is found relying on economic potentialities notably tourism, herbs and livestock. So this study is mainly focused on these issues and answered the following research questions:

- What are the existing potentialities of *Ghumte* peak, Baglung?
- How these potentialities can change the status of people of that area?
- How will the infrastructure develop in the future that leads this area as tourism as well as research centre of Baglung and Nepal as well?

In this regard, the overall purpose of this paper is to explore the economic potentialities of *Ghumte* peak, Baglung in terms of tourism, herbs and livestock.

## 2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

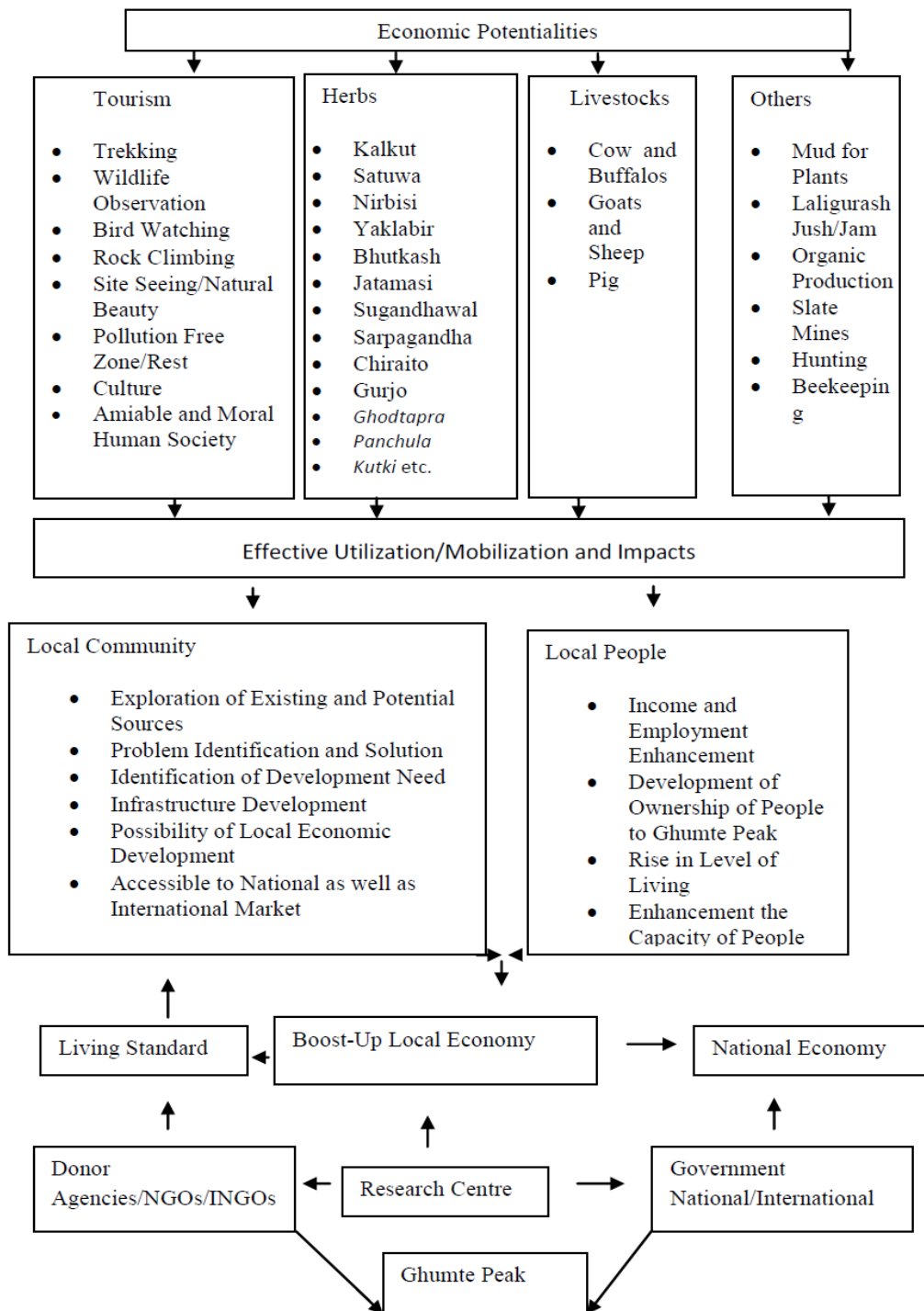
### 2.1 Study Area:

Baglung known as mini-Nepal of Nepal, the district and zonal head quarter of Baglung district and Dhawalagiri zone is located under the western development region of Nepal. *Ghumte* peak is the heart of Baglung and also of this region as well from where 16 VDCs of Baglung, 16 districts of western development region and more than 16 mountains like Dhawalagiri, Fish tails and the like can be easily seen [8]. So, it can be a representative area compared to the other development region and the district of the east and west. Furthermore, the *Ghumte* peak in Baglung district is geographically more accessible and cost effective for carrying out research works. In other words, it reflects as a microcosm of different geographical and development regions and mini-Nepal of Nepal.

### 2.2 Conceptual Framework:

Conceptual framework is a set of ideas used to structure the research, a sort of map that may include the research questions, the literature review, methods and data analysis.

An economic potentiality in this study refers to tourism, herbs, livestock and effective use of other existing resources which help the localities to boost-up their level of living. Ultimately, mini-Nepal of Nepal and *Ghumte* peak, Baglung will be developed and established as the research centre of Nepal and worlds of its kind as well.



### 3. METHODS AND MATERIALS

In this study, both exploratory and descriptive methods were employed and the data were collected from a field survey. Information pertaining to *Ghumte* peak and its potentialities were gathered applying interview method and focus group discussion guidelines. Sample area and respondents were selected by applying purposive sampling method. While collecting primary data, personal observations, opinion survey related to tourism potentialities, telephone conversation with tourism experts were mainly used as primary data collection instruments. Similarly, secondary data were collected from DDC, VDC and Galkot *Ghumte* Development Forum (GDF), Baglung. The data collected from different sources have been analyzed descriptively.

#### 4. ECONOMIC POTENTIALITIES OF GHUMTE PEAK

Economic development depends on the existing potential resources and its effective mobilization and management. In the study area, forest land, pasture land, slate mines, lakes and cave are the major natural resources. Tourism, organic production, herbs, livestock are the major economic activities. If the potentialities that the study areas have; are utilized on their full capacity, enormous amount of revenue can be generated by the use of whose development infrastructure makes possible. This paper has mainly analyzed three indicators i.e. tourism, herbs, livestock as the economic potentialities of the study area.

##### 4.1 Tourism Potentials:

Tourism is a main potential sector of the study area. Looking back to the history, *Ghumte* peak where there is Harichaur VDC in east, Pandavkhani VDC in west, Hill VDC in north and Malma VDC in southern segment, is wisely said that '*Pandav*' in Mahabharat era sat here after being defeated by the 'Kauravs' in gambling, '*Bhimsen Stick*' which is thrown here by Bhimsen of Mahabharat era, the '*Ramche Cave*' the place where Royal King Ram Shah had sat while visiting/tour, Rana Primeminister Judha Shamsher in 1995 B.S. had sat for peace owing to internal conflict amidst then Rans [8]. During Jagat Bam Malla (1844 B.S.) and Prior to Nepal's unification, Galkot where *Ghumte* peak locates, was powerful state of *Baise-Chaubise* state and prior to Panchayat System emerged and up to Bharat Bam Mall's period, it was free state under *Rajauta* [8]. Similarly, Nepal is unique in all so that Baglung known as mini-Nepal of Nepal is also unique in its culture and religion as well. Simply saying, it has its own culture, nowhere is it found. People with different categories like occupations, religion, culture and expertise live here being one soul and heart. Regarding glamour of *Ghumte* peak Thapa [7] mentions that;

I know it was end of *Baisakha*, the first month of Nepalese calendar; looked at the next twelve months with the peculiar hopes and fears which, year after year, are drawn from what we have achieved or lost in the past. I looked around I was alone thinking about moving back home and keeping close eyes to uplift tourism in the local area where my beloved *Ghumte* exists. I find myself sitting on the chairs of my business venue- Busy Bee Restaurant and Bar located in Baneshwor, Kathmandu. This tittle spot has its own creators; active, inactive and passive all as her employees are. I asked one of my waiters for a Cup of ICC Mocha Latte freshly pulled shot of espresso with chocolate power and mild over the ice. Again, I indulged in the pleasures of hope and hopelessness, joy and jubilations and allowed words like 'will I write an article, will I climb up *Ghumte* again', 'will I survive', is this the year to bounce in the eco-chamber of my own consciousness. Moreover, life, death, romance, entertainment, pleasure, pain, success, happiness and so on [8].

Again the author says, 'can we come together and build our *Ghumte* as the centre for attraction?' This statement depicts the desire of one soul people surrounding *Ghumte* peak.

In this study area, there are various tourist attractive cultures and traditions based on caste and ethnicity. The original cultures of this area are *Sorathi*, *Bhailo*, *Ghatunach*, *Sarayaanach*, *Lakhanach*, *Khukurinach*, *Asare/Sauna/Vadaura Nach*, *Bhus Polne Parva*, *Yanimaya*, *Salaijo*, *Ghumte Saila*, *Jhamregeet*, *Sarangigeet*, *BhajanKirtan*, *Naumati Baza*, *Jhakri Nach*, *Kulpuja*, *Vesh-vusha*, marriage etc. Among these cultures, *Bhush Polne Parva* and *Gopichan Nach of Mangers of Majhkharka*, *Asare Parva of Mangers of Tarakhola*, *Bhadaure and Sisnu Khosne Parva of Argali-site Mangars*, *Ghatunach of Mangers of Pandavekhani and Righa*, *Sorathinach of Mangers of Simalbot*, *Kandebash*, *Birkot and Sisakhani*, *Asaregeet of Galkot area*, *Naumati Baza of Damai*, *Sarangi of Gaine*, *Bhajan-Kirtan of Brahman*. are the famous heart-touch culture of *Ghumte* Peak surrounding area. Similarly, there are two temples in two peaks, one is temple of *Mama Shidha* in north side and another is the temple of *Bhanja Kalvairab* in southern side. People believing on unseen power go there for the purpose of fulfilling their internal desires.

Natural beauty of *Ghumte* Peak and its surrounding area is also another attractive part of tourism. It is the place from where 16 VDCs of Galkot area, 16 districts of western development region, more than 16 high peaks of Nepal, site scene of sun rise and sun set, rivers (*Daram*, *Gaudi*, *Girandi*, *Badigad* etc.), surrounding peaks (*Gaja Peak*, *Chauraha Peak*, *Kali Peak*, *Shib Peak*, *Bhimsen Peak*, *Jailung Peak*, *Logalake*, *Ghodabadhe*), *Thalepokhara*, *Niluwa*, *Majuwa*, *Teuwa*, *Tokari*, *Jadi*, *Kotmaidan*, *Karimela*, *Galkot Rajdarbar*, *Gaighat* etc. are seen. Similarly, various types of *Laligurash*, despair wildlife, birds, valuable fruits and herbs, various *Galchi* amidst peaks, mines, rocks similar to Saligram are the natural attractions of tourism. During winter season, *Ghumte* peak looks like a man wearing green shirt (forest and herbs),

white cap (snow covering *Ghumte* Peak) and yellow paint/suruwal (fruits of oil seed on low land of *Ghumte*). As said by locals, using high power binocular, most of the part of Nepal even Kathmandu valley can be observed. But the author's view is whatever is said it is the issue for further research. These are the public assets and common property of Baglung and heart to tourists as well.

#### 4.2 Herbs/Shrubs Potentials:

Herbs are other important potential sources of *Ghumte* and its surrounding area. As said by locals during field survey and an interview taken with them, *Ghumte* is not only famous for tourism; it is also potential area for different types of herbs through which enormous amount of revenue can be generated in this area. More than hundred types of herbs are available there. Herbs reaching abroad are becoming valuable assets but most of the people of that area are still unknown where the herbs go and what the utilization of them is. Of the hundreds, notable herbs found in this area are *Kalkut*, *Satuwa*, *Nirbisi*, *Yaklabir*, *Bhutkash*, *Jatamashi*, *Sugandhawal*, *Sarpagandha*, *Chiraeto*, *Pasanved*, *Raktamul*, *Gurjo*, *Ghodtapra*, *Pachaule* and *Kutki*. Using this herbs, different medicine are made by different countries and are sent to Nepal testing them [9].

The people of *Ghumte* Peak surrounding area are still using herbs/shrubs traditionally to heal the various diseases of human and domestic animals. They use root, leaf, bark, flower, fruits, seed and the whole plants as well according to the nature of diseases and properties of the herbs/shrubs and plant parts. The parts of various types of herbs/shrubs are used to treat fever, cough, cold, headache, asthma, jaundice, skin diseases, removing worms, stomach ailments, fracture, gynecological disease of female, heating sensation and the like in the form of juice, powder, paste, liquid form and *goli*. Of the herbs, *Kalkut* which is also called *Bikha*, extremely poisonous herbs and is used in leprosy, fever, cholera and rheumatism; *Kurilo* is used in diarrhea, diabetes, brain complaints; *Kutki* is used in fever, high blood pressure, gastritis, intestinal pain, pile problem; *Jatamashi* is used in leprosy, epilepsy, hysteria fever, stomachache, constipation, medicinal oil; *Raktamul* is used in fever, menstruation trouble and dysentery *Satuwa* is used in antidotic, anthelmintic; *Panchaule* is used in fever, disorder of stomach and paste applied on wound; *Sugandhawal* is used in headache, sore throat and indigestion; *Siltimur* is used in aromatic tonic in fever, cholera, toothache, and stomachache; *Padamchal* is used in fracture, sore, gastritis, bleeding during menstruation; *Ghodatapre* is used in rheumatism, leprosy, skin diseases, wound, gastritis, urinary problem and *Sarpagandha* is used in stomachache disorder, high pressure, bleeding and brain complaints. Some notable herbs and shrubs around *Ghumte* Peak area and their botanical name are mentioned in table as follows:

**Table.1 Major Herbs/Shrubs in Ghumte Peak and Their Botanical Name**

S.N.	Local Name	Botanical Name
1.	Kalkut/Bishma (Bish)	<i>Aconitum ferox</i>
2.	Satuwa	<i>Paris polyphella</i>
3.	Nirbisi	<i>Delphenium himalayai</i>
4.	Yaklabir	N.A.
5.	Bhutkash	<i>Gentiana robusta</i>
6.	Jatamashi	<i>Nandostochys grandiflora</i>
7.	Sugandhawal	<i>Valerina jatamasii</i>
8.	Sarpagandha	<i>Rauvoldia serpentina</i>
9.	Chiraito	<i>Swertia angustifolia</i>
10.	Pashanved	<i>Bergenia ciliata</i>
11.	Raktamul	<i>Geranium wallichianum</i>
12.	Gurjo	<i>Tinospora sinensis</i>
13.	Ghodtapre	<i>Hydrocotyle Nepalensis</i>
14.	Panchaule	<i>Gymnadenia orchidis</i>
15.	Kutki	<i>Picrorhiza scrophulariiflora</i>

If such enormous herbs/shrubs potentialities that *Ghumte* Peak area has, are utilized effectively, the status of people and the settlement of the whole community will automatically boost-up. Nobody will die accidentally in the lack of medicine. Nobody will have to go abroad leaving asset tree (*Ghumte*) surrounding them for the purpose of earning foreign currency. Herbs around *Ghumte* are the nectar tree from whose proper mobilization and management, income and employment, level of living and capacity of the people will be enhanced ownership of people to *Ghumte* Peak will be developed as per the changing era of Nepal. Ultimately, this area will be accessible to national as well as international market.

#### 4.3 Livestock Potentials:

The sustainability of development depends on the development of rural areas and the development of rural areas specially depends on the livestock pattern of the country. Livestock specially refer to cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats and pig etc. These are the liquid assets of the rural area farmer's wealth portfolio and also an effective means of overcoming various socio-economic problems.

Livestock is a fully local resource-centered activity. An effectiveness of livestock depends on landholding size, availability of forest, availability of grazing land, appropriate government policy and the desire of people of the community as well. *Ghumte* Peak, the heart of Baglung district and the center for the 16 VDCs of Galkot area, has enormous potentialities of livestock especially cattle, buffalo, goats and sheep owing to its wide forest and grazing land.

Animal products are the primary source of protein for human beings. They provide more than 30 percent calories in diet but in less developed countries, this percent is less than 10. Health and physical status of the people of any country depends upon the per-capita availability of livestock/animal products in addition to other foods. In developing countries, there is per-capita 17.7 kg. Meat and 36.6 kg. Milk per head which is less than a trend to be found in the developed countries that is 81.6 kg. Meat and 200 kg. Milk per head [10]. In this regards, livestock profession in *Ghumte* Peak helps to reduce the problems of malnutrition of the rural poor people by supplying the nutritious food items. Similarly, saleable and divisible livestock products and assets help to generate the cash income of the people. Livestock products such as milk, meat, wool, hides/skins, bones and live animals will be the main source of cash income of the local people of *Ghumte* area. It provides power for cultivation and transport (Oxen and Male Buffalo) on rural areas. It is renewable source of energy which avoids the demands for foreign currency. It also helps to increase soil productivity and protects environment. It can provide raw materials for the industrial sector. It can be the converter of the low quality roughage into the valuable products. In this situation, running livestock profession in *Ghumte* Peak area will positively affect all people's lives and their economic status.

The livestock potentialities of *Ghumte* Peak will provide food security (milk, meat, hides/bones) and create employment opportunity for local people, raw material for local industries, input (manure) for agriculture production and energy (dung for burning, bio-gas installation) for cooking through which local economy will be boost-up.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The hidden potentialities of *Ghumte* Peak are the liquid assets of Baglung district. The existing potentialities of *Ghumte* Peak and its surrounding areas depict that it is nector tree by which employment opportunity generation, industrial development with the indigenous sufficiency, low cost input for agriculture development, energy and fuel sufficiency, food security and high nutrition and environment protection will be possible. It is the place where fertile mud for plants and organic production, slate mines, bee honey, handicrafts, hunting place, juice made from *laligurash* etc. can be made available and are needed to be explored. Owing to enormous potentialities of tourism, herbs, livestock and other of *Ghumte*, this region can be established as a research centre of the area. Then the local as well as national economy will be boost-up through the proper utilization and mobilization of economic potentialities of this area. No brain drain will be boring by the district and demographic bonus will be gained. As said by the locals nobody will have to die in the scarcity of resources if such potentialities are utilized effectively. However, single participation of local people for the development of this area as a research centre of herbs and livestock is not possible. For this, multi-pronged approach of development and co-operation among civil society, development partners, national and international donors, expert teams, government and its effective policy are essential as per the changing era of Nepal.

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