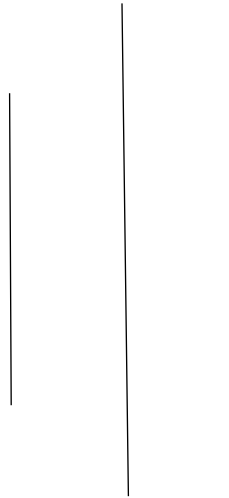


Shree Bajrabarahi Secondary School

A Project Work

On

Sociology



Submitted by:

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Submitted to: Surendra Maharjan

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Shree Bajrabarahi Secondary School

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In partial Fulfillment of requirement

For class XII NEB

Date: 2081/11/25

Recommendation

This is to certify that Mrs. Uprema Shrestha has prepared this report entitled "Problems and Prospects of Sali Nadi Temple" under my guidance and supervision for the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Grade 12 Sociology report. This report represents the candidate's original work and has not been submitted for any other academic purpose. I hereby recommend this work for evaluation and approval.

.....

Mr. Surendra Maharjan

Report Supervisor

Department of Humanities

Shree Bajrabarahi Higher Secondary School

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External Supervisor

Date: 2081/11/25

Declaration

I hereby declare that the project entitled "Sali Nadi", submitted to Class XII Humanities, is an original piece of work completed under the supervision of Mr. Surendra Maharjan at Shree Bajrabarahi Secondary School, Chapagaun, Lalitpur. This project is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the NEB examination.

Signature:

Uprema Shrestha

Date: 2081/11/25

Supervisor's Recommendation

The project work report entitled "Sali Nadi", submitted by Uprema Shrestha of Shree Bajrabarahi Secondary School, Chapagaun, Lalitpur, has been prepared under my supervision in accordance with the prescribed procedures and format requirements set by Shree Bajrabarahi Secondary School for the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Class XII NEB examination. I, therefore, recommend this project for evaluation.

Mr. Surendra Maharjan

Shree Bajrabarahi Secondary School

Chapagaun, Lalitpur

Date: 2081/11/25

Certification

This is to certify that the project work report entitled "Sali Nadi", prepared by Uprema Shrestha of Shree Bajrabarahi Secondary School, Chapagaun, Lalitpur, has been submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for external evaluation.

Signature:

Mr. Roshan Maharjan

Coordinator

Date: 2081/11/25

Acknowledgement

I would like to express my special thanks to our coordinator Mr. Roshan Maharjan and principle Mr Rameshowr Maharjan and subject teacher Mr. Surendra Maharjan who gave me golden opportunity to do this wonderful project on the topic “Sali Nadi”. We three students have worked together to complete the project work. I would also like to thank my friends and family who helped me to complete the project on limited time frame.

Signature:

Uprema Shrestha

Date: 2081/11/25

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Introduction

Sali Nadi, also known as Sali Nadi, is a sacred river located in the Sankhu area of Kathmandu Valley, Nepal. It holds significant religious and cultural importance, particularly for Hindus, as it is associated with the Sali Nadi Mela, a festival observed mainly by women. The river is believed to have spiritual cleansing properties, and devotees visit the site to take ritual baths and perform religious rites.

Near the river lies the Sali Nadi Temple, which is dedicated to Goddess Swasthani, an incarnation of Goddess Parvati. The temple is a prominent pilgrimage site, especially during the Swosthani Brata Katha festival, a month-long Hindu observance that begins on the full moon of Poush (December–January) and ends on the full moon of Magh (January–February). During this period, devotees—especially women—observe strict fasting, worship Goddess Swasthani, and recite the Swosthani Brata Katha, a sacred Hindu text that narrates stories about the power of Goddess Swasthani, Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu, and their divine interventions. Many pilgrims believe that performing rituals at Sali Nadi during this period brings prosperity, well-being, and marital harmony.

The Sali Nadi Mela, held alongside the Swosthani Brata, is a grand religious fair where thousands of pilgrims from across Nepal gather at the riverbanks to take ritual baths, offer prayers, and participate in religious activities. The river is believed to wash away sins, and devotees often stay in Sankhu for the entire month, engaging in daily worship and meditation. The festival not only has religious significance but also plays a vital cultural and social role, as people from different regions come together, making the site a vibrant spiritual and communal hub.

Sankhu, where Sali Nadi and the Salinadi Temple are located, is an ancient Newar settlement with a rich historical and cultural heritage. The presence of the Swosthani Brata Katha festival and Salinadi Mela has preserved Nepal's deep-rooted Hindu traditions, reinforcing the spiritual connection between the devotees and their faith.

Statement of Problem

Sali Nadi Temple, a sacred Hindu pilgrimage site located in Sankhu, Nepal, holds religious and historical significance, particularly during the Swosthani Brata Katha festival. However, despite its spiritual importance, the temple and its surrounding areas face several challenges that could impact its sustainability and cultural preservation. The key issues include:

Lack of Infrastructure Development

- Poorly maintained pathways and roads make it difficult for pilgrims, especially the elderly, to access the temple.
- Insufficient sanitation facilities, including toilets and clean drinking water, pose health risks to visitors.
- Limited accommodation and resting spaces lead to overcrowding during the festival period.

Environmental Degradation

- Large amounts of waste, including plastic materials, food leftovers, and ritual offerings, are discarded in and around the river.
- Deforestation and soil erosion around the riverbanks have altered the ecological balance.
- Improper disposal of religious materials (such as flowers, vermilion, and ashes) has led to water pollution.

Overcrowding and Management Issues

- The Swosthani Brata Katha festival attracts thousands of devotees, causing extreme congestion.
- The lack of organized crowd control measures increases safety concerns, particularly for children and elderly pilgrims.
- Traffic congestion in Sankhu during peak festival periods disrupts the daily lives of residents.

Declining Interest Among Younger Generations

- Younger generations show less enthusiasm for traditional rituals and religious events.
- With the rise of modernization, oral traditions and cultural narratives are forgotten.
- The absence of digital documentation and awareness programs has limited efforts to engage youth in temple conservation.

Lack of Government and Institutional Support

- The absence of a structured conservation plan has left the temple vulnerable to natural and human-made damage.
- Limited government funding and community initiatives prevent sustainable development projects from being implemented.
- Religious sites often fall outside of mainstream tourism strategies, reducing financial investments for preservation.

Objectives of the Study

The primary objectives of this research are:

1. To explore the historical and cultural significance of Sali Nadi Temple.
2. To identify key challenges affecting the temple and its surroundings.
3. To evaluate the impact of religious tourism on the environment and local communities.
4. To analyze the role of governmental and non-governmental organizations in conservation efforts.
5. To propose sustainable strategies for improving infrastructure, environmental management, and cultural preservation.

Data Collection

To ensure a comprehensive and well-rounded study, both primary and secondary data collection methods were utilized. The research incorporated direct interactions, expert opinions, field observations, and historical records to gain a deeper understanding of the issues and prospects of Sali Nadi Temple.

Primary Data

Surveys and Questionnaires

Surveys and structured questionnaires were distributed among various stakeholders to understand their perspectives on religious significance, conservation challenges, and necessary improvements.

The key respondents included:

- **Pilgrims and Devotees** – To gather insights into their experiences, concerns, and expectations.
- **Residents** – To understand the socio-economic and cultural impact of temple activities.
- **Temple Priests and Caretakers** – To document the traditional rituals and management practices.
- **Business Owners and Vendors** – To assess the economic benefits and challenges of temple tourism.

The survey questions included both qualitative (open-ended) and quantitative (multiple-choice and rating scale) formats to collect diverse opinions.

Interviews

One-on-one and group interviews were conducted with key figures who have in-depth knowledge of the temple and its surroundings. These included:

- **Religious Scholars and Historians** – To understand the mythological, historical, and cultural significance of Sali Nadi.
- **Conservation Experts** – To evaluate the environmental and heritage conservation efforts at the site.
- **Government Officials** – To examine the role of local and national authorities in the management and development of the temple.

The interviews provided expert insights into the current challenges, past conservation efforts, and potential solutions for the sustainable preservation of the site.

Field Observations

Personal visits to the Sali Nadi Temple and its surrounding areas were conducted to assess real-time conditions and validate the information gathered through surveys and interviews. The key aspects observed included:

- **Crowd Movement and Pilgrim Behavior** – Understanding how people navigate the site during peak and off-peak periods.
- **Environmental Conditions** – Assessing River pollution, waste management practices, and the overall cleanliness of the site.
- **Infrastructure and Facilities** – Evaluating the availability of sanitation, drinking water, seating areas, and transportation access.

- **Ritual Practices** – Documenting the religious ceremonies performed during the Swosthani Brata Katha festival and other occasions.

Secondary Data

To complement primary data, secondary sources were extensively reviewed, including:

- **Historical Texts and Religious Scriptures** – Ancient Hindu texts and Swosthani Brata Katha stories related to Sali Nadi.
- **Academic Papers and Research Studies** – Previous scholarly works on religious tourism, temple conservation, and cultural heritage.
- **Government and NGO Reports** – Policies and initiatives on heritage preservation, tourism management, and environmental conservation.
- **Media and News Articles** – Reports covering festival activities, conservation efforts, and challenges faced by the temple.

By integrating both primary and secondary data, the research ensures a comprehensive, evidence-based analysis of the problems and prospects of Sali Nadi Temple.

Data Analysis

The collected data was systematically analyzed using a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods to derive meaningful insights. This helped in understanding the cultural significance, challenges, and prospects of the Sali Nadi Temple.

Qualitative Analysis

Descriptive Analysis

- The historical and cultural importance of Sali Nadi and its temple was examined through religious texts, interviews with scholars, and field observations.
- Patterns in traditional rituals, beliefs, and local heritage conservation efforts were documented.
- A thematic analysis was conducted on responses from devotees and priests to identify recurring religious and spiritual narratives.

Comparative Analysis

- The conservation practices and management strategies of Sali Nadi Temple were compared with other heritage sites in Nepal, such as Pashupatinath, Manakamana, and other river-centered pilgrimage sites.
- The effectiveness of religious tourism models from similar temples in India (e.g., the Ganga River pilgrimage sites) was analyzed to determine best practices for sustainable conservation.

Quantitative Analysis

Statistical Interpretation

- **Survey Data Processing:** Responses from pilgrims, residents, and business owners were categorized and quantified to identify trends in visitor concerns and expectations.
- **Percentage and Frequency Distribution:** Survey answers were analyzed to determine the proportion of visitors facing challenges like sanitation issues, transportation difficulties, and overcrowding during festivals.
- **Trend Analysis:** Yearly footfall estimates and economic contributions from religious tourism were evaluated to assess the site's growing importance.

Graphical Representation

- Bar charts, pie charts, and trend graphs were created to visually represent data related to visitor demographics, seasonal pilgrim trends, and economic benefits to the local community.
- Comparative tables were used to illustrate the differences between well-maintained pilgrimage sites and Sali Nadi Temple, highlighting areas needing improvement.

By integrating these analytical methods, the study provided evidence-based conclusions and recommendations for the sustainable preservation and promotion of Sali Nadi Temple.

Sample Questions for Data Collection

1. For Devotees and Visitors:

- What motivates you to visit Sali Nadi Temple?
- Have you noticed any changes in the temple's management over the years?
- What difficulties did you face during your visit?
- What improvements would you suggest for better pilgrimage experiences?

2. For Local Residents and Business Owners:

- How has religious tourism affected your daily life?
- Do you think the temple and river are well-maintained?
- What role should the local community play in preserving Sali Nadi?

3. For Authorities and Conservation Experts:

- What efforts have been made to maintain the temple's infrastructure?
- Are there any plans for improving sanitation and waste management?
- How can sustainable tourism practices be implemented at Sali Nadi?

Recommendations

1. Infrastructure Improvement

- Construct proper walkways, rest areas, and sanitation facilities.
- Develop dedicated parking areas to manage traffic congestion.

2. Environmental Conservation

- Establish a waste management system with proper disposal facilities.
- Promote eco-friendly rituals, such as biodegradable offerings.

3. Sustainable Tourism Management

- Implement visitor limits during peak festivals to control overcrowding.
- Introducing online platforms for information dissemination and digital tourism.

4. Cultural Preservation and Awareness

- Organize educational programs to engage the younger generation.
- Digitally document oral histories and religious texts.

5. Collaboration with Government and NGOs

- Seek grants and sponsorships for conservation projects.
- Implement policy reforms to protect religious heritage sites.

Conclusion

Sali Nadi Temple is not only a religious landmark but also a vital cultural heritage site in Nepal, deeply embedded in the spiritual and historical fabric of the country. The Swosthani Brata Katha festival, celebrated annually along the banks of the Sali Nadi, enhances its religious significance, drawing thousands of devotees who engage in sacred rituals and prayers. This festival reinforces traditional Hindu practices, fosters a sense of community, and contributes to the local economy through religious tourism.

However, despite its spiritual prominence, numerous challenges threaten the long-term sustainability of the temple and its surroundings. Poor infrastructure, inadequate sanitation, overcrowding, environmental pollution, and insufficient management have emerged as major concerns. The increasing influx of visitors, particularly during festival periods, has placed excessive strain on available resources, leading to improper waste disposal, river pollution, and deteriorating facilities. If left unaddressed, these issues could lead to irreversible damage to the temple's religious and cultural heritage.

This study highlights the urgent need for comprehensive conservation efforts that balance religious traditions with sustainable management. Key recommendations include:

- **Infrastructure Improvement:** Upgrading sanitation facilities, pathways, seating areas, and waste disposal systems.
- **Environmental Conservation:** Implementing eco-friendly waste management solutions and river protection measures.

- Sustainable Tourism Development: Promoting responsible pilgrimage tourism with proper crowd control and safety measures.
- Community Involvement: Encouraging local residents, religious groups, and conservation organizations to take an active role in temple upkeep.
- Government Collaboration: Strengthening policies and funding initiatives for the protection and development of religious heritage sites.

Only through collective action involving government authorities, local communities, conservation organizations, and religious institutions can the sanctity and legacy of Sali Nadi Temple be safeguarded for future generations. Preserving this site is not just about protecting a place of worship but also about upholding Nepal's rich cultural and spiritual heritage.

Figures



Figure 1 Sali Nadi



Figure 2 :Sali Nadi Temple

