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**Attitudes of Local People Towards Community  
Based Eco-Tourism in the Sundarbans.**



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**FORESTRY AND WOOD TECHNOLOGY DISCIPLINE  
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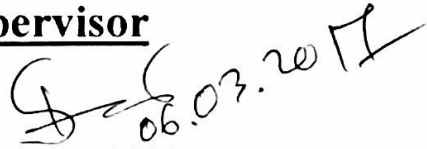
# Attitudes of Local People Towards Community Based Eco-Tourism in the Sundarbans.

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## **Declaration**

I, TanmoyDey declare that this thesis is a result of my own works and that it has not been submitted or accepted for a degree in any other University or Institution

I, hereby, give consent for my thesis, if accepted, to be available for photocopying and for inter library loan, for the title and summary to be made available to outside organization

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**Date:**

Dedicated  
To  
My Parents  
And  
My Grandmother and Aunts

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TanmoyDey

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## **Abstract**

The purpose of the study was to ascertain the attitude of local peoples' towards community based ecotourism (CBET). The study was done by questionnaire survey with purposive selection on the basis of diversity of occupation and sex in that area. The selected characteristics of the respondents were considered as the independent variable. Attitude towards community base ecotourism was the dependent variable. A 5- point rating scale was used to measures the attitude towards community based ecotourism. Most of the people of the study are poor on the basis of income and depends on forest. Out of 90 respondents, 69% are male and 31% are female. Interview schedule was used for collecting data from the sampled respondents during January 2016 to March 2016. Most of the people of the study area are fisherman among male and housewife among women. Natural beauty of the Sundarbans area is diversified as 62% respondents strongly agree with this and have facilities to watch wildlife as 60% strongly agree with this. Communication facilities of the study area are not so good but moderate according to respondents. In the study area house stay condition and toilet and bathing condition is good as 56% respondents agree with this and 68% respondents agree respectively. Drinking water facilities is not good as 40% strongly disagree with this. In the study area security of the tourists is good as 64% respondents agree with this. Community based Eco-tourism (CBET) has possibility to provide alternative job opportunity as 41% respondents agree with this. CBET will increase income and have long term benefit as 43% and 48% respondents agree with this respectively. CBET will help to develop market and increase rate of education. People said that CBET will reduce disturbance of forests and also illegal harvesting. Forest department are cooperative and tourists are more conscious now. People are now satisfied by community based ecotourism and keen to involve with this. So, in Khulna and District has great opportunity to develop CBET.



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## Chapter One

### Introduction

#### 1.1. General

The term “community-based ecotourism” is used to describe ecotourism ventures that are characterized by high environmental consideration, increased control and involvement of the local residents, as well as significant benefits for the host community (WWF, 2001). This concept is clearly distinguished from other ecotourism ventures that are largely or even totally planned and managed by outside operators and generate negligible benefits for local people (Scheyvens, 1999). Community-based ecotourism (CBET) refers more specifically to tourism activities or enterprises that involve local communities; it operates in their lands, and is based on their cultural and natural assets and attractions (Nelson, 2004). In Bangladesh, CBT programmes have been recently initiated in several protected areas covering hill and deciduous forests under an Integrated Protected Area Co-management (IPAC) (2008–2013) project. The Sundarbans mangrove forest, one of the largest such forests in the world, is a potential candidate for the application of CBT programmes (Bhuiyan & Moss, 2001) due to its global ecological importance, rich biodiversity, scenic beauty, friendly host communities, presence of diverse livelihood groups, pleasant weather, etc. (Islam, Iftekhar, & Islam, 2012). CBET has the potential to reduce anthropogenic pressure on the Sundarbans by providing economic and political incentives for conservation and additional benefits to the local and regional economies (Weaver, 2006). The Sundarbans is the largest single tract of mangrove forest in the world designated as world heritage by UNESCO. Royal Bengal Tiger (*Pantheratigris*) is the iconic species of this forest. In addition, there are 291 fish species in the Sundarbans. Sundarbans, the world largest mangrove forest covers a total area bird species and different beneficial and recreational fish 210 species (SBCP, 2003). The mangrove vegetation, tigers, crocodile spotted deer and diverse bird life are an attractive destination for such tours and ecotourism is considered to be one of the most feasible and promising development for the Sundarbans (Hussain and Acharya, 1994). In recognition of the global importance of the forest, it has been declared as a Ramsar site and World Heritage Site. The Bangladesh part of the forest (Sundarbans Reserved Forest, SRF) covers 6017 km<sup>2</sup> (4.2% of the land area of the country).

The forest is already a major tourism destination. According to a Forest Department (FD) estimate, about 100,000 tourists (2% of them are foreign tourists) visit the forest every year (USDA-IRG, 2009). However, most of the benefits from tourism activities are captured by commercial enterprises. In the absence of a systematic approach of benefit-sharing, there is hardly any participation (except some direct employment) of local communities in this growing industry (Iqball, Salequzzaman, Haque, Islam, & Ahmed, 2010).

The economy of the southern region of Bangladesh is highly dependent on Sundarbans. Ecotourism being a conservation process by itself has a great potential to contribute to the economy which further could safeguard the Sundarbans. Around 3.5 million people living around the SRF are directly or indirectly dependent on the eco-system services of the forest (Giri,et.al., 2007). Recognizing the ecological and socio-economic importance, the SRF was declared as 'Ramsar site' in 1992 and the UNESCO has recognized three wildlife sanctuaries (around 140,000 ha area) of this forest as a "World Heritage Site" in 1997 (Islam, 2003). Further, the Department of Environment (DoE) has declared 10 km buffer zone around the SRF as 'Ecologically Critical Area (ECA)' in 2010, where development activities are restricted.

Experiences from community development exercises indicate that to successfully integrate local community in conservation, it is crucial to understand their relationship with the ecosystem and their view about the proposed management actions (Kumar & Kant, 2005). Unfortunately, there is little information concerning the community perception about tourism in the Bangladesh Sundarbans. At this most problems associated with tourism in the Sundarbans have not been identified as negative impact of tourism as well as not measured or evaluated except some generalized classifications. As the Sundarbans is deteriorating rapidly for various reasons and some peoples want to stay more closely to the nature, they want their development with ecologically friendly. This is a new trend around world, which is called as eco-village-a village where each component of the development and daily livelihood of the people should be on environmentally friendly. In the Sundarbans area presently peoples are realizing the ecological development in each and every activity for the long run sustainable development to persist the Sundarbans and other natural resources pollution or hazard free. The present studies were explored to assess livelihood status of the people and identify on how ecotourism could be established as an alternative livelihood in the surrounding people of the Sundarbans.

## **1.2. Problem statement**

Tourism is a rapidly growing activity in the third world countries. In the coming year it could be the largest income -generating source in the countries. During the time of reduced performance in the export sector, a number of developing countries have encouraged tourism as a source of quickly earning foreign exchange vital for their development. Bangladesh is a small country, but it has conceived too many places which could attract the tourists. Due to lack of proper management and planning these places are not attract to the person who would like to be tourists. Tourism in Bangladesh is not a fully flourished, rather a developing industry. In absence of proper understanding, favorable attitude adequate knowledge of local community toward CBET causes not only obstacles in tourism development but also incur loss of government revenue. In recent times, with the gradual development of infrastructure facilities and increasing exposition, Bangladesh is fast emerging as a tempting tourist spot. So it is needed to develop tourism in Bangladesh. The country enjoys a sub-tropical monsoon climate characterized by rain-bearing winds, moderately warm temperatures, and high humidity. While there are six seasons in a year, three namely, winter, summer, and monsoon are prominent. Winter that is quite pleasant begins in November and ends on February. Area nearby Sundarbans is a suitable place to develop CBET. For tourism development need social acceptance. Community Based Eco-Tourism (CBET) can be a form of tourism development in Bangladesh .For CBET development in Bangladesh, it is imperative to find out the real attitude of local people as local people are main stake holder of CBET. Hence, it is imperative to find out the real scenario of the attitude of the local people towards Community Based Eco- Tourism in Khulna and Satkhira District as a part of CBET development. It is also necessary to have an understanding of the factors that might contribute to change the attitude of people and the relationship between the factors with peoples' attitude towards Community Based Eco Tourism. This knowledge of people' attitude is important to enable the authority to take better managerial decision for CBET development in Khulna and Satkhira district in future.



### **1.3. Objectives:**

- To assess the prospects of community based ecotourism in the Sundarbans.
- To identify the social and economic setting of the people of the impact zone of the Sundarbans.
- To know the attitude of local stakeholders towards the community based ecotourism of Sundarbans.

### **1.4. Significance of the study**

Bangladesh is a small and over populated country. Demand for different resources is increasing day by day due to population pressure. It is very important to develop tourism activity including local people. Community-based Ecotourism (CBET) is ecotourism where local communities are the main actors so it can be helpful for tourism development. Besides, for conserving sudarbans it is important to develop CBET in Khulna and Satkhira district. Improved understanding, views, feelings and aspiration of community would enable improvements in the design and operation of CBET development activities and policy framework for government and NGOs. So, the main focus of the study was to assess the people 'attitudes towards CBET. The researcher believes that the finding of the study will find out the limitations related to participation of the local community in CBET activities. The researcher also believes that the finding of the study will be useful to the students and future researcher of this field and will get some ideas to enhance their future understanding regarding people' attitude towards CBET. Moreover, the finding of the study will applicable to Khulna and Satkhira districts. However, the finding will also have implications for other areas of the country having similarity towards its target community in different places and different duration of time. An understanding of people may serve as a feedback to authority to develop CBET in Bangladesh. So that, the results will help the policy makers to efficiently manage of CBET.

## Chapter Two

### Literature Review

#### 2.1. General

Mathieson and Wall (1982) created a good working definition of tourism "the temporary movement of people to destinations outside their normal places of work and residence, the activities undertaken during their stay in those destinations, and the facilities created to cater to their needs."

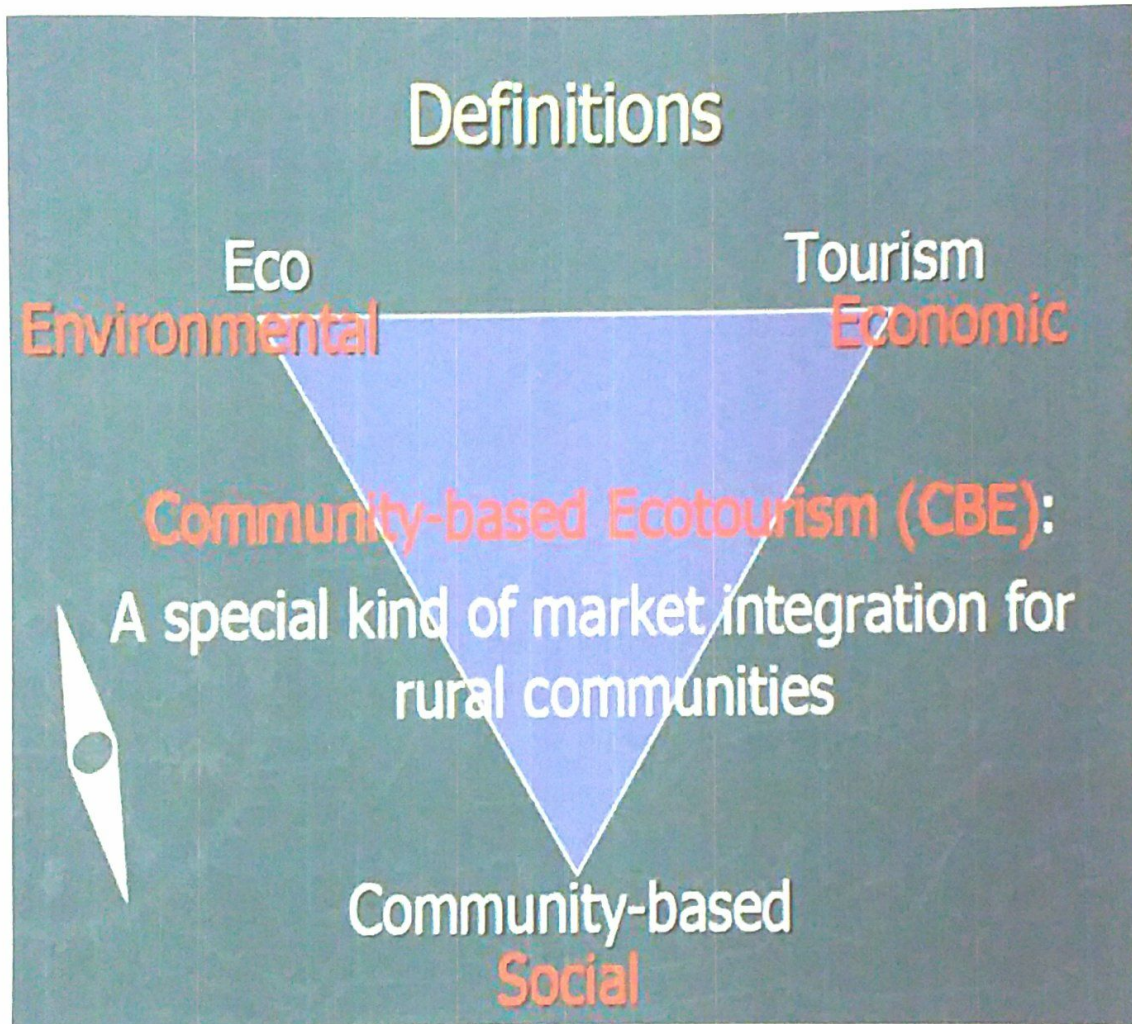
According to Macintosh and Goeldner (1986) tourism is "the sum of the phenomena and relationships arising from the interaction of tourists, business suppliers, host governments and host communities in the process of attracting and hosting these tourists and other visitors."

The World Conservation Union (IUCN) defines ecotourism as "... Is environmentally responsible travel and visitation to relatively undisturbed natural areas, in order to enjoy and appreciate nature (and any accompanying cultural features – both past and present) that promotes conservation, has low negative visitor impact, and provides for beneficially active socio-economic involvement of local populations." (IUCN, 1996).

According to oxford dictionary "Community is a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common" "CBT is tourism that takes environmental, social, and cultural sustainability into account. It is managed and owned by the community, for the community, with the purpose of enabling visitors to increase their awareness and learn about the community and local ways of life", (REST, 1997).

Community based ecotourism, as defined by WCN -The World Conservation Union, is "environmentally, responsible travel and visitation to relatively undisturbed natural areas and local communities in order to enjoy, study, and appreciate nature (and any accompanying cultural features- tangible and intangible heritage -both past and present), that promotes conservation, has low visitor impact, and provides for beneficially active socio- economic involvement of local populations"

The relationship between tourism and conservation can be a symbiotic one. The benefits that a well-managed coastal area can accrue to the tourist industry are clear; however, tourism can also facilitate the protection of coastal areas. If tourism is properly controlled, it can create the conditions necessary to support the process of conservation through productive planning and comprehensive management (Eber, 1992).



**Fig; 2.1 Three main aspects of community base ecotourism**  
**Source: (Environmental Strategies, Professor: Steven Wolf)**

## **2.2. Economic aspects of CBET**

“Ecotourism is described here as a special kind of market integration for rural communities. Encounters between hosts and guests in ecotourism are transactions that involve more than the exchange of money for goods or services; they also involve the trade of expectations and ideas about nature and culture.” Also, when ecotourism is community-based, it essentially brings the market home, and this allows for different ways of participating in the market economy without necessarily or irreversibly disrupting normal livelihoods or social relations. For example, parks must look to another source of revenue that can rival the income from poaching. Indeed, sale of some animal species and their parts has long been a successful way of benefiting from wildlife. Demand has increased and this calls for new ways of protection. “Asian pharmacists pay cash — astronomic prices for rhino horn to grind into medicine. Yemeni men lay out more than \$1,000 for a carved rhino-horn dagger” (Knox ,1990).”

## **2.3. Environmental Aspects of CBET**

By making the local economy more sustainable ecotourism also gives more support for environmental conservation and fosters sustainable development. New management practices can also encourage the reduction of tourist pressure on critical areas. An example of this is given by ecotourism practices in Costa Rica, where: Admission fees were raised by a factor of 10 in 1994 (from \$1.5 to \$15 for foreign visitors). In consequence, visitor numbers plummeted by an average of 44% in the following year (Raterman, 1997), but total revenues increased substantially. This way, it was possible to combine the maximization of economic benefits and reduce the pressure on ecosystems. Admission fees are a means to keep the number of visitors within an ecosystem’s carrying capacity (McNeely,1990), or to limit growth rates, so that planning, management and control measures are not outpaced by the development (Lindberg, 1991).

## **2.4. Social aspects of CBET**

From a social perspective, ecotourism is meant to enhance respect and interest in local natural history and culture, but also to encourage the sharing of expectations and ideas about nature and culture between tourists and locals. It should also increase local awareness and education and

provide better linkages between actors in their local environment, such as local officials, NGOs and communities. As a whole, it relies on both economic and environmental goals to benefit the communities. It is clear that these benefits will allow this environmental strategy to be effective. “Look at the rhino from the Zambians’ perspective: here’s an animal walking around with

## **2.5. Community-Based Ecotourism and Poverty Alleviation**

Poverty alleviation through tourism is defined as tourism that generates net benefits to the poor, not only economic benefits, but also creating positive socio-cultural and environmental benefits to the poor (Ashley, 2001). Many countries have adopted community-based ecotourism as a tool for poverty alleviation. In Asia, the Greater Mekong Sub-region comprising Cambodia, The People’s Republic of China, Laos Peoples Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam have set up paradigm related poverty alleviation strategies which stated that community-based ecotourism should be a major source of securing the biodiversity in the sub-region and playing a major role in tackling the issue of poverty (WTO,2005). There has been an employment creation on part-time basis as guides, drivers and home stay managers and service payment benefits which they used to fund community development projects such as agriculture, school projects, water among others. Africa’s poverty is at the centre stage in contemporary development debates because the situation is bad and getting worse. In accordance with the Millennium Development Goals, the World Tourism Organization has placed tourism at the front of poverty reduction in Africa. Community-based ecotourism in particular has been advocated for within the academic literature as an important community economic development strategy due to the potential economic and social benefits that the sector can generate while also protecting the natural resource base (Mulindwa, 2007). In Tanzania, community-based ecotourism has been embraced as a tool for poverty alleviation. A bulk of tourism investment is concentrated in a small number of globally community owned famous parks in the northern parts of the country such as Serengeti, Ngorongoro, Tarangire, Lake Manyara among others (Nelson, 2004). In Ghana community-based ecotourism has received much attention at the national level due to opportunities it has created for rural communities to earn income and has created tourism related jobs through the conservation of local ecosystem and culture. These gains have been consolidated as a show of significant impact on poverty alleviation (Ghana Tourism Authority, 2010).

## 2.6. Challenges to Community-Based Ecotourism

In terms of community-based ecotourism management, there are some issues of concern such as carrying capacity and the problem of benefit flow to local people at ecotourism sites (Bhoj and Jan, 2007). By definition, ecotourism prefers small number of tourists but in many cases, control and monitoring of the carrying capacities of target areas are often difficult. The impact of tourism on the environment includes depletion of natural resources, pollution, soil erosion, natural habitat loss, increased pressure on endangered species and heightened vulnerability to forest fires (Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, 2011). Negative impacts from tourism occur when the level of visitor use is greater than the environment's ability to cope with this use within the acceptable limits of change. There are arguments about the influx of tourists, economic benefits from tourism and infrastructure development which suggest that if these are not managed properly, they may turn ecotourism into mainstream mass tourism. Currently, there are negative impacts in some instances, but these could increase in the long-term and as noted by (Authapon and Suthida, 2010), all stakeholders including local people have had very little experiences in managing co tourism and its varying objectives. Several critical factors according to them have been noted as constraints for the progress of poverty alleviation through community-based ecotourism: (a) limited access of the poor to the tourism market; (b) lack of commercial viability for their product in term of value and price; (c) weak marketing capability; (d) lack of intergovernmental suitable policy framework and (e) inadequate knowledge about tourism and service skill, managing and implementing at local level. But employment and education can also bring negative social impacts. "Tribal elders traditionally hold most of the knowledge and respect of the community. As the younger generation gain jobs and money from tourism, they may also gain prestige that rivals the elders. Their income from ecotourism is frequently many times what a villager makes from traditional means. This can lead to jealousy, and even murder, as in the case of a young Malagasy guide who was stoned to death by his peers (Jolly *pers. comm.*). Uncontrolled growth of tourism and the influx of western values can erode the local culture."

Another negative impact of ecotourism is the increased pressure on the region created by tourism in some areas, even when practiced as ecotourism. This includes trash, increased use of natural resources, etc. "Higher standards of living (a benefit from ecotourism) have attracted mainland Ecuadorians to the Galapagos, producing an uncontrolled growth of 12% a year in the local

population. This creates several problems: resentment of “newcomers taking jobs..., shortages of basic foods at local shops and raised prices” (Boo, 1990). Additional negative social impacts include: begging by children; incompatibility of local versus foreign customs as female visitors dress inappropriately; social dualism; and growth of hostility towards tourists due to expatriation and overcrowding. Without proper planning and control of ecotourism, the attitudes of the local inhabitants towards tourism can go from “euphoria to apathy to annoyance to antagonism” (Long, 1990).

## **2.7. The following are the key elements of CBET:**

### **2.7.1. Natural and Cultural Resources**

1. Natural resources are well preserved
2. Local economy and modes of production depend on the sustainable use of natural resources
3. Customs and culture are unique to the destination

### **2.7.2. Community Organizations**

1. The Community shares consciousness, norms and ideology
2. The Community has elders who hold local traditional knowledge and wisdom.
3. The Community has a sense of ownership and wants to participate in its own development

### **2.7.3. Management**

1. The Community has rules and regulations for environmental, cultural, concepts of CBET.
2. A local organization or mechanism exists to manage tourism with the ability to link tourism and community development.
3. Benefits are fairly distributed to all.
4. A percentage of profits from tourism are contributed to a community fund for economics.

### **2.7.4. Learning**

Tourism activities and services aim at:

1. Fostering a shared learning process between hosts and guests.
2. Educating and building understanding of diverse cultures and ways of life.
3. Raising awareness of natural and cultural conservation among tourists and local community.

## **2.8. Local community participation in Community-Based Ecotourism**

Local community participation in all endeavors of ecotourism is not a new concept. The word participation implies how and to what extent people are able to share their views, take part in an activity, project, programme, decision-making, profit sharing and other issues related to the tourism development process. The most important reason for the inclusion of local inhabitants in ecotourism is equity, taking into consideration the conservation of the area through ecotourism development which inevitably entails restrictions in the traditional usage of local resources by the residents (Lindberg, 1998). In fact, numerous studies indicate the importance of incorporating the perceptions, values and interest of the local people in the very region where the ecotourism resource/destination is found (Thomson,2002). The involvement of local people should be encouraged from the very beginning by promoting public dialogue and by enabling them to participate in the process of decision making and profit sharing (Diamantis, 2004). The main underlying concept for the development of community-based ecotourism is the empowerment of local people. This is only possible when ecotourism planning takes into consideration the views, the perceptions and preferences of the local inhabitants (WWF-International,2001). Community participation in community-based ecotourism makes the project sustainable and attains the objective in its establishment. When people do not receive sufficient benefits as a result of non- participation, they are prone to develop negative attitude towards ecotourism development. This might occur for example when indigenous people whose survival depends heavily upon the exploitation of the natural resource perceive tourism as a threat that deprives them of their livelihood by competing with others over land and resource (Ross and Wall, 1999).In such instances, community-based ecotourism is very likely to either fail completely or not succeed to the minimum possible degree thus, remaining far from the desired sustainability (McCool and Moisey, 2001).

## **2.9. Stakeholders in Community-Based Ecotourism**

Stakeholders are organizations, individuals and institutions directly or indirectly involved in development, operation and management of community-based ecotourism projects. The organizations include governmental agencies such as research institutions, non-governmental institutions, local people, traditional authorities and tourists. Stakeholder's interest in community- based ecotourism can affect the outcome of tourism development. In fact, tourism is



complex and dynamic, with linkages and independencies and therefore requires multiple stakeholders with diverse and divergent views and values. Stakeholders assume collective responsibilities for the ongoing directions and success of any ecotourism establishment (Gray, 1989). Community-based ecotourism should therefore involve collaborative effort of all the stakeholders to avoid creation of imbalances and uneven development of ecotourism sites. The ecotourism industry is complex because of its nature and dynamics between its stakeholders (Lawrence, et.al., 1997). Each group brings to the industry its own set of interests, capabilities, strategies and traditions and if not well structured conflict may arise and at the end, the community-based ecotourism may not give the desired benefits to the stakeholders involved.

### **2.10. Benefits of Community-Based Ecotourism**

Community-based ecotourism helps improve standard of living for example through increased disposable income of individuals. Besides these, there is an underlying concept of development of community-based ecotourism which is empowerment of local people. In particular, the concept of empowerment of host communities can be divided into four different categories: Economic, psychological, social and political. In economic terms, ecotourism generates long-term benefits that are distributed equitably within the host communities and can be used for the constant improvement of the community's infrastructure. Moreover, ecotourism can contribute to the psychological empowerment of the local people by enhancing their sense of self-esteem and by cultivating pride for their cultural and natural heritage. This happens because ecotourism reveals to the public the value of host community in terms of natural beauty or cultural uniqueness. In addition, ecotourism may strengthen social bonds within the community by promoting cooperation among its members. Finally, ecotourism brings about political empowerment, since it creates a forum for the expression of peoples' voices concerning issues of local development (Scheyvens,1999). The concept of community-based ecotourism development appears to meet the majority of the targets established in the definition of sustainable tourism, since it constitutes a tool for both social empowerment and long-term economic development of the local communities (WWF-International, 2001). This is even more crucial for small, rural and remote communities that often suffer from the lack of governmental attention and assistance. Self-development through ecotourism is particularly important for these communities, since it gives people the opportunity to utilize their own internal strengths and resources in order to

become more self-sufficient (Joppe,1996). Wearing and Neil (1999) stated that the more obvious reason to initiate an ecotourism project is to maximize the benefits of tourism, specifically:(a) additional revenue to the local business and other services, example, Medicare, banking, car hire, cottage industries, souvenir shopping, tourism attractions; (b) increased market for local products, example, locally grown produce, artifacts, value added goods thereby sustaining traditional customs; (c) employment of local labor and expertise, example , eco-tour guides, retail sales assistance, restaurant table waiting staff; (d) source of funding for the protection of and enhancement or maintenance of natural attractions and symbols of cultural heritage; and (e) heightened community awareness of the value of local indigenous culture and natural environment. Benefits to the local business area and its communities are the major reason for undertaking community-based ecotourism. It is also one of the outcomes desired by all stakeholders in community-based ecotourism.

## **2.11. Community Based Ecotourism in different countries**

### **2.11.1. Cambodia**

Cambodia is one of the fastest growing tourist destinations. Cambodians are very proud of their rich cultural heritage, particularly Angkor Wat, which is one of the Eight Wonders of the World and also included in the United Nations heritage site. After the civil war period, in 1998, the Government paid much attention to tourism by setting up the General Department of Tourism directly under the Council of Ministers. The Department is concerned about a US\$173mn for the country in 2006. Tourism is the second largest contributor, after mining, to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The country projects 1.3 million arrivals with US\$190mn generation from tourism in 2007. During the first quarter of 2007, it welcomed 420,000 visitors. It projects two million visitors with US\$290mn revenues in 2010.( Bhoj and Jon,2007).

### **2.11.2 Myanmar**

Myanmar is a country rich in cultural heritage that could easily attract tourists. However, the tight centralized planning; closed economy as well as political instability has been a major barrier to tourists visiting the country.

Myanmar has been actively involved in regional as well as sub-regional cooperation efforts for the development of both intra-regional and inter-regional tourism development. However, its tourism industry development pace is still at a modest level due to existing substandard tourism infrastructures. In 1992, the Ministry of Hotel and Tourism was formed, and in 1994 a high level Tourism Development and Management Committee was set up. Myanmar also organized “Visit Myanmar Year” in 1996 which promoted tourism industry in the country. According to the Ministry of Hotel and Tourism, the total arrival of tourists in Myanmar was 653,549 in 2005-06, and 654,602 in 2006-07. In terms of distribution of tourists region wise, Asians account for 55.7, West Europeans 30.5, North Americans 7.4, Oceanians 2.8, East Europeans 1.6, Middle East 0.9, other Americans 0.5 and Africans 0.1 percent respectively in 2006-07. The total earnings from Tourism sector were US\$178mn in 2005-06 and US\$198mn in 2006-07 (Myanmar Tourism Statistics, 2006-07). A separate policy for CBET is not emphasized from conventional development policy but ecotourism is included in all tourism promotion and marketing. In Myanmar, some of the most well-known ecotourism sites are AlaungdawKathapa National Park, Popa Mountain Park, Hlawga Wildlife Park, Shewesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary, Inlay Birds’ Sanctuary, Moyingyi Wetlands and Sein Ye Forest Camp. Limited knowledge and shortage of foreign investment are hindering the development of CBET in the country. ( Bhoj and Jon, 2007)

### **2.11.3 Thailand**

Thailand is the most successful tourism development country in the Mekong region. According to Leksakundilok (2004), international tourists visiting Thailand almost doubled from 529,860 in 1990 to 10,132,509 in 2001. The “Amazing Thailand Year” campaign (1998-99 and extended to 2000) is one of the main reasons that tourist numbers increased dramatically during 1998-2000 at the rate of 7.53, 10.5 and 11.64 percent respectively. The Government has strongly supported the investment in the sector to promote tourism at the community level. The National Ecotourism Policy was formulated by the Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research (TISTR) during 1996-97. The Policy offered a common understanding and framework for action for the various organizations and individuals involved in ecotourism. In Thailand, the main objective of the CBET is to develop sustainable tourism and quality marketing programmes. The concept was forced due to national and international awareness of environmental concerns. The aim of CBET is to preserve tourism areas to attract quality tourists to visit the country and to stay

longer. NGOs are encouraging communities to view ecotourism approach as a means of exercising control over the development of their communities instead of just responding to external forces. The National Ecotourism Policy was officially proclaimed by 1998 and followed by the National Ecotourism Action Plan 2002-06 in 2001. The State Steering Committee for Tourism headed by the Deputy Prime Minister is one of the main actors coordinating the agencies concerned with sustainable tourism development. The tourism development strategy 2010 is under implementation. This will ensure that tourism development in Vietnam is a “spread head sector in the economy” and will develop in line with cultural and ecological tourism while preserving and realizing cultural identity, good traditions and customs of the people. (Bhoj and Jon, 2007).

#### **2.11.4. Yunnan, China**

Yunnan is a Province of China with rich tourist attractions: highland plateau landscape, snow-covered mountains and canyons, various ethnic cultures and unique micro-climates. By the first half of 1990s, Yunnan had established a tourism product and services, with investment concentrated on “one centre, three tourist routes, four places, five areas, six products and nine key projects” (Zhang ,2001). Yunnan has initiated foreign investment projects in sectors such as infrastructure, agriculture and biological resources, minerals, tourism resources and environmental protection. It received more than 38 million foreign and Chinese tourists and got US\$2.48bn revenue from tourism accounting for 10 percent of the provincial GDP in 1998. It has identified priority areas for ecotourism, including five ecotourism zones and eight eco-cultural tourism routes (WTO, 2002). Some tourism projects in Yunnan are promoting “green tourism” which supports both sustainable mass tourism and ecotourism.

#### **2.11.5. Vietnam**

The tourism industry is new for Vietnam as compared to other GMS countries. The WTO reported that only 7,000 foreign tourists travelled to Vietnam in 1989 compared to about 25,000 tourists who travelled to Lao PDR in the same year. In 1991, a tourism development master plan for Vietnam was published by WTO in collaboration with UN. This plan targets the number of tourists to increase to 500,000 in 1995 and to about 1.5 million by 2000 generating 28,700 new employment opportunities (Jansen and Verbeke, 1995). Ethnic minorities’ area benefited from

CBET in Vietnam through employment opportunities and infrastructure development in the last decade. In 1999, a workshop on “Development of a National Ecotourism Strategy for Vietnam” brought together a variety of stakeholders who shared ideas and exchanged views about policy development for ecotourism. Vietnam then revised the Tourism Master Plan that includes specific guidelines for tourism in National Park and for CBET. ( Bhoj and Jon, 2007).

#### **2.11.6. Laos**

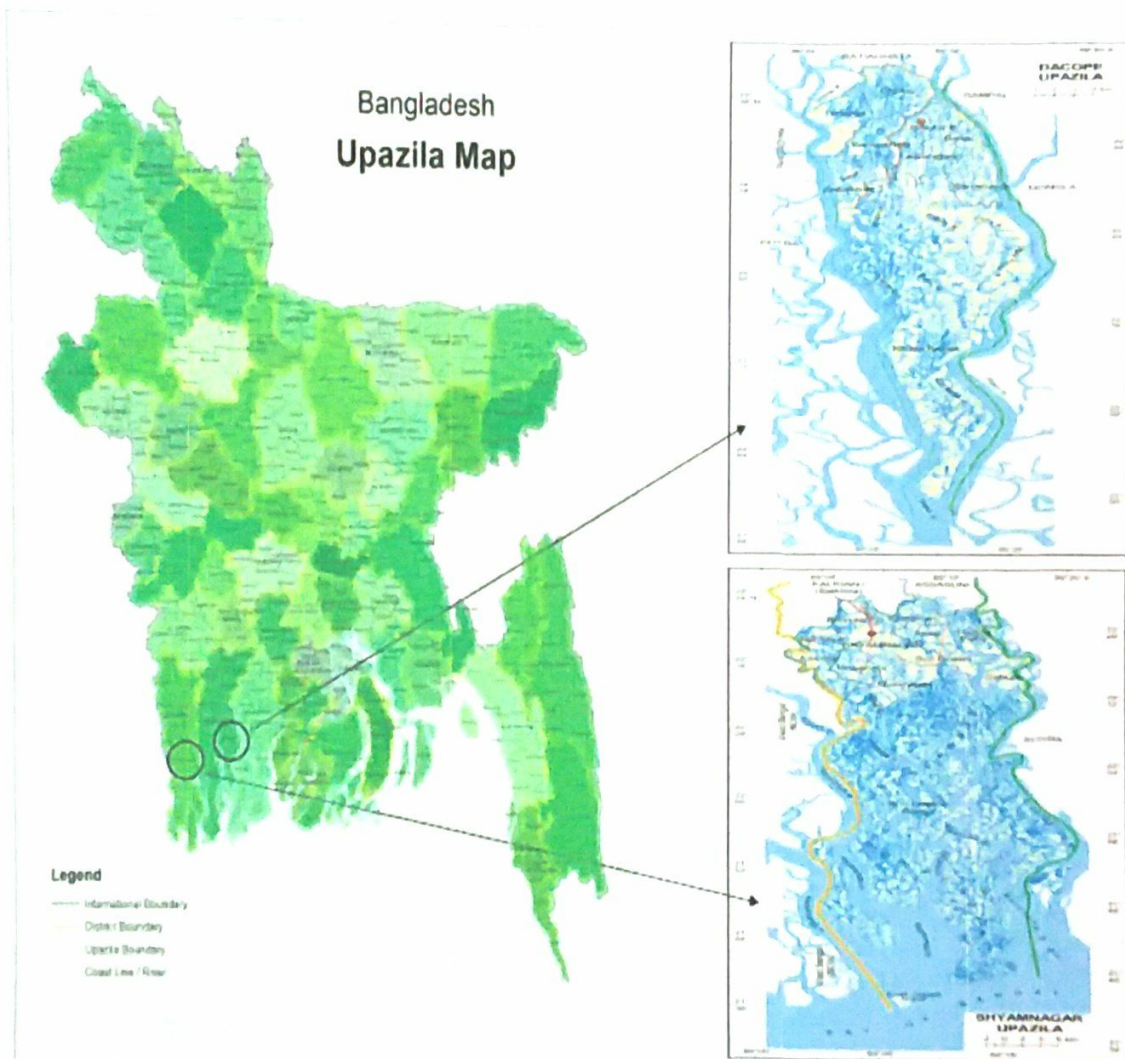
The National Tourism Development Plan of Laos, which was prepared by a UNDP consultant in 1999, recommended the promotion of a niche market to include ‘special interest tourism’ (e.g. bird-watching, butterflies, orchids, weaving and Buddhist culture) and ‘adventure tourism’ (Schwettmann 2001). Such a market aims to optimize otherwise limited marketing opportunities and to highlight the quality of Laotian historical, culture and environmental attractions. This form of tourism can be of benefit to the country while tourism infrastructure is still in its infancy. Ecotourism initiatives in Laos since 1999 mainly focus on National Biodiversity Conservation Areas and adjacent communities. The first officially approved ecotourism project in Laos was launched in Luang Namtha Province under the title of ‘Nam Ha Eco-tourism Development Project’. This project LNTA was working in collaboration with UNESCO and funded by the New Zealand government (Schwettmann 2001). The ‘Forespace Ecotourism Project’ in the Nam Kan/Nam Nga Protected area is another project in cooperation with UNESCO (Yamauchi and Lee 1999). Other areas are being encouraged to follow the project lead particularly Phou Khao Khouay National Park, north of Vientiane. The Lao government has established broad guidelines for development focused on capacity management, sustainable use of resources, respect for cultural and natural diversity, and the involvement of local communities in decision-making (Yamauchi and Lee 1999). Ecotourism in Laos is in its infancy but has established a firm base for future development. Nam Ha has provided a good model for ecotourism development in Laos (Lyttleton and Allcock 2002), where cash income has so far been distributed among villagers. Negative impact are small but could increase over the long term. Thus careful attention and appropriate capacity building is needed for the following phase. However, there are arguments about the influx of tourists, economic benefits from tourism and infrastructure development which suggest that, if these are badly managed, may turn ecotourism into mainstream.

## Chapter Three

### Materials and Methods

#### 3.1. Location

Sundarbans Mangrove forests and the people of the impact zone of the Sundarbans are mostly concentrated in Khulna, Satkhira, Bagerhat and Patuakhali coastal districts of South and South-Western Parts of Bangladesh.



**Figure 3.1. Location map of the study area**

Out of these four districts, Khulna and Satkhira districts will be purposively selected for this study.

### 3.2 Reconnaissance Survey

In order to get a view of the nature of the study area and prior to data collection, a reconnaissance survey was initiated to acquire some basic ideas regarding to community based ecotourism through the personal interview with the local people of the study area. During the survey, views were exchanged with the peoples about the objectives. The survey has helped to realize the existing condition of the area.

### 3.3 Questionnaire Preparation and Testing

Considering the objectives of the study a questionnaire was prepared for the selected community. After preparing the questionnaire, questionnaire was tested to fulfill the objectives of study and collecting the selected information of the study. Then some point was adding or cutting and final questionnaire was prepared.

### 3.4 Sampling Design

The interview used a purposive sampling design to ensure a representative proportion of major community based ecotourism stakeholder like beneficiary and local stake holder. Thus the local community and beneficiary of community based ecotourism programmed formed the survey population for the study. In this study 3 villages of Satkhira and 5 village of Khulna were selected nearby Sundarbans. Total 90 people were selected for interview purposively.

Therefore, a total 90 populations constituted the sample of the study as shown figure 3

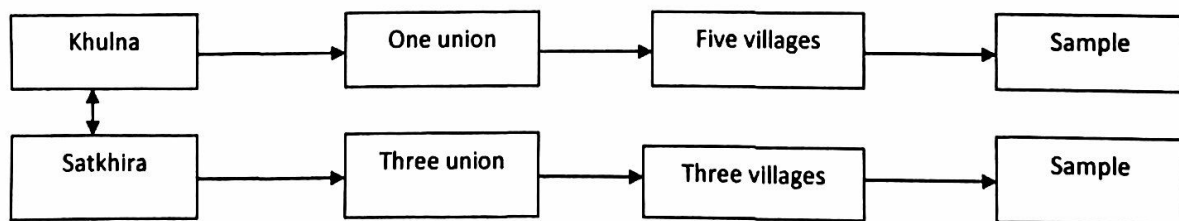


Figure 3.2. Flow diagram of population and sampling design

### 3.5 Questionnaire Survey and Data Collection

To obtain information questionnaire was prepared to correspond all the aspects. Interviewing method was applied to collect information. Randomness was strictly ensured for better output. People numbers were 90 from two districts. Data were collected by interview procedure.

**Table 3.1. Flowing attributes are used for questionnaire survey**

Serial	Attribute/ Statement
1	Natural beauty of this area is diversified for developing CBET.
2	Opportunity to watch wild life for attracting tourist in this area.
3	Good communication facility to reach this area.
4	Good quality houses for night stay for the tourist.
5	Good quality toilets and bathing facilities for the tourist.
6	Adequate drinkable water for the tourist.
7	Security of the tourists when visit this area.
8	Tourism development has effect on local culture and tradition.
9	Satisfaction with the functioning of CBET by the local people.
10	Most people are eager to working in different profession like cooks, house owners , boatman's, guides, etc.
11	If people will conscious then they will create less harm to forest.
12	After development of CBET it will reduce illegal harvesting of forests.
13	Forest department people co-operation for tourism development.
14	Tourists are now more conscious than introducing this CBET.
15	It can be an alternative job opportunity to local men and women.
16	CBET has long term benefit after developing in this area.
17	Increasing earning of local people by involving in CBET.
18	CBET develop the local market.



## **3.6 Data collection procedure**

### **3.6.1 Primary data collection**

Two data collection methods could be applied in the field survey viz. quantitative and qualitative methods. A one person questionnaire interview will be conducted for quantitative part and selected four PRA tools (Resource map, time line and seasonality map) will be used in the focus group discussion (FGD) for the qualitative part. A one person questionnaire interview is expected to include family head and his/her spouse. A formal invitation will be extended to the identified sample family heads at least one day ahead of actual interview. The groups of FGD comprises of 10-15 members (male and female separate) of the selected households who are mainly dependent on the Sundarbans Reserve Forest. A questionnaire will be developed and it will be tested at least twice, and modified as per potential feedback. The collected data will be compiled on the basis of districts, user groups (directly or indirectly benefited from the Sundarbans) and non-user groups.

### **3.6.2 Secondary Data Collection**

Secondary information such as statistical data, reports, maps have been collected from various Government and Non-government organizations such as Forest office (Kadamtoli), Joar Ecotourism (Satkhira), Rupantor Ecotourism(Khulna), Relief International ( Khulna).

## **3.7 Data Processing and Analysis**

The data were processed, analyzed and interpreted to find the result of the study. After completion of data collection the response to the questions of interview schedule were transferred to a master sheet to facilitate tabulation. Qualitative data were converted into quantitative forms by means of suitable scoring whenever necessary. Coding and tabulation was done according to the objectives of the study. The analyzed data are represented through tabular and graphical form. The report of the study is written through the systematic way by using computer program of MS word, and MS Excel.

## Chapter Four

### Result and Discussion

#### 4.1. Demographic features of the respondents

The demographic features of the respondents in the study area are shown in Table 4.1. In the study area both male and female are involved in community based ecotourism in which 69% respondents are male and 31% are female. It indicates that males are quite active in community based ecotourism activity. The age of the respondents is divided into four categories. Major respondents (34%) were very young, 31% respondents young, 20% were old and 15% respondents are Middle aged. The table indicates that a majority of the respondents (53%) studied are passed class five. In the study area about 24% people passed primary level means class I to V. About 20% respondents have passed secondary level. The least percentage (3%) respondents have studied above HSC level. The respondents are involved in various occupations. Majority about 22% of these respondents are involved in fishing. Then 14% people have house for stay night for tourist. Here 12% people remain who are studying in various classes. Maximum women are housewife and their percentage is 27%. In the study area baoli and boatman are found 11% and 7% respectively. On the other hand eco tour guide are 4% and gher oriented people are 3% respectively. The highest percentage (52%) is represented by respondents who earn from Tk.5001-Tk.10000 and appear to be in the middle income category. 25% of the respondents earn Tk. 3000- Tk.5000 whereas about 15% of the respondents earn Tk. 10001-Tk.15000per month. Only 8% respondents earn more than Tk.15000.

**Table 4.1. The demographic profile of the respondents in the study area**

Selected characteristics respondents	Categories	Percentage (%) of
Gender	Male	69
	Female	31
Age (years)	Very young (18-25)	34
	Young (26-35)	31
	Middle aged (36-45)	15
	Old (above 45)	20
Level of education	Below five class	24
	Five – Ten class	53
	Ten – Twelve class	20
	Above Twelve	3
Monthly income	Tk. 3000- Tk.5000	25
	Tk.5001-Tk.10000	52
	Tk. 10001-Tk.15000	15
	Above Tk.15000	8
Profession	House Owner	14
	Housewife	27
	Fisherman	22
	Student	12
	Boatman	7
	Guide	4
	Gher	3
	Baoli	11

## 4.2 Attitude of the respondents towards community based ecotourism

### 4.2.1 Attitude towards natural beauty for developing community based ecotourism

#### 4.2.1.1 Natural beauty of the sundarbans.

In the study area most of the respondent (62%) Strongly agree that natural beauty of the sundarbans area is diversified. More over some respondent (22%) agree with this opinion. On the other hand only 4% strongly disagreed about the matter. There are 6% respondents who remain neutral and another 6% respondents disagree about this matter respectively.

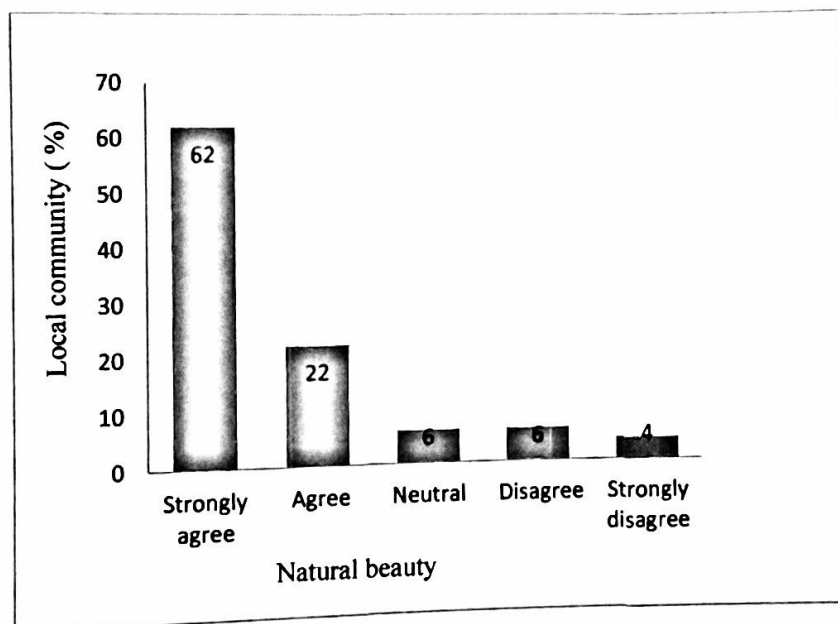
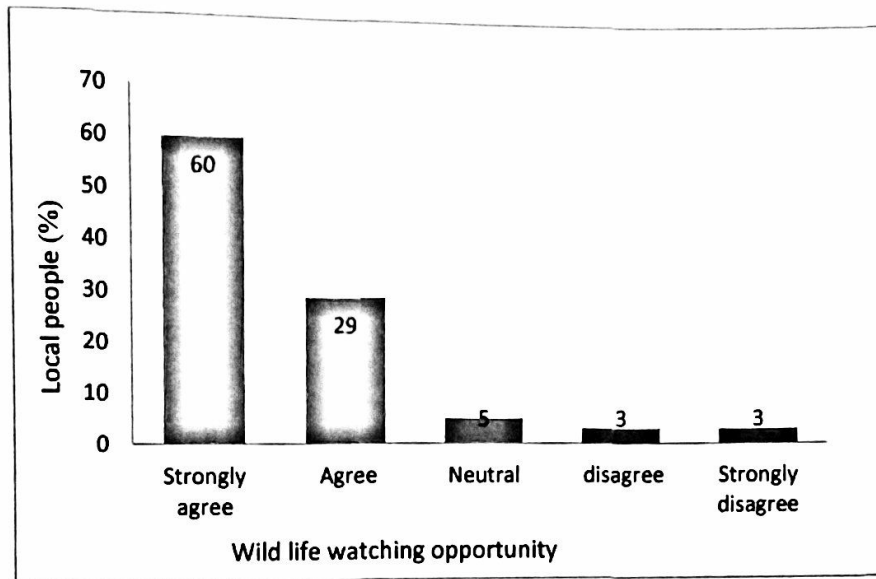


Figure 4. 1. Natural beauty of the sundarbans.

This represent that their area has great attraction to tourist for natural beauty. So if tourism will well establish in the study area tourists will enjoy natural beauty of Sundarbans. In the study area tourist can enjoy river beauty by boat and can enter into sundarbans by boats. Different canal remain through sundarbans, boatman enter through this canal caring tourists. Tourists can enjoy night view of sundarbans from other side of river especially in Kalinchi village. Besides this tourists can enjoy fresh air.

#### 4.2.1.2 Opportunity to watch wild life

Most of the respondent (60%) in the study area strongly agreed that it has opportunity to watch wild life. Moreover a good number of (29%) respondents agree with this opinion. They said that there is a great scope to watch wild life in Sundarbans area like deer, monkey, wild boar, various types of birds, crocodile and others. They said if tourists are lucky then they can see the famous Royal Bengal tiger.



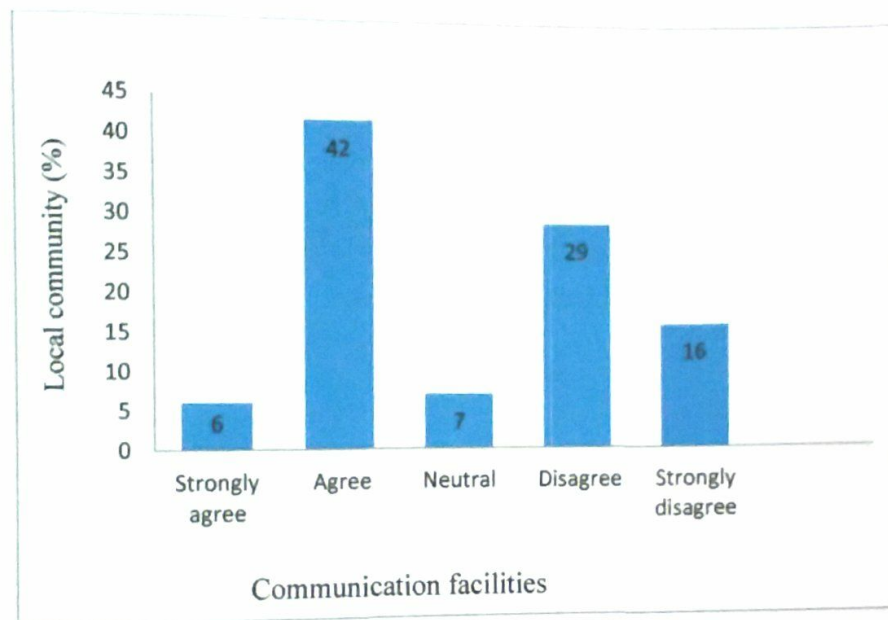
**Figure 4.2. Opportunity to watch wild life.**

Only 3% disagreed about this matter and 3% strongly disagreed that now there is lacking of wild life but before it was huge numbers. There is 5% respondents who remain neutral with this opinion. We know that sundarbans is the home of different wild animals. Among them wild famous Royal Bengal tiger, deer, monkey, crocodile, wild boar, different kinds of birds, different kinds of snakes, otter, guisap and other animal. Deer and monkey is not difficult to watch. It is also same for wild boar and different kinds of bird. But it is difficult and almost luck to watch Royal Bengal Tiger. If tourists are lucky then they can see tiger and crocodile. It is less possibility of injuring tourist by wild life as they remain so far from wild life.

## 4.2.2 Attitude towards infrastructure condition for attracting tourist.

### 4.2.2.1 Communication facilities.

In the study area about (42%) respondents agree that their communication facilities are good and this is mainly at Baniasanta union in Khulna district. They told that after reaching Mongla it is enjoyable and easy to reach here by boat. On the other hand 29% disagree and 16% strongly disagree about this and this is mainly in Satkhira district.

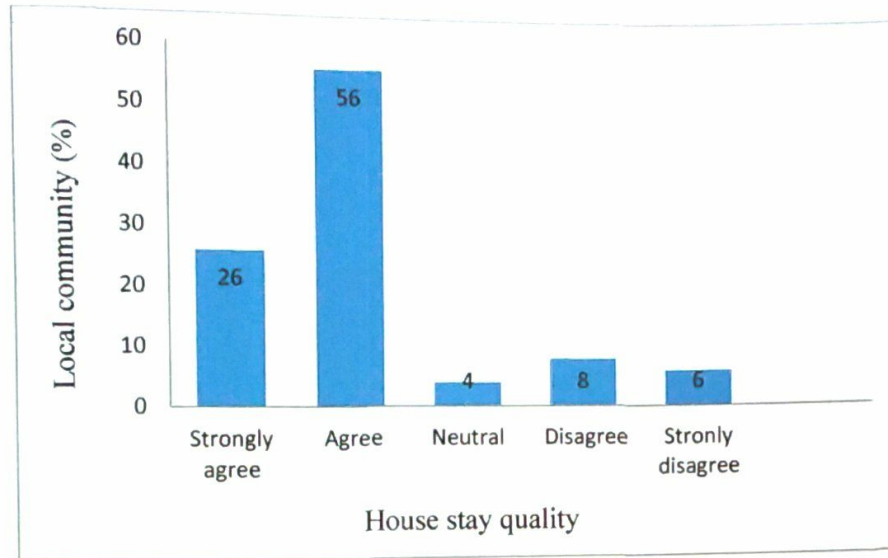


**Figure 4.3. Communication facility.**

In the study area only 7% people remain neutral in this question. Road communication facilities are good in Khulna district than Satkhira district according to respondents. After reaching symnagar it can be possible to go anywhere by boat especially Kalinchi village. In Khulna district from Khulna to Mongla, road condition is moderate according to respondents. After reaching Mongla it is enjoyable to going anywhere by boat. If anyone wants to go Dhangmari, East Dhangmari, Vojonkhali, he can easily go there by boat and enjoy river beauty.

#### 4.2.2.2 House quality for night stay.

In the study area most of the respondents (56%) respondents agree that here has good quality house for night stay while 26% strongly disagree about this matter. House condition in the study area is good for night stay according to the respondents.

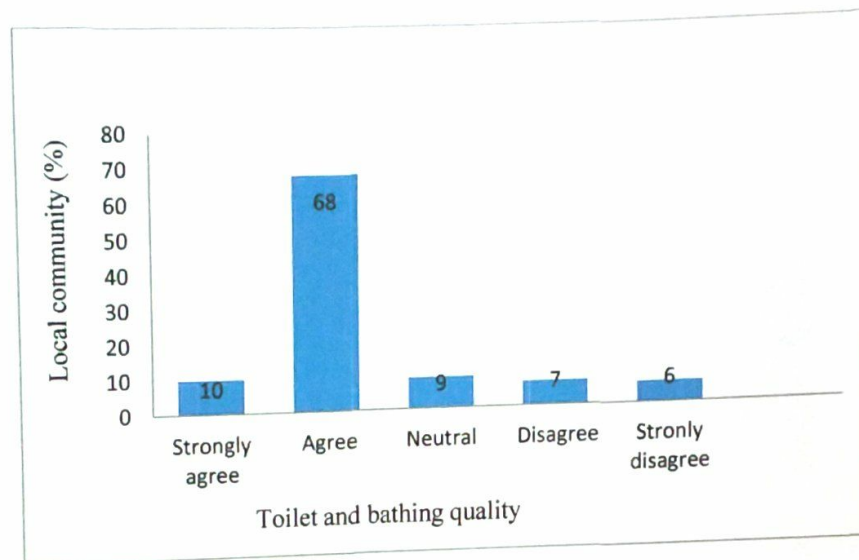


**Figure 4.4. Houses quality for night stay.**

Though before house condition was not so good but after coming different NGO, house condition is not bad now. They made our house for night stay for tourist when they will stay night here. But there are 8% of people who disagree with this opinion and their opinion is our house condition is not suitable for night stay. About 6% people who strongly disagree and their opinion is house quality is not so good for foreign tourists stay. So it indicates that house stay condition is moderate but not bad. Tourists can stay in the study area without any problem. Some NGO made house of the villagers for tourists for night stay. Houses are made on the basis of local tradition. One bedroom, two bedroom room any multi bedroom facilities remain in the study area. Maximum furniture is made through bamboo and local traditional things.

### 4.2.2.3 Toilet and bathing quality.

About 68% respondents agree with this opinion and told that toilet and bathing facilities in the study area is good. Moreover 10% respondents strongly agree and told toilet and bathing facilities here is very good. But 7% respondents disagree and 6% strongly disagree about this matter. They told toilet and bathing facilities is not good.



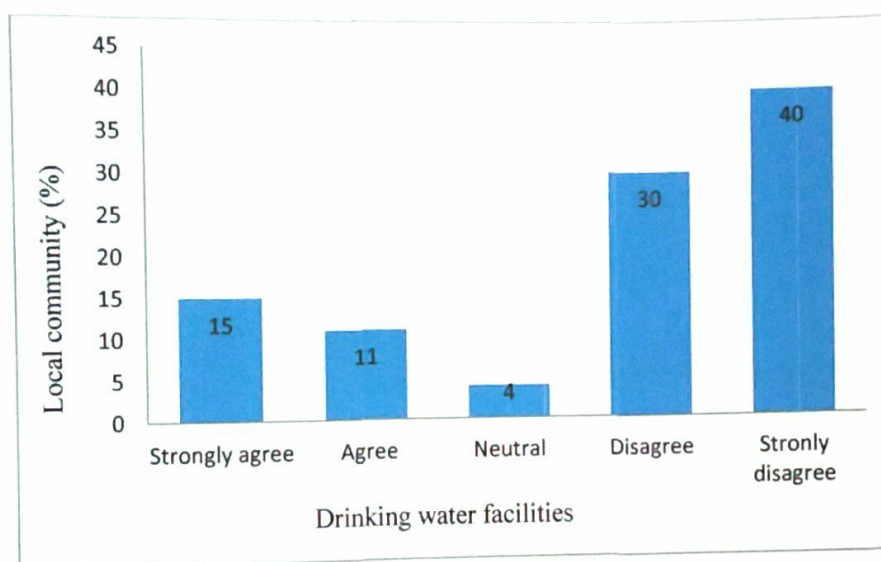
**Figure 4.5. Toilets and bathing quality**

Another 9% people remain neutral about this opinion. So it indicates that toilet and bathing facilities is moderate but not bad. Tourist can use that efficiently. It will create no problem to the tourists. Some NGO helps villagers to develop toilets and bathroom so that tourists can use this without any hazards. Every house related to tourism has good toilet and bathing facilities. Comod system bathroom and other facilities remains in some people's house made by the help of NGO.



#### 4.2.2.4 Drinking water facilities.

Drinking water facilities in the study area is not good according to the respondents as 40% respondents strongly disagree about this and 30% respondents disagree. They told that ground water here is salty and not suitable for drinking. Only some fresh water ponds and storage of rain water is only source of this. Tourists may not feel better to drink this. Only 15% strongly agree about this matter and 11% agree about this matter. This people mainly belong to Kalinchi village in Satkhira district.



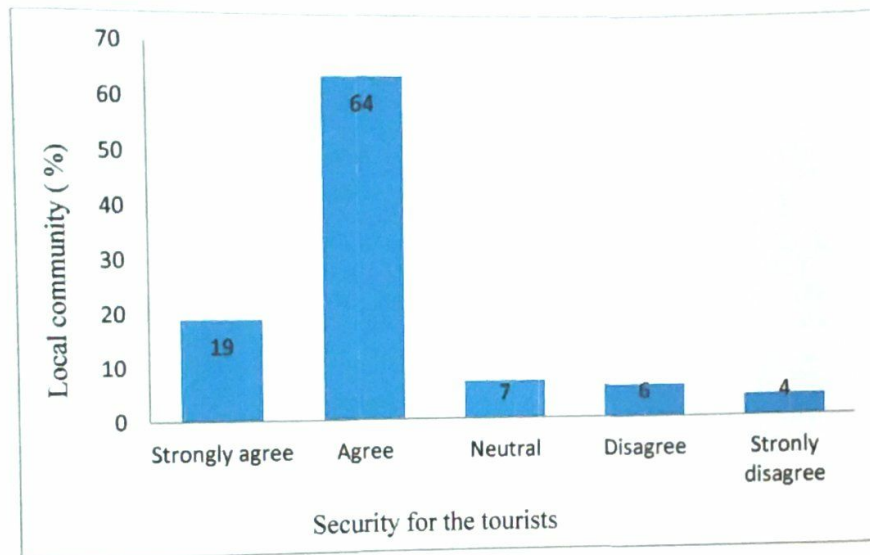
**Figure 4.6. Drinkable water facilities.**

In the study area 4% respondents remain neutral and give no answer for this question. This indicates that drinking water quality here is not good but it is possible to make alternative. All of the villages are nearly Sundarbans. In the study area ground water is salty and not suitable for drinking. Villagers of study area drink pond water that especially storage for drinking. There is a less possibility to storage rain water for drinking. Now some NGO helps to create to such facilities but not adequate. Only Kalinchi village at Symnagar upazila in Satkhira districts has drinking water facilities. Kalinchi villages' ground water is suitable for drinking. Tourist will face no difficulties in this village for drinking. Other village has drinking water problem but they use water buying from markets.

### 4.2.3 Attitude towards tourist security and local culture

#### 4.2.3.1 Security for the tourist.

In the study area most of the respondents (64%) agree with this opinion and there have security for tourist in their area. Moreover about 19% respondents strongly agree with this opinion. They said there have pirate but they create no harm to the tourist.

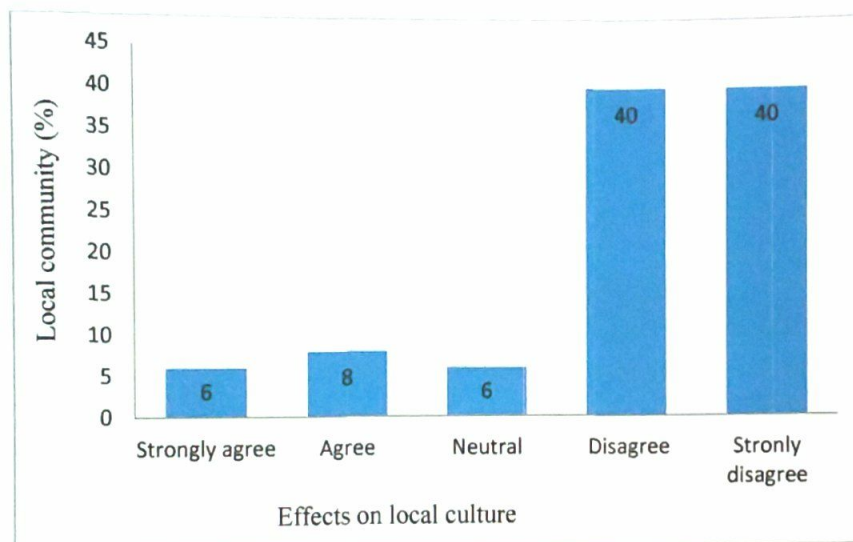


**Figure 4.7. Security for the tourists.**

But there are 6% of people who disagree with this opinion and their opinion is there have pirate and they can harm to the tourist. Another 4% people strongly disagree about security of tourist and they told pirate will harm tourist. Other 7% remain neutral about this matter. Forest department and local authority are very helpful for tourist security. Pirates create no harm to tourists as they know if they create any harm to tourists, law enforcement agency will punish them. So their main target is fishermen not tourists. Local people also not harm to them rather cooperative. So it indicates that security of tourist is moderate but not bad. Tourist can travel here securely.

#### 4.2.3.2 Effects on local culture and tradition.

In the study area most of the respondents 40% strongly disagree with this opinion that tourism affects local culture and tradition. Another 40% respondents disagree with this opinion that tourism affects local culture and tradition. They told that tourism not hamper our local culture rather we can know many things from their and diversify our activity. We can also disseminate our culture to the tourists and they can know many things from our culture.



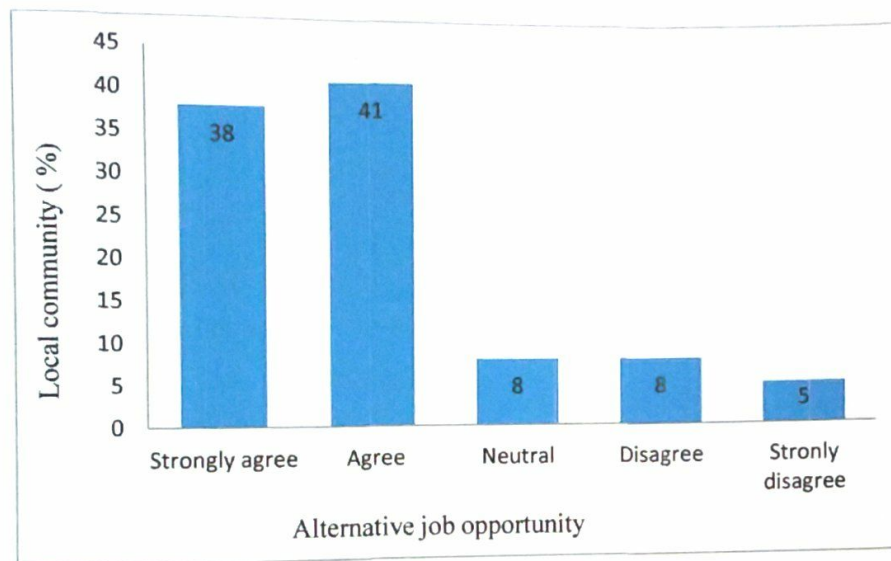
**Figure 4.8. Effects on local culture and tradition.**

But there are 8% of people who agree and 6% slightly agree with this opinion that tourism affect local culture and tradition and 6% remain neutral with this opinion. Tourists can enjoy and learn many things from local culture. They can also share their culture thus each other (local people and tourists) can share their culture. Tourists can take good side of local culture and vice versa for local people. Thus a cultural communication can take place between them. Like tourist can hear local folk song and sea local traditional dance. So it indicates that tourism has no confliction with local culture and tradition. So if we develop tourism in this area it will create no problem to local culture.

#### 4.2.4 Attitude related to income.

##### 4.2.4.1 Alternative job opportunity.

In the study area most of the respondents (41%) agree with this opinion that it will create alternative job opportunity in their area. There are a big number of people (38%) strongly agree with this opinion that it will create alternative job opportunity in their area.

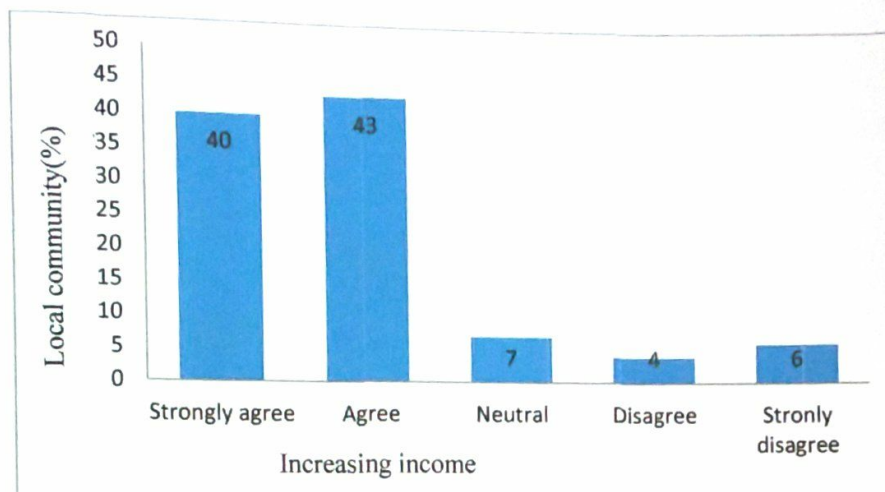


**Figure 4.9. Alternative job opportunity.**

But there are about 8% of people who disagree with this opinion and their opinion is it will create very little job opportunity. About 5% people strongly disagree about this and they told it has no prospect and another 8% people remain neutral. So it indicates that this will helpful to create alternative job opportunity to local people. In the study area due to increasing population dependency on forest resource is increasing day by day. So if CBET will develop in this area then it can be an alternative job opportunity for local people. People who are engage in profession related to forest they want to involve with it.

#### 4.2.4.2 Increasing income.

In the study area most of the respondents (43%) agree with this opinion that it will help to increase income. Moreover there is a big number of people (40%) strongly agree with this opinion that it will help to increase income.

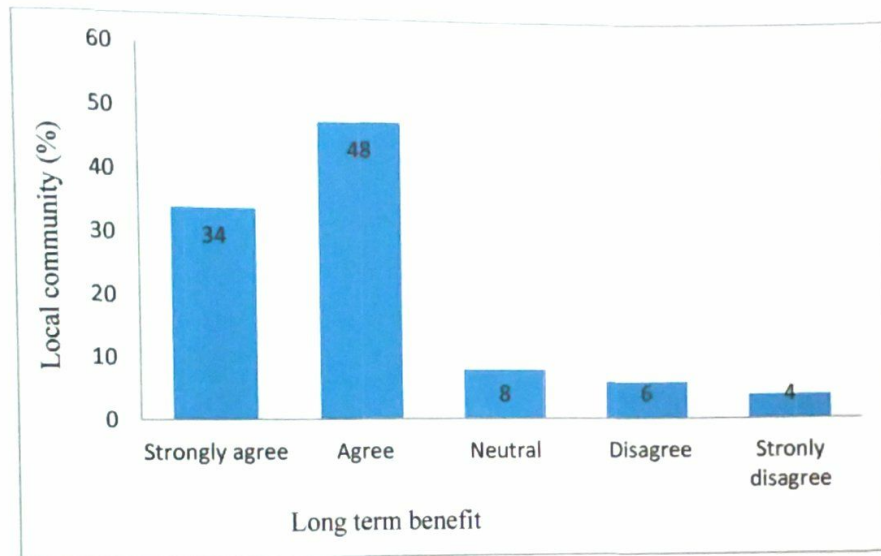


**Figure 4.10.Increasing income.**

People told it will increase their income. But there are 4% of people who disagree with this opinion and. Moreover 6% people strongly disagree about this and they told it has no prospect and 7% people remain neutral. So it indicates that this will helpful to increase income to local people. When people will engage in tourism oriented profession they might earn some money and that will increase their income. People can get money from tourists when tourists stay their house and eat foods from them. Even people can earn money by presenting different cultural events. Like in Kalinchi village there is a cultural team for giving pleasure to tourists and earn money from them.

#### 4.2.4.3 Long term benefit.

In the study area most of the respondents (48%) agree with this opinion that CBET has long term benefit. There are a big number of people 34% strongly agree with that in terms of long term benefit. People said that CBET has already introduced in this area by different NGO if it will establish then it will create long term benefit.

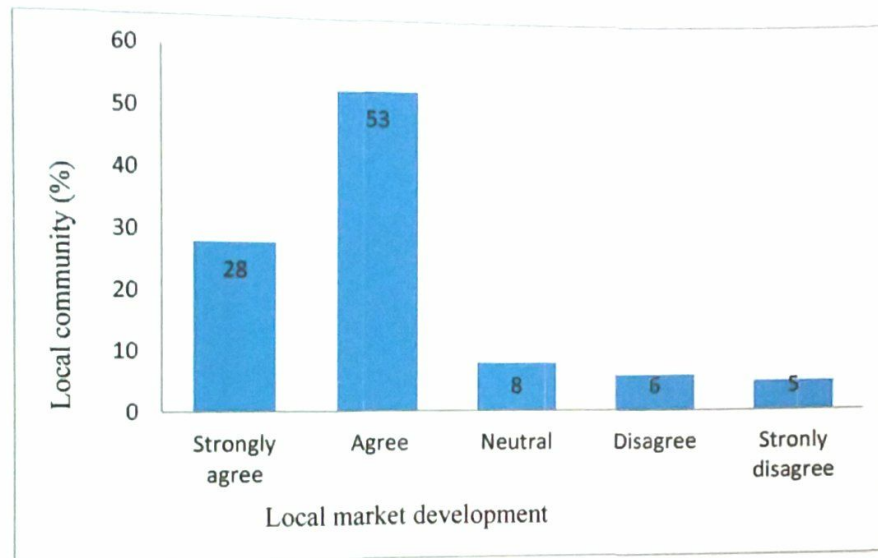


**Figure 4.11. Long term benefit of CBET.**

But about 6% of people disagree with this opinion and their opinion is that CBET has no long term benefit. About 4% people strongly disagree about this and they told it has no prospect besides 8% people remain neutral. So it indicates that it has moderate long term benefit. When many people will involve with this profession then this area will known to outer world. Many tourists will visits their area and stay there for night. It will develop day by day and number of tourists will increase day by day. By this it has a long term benefit.

#### 4.2.4.4 Local market development.

In the study area most of the respondents (53%) agree with this opinion that it will help to local market develop. There are a big number of people (28%) strongly agree with that it will help to develop market. They told that it will help to develop market because tourist will buy different things from local markets.



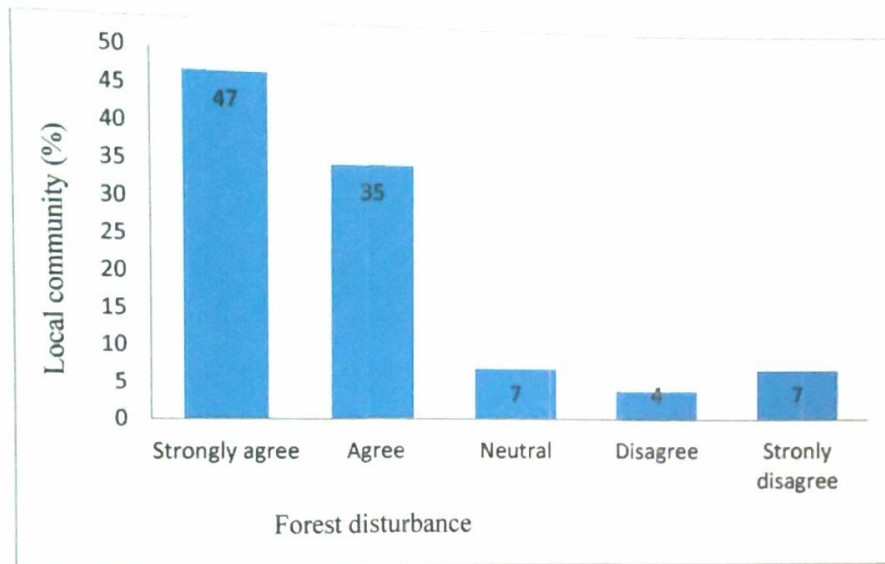
**Figure 4.12. Local market development.**

But there are 6% of people who disagree with this opinion and their opinion is that it will not develop market. About 5% people strongly disagree about this and they told it has no prospect besides 8% people remain neutral. So it indicates that it will help to develop local market. After coming the tourist in their locality tourists have to need different things. So they need a developed market for buying different things. Local people will take this opportunity and will make a developed market.

## 4.2.5 Attitude towards forest conservation.

### 4.2.5.1 Forest disturbance.

In the study area most of the respondents (47%) strongly agree with this opinion that it will help to reduce disturbance of forest. They told that illegal fishing, hunting and others these kinds of activity will reduce for this, so it will help to reduce disturbance. There is a big number of people (35%) agree with this opinion that it will help reduce disturbing forest.



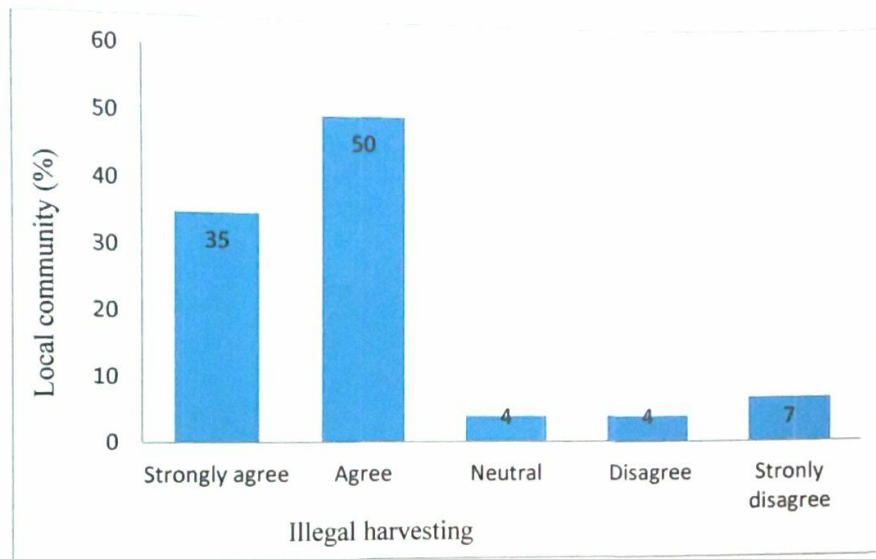
**Figure 4.13.** Forest disturbance.

But there are 4% of people who disagree with this opinion and 7% people strongly disagree about this opinion. They told it has no prospect and no people are neutral or slightly disagree. Besides above 7% remain neutral. So it indicates that CBET will helpful to reduce to disturbance of forest. Most of the people of here extract forest resource from forest. It includes shrimp collection, deer poisoning, and tiger hunting, different types of shell collection. They need alternative income source for stopping this. If CBET will develop then they will create less disturb to the forest.



#### 4.2.5.2 Illegal harvesting.

In the study area most of the respondents (50%) agree with this opinion that it will help to reduce illegal harvesting. They told that it will help to illegal timber harvest and golpata collection. There is a big number of people (35%) strongly agree with that it will reduce illegal harvesting.



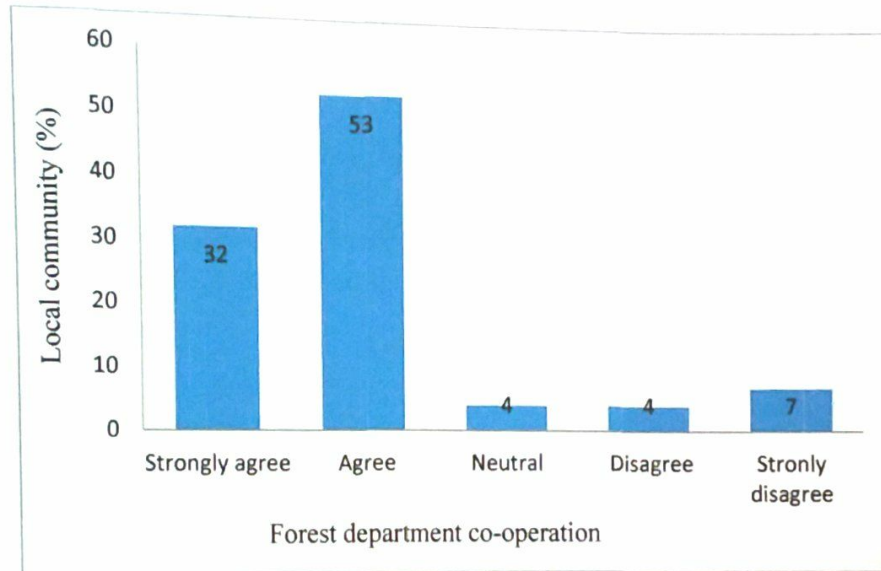
**Figure.4.14. Illegal harvesting.**

About 7% people strongly disagree about this and they told it will not reduce to illegal harvesting. Moreover 4% of people who disagree with this opinion and their opinion is that CBET has no prospect. Besides above 4.44% people remain neutral It includes Golpata and different types of wood collection without permission. So it indicates that CBET has great prospect to reduce illegal harvesting. Although the present tourism in Bangladesh is not in large it can be a major threat to the natural environment at the estimated future growth rate 1.3% per year (SBCP, 2003; and Islam 2003). So development of community based eco-tourism can be a good way for reducing this threat.

**4.2.6 Approach of Forest Department and tourist towards local people for tourism development.**

**4.2.6.1 Forest Department cooperation.**

In the study area most of the respondents (53%) agree with this opinion that Forest Department officials are cooperative in different kinds of tourism activity. They told that this co-operation will help to tourism development. There is a big number of people (32%) strongly agree with that Forest department official are cooperative.

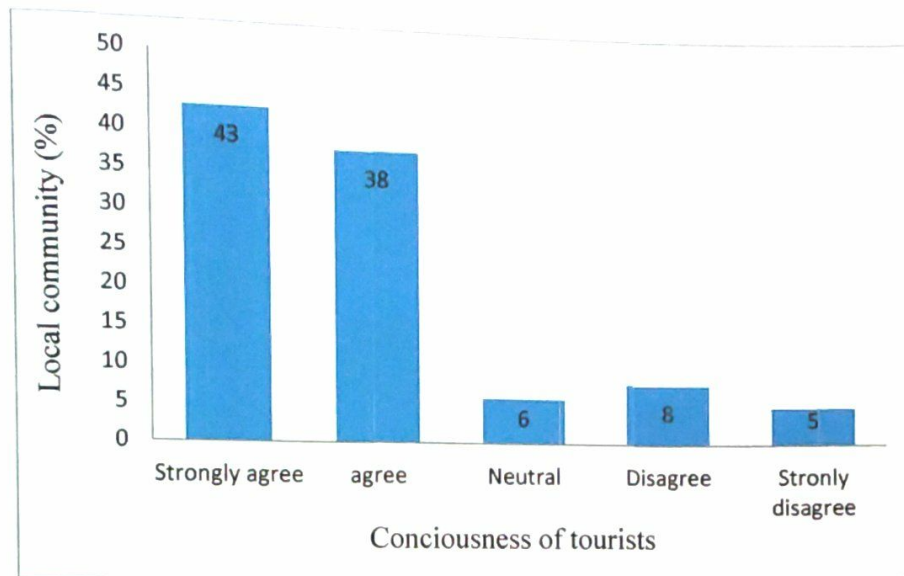


**Figure 4.15. Forest department co-operation.**

About 7% people strongly disagree about this and they told Forest Department official are not helpful. Moreover 4% of people who disagree with this opinion and their opinion are that Forest Department is not helpful. Another 4% people remain neutral. So it indicates that Forest department are helpful and it will helpful for tourism development. Forest department people also wants that people will less disturb to the forest, so CBET can be an alternative job opportunity for local people. So we have to cooperate with them so that local people can earn from this.

#### 4.2.6.2 Consciousness of tourists.

In the study area most of the respondents (43%) strongly agree with this opinion that tourist are more conscious after introducing CBET. They told tourists watch different sideboard and hear knowledge about ecotourism. There is a big number of people (38%) agree with this opinion that tourists are more conscious now.



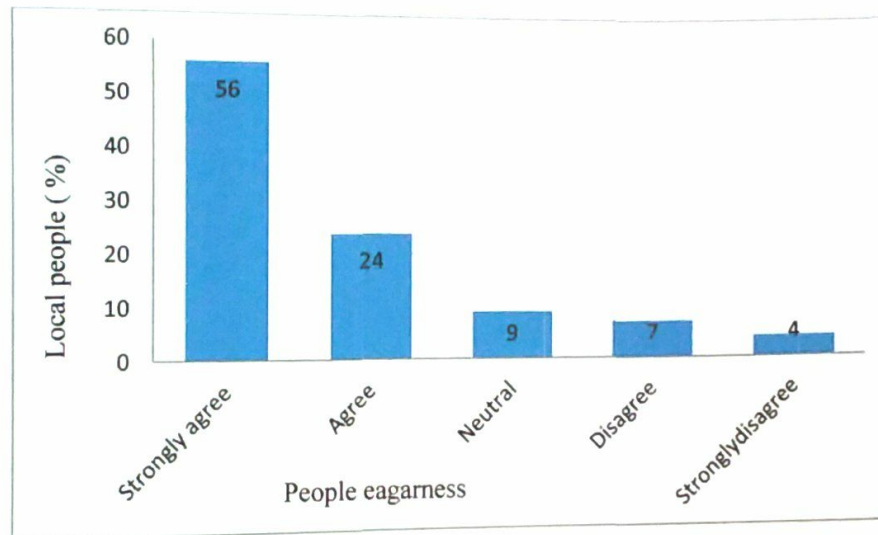
**Figure 4.16. Consciousness of tourists.**

But there are 8% of people who disagree with this opinion and 5% people strongly disagree about this and they told tourists consciousness remain same. Besides 6% people remain neutral about this. Tourists are now remain on close to villagers and get knowledge from local people. By this they know how to create less harm to the forests like not break the branch of tree, not disturb monkey and other animal, and don't throw wastage and polythene, potato chips to the rivers. So it indicates that tourists are more conscious now from before. It will helpful for CBET development in the study area.

#### 4.2.7 Satisfaction of respondent by CBET.

##### 4.2.7.1 Eagerness of people to involve in CBET.

In the study area most of the respondents (56%) strongly agree with this opinion that people are eager to involve in CBET. They told that they want to involve different profession of CBET like house owner, guide, boatman etc. There is a big number of people (24%) agree with this opinion.

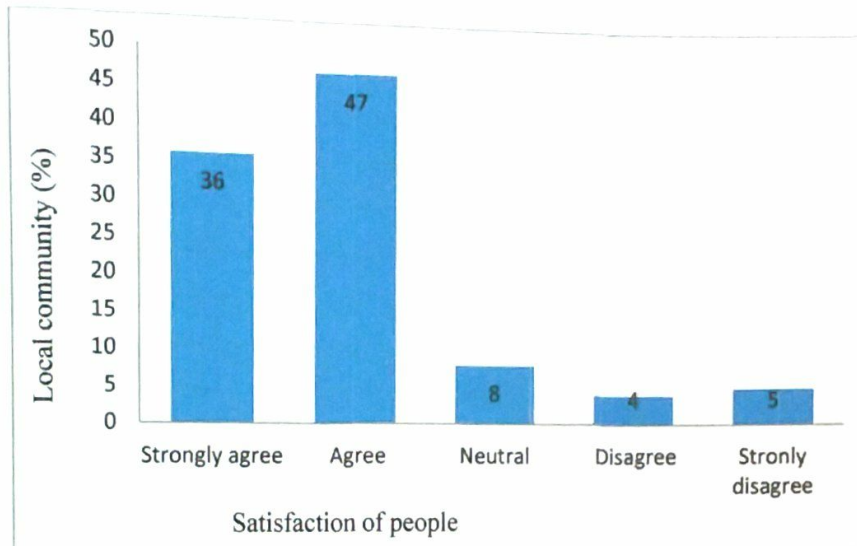


**Figure 4.17. Eagerness to involve CBET.**

But there are 7% of people who disagree with this opinion and 9% remain neutral. So it indicates people are eager now from before. People who are not involve to this sector they are keen to involve in different profession now. They observe that it is beneficial and have great prospect so we should involve it. Thus people are motivating to involve and increase CBET prospects. Like some people are keen to make house for tourists, some people wants to boatman, some people wants to guide. It will helpful for CBET development.

#### 4.2.7.2 Satisfied by CBET.

In the study area most of the respondents (47%) agree with this opinion that they are satisfied by CBET. They told that they are satisfied by the activity CBET. There is a big number of people (36%) strongly agree with this opinion. and 8%, 5%, 4% are neutral, strongly disagree and disagree respectively. That indicate people are satisfied by CBET.



**Figure 4.18. Satisfaction of peoples.**

Satisfaction level both involve and not involve people is now very much with CBET now. Now people wants that opportunity of CBET will increase and more people will join with this. They want to involve with CBET and want to increase their income. Now people are happy that it they will have alternative job opportunity especially November- January. Tourists will create not harm to the local people rather beneficial. Local market will develop for tourists coming. Local people, elite people, beneficiary all of the people are satisfied now by CBET.

**Table 4.2 Distribution of respondents based on response towards community based ecotourism.**

Item No	n	Strongly Agree (SA)%	Agree (A)%	Neutral (N)%	Disagree (D)%	Strongly Disagree (SD)%
1	90	62	22	6	6	4
2	90	61	29	5	3	2
3	90	6	42	7	29	16
4	90	26	56	4	8	6
5	90	10	68	9	7	6
6	90	15	11	4	30	40
7	90	19	64	7	6	4
8	90	6	8	6	40	39
9	90	36	47	8	4	5
10	90	56	24	9	7	4
11	90	48	34	7	4	7
12	90	35	50	40	4	7
13	90	32	52	4	4	7
14	90	43	38	6	8	5
15	90	38	41	8	8	5
16	90	34	48	8	6	5
17	90	41	42	7	4	6
18	90	28	54	8	6	5

Table 4.2 summarizes the overall patterns of response for community based eco-tourism. With regard to diversification of natural beauty 62% strongly agreed that here has diversified natural beauty. On the other hand only 4% strongly disagreed about the matter. Many a respondent about beauty. On the other hand only 4% strongly disagreed about the matter. Many a respondent about 61% strongly agreed that here has opportunity to watch wild life. Only 3% disagreed about this matter and 2%strongly disagreed that now there is lacking of wild life but before it was huge. In the term of good communication facilities diversified answer obtain from respondent. About 42% respondents agree that their communication facilities are good and this is mainly in Khulna district. They told that after reaching Mongla it is enjoyable and easy to reach here by boat. On the other hand 29% disagree and 17% strongly disagree about this and this is mainly in Satkhira district. They told road conditions very bad for reaching their area. For night stay 56%

respondents agree that here has good quality house for night stay while 6% strongly disagree about this matter. About 69% respondents told that toilet and bathing facilities here is good on the other hand 7% disagree about this matter. Drinking water facilities here is not good according to the respondents as only 9% strongly agree about this matter. This people mainly belong to Kalinchi village in satkhira district. It is mirracle that only one village in the middle of other village name Kalinchi has facilities to uptake water from ground. About 64% respondents agree that security of the tourists is good here. They told here remain pirates but they not harm to the tourist but harm to the fisherman. On the other hand 4% strongly disagree about this matter and told that pirates harm to the tourists. About 40% respondents disagree that tourism harm local culture and tradition but 6% respondents strongly agree that tourism affect local culture and tradition. About 56% respondents strongly agree that people are now eager to involve in different profession like cookers, house owners, boat men etc. On the other hand 4% strongly disagree about this. About 47% respondents strongly agree that if tourists are conscious then they will create less harm to the forest besides 50% respondents agree that it will reduce illegal harvesting. About 52% respondents told that forest department official are helpful for developing tourism on the other hand 7% strongly disagree about this. About 40% respondents agree that it will create alternative job opportunity for the people and they will create less harm to the forest. On the other hand 5% respondents strongly disagree about this and told it is not enough for creating alternative job opportunity. 48% respondents agree that CBET has long term benefit in terms of income and uplifting local people poverty. On the other hand 4% respondents strongly disagree about this and told it has less possibility here. About 54% people told that it will help to develop local market while 5% strongly disagree about this.

### 4.3 Discussion

During Focus Group Discussion (FGD) some problem, opportunity and limitation come to front. Here It was found that some of the respondents had prior knowledge about CBET after coming different NGO like Relief International, JOAR and others. Here maximum people's income is between Tk5000-Tk10000. Most of the people said natural beauty of their area is diversified and tourist can enjoy. House condition made by different NGO for tourist living is good for tourists. Security of the tourist is suitable here and they can freely move. Though pirates remain here but they don't harm to the tourist. Main problem of here is drinking water problem. Here ground water is salty so they have to drink river or rain water. Only Kalinchi village at Symnagar upazila in Satkhira districts have good source of drinking water. Another village people told if government or any donor agency made here a permanent rain water storage facility then it will better for tourists. Another problem of here is communication facilities. Especially in Khulna to Satkhira is very bad. But in Khulna part communication facilities is not bad. As community based ecotourism is introduced here and some people already involve with it, now many people are keen to involve with it. People of here think it will create alternative job opportunity for them and reduce disturbing of forest by them. They also add with this that it will reduce illegal harvesting and help to conserve forest. People also think that CBET increase their earning and reduce their poverty. It has long term benefit for developing their condition and they will able to send their children to school. It will help to develop their local market as tourist will buy many things from the markets. Now tourists are more conscious from before for protecting forest. Now tourists saw different sine board, banners and create less harm to forest. Local Forest Department helps to the villagers for developing CBET and promoting local development. Forest Department also ants that people create less disturb to forest and for this CBET can be a alternative source. People are now satisfied for introducing CBET as it has no collaboration to their local culture and tradition. Now people of here wants that CBET has developed here and more people will involve here. Some limitation remains there like most of the people here is poor on basis of income. So if more house and another facilities will available by local people then they need help from government or non-government organization. Another problem that is bad communication problem has to solve for better communication facilities. If it is possible to make some reservoirs for storing drinking water from rain then it will magnificent for tourism developments. So if people get proper support then they will able to good tourism facilities here.



## Chapter Five

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

#### **5.1 Conclusion**

An overall moderately favorable attitude towards community based ecotourism was found among the respondents. This is likely due to the fact that people are well aware of the environmental, economic and social role of CBET. The hypothesis that attitude towards CBET depend on personal characteristics could partially be supported by the analysis. There is a great scope for developing community based ecotourism so it can be a good example for our country if proper step will be taken. Most of the respondents of that area want to involve into community based ecotourism. As respondents are representative of that area so there have a great scope for developing community based ecotourism. Bangladesh is also an over populated country so it is important to involve local people with ecotourism. The ecotourism offers many opportunities to reflect on the importance of sustainability, and the possibilities of implementing approaches which move us in a new direction. Most of the people of the study site are poor so it is necessary to improve their economic condition besides conserving forest. If it is done in proper way it will be very helpful for both local people and tourist in that area and also for conservation of Sundarbans. So proper step should be taken from government and other organization for development of community based ecotourism here.

#### **5.2 Recommendation**

1. Need infrastructure development like roads, houses, bridges and ensure security for the tourist and available drinking water.
2. Local people need financial support for house making or other things from government and different non-government organization (NGO).
3. Provide a framework for local populations to engage in businesses and in direct employment in the tourism area.
4. Mass media can this for publicity of this area as a community based eco-tourism area.
5. Take into consideration community attitudes and cultural values and concerns.
6. To create awareness among people about their potential opportunities, risks and changes involved, and is interested in receiving visitors by local NGO or other such organization.
7. Local elite and political people can take part a good step to successful this.

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# Appendix A

English Version of the Interview schedule

MS in Forestry

Forestry and Wood Technology Discipline

Khulna University Khulna - 9208

## Attitudes of Local People Towards Community Based Eco-Tourism in the Sundarbans.

Interview Schedule
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### PART -1

Name of the Respondent-

Sex . 1. Male 2. Female

Address:

A. Village .....B. Union.....C.  
Upo.....D. Dist.....

Age :.....

Marital status...

Profession.....

Income level....

Education....

Number of family members.....

PART-2

Attitude towards Community based Eco-tourism

Please give your answer according to this and give tick (✓) mark.

Strongly agree = 1, Agree = 2, Neutral= 3, Disagree= 4, Strongly Disagree= 5

Serial	Statement	S A	A	N	D	S D
		1	2	3	4	5
1	Natural beauty of this area is diversified for developing CBET.					
2	Opportunity to watch wild life for attracting tourist in this area.					
3	Good communication facility to reach this area.					
4	Good quality houses for night stay for the tourist.					
5	Good quality toilets and bathing facilities for the tourist.					
6	Adequate drinkable water for the tourist.					
7	Security of the tourists when visit this area.					
8	Tourism development has effect on local culture and tradition.					
9	Satisfaction with the functioning of CBET by the local people.					
10	Most people are eager to working in different profession like cooks, house owners , boatman's, guides, etc.					
11	If people will conscious then they will create less harm to forest.					
12	After development of CBET it will reduce illegal harvesting of forests.					
13	Forest department people co-operation for tourism development.					
14	Tourists are now more conscious than introducing this CBET.					
15	It can be an alternative job opportunity to local men and women.					
16	CBET has long term benefit after developing in this area.					
17	Increasing earning of local people by involving in CBET.					
18	CBET develop the local market.					

APPENDIX-B

Five Point Likert Scale

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Opinion	Very high	High	Medium	Low	Very low
	1	2	3	4	5

