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LOCALITIES IMPACT ON THE CORBETT NATIONAL PARK

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ABSTRACT

This study is based on the first national park of India, Corbett National Park, Ramnagar. Corbett national park is rich in floral and faunal biodiversity. This study highlights how the human activities are resulting in various problems to the national park. The prime objective of this study is to investigate the human activities in neighboring areas of the Corbett national park. Corbett National Park is facing myriad challenges like elevation on the dependence of local people on the park and their dangerous activity, like fire burning in the park. These activities are affecting the park environment severely. By good education, stick rule, awareness and providing job to the local community this pressure may be minimized in the Corbett National Park.

Key Words- Corbett National Park, Local community, Tourists, Conservation, Biodiversity.

INTRODUCTION

Corbett National Park is the area of high biodiversity, including some species of flora and fauna with natural beauty. The aim of establishing to Corbett national park is to protect and conserve the wildlife, especially the species those are facing serious problems. A healthy national ecosystem is rich in biodiversity and gives a suitable opportunity for development. Disturbance and loss of biodiversity reduce the ecosystem health. Corbett National Park is very sensitive area due to wildlife but facing many disruptions. These disturbances are arising due to local people.

REVIEW LITERATURE

Protected areas have long been recognized the single most important method of protecting wildlife and preserving biological diversity (Kideghesho, et al. 2006). Protected areas are popularly associated with vast areas of 'undisturbed wilderness' (Twyman, 2001). Protected areas perhaps hold a uniquely hostile place in the conservation toolbox because some view them as having been established at the expense of local through displacement and regarded by others as responsible for perpetuating poverty by the continued denial of access to land and other resources (Ghimire & Pimbert 1997). Anthropogenic activities have elevated the rate of species extinctions to a thousand or more times the natural background rate (Pimm et al. 1995). Human encroachment into wildlife habitat which has increased exponentially over the last few decades has usually resulted in the elimination of the species, especially the large mammals (e.g., Eltringham, 1990). The effect of ongoing human disturbance to wildlife in habitat remnants is a major conservation concern (Sutherland, (1998) and Frid & Dill (2002).

OBJECTIVE

1. A demographic study of localities surrounding Corbett national park.
2. Study of the impact of localities behavior on the Corbett national park.
3. To make a recommendation for better management of the park

STUDY AREA

The Corbett National Park has been chosen for this study, as it is the oldest national park and rich in floral and faunal biodiversity. Corbett national park covers 520.82 sq. km area. To study localities activities and their effect on the park we take seven villages that lie 0-7 km from the park's boundary.

METHODOLOGY

This study is based on secondary data and descriptive in nature. Secondary data has been acquired from Corbett tiger reserve office Ramnagar, books, journals and from the internet, which is related to the national park.

Localities activities in the Corbett national park

Many villages surround Corbett national park. In this study, we took seven villages that lie at 0-7 km from the park boundary. Dhela, Himmatpur Dotiyal, Kaniya, Sawal Deh West and Chorpani are the villages which located toward the southern edge. Muhan and Dhikuli are the villages, which located close to the eastern side.

TABLE-1 : DISTANCE OF VILLAGES FROM CORBETT NATIONAL PARK.

S.No.	Name of village	The distance of Village from the Corbett national park.
1	Dhela	0 km
2	Sawal Deh West	5 km
3	Himmatpur Dotiyal	4 km
4	Kaniya	4 km
5	Chorpani	6 km
6	Muhan	3 km
7	Dhikuli	6 km

Source: CTR office, Ramnagar.

From Table 1, distances of these villages from the Corbett national park boundary easily be seen. With 0 km distance from CNP, village Dhela is nearest to the park, whereas the distance of village Chorpani is 6 km from park boundary which is the maximum distance.

TABLE-2: LIST OF VILLAGE'S POPULATION GROWTH FROM 2001 TO 2011.

S.No.	Village Name	TOT_P_2001	TOT_P_2011	Growth rate %
1	Dhela	1248	1402	1.23%
2	Sawal Deh West	1641	2023	2.33 %
3	Himmatpur Dotiyal	572	967	6.91 %
4	Kaniya	1314	2099	5.97%
5	Chorpani	823	2251	17.35%
6	Muhan	202	185	-0.84%
7	Dhikuli	1020	1344	3.18%
	Total	6820	10271	5.06%

Source: Vikas Bhawan, Bhimtal.

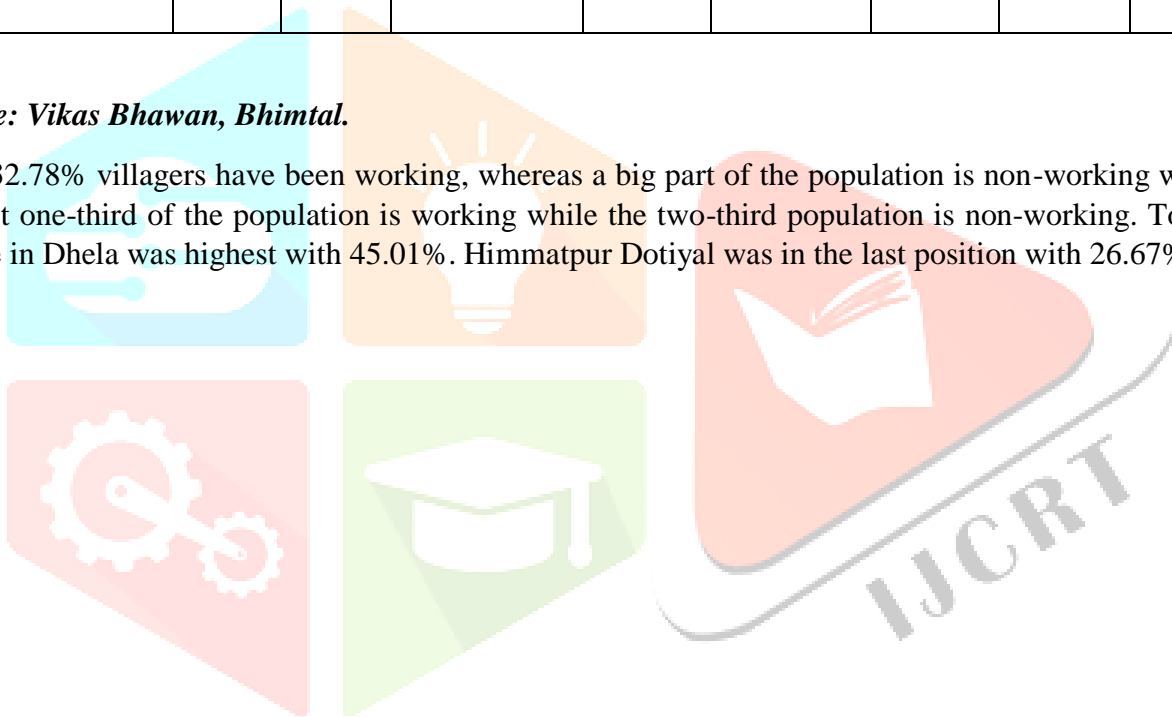
As per 2001 census, the population in selected villages were 6820 which reached to 10271 as per 2011 census. It has been almost 50% growth in population. The growth rate in these communities is 5.06%. The interesting point here is the people of Muhan, which is decreasing, while in other villages population has been increasing.

TABLE-3: LIST OF TOTAL WORKING AND NON-WORKING POPULATION ACCORDING TO 2011.

S.N	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Village	Dhela	Sawal Deh West	Himmatpur Dotiyal	Kaniya	Chorpani	Muhan	Dhikuli	Total
TOT_WORK_P	631	752	254	643	614	57	416	3367
%	45.01	37.17	26.67	30.63	27.28	30.81	30.95	32.78
NON_WORK_P	771	1271	713	1456	1637	128	928	6904
%	54.99	62.83	73.73	69.37	72.72	69.19	69.05	67.22

Source: Vikas Bhawan, Bhimtal.

Only 32.78% villagers have been working, whereas a big part of the population is non-working with 67.22%. Almost one-third of the population is working while the two-third population is non-working. Total working people in Dhela was highest with 45.01%. Himmatpur Dotiyal was in the last position with 26.67%.



DISCUSSION

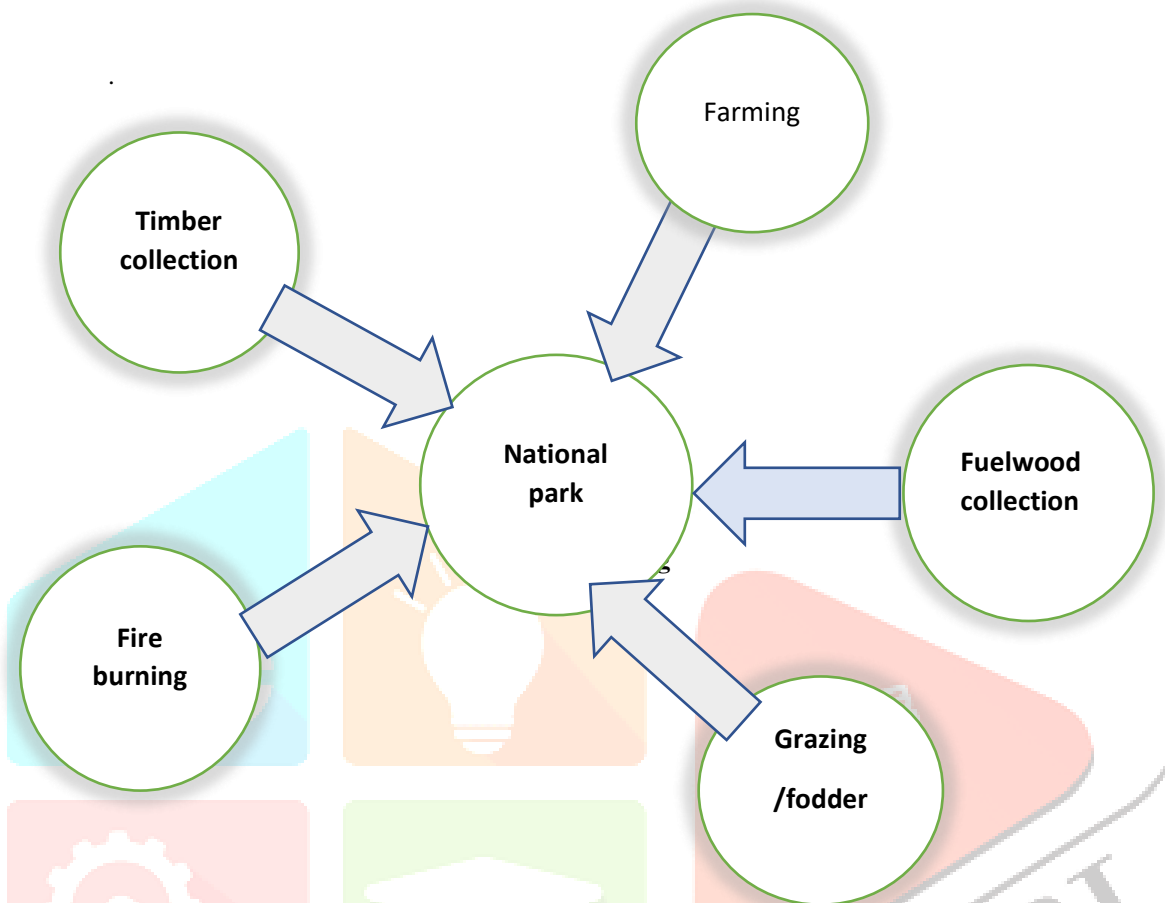


Figure-1: The above model explains impacts of villages on the Corbett national park.

Corbett national park has the mission to protect and conserve the biodiversity. Villages surround most of the national parks. Villagers are residing there for a very long time. The population was not an issue at starting, but in recent years, the rapid growth of population becomes the major area of concern of the national park. The speed, in which the population is increasing, it may be an indicator of biodiversity risk. About 67.22% people are non-working in these villages, so we can understand how much they are dependent on the park for their basic needs. Directly or indirectly, they are dependent on Corbett national park for their need. CNP provides not only a home for poor villagers but also give the fuelwood, timber, plants, grass for their livestock, fruits, etc. some villagers got a job due to CNP. Nowadays most of the houses are made of bricks and cement but all villagers are not capable of building such house, so some of them are dependent on the CNP for mud, timber or poles to make their home.

Villagers are dependent on national parks for their needs and shelter. Agriculture is useful occupation of many villagers. But for their use a large area of the park. Villagers do agriculture subsistence and sometimes commercially also. Many villagers have livestock also. For their fodder, they depend on the national park. Thus, livestock feed on that food and grass which is available for herbivores animal of the national park. As a result,

it creates pressure on herbivores animal of the park for food and grass. Sometimes in search of food and water animals comes in the villages which is present in the buffer area of national park. On coming near the villages, conflict start between villagers and wild animals of the national park and sometimes occur between wild animals and livestock. Despite being benefited in so many ways, some people do such activities which are not good for park's environment like fire burning. Most of the times after smoking, people throws burning cigarettes on the field, and their negligence becomes the cause of fire burn. The direct effect of fire burning is the death of fauna and destruction of flora. The indirect effect of wildfire can be seen as habitat loss of wild animals, lack of food availability which can cause conflict between wild animal and human or conflict between wild animal and livestock.

CONCLUSION

The local community near the CNP is been benefited with the park. With the growing number of population and due to unemployment, the dependency of people is continuously increasing. Due to over-exploitation of natural resources like fuelwood, timber, fodder, medicinal plants, etc. the environment of the park is affecting negatively.

RECOMMENDATION

- i. One most important thing is to educate the local people. To provide the proper education it's important that each village should be benefited from the primary school, high school, and intermediate school.
- ii. The main cause of more dependency on the CNP is unemployment. Most of the villagers are non-working or get a job for few months. So, it's critical to minimize the dependency that at least 60-70 % job should be reserved for the local community in the CNP management, resorts or in tourism.
- iii. With the help of local people plantation and proper conservation in the surrounding area of CNP is the better option to minimize the vegetation disturbance in the CNP.
- iv. By providing fencing and walls between villages and CNP, we can reduce the conflict between wild animals and livestock or local people.
- v. For better management of the park, it is important to involve the local population officially. Without local people involvement, it's impossible to conserve biodiversity.

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