

The impact of tourism on urban renewal through stakeholders'  
perspective: A case of post-earthquake urban renewal in  
Kathmandu Valley in the wake of covid 19



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A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
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FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE  
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ผลกระทบของการท่องเที่ยวต่อการฟื้นฟูเมืองผ่านมุมมองของผู้มีส่วนได้ส่วนเสีย:  
กรณีการฟื้นฟูเมืองหลังแผ่นดินไหวในหุบเขากาฐมาณฑูจากเหตุการณ์โควิด 19



วิทยานิพนธ์นี้เป็นส่วนหนึ่งของการศึกษาตามหลักสูตรปริญญาวิทยาศาสตรมหาบัณฑิต  
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By                                      Miss Shitu Maharjan

Field of Study                      Urban Strategies

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วิทยานิพนธ์ : ผลกระทบของการท่องเที่ยวต่อการฟื้นฟูเมืองผ่านมุมมองของผู้มีส่วนได้ส่วนเสีย:  
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ในโลกที่มีความเป็นเมืองอย่างรวดเร็วที่มีความตระหนักเพิ่มขึ้นเกี่ยวกับผลกระทบของภัยพิบัติในสภาพแวดล้อมเมืองและความท้าทายที่ซับซ้อนในการสร้างพื้นที่เมืองขึ้นใหม่หลังเกิดภัยพิบัติขนาดใหญ่ (Daly, et al., 2017). แผ่นดินไหวขนาด 7.8 ริกเตอร์และอาฟเตอร์ช็อกที่ตามมาโจมตีประเทศเนปาลเมื่อเกือบ 7 ปีที่แล้ว เมื่อวันที่ 25 เมษายน 2558 ก่อให้เกิดภัยพิบัติด้านมนุษยธรรมครั้งใหญ่ แผ่นดินไหวทำให้เกิดการทำลายล้างทางเศรษฐกิจและสังคมที่สำคัญซึ่งทำให้ประเทศยังไม่ฟื้นตัว ช่วงปีแรกๆ ของการฟื้นฟูหลังแผ่นดินไหวเป็นไปอย่างเชื่องช้า แต่ในที่สุดการฟื้นฟูเมืองก็ได้รับการเร่งความเร็วและสร้างใหม่ได้สำเร็จในบางสถานที่ที่สำคัญทางประวัติศาสตร์ อย่างไรก็ตามก็มีความสนใจไม่เท่ากัน ในปัจจุบัน ด้วยการระบาดของโควิด 19 เนปาลก็กำลังตกอยู่ในวิกฤตที่ไม่เคยเกิดขึ้นมาก่อน อีกครั้ง วัตถุประสงค์ของการศึกษานี้คือเพื่อรับรู้ผลกระทบของการท่องเที่ยวที่มีต่อโครงการฟื้นฟูเมืองก่อนและหลังโควิด 19 และวิเคราะห์ผลกระทบของการระบาดของโควิด 19 ต่อความพยายามในการฟื้นฟูเมืองหลังแผ่นดินไหวในพื้นที่เชิงพาณิชย์ที่สำคัญต่อประวัติศาสตร์ของหุบเขากาฐมาณฑู การท่องเที่ยวเป็นหนึ่งในแรงผลักดันให้เกิดการฟื้นฟูเมืองในประเทศเนปาล แต่การแพร่ระบาดของโควิด 19 ทำให้อุตสาหกรรมการท่องเที่ยวที่ทรุดลงทุกวันนี้ในขณะที่ประเทศยังคงต่อสู้กับการระบาดใหญ่ของไวรัสโคโรนา งานฟื้นฟูเมืองทั้งหมดก็ได้รับหยุดชะงักลง และแทบไม่มีนักท่องเที่ยวในประเทศเลย สถานะลำบากขณะนี้คือประเทศควรจะไปตามจำนวนนักท่องเที่ยวที่มาเยือนและผลกำไรจากสกุลเงินต่างประเทศต่อไปหรือไม่ หรือพยายามเปลี่ยนจุดสนใจไปที่สิ่งอื่นที่ไม่ใช่การท่องเที่ยวเพื่อดำเนินการฟื้นฟูเมือง เพื่อให้หลักการนั้นชัดเจน แผนผังระบบเชิงคุณภาพจึงถูกนำมาใช้ในการวิจัย การวิจัยชิ้นนี้เป็นแบบอธิบายเชิงคุณภาพ การวิจัยกรณีศึกษาจะดำเนินการในพื้นที่เชิงการค้าที่สำคัญของหุบเขากาฐมาณฑู ซึ่งมีศูนย์กลางอยู่ที่จัตุรัสกาฐมาณฑูริบาร์ ส่วนหนึ่งของกรณีศึกษาในหุบเขากาฐมาณฑู การสัมภาษณ์ผู้เชี่ยวชาญ การวิเคราะห์ข้อมูลเชิงคุณภาพ และการทำแผนผังระบบ จะถูกนำมาใช้ในการวิจัยครั้งนี้ ข้อมูลปฐมภูมิสำหรับการวิจัยนี้จะถูกรวบรวมโดยการสัมภาษณ์แบบกึ่งโครงสร้างกับผู้มีส่วนได้ส่วนเสียและบุคลากรที่เกี่ยวข้องอื่น ๆ โดยใช้ข้อมูลเหล่านี้ทำให้เกิดการพัฒนาแนวทางใหม่ในการทำความเข้าใจระบบ ซึ่งจะทำหน้าที่เป็นฐานสำหรับการดำเนินการทางยุทธศาสตร์ในอนาคต รวมถึงยังเน้นย้ำถึงความสำคัญของการทำความเข้าใจอิทธิพลของโควิดต่อการฟื้นฟูเมืองและการท่องเที่ยวในกาฐมาณฑู สุดท้ายนี้ ผลลัพธ์ของการวิจัยนี้จะให้ความรู้และวิธีแก้ปัญหาที่เป็นประโยชน์แก่ผู้มีส่วนได้ส่วนเสียที่สำคัญ ทำให้พวกเขาตัดสินใจได้อย่างชาญฉลาดสำหรับอนาคตของการฟื้นฟูเมืองและการท่องเที่ยวในสถานการณ์โควิด 19

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สาขาวิชา ยุทธศาสตร์เมือง  
ปีการศึกษา 2564

ลายมือชื่อนิติ .....  
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In an increasingly urbanized world, there is a growing awareness of the impact of disasters in urban environments and of the complex challenges in rebuilding urban areas following large-scale disasters (Daly, et al., 2017). A magnitude 7.8 earthquake and its subsequent aftershocks struck Nepal almost seven years ago on April 25, 2015, triggering a huge humanitarian disaster. The earthquake caused significant socioeconomic destruction, from which the country is yet to recover. The initial years of post-earthquake rehabilitation were slow; eventually, it picked up speed and accomplished some important reconstruction in historic sites. However, not all locations received the same amount of attention. Currently, with the covid-19 outbreak, Nepal is engulfed in yet another unprecedented crisis. The purpose of this study is to recognize the effect of tourism on urban renewal projects before and after covid and analyze the impact of covid-19 pandemic on post-earthquake urban renewal efforts in historical commercial areas of Kathmandu Valley. Tourism has been one of the driving forces for the urban renewal efforts in Nepal, but the epidemic has caused the industry to collapse. Today, as the country continues to battle the coronavirus pandemic, all the urban renewal works has been halted and there is hardly any tourist in the country. Now, the dilemma is whether the country should continue to chase tourist arrival numbers and yearly foreign currency profits or strive to shift the focus to something other than tourism in order to continue the urban renewal works. For making the entire system more transparent qualitative system mapping is used in the research. The research will be qualitative explanatory type. Case study research will be conducted at a historical commercial area of Kathmandu Valley centering Kathmandu Durbar Square. As part of a case study in Kathmandu valley, expert interviews, qualitative data analysis and system mapping will be conducted. The primary data for this research will be collected by semi structured interviews with the stakeholders and other relatable personnel. Using these data, a new approach to system mapping with be developed which will serve as a foundation for future strategy implementation and emphasize the importance of understanding the influence of covid on urban renewal and tourism in Kathmandu. Lastly, the outcomes of this research will provide useful knowledge and solutions to key stakeholders, allowing them to make wise decisions for the future of urban renewal and Nepal tourism in the light of covid 19.

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## CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

### 1.1 Background

#### 1.1.1 Brief Introduction of Kathmandu Valley

Nepal is a landlocked country, surrounded by two neighboring countries, India, and China. Kathmandu is the political and historical capital of Nepal. The main capital city comprises three main districts popularly known as Kathmandu Valley. The Kathmandu Valley is comprised of three historic cities of remarkable significance and cultural awareness namely Kathmandu, Lalitpur (Patan), and Bhaktapur. However, the major urban center lies in between the three districts. Among them, Kathmandu is Nepal's most important traditional and commercial hub, as well as the city with the most advanced infrastructure among urban areas in Nepal. Kathmandu, being the gateway to Nepal's tourism, is the country's economic center. However, the sister cities, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur are crucial to Kathmandu in terms of tourism, economics, and cultural history.

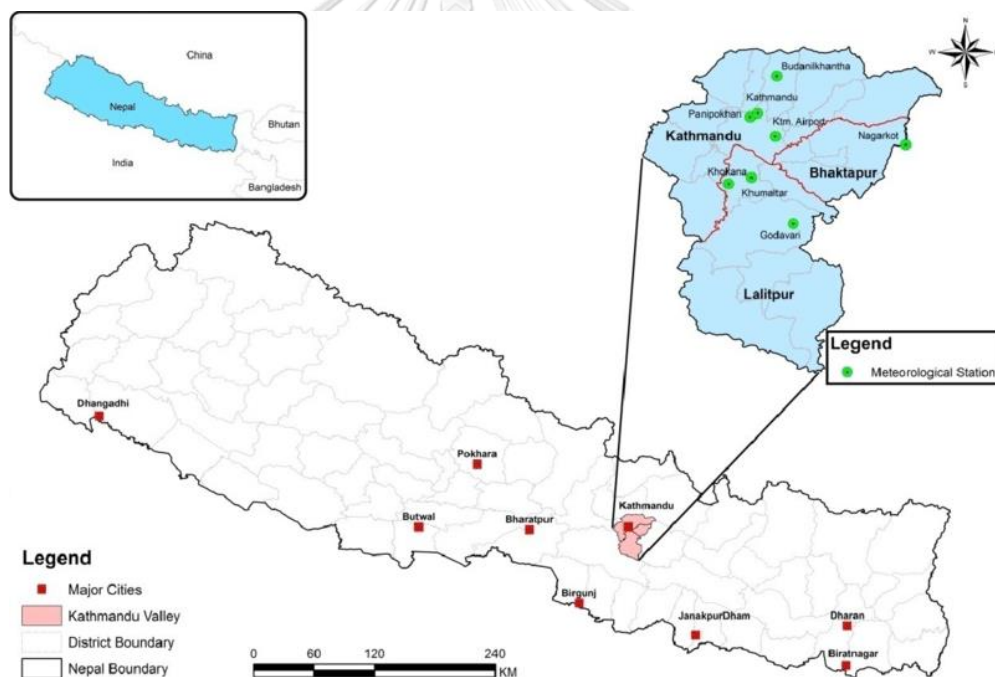


Figure 1: Map of Nepal showing Kathmandu Valley | Source: (Baniya, et al., 2018)  
The city is unique because of its cultural heritage, which is closely connected to its people, identity, and the way of life. In Nepal, the traditional heritage sector is recognized as an important aspect for development, mostly through tourism and job creation, even more as a symbol of national identity. The history of Kathmandu valley is nearly 2000 years old, as inferred from an inscription in the valley<sup>1</sup>. Hinduism and Buddhism are the most widely practiced religions in Kathmandu Valley. However,

<sup>1</sup> <https://kathmandu.gov.np/introduction/?lang=en> Retrieved on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2021

people from various cultural backgrounds live here resulting in having a cosmopolitan culture. Festivities are an essential aspect of people's life in Kathmandu Valley and tourism is a significant factor of city's economy. All in all, the diverse atmosphere of Kathmandu Valley is distinctive, and it is chaotic as well as fascinating at the same time.

## 1.2 Introduction

A destructive 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal on April 25, 2015, followed by thousands of aftershocks. The April-May earthquakes caused huge loss of lives and properties in the country – about 9,000 casualties; 22,300 injuries, 8 million directly affected people (or 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the national population), over half a million collapsed houses, and a drop by over 1.5 percentage points in gross domestic product (Commission, 2015).<sup>2</sup> It caused havoc in Kathmandu Valley, notably on the medieval town squares of Kathmandu, Patan, and Bhaktapur, all of which are recognized as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. It was an earthquake that seemed to specifically damage vernacular buildings and historical monuments (Weise, 2016). Numerous historic structures and monuments, many of which are world-renowned for their indigenous traditional architecture, were destroyed by the earthquake, entirely altering the built form of several old towns, including Patan, Bhaktapur, and most notably Kathmandu.

Today, even after marking the seventh year since the disaster, the economic and social consequences are still being sorted, and the urban renewal efforts continue. After the earthquake, it was uncertain that the urban renewal would be a long and difficult road to recovery. However, the government was determined to highlight the urban renewal progress after launching a large tourism promotion campaign, Visit Nepal 2020. But, following the beginning of the huge tourism promotion campaign, Nepal was struck by covid on the same year. Now, with covid 19 there are additional challenges. It was Nepal's misfortune that all the expensive preparations for Visit Nepal 2020, during which the country hoped to attract a record 2 million visitors, have gone to waste because of the covid-19 crisis (Rijal P. , 2020). Hence, the tourism industry has been severely affected by the covid 19 outbreak. Tourism has been one of the driving forces behind Nepal's urban renewal efforts, but the epidemic has caused the industry to collapse. The travel and tourism sector contributes 8 percent to Nepal's GDP, 6.7 percent to the country's total employment, and it generates 6 percent of the total foreign exchange earnings (Panthhe & Kokate, 2021). The government is losing revenue from taxes, entrance fees, and so on, which they used to invest in urban renewal projects.

The coronavirus epidemic, has abruptly halted progress in restoring and reconstructing, having profound effects on people's daily lives. Restorative work that

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<sup>2</sup> In this document, the April-May earthquakes refer collectively to the 7.8 M earthquake of April 25,2015 and 7.3 M earthquake of May 2015.

was already moving at a very slow pace has been put on hold. Because of the lockdown, construction workers and craftsmen are out of job and may be without an income for the time being. The economic impact of covid 19 may be minor in contrast to other impacts such as death and devastation across the globe, but the major fear is that the impact might drastically reverse some of the progress made in recent years via post-disaster recovery. According to (Sengupta & Sharma, 2020), an Asian Development Bank report estimates that covid-19, in the worst case, could shave off up to 0.13% from the country's economy, a significant drop from the 4.5 percentage point gain achieved through post-disaster urban renewal. Meanwhile, the situation in Nepal continues to evolve due to ongoing political and economic aftershocks, this study will investigate the recovery of Kathmandu Valley's historical settlement area as well as the challenges it confronts on the road to recovery.

### 1.3 Problem Statement

Nepal is a country with lots of potential for tourism. The major tourist attraction of Nepal is its unique natural environment, which is dominated by the world's tallest mountains and is followed by old, rich, and cultural traditions. Aside from its breathtaking natural beauty and landscape, Nepal's rich cultural heritage entices visitors from all over the world to make their trip. International tourist visits Nepal carrying various interest, including leisure travelers, pilgrims, adventures, etc. International tourist arrivals to Nepal have grown steadily since 1962, despite some notable short-term impacts due to civil and political factors (Beirman, et al., 2018).

Tourism is undoubtedly one of the world's largest and fastest growing industries. It is one of the key drivers for the restoration and urban renewal efforts in Nepal. In Nepal, the massive earthquake of April 2015 was one of the severe natural disasters and represented a major setback to its tourism development. While Nepal is still rebuilding from the devastation of the earthquake, covid 19 has struck another huge blow to the country's tourism economy. The situation is alarming. The epidemic has had a significant impact on the whole service industry, notably tourism, aviation, and hospitality. With the launch of visit Nepal 2020 campaign, the country was in hope to attract two million visitors, but due the corona pandemic the campaign got cancelled which has shattered the hospitality and tourism related business sector.<sup>3</sup> Moreover, the recovery of the historical sites has faced severe challenges in the face of the coronavirus epidemic due to curfews, stranded employees, and a major drop in tourism industry. The relationship between urban renewal and tourism is often viewed through the lens of conflict and dispute. However, various researchers identify tourism as a collaborative effort that benefits both urban renewal and tourism. Tourism is often perceived as a threat to conservation of historical sites but, tourism is a platform and a driver for exposing historical sites and their heritage to the public, protecting it, and ensuring its economic and social sustainability. Hence, tourism is in

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<sup>3</sup> [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/sawdf\\_nepal\\_e.pdf](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/sawdf_nepal_e.pdf) Retrieved on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2021

most cases is a balancing mechanism that keeps and protects the historical sites heritage.<sup>4</sup>

While tourism continues to be one of the sectors hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic there are additional challenges in the decision making of restoration work in historical sites. However, prior to the pandemic, as the country recorded progress in the urban renewal of heritage monuments, the return of tourists and visitors could also be observed, which contributed to the economic recovery. In contrast to other cities such as Kathmandu, Patan recorded more visitors as most of the main monuments, which were damaged or had collapsed in 2015, were already rebuilt (ICOMOS-ICCROM, 2021). Hence, the pandemic has strongly affected the urban renewal work of traditional old settlements and their heritages in Nepal, and it is important to highlight tourism as an important aspect in urban renewal efforts of historical settlements.

#### 1.4 Research Questions

A disaster differs from a pandemic in duration and the severity of shocks, one is more localized, while the other has more widespread and systemic impacts (Sengupta & Sharma, 2020). However, both provide complicated difficulties that requires multi-level strategies. Hence, this research will aim to mainly answer the following questions:

- a. How much did tourism as a driving factor influenced the urban renewal in Kathmandu Valley before the pandemic?
- b. Does tourism have a positive or negative influence on urban renewal projects of historical commercial areas?
- c. How much has the collapse of tourism industry impacted the urban renewal effort, both in short and long term?
- d. What are the stakeholders' opinions on both tourism and urban renewal efforts in Kathmandu's historic commercial center in the post covid years?

#### 1.5 Research Objectives

To address the research questions, the primary goal of this study will be to determine the impact of tourism on urban renewal in historical town of Kathmandu Valley prior to the pandemic, during pandemic and after pandemic. Most of the research are focusing on immediate effects of pandemic; however, one must consider the indirect effects as well. Therefore, due to this hard to predict indirect effects, careful study with prediction, and more long-term research projects are needed (Zenker & Kock, 2020). The pandemic is still ongoing, and experts are conducting in-depth investigations into the situation. Hence, based on the main aim of this research, the following research objectives are formulated. The following objectives will function as the guidelines for this research:

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ourworldheritage.org/tourism/> Retrieved on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2021



- To comprehend the relation between tourism and urban renewal in the light of covid 19 scenario.
- To get a better understanding of the stakeholders' perspectives on the connection between tourism and urban renewal.
- To provide possible policies and strategies on how tourism can contribute to the development and promotion of historical settlements and their heritages in Kathmandu Valley.

### 1.6 Scope of the Study

This research will have a qualitative approach using Kathmandu Valley as a case study. This study uses the following methodological strategy to answer the research questions. The study looks into how stakeholders in Kathmandu view their participation in urban renewal and the results of such participation. Indeed, it aims to understand how the people involved evaluate the process, its outcomes, and the role of institutions. Therefore, this study primarily focuses on the tourism approach towards urban renewal efforts from the perspectives of institutions and/or experts while also considering the views and comments of local populations. To do this, this study adopts conceptual system mapping as a way of describing the multidimensional relationships i.e., disaster, pandemic, identity between tourism approach and urban renewal, which are non-mathematical in nature. This is one method of investigating how one particular thing has impacted the urban renewal efforts in different stages of the process.

This study selects the inner city of Kathmandu Valley. It looks at the traditional urban setting of residential and commercial places with historical value. This selection of case provides a way to understand the role of tourism in urban renewal in Kathmandu and even Nepal. This also enriches the applications and implications of the findings. In summary, this is a case study-based research that applies a range of qualitative techniques to study how tourism is an important aspect in the urban renewal in Kathmandu acknowledging the viewpoints of different stakeholders and institutions.

### 1.7 Research Site

The study will be conducted in the traditional commercial town area of Kathmandu valley, which comprises of Kathmandu Durbar Square as the center of attraction and its nearby urban setting as the functioning core as well as the commercial center of Kathmandu. The location falls under Kathmandu district, with lots of traditional residential and commercial buildings surrounding the durbar square. The study area has various land uses, for example, residences, commercial, mixed used housing, trading, industry, and education. Most of the private households are traditional and old buildings which follows vernacular architecture. The number of buildings which follows traditional Newari architecture are notable in this area. Mixed commercial and

residential shophouses also occupy a large percentage. The old town is well connected with other parts of the districts, with narrow alleyways connecting to various routes.

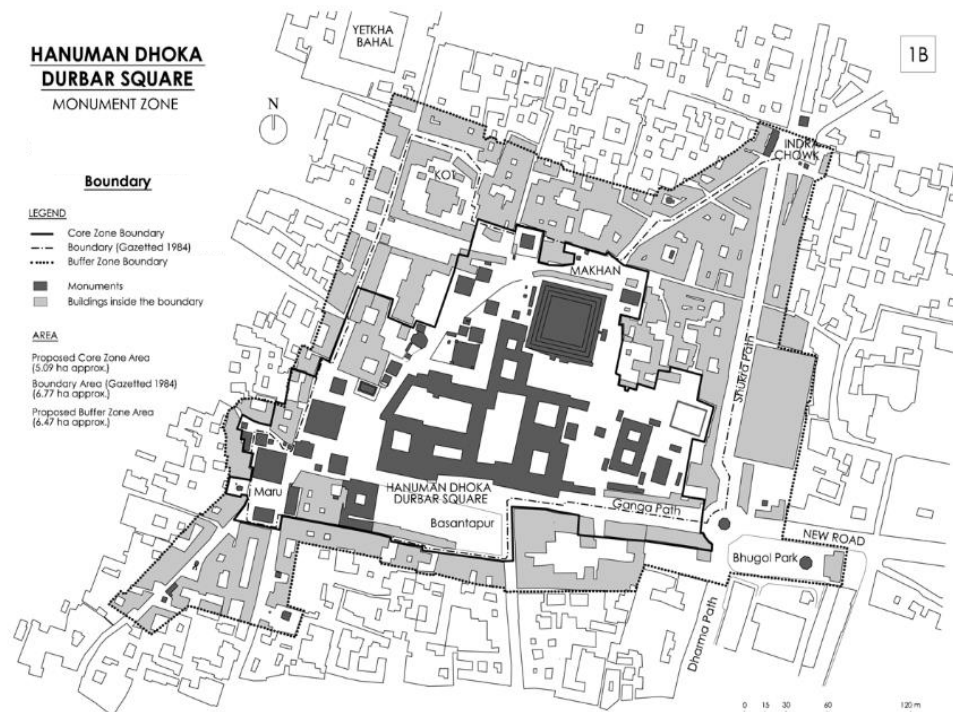


Figure 2: Proposed research site (buffer zone area) | Source: UNESCO World Heritage Convention

The choice of buffer zone boundary in the durbar square as a field site is to highlight the challenges in urban housing urban renewal, especially in a traditional urban center that is home to a significant World Heritage Site. The urban renewal of the structures in the World Heritage Site has been one of the most strongly debated issues, notably around Kathmandu Durbar Square with the accusations of locals that contractors rebuilding structures have not faithfully followed original designs and are using cheap materials. Conservationists and members of the local people, who are patrons of the temples and live close by, worry that the government is violating international heritage standards because of the pressure to rebuild quickly. Some say that could prompt the UNESCO to delist some of Nepal's World Heritage sites, which would deal a blow to tourism (Adhikari, 2018). Setting this study inside the buffer zone boundary of the traditional commercial center of Kathmandu Valley, hence provide insights into urban renewal post-earthquake.

The study will be conducted inside the buffer zone boundary radius centering the Kathmandu Durbar Square. The radius covers the urban setting which represents the historical commercial town of Kathmandu which consists of maximum number of traditional buildings. According to Durbar Square Management Office, of total damaged 58 heritage structures including temples and monuments in 2015 Gorkha Earthquake, 21 are under construction so far.<sup>5</sup> Unfortunately, not all Kathmandu's heritage buildings have received the same care. While public and communal heritage have received continuous attention and investment, many private homes have been abandoned. Houses that survived the quake, but sustained damage have been abandoned. Hence, the choice of proposed area as a research site is to highlight the challenges in urban housing urban renewal, especially in a traditional urban center that is home to a prominent World Heritage Site which also attracts thousands of tourists every year. The figure below illustrates the buffer zone boundary of the durbar square including monuments that collapsed or were partially damaged during the earthquake.

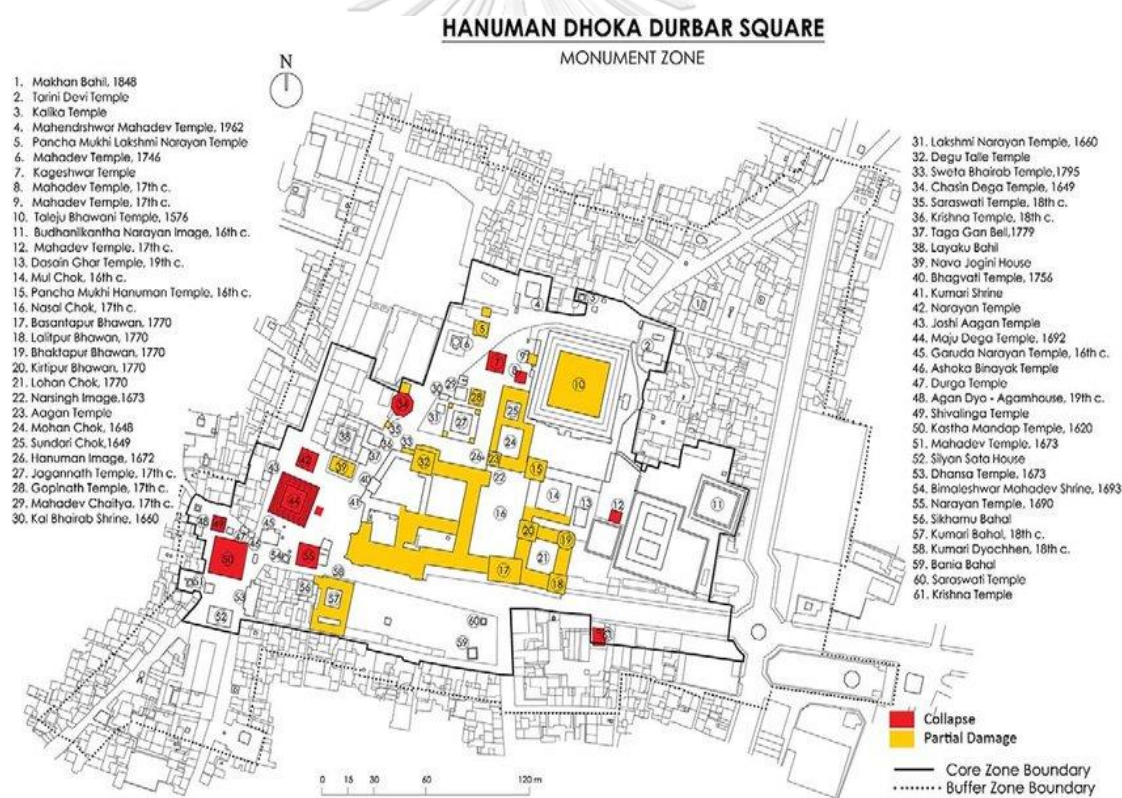


Figure 3: Damage states of Kathmandu Durbar Square monuments | Source: (Sujan Shrestha, 2017)

<sup>5</sup> <https://english.khabarhub.com/2021/13/202712/> Retrieved on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2021

## 1.8 Thesis Structure

This section quickly summarizes the thesis structure before gaining insight into each topic in depth. Overall, the thesis is organized into six chapters, as follows:

Chapter 1 introduces a general idea about the tourism approach to urban renewal in Kathmandu. It highlights the significance and novelty of this study. This research also outlines the study's goals, objectives, and research questions. This chapter reveals that this study takes Kathmandu as a case study, and it will be qualitative research that applies conceptual system mapping as an investigation method. It also introduces the research site and the context of urban renewal schemes in Kathmandu after the earthquake. Further details of the methodological techniques are discussed later in chapter 3.

Chapter 2 questions two subjects; tourism and urban renewal. It also reviews the literature on urban renewal, its meaning and construction. The impact of the great earthquake on the medieval town square, and later the effect of covid upon the urban renewal efforts are argued. The chapter turns to the idea of tourism being the catalyst for urban renewal in Kathmandu Valley and its possible positive and negative impact. It also questions the general association between tourism and urban renewal. Discussing the evolution post covid in the city, particularly in post disaster situation, is another related issue.

Chapter 3 develops the methodological approach taken in the research. This chapter outlines the approaches that will be used to accomplish the study goal and effectively address the research questions. This procedure entails a number of phases, all of which are described in this chapter that are necessary for the conduction of the research. It also outlines the conceptual framework of the research with the list of stakeholders for interviews. It reveals the system mapping as a data analysis tool.

Chapter 4 reveals the findings from interviews, which is further analyzed in order to provide suited recommendation for the research site. The responses are analyzed based on the gathered information regarding the trends and issues before, during and post pandemic. Responses from the stakeholders reveals the impact of tourism on urban renewal. The chapter discusses the central dimensions of the impact including a system map portraying the relationship between urban renewal and tourism in the case of Kathmandu.

Chapter 5 formulates the debates and strategies based on the analysis of findings in the previous chapter. Policies and strategies are suggested or stakeholder cooperation, mitigating negative impact of tourism and, fostering long-term recovery and resilience are proposed here. The chapter presents the assessments of the outcomes, the experience of the involvement, and the role and performance of the stakeholders.



Chapter 6 responds to the research objectives raised in chapter 1. This chapter recommends on building back better for a sustainable future. It summarizes the impact of tourism on urban renewal through stakeholders' perspective. The study's contributions to knowledge, conclusions, and limitations are all summarized. The study's implications for policy, practice, and prospective future research areas are also discussed.

## CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 The Medieval Town and its Context Before The Impacting Events

#### 2.1.1 Description, Designation, and Recognition

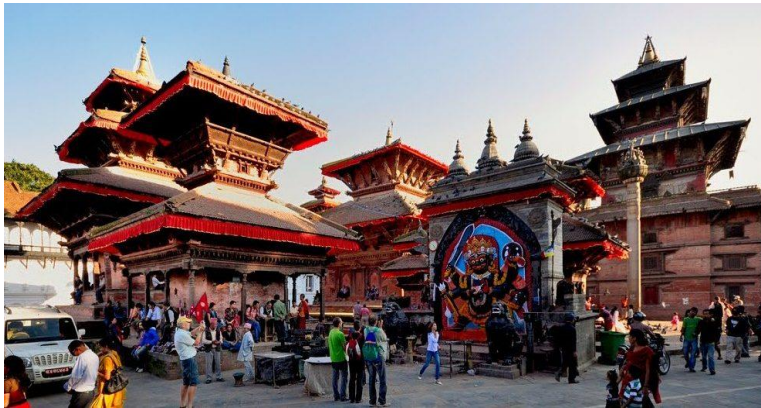
Kathmandu Durbar Square with its temples and the royal palace is the functioning core as well as the urban, cultural, and commercial center of the former royal city of Kathmandu and since 1979 it has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. It is located in Nepal's midlands, in the Kathmandu Valley, right on the trade route between India and Tibet, and has a rich physical and intangible cultural history. The architectural features of the medieval town have tremendous artistic value, and their decorations demonstrate the native people's high degree of skill in brick, stone, timber, and metal. The town was and continues to be an essential public area for the city's urban life, despite the devastating earthquake in 2015. It serves as a hub for social interaction, exchange of goods and labor and acquiring income (market stands, souvenirs shops, etc.) as well as major tourist hotspots. The heritage monuments provide a place for rituals, daily worships, and memorial as well as a variety of local customs and seasonal festivities.

On an area of approximately 6.77 hectare, the site comprises a cluster of around fifteen larger and a range of smaller monuments. The building typologies range from tiered and shikhara-style temples, free standing pillars, stupa and mandapa. The intensity of activity and interchange is not only due to the high concentration of important monuments in the square but also due to its location at literally the crossroads of the city, in many cases the shortest and most convenient path leads



Figure 4: Aerial view of Kathmandu Durbar Square and its urban setting before earthquake | Source: Google Earth

through the Durbar Square (ICOMOS-ICCROM, 2021). The Kathmandu Valley is famous for the wealth, diversity, and quantity of its architectural legacy concentrated into a tiny space. Cultural and daily life thus revolve around the Durbar Square and the living culture is closely associated with the tangible cultural heritage, which makes it a living heritage site. Various international researchers have acknowledged the monuments for their unique characteristics. Hence, the square serves a significant purpose for the community and is used by both resident and visitors.



From top to bottom:

Figure 5: Kathmandu Durbar Square before earthquake 2015

Figure 6: View outside Durbar complex with temples and monuments

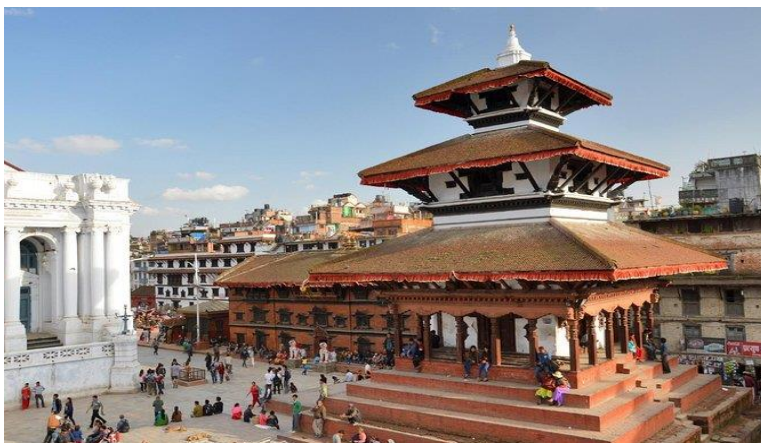


Figure 7: Kathmandu Durbar Square before earthquake 2015



### 2.1.2 History, Ownership, and Context

Kathmandu is considered the most ancient among the three main cities of the Kathmandu Valley. Its Durbar Square was built in an urban environment at the time of construction, which was already at the crossroad of two major routes. Today the square is located in Kathmandu's Bustling metropolitan core. It is in the heart of the city. The name Kathmandu, previously known as Kantipur, derived from Kasthamandap, a rest house built from the wood of a single tree.<sup>6</sup>



Figure 8: The three story Kastamandap believed to be built from wood of a single tree | Source: Digital Archaeology Foundation

One of the numerous architectural buildings to visit in the Durbar Square is Kasthamandap, a wooden structure erected from a single tree trunk in the center of the temples in the 12th century. Locals refer to the Kathmandu Durbar Square as Hanuman Dhoka Palace rather than Kathmandu Durbar Square because of the large sculpture of the Monkey deity - Hanuman erected at the entrance to the Palace housing Shah Kings' relics.

The square serves as both a background and a channel for everyday life. Throughout the year, worshipping and important events, such as the processions during the chariot festival take place in the square. Hence, depending on the god to whom they are devoted, or the beliefs and festivals linked with them, certain monuments are more important than others. The people of the area are not only interested in using the built cultural heritage, but also in preserving it. (ICOMOS-ICCROM, 2021) has stated that, "In former times, care and conservation of the monuments was a community-based responsibility that was done by Ghuthis." Guthis are groups of individuals who have a variety of duties, ranging from conducting daily rituals and caring for temples to organizing large celebrations. Many Guthis no longer fulfill this role or are trying to find members among the younger generations. The temples and monuments are now owned by the government, although they are mostly administered and used by the community.

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.mytripnepal.com/trip/kathmandu-durbar-square/> Retrieved on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Ranking among the most disaster-prone countries in the world, Nepal has been highly susceptible to a wide range of natural disasters, such as earthquakes, landslides, and floods (Ghimire, 2016). Earthquakes are considered as the most severe natural calamities. They have wreaked havoc on cultural property in nearly every century. Human activities and man-made dangers also represent significant challenges to the historic assets. Historic structures are particularly vulnerable to urbanization, infrastructural development, and growing population. The historic site is particularly vulnerable to the negative effects of mass tourism since it is a prominent tourist destination. For a better illustration, Nepal got around 9,500 tourists in 1964, 790,118 in 2014, 538,970 in 2015 due to the earthquake, and in 2018 Nepal received a record 1,173,072 visitors (Nepal Tourism Statistics, Government of Nepal). Another reoccurring issue is a lack of ongoing monument care and maintenance, which leads to accelerated degradation of construction materials, particularly during the monsoon season. Some nineteenth-century illustrations portray monuments that have been neglected and poorly maintained since then.

Moreover, in terms of economic settings, Nepal is one of the world's least developed countries. Agriculture is the backbone of the economy, and it employs the majority of the population. The tourism industry in Nepal is growing and is a significant source of revenue and jobs, notably in the Kathmandu Valley. The earthquake in 2015, followed by the pandemic in 2020, has led to slow economic progress in the country.

### 2.1.3 Nature of the Impacting Events

Throughout history, earthquakes have posed a threat to the Kathmandu Valley and its cultural heritages. In the past, great earthquakes have occurred approximately every 80 to 100 years (ICOMOS-ICCROM, 2021). The most recent devastating earthquake struck the valley on April 25, 2015, soon before noon, with a magnitude of 7.8 and a duration of around

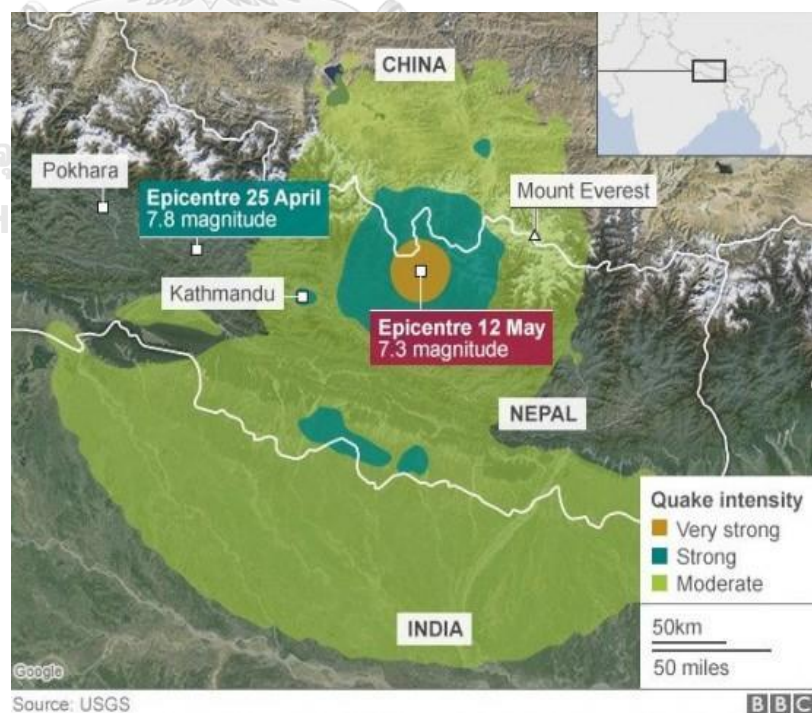


Figure 9: Map showing impact of earthquake | Source: USGS



two minutes. Its epicenter was located 81 km northwest of Kathmandu at a depth of 15 km (OCHA, 2015). Daily minor aftershocks rocked the country in the aftermath, with another large one occurring on May 12, 2015.



Figure 10: Collage of pictures showing The Kathmandu Durbar Square in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake in April 2015 Image Source: (North, 2018)

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Beside the humanitarian catastrophe with almost 9,000 deaths and 22,000 injured (Commission, 2015), the earthquake caused enormous damage to vernacular architecture and historic structures of cultural and religious value. The earthquake struck the nation in the midst of the first of two major tourism seasons, largely discouraging cultural and other types of travel. Many workers in the tourism sector (tourist guides, restaurant, and hotel staff, etc.) thus lost their jobs. As tourism is considered to form the backbone of Nepal's present economy, the country suffered major economic losses in the following years (Commission, 2015). According to the Nepal Tourism Statistics released by the government of Nepal, the number of visitors arriving in Nepal decreased by 32% from almost 800,000 in 2014 to around 540,000 in 2015. After the disaster, huge number of employees had left the urban center to help their relatives and communities in rural areas. Others were preoccupied with the disaster's impact on their own livelihoods and the repair of their own private residences. Both resulted in decreased availability of human resources for the post-earthquake urban renewal in the urban center.

On the other hand, urban renewal work that was already going painfully slow had to be suspended because of the pandemic. Covid-19 caused by SARS-CoV-2, was first reported in Wuhan, China and is now a pandemic affecting countries and territories around the world. Nepal has been severely affected by it, with an increasing number of confirmed cases and casualties. The capital city records with the maximum number of covid cases in Nepal where the maximum number of post-earthquake urban renewal works are ongoing. In April 2021, Nepal experienced its deadliest pandemic crisis, with hospitals overflowing with patients treated in parking areas and people waiting in lines for oxygen cylinders. Nevertheless, on a brighter side, the health ministry of Nepal records shows 44 percent of Nepali's adults have received at least one dose and 37.5 percent are fully vaccinated and slowly the daily lives of people are getting back to normal.<sup>7</sup>

## 2.2 The Concept of Urban Renewal

The first urban renewal seminar, conducted in the Netherlands in August 1858, provided an appropriate description of urban renewal: "The public have different expectations and dissatisfactions with their buildings, living environment, travel, shopping, entertainment and other activities; they have high hopes of improving their own neighborhoods, streets and parks to have a comfortable living environment and a beautiful city" (Li, et al., 2016).

Urban renewal refers to a set of plans and activities to upgrade neighborhoods and suburbs that are in state of distress or decay (Richards, 2014). The physical features of urban decay are addressed through urban renewal projects. For instance, such projects address urban issues such as deteriorating housing, insufficient physical infrastructure, and inadequate community services such as sports and recreational amenities. Basically, the purpose of urban renewal is to revitalize portions of a city that are undeveloped or poorly developed. These regions may have ancient, deteriorated buildings as well as poor roadways and utilities. It is a program of land redevelopment which happens in an already existing urban area. According to the definitions of researchers, urban renewal is the essential and planned reconstruction and rebuilding of regions that are unable to adapt to the modern city's sustainable growth.

Urban renewal is a dynamic concept that has developed in relation to changes in the city and its economy. It alludes to the different initiatives made in the most severely affected cities by capitalist urbanization to stop the decline. The majority of cities have sizable, blighted zones that put a great deal of strain on the services and infrastructure that are already in place. Many of them no longer operate their businesses and are producing at poor levels. Despite the priceless property on which such places are located, they make little money for the city. It is now a burden to keep

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/11/11/nepal-covid-vaccination-adults-mid-april-health-minister> Retrieved on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022

them in their current condition without any returns. It is now a burden to keep them in their current condition without any returns.

It's crucial to understand that renewal encompasses broader viewpoints like advancement in the economy and society. Urban renewal looks for solutions to enhance the lives of those who live and work in underprivileged areas. Activities for renewal and restoration can range from being comparatively less integrated to being more integrated holistically, and they can also take many different forms. The many definitions offered by academics, researchers, and planners all work toward sustainability by incorporating various aspects of urban renewal which are as follows: (Onkar, Dhote, & Sharma, 2008)

- Physical renewal leads to improvement of urban fabric.
- Social renewal leads to improvement of community and housing.
- Cultural renewal promotes enhancement of culture and traditions.
- Economic renewal leads to new generation of employment and revenue; and
- Environmental renewal leads to minimizing ecological imbalances in urban environment

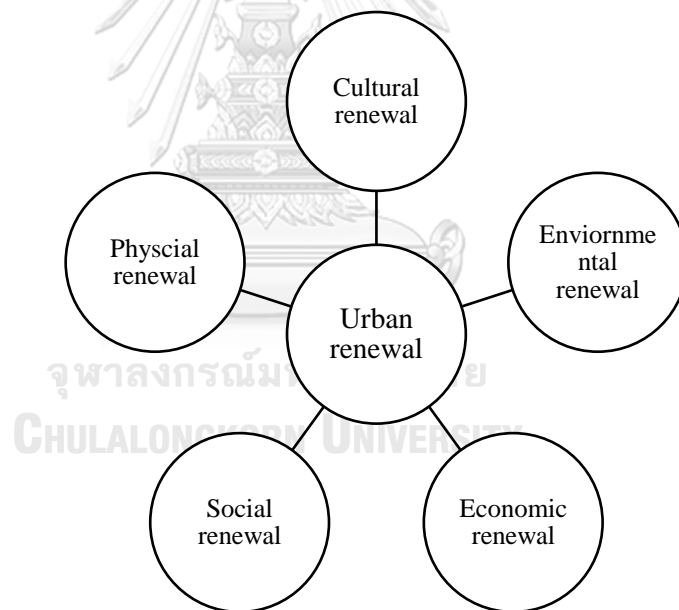


Figure 11: Dimensions of Urban Renewal | Source: (Onkar, Dhote, & Sharma, 2008)

Urban health analysis and monitoring are necessary for any planning to be successful. However, there isn't a scale for evaluating urban decline, stress, or deprivation that doesn't produce a signal when the city crosses a certain point. The five aspects of urban renewal must be connected causally and correlated with one another. With a thorough knowledge of urban renewal, the critical issues can be transformed into opportunity areas. Cities have the potential to age gracefully in the long run.

### 2.2.3 Natural Disaster and Urban Renewal

Due to the growing frequency and scale of natural disasters, research has revealed that the effective implementation of urban renewal must consider local people's cultural, social, economic, and ecological perspectives, as well as the targeted area's disaster prevention and sustainability demands. In fact, urban renewal is an important strategy for promoting local development. Hence, the notion of urban renewal has grown in importance and taken on new dimensions such as redevelopment and catastrophic avoidance, possibly at the level of an individual building, neighborhoods, or an entire region. Moreover, the researches related to the scope of urban renewal which comprises studies on environmental quality and catastrophe avoidance is diverse encompassing issues of culture, society economics and policy studies.

Urban renewal comprises a complex alteration in spatial context as well as a social and economic growth process. Most developing nations are facing urban renewal processes too quickly, and the urban population is growing, generating major environmental concerns and calamities. It is common for urban areas to suffer problems such as over exploration of underground water, natural vegetation degradation, low vegetation coverage and water pollution (Xiang, et al., 2017). However, natural disasters have become more intense and frequent as urbanization has intensified the devastation of the ecological environment, widening the region impacted by natural disasters and lengthening the course of natural catastrophes. Cities these days are becoming a concrete jungle having large amount of construction leading to limited space for green coverage. As a result, the city fails to fulfill its critical role of maintaining the natural environment and the number of natural catastrophes will steadily rise due to loss of greenery as well as failure in maintaining the balance of the ecosystem which is crucial in protecting the natural environment. (Xiang, et al., 2017) has found that in order to survive, people have become more and more demanding in their transformation of the natural ecological environment; thus, the extreme vulnerability of an arid ecological environment is fully revealed, leading to a vicious circle of urban renewal and natural disasters.

On the other hand, natural disasters are the product of the interaction between nature and the human ability to control. Natural calamities wreak havoc on the civilized conditions of human existence and growth. It primarily focuses on natural factors, yet they are deeply linked to human socioeconomic activity. Natural disasters have a wide range of consequences, and their occurrence can have a variety of negative consequences. It results in casualties and obstruct the process of urban renewal. It also result in immediate economic losses for people and public institutions, as well as long-term negative consequences on regional economic development, such as slower economic growth and more unequal regional economic development. It also raise the expense of rehabilitating and reconstructing the city because of the economic losses. Basically, natural catastrophes devastate structures such as houses and bridges, as

well as the city's transportation, energy, water, telecommunications, and financial information networks, resulting in increased indirect economic losses in industries, commerce, services, and international trade. Hence, the city's overall disaster capability is rather inadequate given the intensity of its urban assets.

#### 2.2.4 Post-earthquake Urban Renewal in Nepal

The urban renewal work that has been carried out in Nepal is the biggest such post-earthquake urban renewal in the world in terms of damage.<sup>8</sup> It is indeed challenging because of the geographical location and limited manpower and other resources. However, The National Urban renewal Authority (NRA), which was established for urban renewal and rehabilitation of the damages caused by the April 2015 earthquake and the subsequent aftershocks, claims to have made more than 90% progress in the urban renewal of private houses. They have released a progress report which states that 91 percent private houses have either been reconstructed or are currently under construction.<sup>9</sup> Using disaster as an opportunity, the NRA embraced the 'Build Back Better' approach and has since rebuilt hundreds of thousands of earthquake-resilient structures in districts affected by the quake.

On the other hand, the Department of Archaeology (DOA), which is overseeing the urban renewal and restoring the cultural and archeological heritage sites across the country, claims to have already completed work on 402 out of 737 quake damaged heritage structures that were to be reconstructed by the department (Ojha, 2020). The urban renewal of heritage sites is relatively complex and challenging. Valuable and scarce human resources, building materials, religious and cultural preservation, cooperation with local communities, worldwide heritage guidelines, and the time necessary in timber craftsmanship and sculpture must all be considered.

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<sup>8</sup> <http://nra.gov.np/en/news/details/ejb0OGwPEyHjkdtx9UsIoGm9plFQoshfoVrOvcbTW0I> Retrieved on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021

<sup>9</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/nepal/more-90-pc-progress-achieved-post-earthquake-urban-renewal-ceo> Retrieved on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021





Figure 12: Aerial view of core area of Kathmandu Durbar Square after earthquake |  
Source: (Ferris-Rotman, 2017)

Despite the challenges, most of the archaeological heritages have been restored to their original form and the local communities have widely participated in this process. Nepal's post-earthquake urban renewal has created about 166 million workdays of employment (Nepal G. , 2021). The urban renewal strategy supports local enterprises that manufacture building materials like cement, bricks, wood etc., while also creating jobs for the locals. This has contributed significantly to the national economy. It has also fostered a sense of communal development among the locals and provided an example of collaboration between the locals and the government.

Urban redevelopment, urban rehabilitation and urban conservation are included in the post-earthquake urban renewal plans in the case of Kathmandu Valley. For instance, there are redevelopment plans in areas where buildings were demolished due to the earthquake; however, in areas where there are already a few buildings remaining, but their use is not appropriate for economic development, a change of building use and type is required, which is urban rehabilitation, and for heritage protection and preservation of important buildings there are urban conservation projects.

#### 2.2.5 Challenges for Recovery

It was six years ago that Nepal was reeling from a massive earthquake that killed and injured thousands and destroyed crucial infrastructure, followed by a blockade of the border to neighboring India that cut off large parts of the population from essential goods and services (Michaels, 2020). While the Covid-19 epidemic brings significant new problems for Nepal, it also serves as a reminder of the Nepali people's prior hardships and perseverance in times of crisis.

Since 2015, the road to recovery have posed significant organizational, administrative, and managerial obstacles. First, in the aftermath of the earthquake, the blockage of the border with India, which was triggered by the proclamation of the revised constitution, resulted in a considerable shortage of goods and a fuel crisis (ICOMOS-ICCROM, 2021). It worsened the already scarce resources and hampered recovery and restoration efforts.

Second, one of the most difficult technical challenges is to balance the use of outdated and traditional technology and materials with the need for increased safety. While some researchers insist on using only traditional materials and procedures, despite the fact that they may not be able to resist earthquakes. Others are only worried about improved earthquake resistance and safety issues. Moreover, throughout the urban renewal process, the risk of aftershocks is consistent.

Lastly, the pandemic crisis currently derailing lives across the globe may have a familiar feel for Nepalis (Michaels, 2020). Nepal government had to lockdown for months to control the spread of the virus that causes corona virus disease. Nepal entered the pandemic era with several severe underlying crises, largely due to the government's 2015 mishandling of earthquake disaster response, creating the conditions ripe for pandemic response failure in 2020 (Querenet, 2020).

#### 2.2.6 Identifying the Field of Criteria for Urban Renewal in Disaster Situation

Following a review of the literature on the concept of urban renewal, the mechanism of natural disaster and urban renewal, and the application of this knowledge to the case of post-earthquake urban renewal in Kathmandu, a set of criteria has been developed to summarize the scope of urban renewal in disaster situations. In order to define the major criteria of urban renewal in a crisis situation, it is critical to focus on the physical results associated with increasing the quality of the built environment and integrating heritage conservation of buildings into modern life. The field of criteria builds on combination of contributions from theories about the concept of urban renewal and natural disaster vulnerability along with previous studies of Kathmandu's urban renewal projects describing and explaining the process. (Mutlu, 2009) has pointed that, at a town/city level, public authorities should consider the factors of urban transformations, and coordinate rehabilitation policies, whereas urban policies and rehabilitation projects must be an integral part of an overall urban development plan. In order to accomplish the aim of social cohesiveness, it is necessary to identify features of the physical environment (streets, squares, open spaces), the degree of accessibility to basic requirements and facilities, and the level of accessibility to basic needs and amenities. Because each place has its own character and legacy, planners and designers must recognize the local communal life. Overall, some general components that fall within the main criteria for the planning process and outcomes are respect for cultural diversity, promoting basic needs and shelter for all, and rehabilitating old town centers to avoid urban expansion and reap benefits from

existing building stock, as well as the revival of historical cultural sites. Hence, the field of criteria mainly consists of two broad categories (Adapted from (Mutlu, 2009))

a) Planning process

The planning process mainly consists of approaches for development of the area. For instance, having an improved decision-making process, having a dedicated and consistent public authority, arranging appropriate legal body, take time factor into account, developing access to information and knowledge about the project, etc.

b) Planning outcome

Following the planning process is the planning outcome, which covers multiple dimensions of urban interventions in disaster situation with the changing perceptions about planning approaches. For instance, the overall assessment according to the emerging trend on the problems of disadvantaged groups, increased awareness of cultural and architectural heritage, the importance of public participation in decision making processes. Thus, the planning outcome can be categorized as follows:

- Physical criteria
- Economic criteria
- Social criteria
- Ecological criteria



Table 1: Criteria for planning process

Field of criteria	Actions for realizing the criteria	Set of criteria
Planning process	Providing access to decision making process	Maintaining the participation of all groups in decision-making processes
	Sustain participation and partnership	Creating participation techniques and including major groups (children, youth, women, NGOs, local governments, businesses, and workers)
	Time factor must be considered	Particular budgets and regulations are defined for projects at specific time intervals. Hence, the project should be arranged in realistic and readily achievable intervals
	New planning approach	Determining a vision for strategic, long term plans
	Should be an integral part of the urban policy	The physical (housing situation, heritage conservation, streets, squares, open spaces and social (community life, social relationships) characteristic should be identified.

Table 2: Criteria for planning outcome

Field of criteria		Actions for realizing the criteria	Set of criteria
Planning outcome	Physical criteria	Integrating heritage conservation	To renovate and modify the interior structures of historic buildings to meet the demands of modern living while preserving their heritage value. (adaptation to needs of today's society), and preserving the unique morphology of historic regions
		Improving urban design	Revival of urban design to improve the conditions in the built environment for the benefit of all residents.
		Promoting heritage tourism	Improving the quality for public areas and collective infrastructure and public facilities.
	Economic criteria	Providing building incentives for house rehabilitation	Subsidies or direct action in respect of housing renovation, improvement of living conditions, economic redevelopment. Financing shelter provisions.
		Developing multifunctional economic activities	Using the site's economic potentials, such as indigenous economic activities such as traditional jobs, redundant lands and historical building assets, on-site training of jobless or unskilled employees, and job creation.
		Using the economic potential of natural and cultural heritage	Enhancement of the town's corporate image, real estate valuation, increased population well-being and feeling of identity, prosperity, and social cohesiveness, and so on. Likewise, promoting sustainable tourism development and promoting funds and economic international relationships.

	Social criteria	Protecting and providing basic needs	Providing shelter, health services and education opportunities. Giving priority to marginal groups.
		Increased social diversity (aged vs. young)	Protecting cultural identity and respecting living style of all and considering social ties.
	Ecological criteria	Making urban renewal an integral part of sustainable development	Increasing public awareness on ecological issues, Supporting sustainable development protecting biodiversity, promoting energy efficient technology. Using sustainable building materials in the reconstruction of areas damaged by the disaster.
		International collaboration for natural conservation	Promoting energy efficient technology, alternative and renewable energy sources, and sustainable transport systems. Developing legal tools to protect environment

## 2.3 Institutional Framework

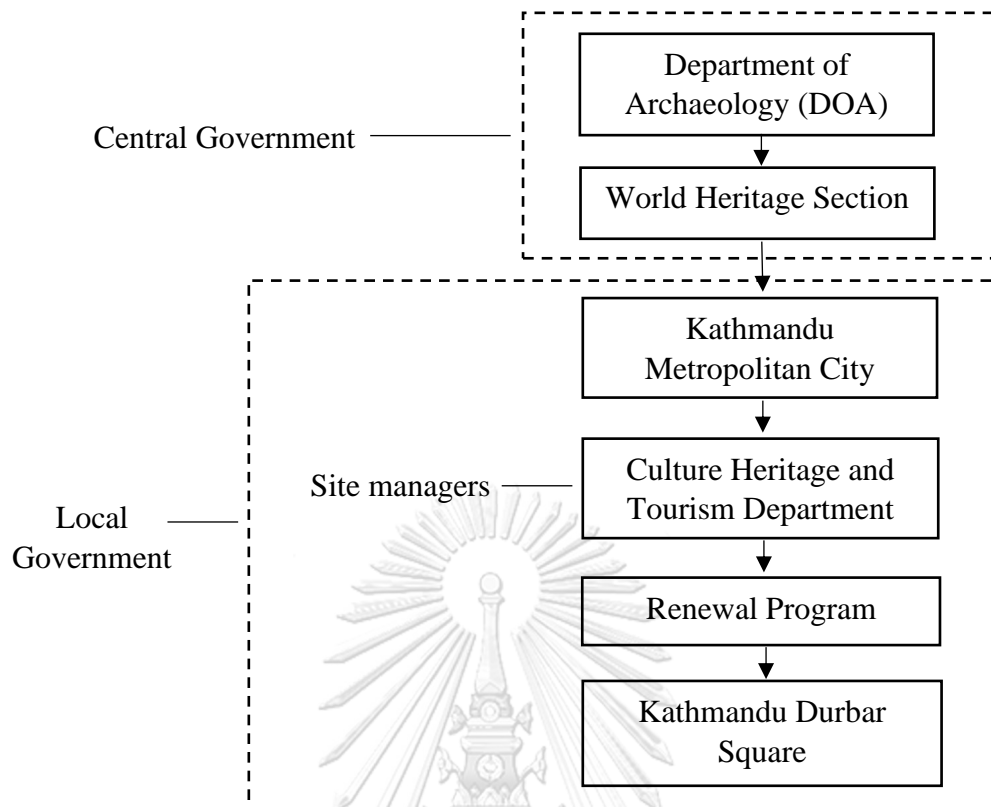
### 2.3.1 Drivers, Agents, and Governance

The earthquake left the country with a massive urban renewal challenge ahead of it. One of the early steps to urban renewal was the establishment of a public body, the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) to supervise the urban renewal and distribution of international aids to the affected sites. The urban renewal processes were planned and monitored by a committee that involved the NRA, the Department of Archaeology (DOA) and the local municipalities (Lekakis, et al., 2018). The Department of Archaeology is a federal body in charge of restoring and conserving temples, monuments, and historical sites. Likewise, a “State Party” is represented by the Department of Archaeology, under the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation. Management, however, needs to be carried out by site managers specific to each of the Monument Zones, leaving the Department of Archaeology with the task of coordination and monitoring and retaining responsibility for the classified area (Nepal G. o., 2007). Therefore, listed below are the drivers, agents, and governance of the institutional framework for the urban renewal in a heritage site.

- Central government: The Department of Archaeology (DOA), which is part of the Ministry of Culture, Tourism, and Civil Aviation, is the major government agency in charge of heritage conservation, restoration, protection (including

the World Heritage Site). The world heritage section of the DOA is responsible for restoration and conservation with processes including to deal with the respective municipalities.

- **Local Government:** The monument zones in each district are administered by a specific Local Government, which is supervised by the Ministry of Local Development. (Nepal G. o., 2007) has stated that, the Local Self-Governance Act 1999 gives the Local Government certain responsibilities within their domain, in respect to heritage conservation.
- **Site Managers:** Each Monument Zone has clearly defined site managers inside the institutional framework of both the federal government and the local government. The Culture Heritage and Tourism Department of Kathmandu Metropolitan City is responsible for managing the four Monument Zones within their area (Nepal G. o., 2007). The site managers will be the most local level suited for the work however the Department of Archaeology will retain the lead authority. Hence, the site manager for Kathmandu Durbar Square is The Culture Heritage and Tourism Department of Kathmandu Metropolitan City.
- **Coordinative Working Committee (CWC):** The Coordinative Working Committee (CWC) is the central organization in charge of the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site's integrated administration. The CWC shall meet at regular intervals not exceeding two months and may call upon emergency meetings when necessary (Nepal G. o., 2007). The Coordinative Working Committee Secretariat will serve as the focal point for the integrated administration of the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site and may invite representatives from associated government authorities, operational agencies, and experts to regular or emergency discussions if it is considered essential.



### 2.3.2 Determination of Stakeholders for Urban Renewal in Kathmandu Valley

Most urban renewal sites are influenced by and have an impact on their surrounding communities, local people and governments, the social and economic environment, supporters, and sponsors, and so on; in other words, they have a huge number of stakeholders. Hence, having a thorough insight of the requirements, expectations, and responsibilities of these diverse stakeholders is crucial. Stakeholders are individuals and organizations that are actively involved in the works, or whose interests may be affected as a result of works execution or completion.<sup>10</sup> Basically, a person or an organization who has the interest and ability to actively engage in a particular activity is known as a stakeholder.

After determining the broad problem to be addressed, it is crucial to assess which key stakeholders should be included in the system mapping process. Stakeholder analysis is the process of selecting and categorizing the stakeholders on the basis of their role, interest, power, legitimacy, and urgency (Azhar Inam, 2015).

There were three key stages in the procedure:

- a) A brainstormed list of stakeholders, including key people

Secondary materials, such as academic research, reports, and supervisors' knowledge, can aid the brainstorming process. Brainstorming is a diverse process

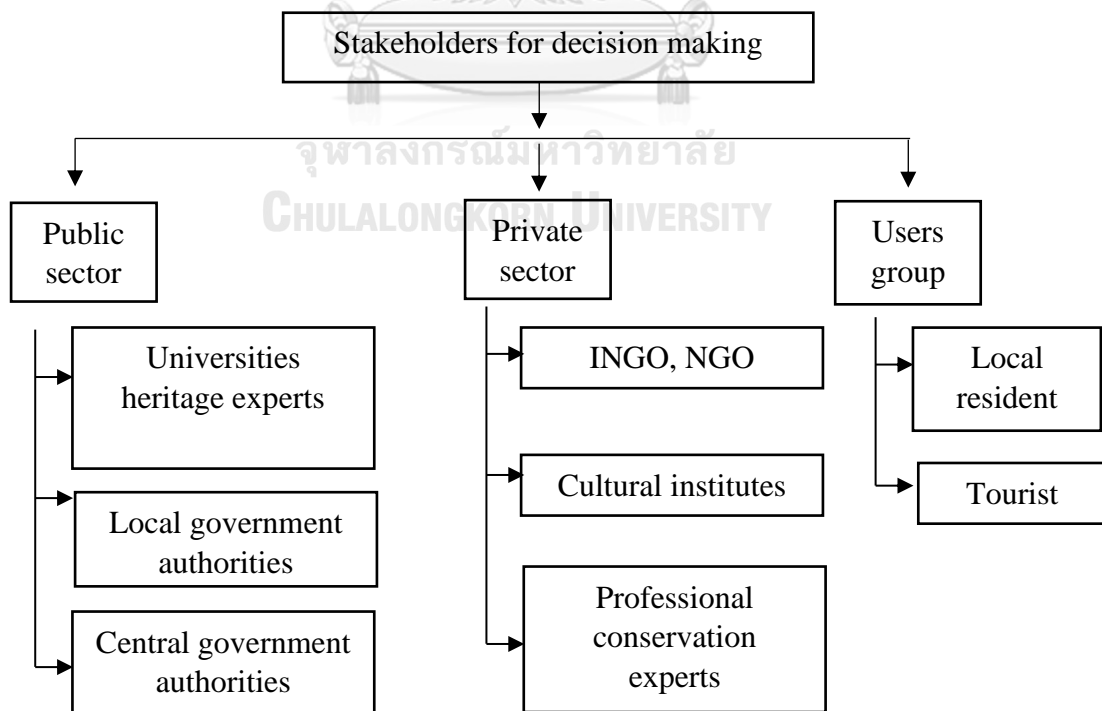
<sup>10</sup> [https://www.icomos.org/quebec2008/cd/toindex/77\\_pdf/77-CP7D-12.pdf](https://www.icomos.org/quebec2008/cd/toindex/77_pdf/77-CP7D-12.pdf) Retrieved on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2021

that incorporates even seemingly insignificant parties. This stage is fairly flexible, and the tentative list established in the first phase can be changed throughout the stakeholder interview stage when new persons or groups are identified. Hence, stakeholders may have varying responsibilities, power, and influence over a project. A list of various public and private stakeholders on a heritage restoration site may include:

- Relevant government departments
- Local committee body
- Sponsors, internal and external owners, and investors
- Department of finance, commerce, natural and historical resources
- Researching institutes, universities, specialists
- Consultants, contractors, suppliers, workers
- Tourists and tourism agencies
- Renovation and urban renewal companies

b) Their classification based on their duties

Following the completion of the list, data regarding their positions and group affiliations may be discovered. The list of stakeholders is further classified based on their roles. With regard to resource constraints, the current study identifies three primary groups of stakeholders for decision making roles: public sector (decision makers), private sector (implementers), and users' group.



- c) Their selection based on their power & interest; prioritization based on their characteristics

Based on the results of a comprehensive literature review and the situation of cultural heritage in Nepal, stakeholders are listed as the candidates for identifying who are the critical ones in the urban renewal of cultural heritage. The final composition of the stakeholders should involve representation of all roles (i.e., decision makers, users, implementers, and experts), as well as stakeholders who are related to at least one of the attributes of power, legitimacy, urgency, and interest (Azhar Inam, 2015).

Table 3: A list of stakeholders who have important role in urban renewal of cultural heritage

S.N	Stakeholder	Roles/ responsibilities	Interest/Demands	Reference
1.	Central government (Ministry of culture and tourism, DOA)	Establishing the policies and specifications and supervising the implementation.	Using the economic potential of natural and cultural heritage, developing economic activities. Reconstruction, restoration, and renovation of historic architectural fragments.	(Lekakis, Shakya, & Kostakis, 2018)
2.	Local government (Municipalities)	Municipalities and wards are responsible for restoration of structures within their jurisdiction.	Urban renewal of derelict regions, upgrading quality of life within its administrative division.	(Kc, Karuppannan, & Sivam, 2018)
3.	International agencies (UNESCO-affiliated expert body, JICA)	Redevelopment of derelict regions, restore, repair and adaptive reuse of ancient buildings.	Stresses on environmental preservation and the creation of oxygen-rich places, awareness to sustainability issues.	(ICOMOS - ICCROM, 2021)

4.	Expert group (Researching institutes, universities, specialists)	Providing intellectual support for the protection of architectural heritage.	Obtaining theoretical achievements from the experience of architectural heritage protection and conducting research.	(Lekakis, Shakya, & Kostakis, 2018)
5.	Construction company of architectural heritage urban renewal	Completing the project of urban renewal according to the requirements of quality and time	Gaining construction profit from the project of architectural heritage urban renewal	(Sharma, KC, & Pokharel, 2019)
6.	Community resident committees	Conservation of heritage sites, traditional approach for cultural renewal.	Urban culture marketing, cultural and historic heritage protection, continuation of annual feast, festivities.	(Kc, Karuppannan, & Sivam, 2018)
7.	Local residents	Participating in the restoration of architectural heritage and understanding the policy in the architectural heritage urban renewal.	Obtaining an increase of income and an improvement of life quality from the urban renewal of architectural heritage.	(Ruiling Wang, 2019)
8.	Tourists	Providing feedback and suggestion for the architectural heritage protection.	Obtaining better travel experience from the architectural heritage.	(Ruiling Wang, 2019)



#### 2.4 Perspective of stakeholder and its importance

Urban renewal is broadly a complicated, long-term, and decentralized process that involves the engagement of a diverse variety of organizations, communities, and individuals working collaboratively with a shared vision and common goals. According to (Lee & Jung, 2015), planners and developers need to be concerned about the perspectives of diverse stakeholder's group, whilst recognizing that a high level of complexity is associated with stakeholder's perspective and management. When many organizations collaborate and try to propose feasible approaches to a similar issue, stakeholder differences can lead to collaboration or conflict. As a result, it is crucial to analyze each stakeholder's perspective in order for them to participate in a safe environment, achieve numerous advantages, and maybe avoid long-term problems. To achieve a good balance and trust, it is critical to determine the stakeholder's perspective with genuine interest.

Despite significant advantages that may be achieved from the stakeholder's perspective, there may be tensions caused by conflicting objectives. For example, different outcomes aiming to obtain in culture led urban renewal, conflict with those responsible for protecting the historic buildings, different funding operation systems and over demanding requirements (Lee & Jung, 2015). Authorities view participation as a potent force that propels efficient planning and development. (Lee & Jung, 2015) points out that it is important to acknowledge the perspective of all stakeholders; ensure continued involvement and ownership of the project by the local community through their direct participation in management, governance, delivery, and evaluation. As a result, discussions with stakeholders and dissemination of findings to interested parties should aid in increasing the scope and frequency of engagement.

In terms of stakeholder engagement and collaborations, there are relatively few integrated ideas that can be used to tourism-led urban renewal. Particularly, in terms of stakeholders' perspectives, engagement, and collaborations in tourism and urban renewal, renewal program assessment and evaluation tools and techniques have not been created comprehensively. In this regard, the important success criteria of tourism-led urban renewal are the elimination of problematic issues, the reduction of tourism's negative influence, local community engagement, and the formation of culture governance for the successful implementation of a renewal project. Introducing a stakeholder perspective to the project entails making strategic decisions and taking actions based on an understanding of the relationships between the stakeholders as well as the characteristics of the stakeholders, such as demands, interest, contribution potential, power, network, legitimacy, and more. Adopting a stakeholder perspective means viewing a primary subject and its stakeholders as a system, where the list of stakeholders should be defined depending on the problem and goal at hand rather than being predetermined. To summarize, stakeholder management is difficult and frequently challenging since each stakeholder has

different perspectives on the same issue. Understanding stakeholder perspectives, on the other hand, is critical because it has many potential benefits, particularly in the context of urban renewal and tourism, due to the pooling of knowledge, expert knowledge, investment, and other resources, greater coordination of relevant groups, and more effective implementation of measures.

## 2.5 Tourism and Urban Renewal

### 2.5.1 General Association Between Tourism and Urban Renewal

Tourism is one of the world's most powerful social factors today. It also has immense economic and geopolitical significance on a global scale. Tourism creates, reorganizes, and inhabits geographic, social, and cultural places all over the world. It is impossible to deny that tourism is a powerful driver for change. In many nations, it is the source of prosperity. The hundreds of visitors who come do not only bring money, but they also transform the lives of the locals for better or worse. Over the last half-century, the role of tourism all over the world has increased remarkably in cities creating serious competition between cities in attracting more regional, national, and international tourists (Majid Mansour Rezaei, 2020).

Tourism and urban renewal are two activities that have risen in importance recently. Tourism is utilized as an urban renewal strategy since it is considered to provide several advantages to towns and cities. According to academic studies, there is a well-established relationship between tourism and urban renewal, with physical changes in a site being used to strengthen its competitiveness in attracting enterprises and investment, as well as tourist activities. As a result, tourism has become a significant business, particularly in developing nations, in terms of job creation, economic income, and urban revitalization.

Tourism has consistently been utilized as a development strategy across the globe because of its ability to produce jobs, generate tax money, enhance infrastructure and recreational options, encourage business activities, and improve the general quality of life in the particular location. Tourism is perhaps classified into two categories: cultural or heritage tourism and natural tourism. In this age of globalization, it is evident that culture tourism is gaining popularity over natural tourism. However, people visit different areas according to their interest and liking. Culture, on the other hand, is a multidimensional term with both tangible and intangible components. In comparison to the visible physical urban fabrics, intangible factors like as local events, festivals, and even the everyday life of local citizens might be more appealing to tourists. Hence, the culture, history, and identity of ancient cities must be preserved. Heritage tourism is one of the most pervasive types of tourism and is capable of enhancing cultural attractions, protecting a region's heritage, renewing older urban quarters, instilling a sense of community pride and solidarity, and stimulating economic development in more ways than other forms of tourism might

do (Azadeh Lak, 2019). Hence, cultural heritage-based tourism is a type of tourism focused on a place's culture, including its lifestyle, history, art, architecture, religion, and everything else that defines life in that region.

However, (Azadeh Lak, 2019) has pointed that, with the popularity of urban heritage-based tourism during the past half century, there has been a simultaneous manifestation of negative impacts, including overcrowding, parking problems and traffic congestion, commoditization of culture, deteriorated built environments through vandalism and physical wear and tear, inflated property values, and the destruction of historic landscapes to make way for constructing infrastructure and tourism services. Many of the past's notable attractions and monuments are included in the cultural heritage attractions. It is, therefore, unique, and fragile by nature. Hence, they need to be managed in a way that makes them accessible to the public while also preserving them for the future generations. The World Tourism Organization has also indicated that the tourism resources in urban center, especially cultural sites, monuments, and museums are becoming heavily congested (Ivana Pavlic, 2013) . Uncontrolled development of which tourism is a critical component, questions its further growth. Hence, there must be a balance between tourism development and cultural preservation and establishing this balance is a challenge. Tourism is a natural ally of urban renewal because any and all measures in this area imply more appealing offers for tourists, a higher quality of life for residents, a positive long-term development for the tourism industry, and, last but not least, a positive long-term development for the environment of the regions, whose preservation is a necessary prerequisite for a positive development. Tourism works in harmony with the local environment, society, and cultures, resulting in long-term benefits. For all of these reasons, tourism is a catalyst for urban renewal.

In summary, the main goal of urban renewal is to address the complex dynamics and challenges of urban area and tourism is a critical component of it. Tourism activities, by their nature, have an impact on the environment and they may differ based on the scope of tourism activities as well as the causes influencing their growth or decline. The identification of problems and possibilities for the city to accomplish urban renewal through tourism can provide insight into the nature of policy-making and executive measures. Furthermore, as a result of the fast development of tourism, tourism destinations are experiencing excessive pressure on their natural, cultural, and socioeconomic contexts. Uncontrolled tourism development degrades the attractive natural and cultural features of a location, and it cannot sustain the basic resources on which it relies, nor can it rely on itself as an industry in the long run, despite the fact that tourism can benefit many countries, regions, and local communities economically.

### 2.5.2 Tourism Sector in Nepal

Tourism is the largest and rapidly growing industry worldwide. It is one of Nepal's most important sectors in terms of employment, foreign money, and income, and it has been an important factor of the Nepalese economy and an economic driver for many years. It is a major provider of employment, as it provides direct and indirect employment in service sector related to hospitality, travel, trade, and many related sectors (Rijal S. P., 2016). Hence, the tourism industry is a major contributor in economy of the country. Nepal attracts nearly 1 million foreigners each year who flock to the country's World Heritage sites, UNESCO monuments, countless Buddhist and Hindu temples and majestic mountains (Badal, 2019).

After the devastating earthquake, The Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation had prepared Tourism Recovery Action Plan to bring the tourism industry back on track at the earliest. The ministry prepared an action plan which included immediate, mid-term and long-term urban renewal, relief, and package program for the recovery of tourism industry.<sup>11</sup> According to (Badal, 2019), the tourism ministry had planned to celebrate Visit Nepal Year in 2018, which was put off due to the delay in construction of airports, heritage sites and roads. After that, the ministry had prioritized the early completion and expansion of international and domestic airports, historical sites, and other tourism infrastructure. Before the Visit Nepal Year, the government intended to complete the expansion of Tribhuvan International Airport and the building of another international airport. Likewise, the post-earthquake urban renewal and repair of heritage sites was planned to be finished by 2020, to make the Visit Nepal 2020 campaign successful. In order to welcome 2 million tourists, Nepal was all set to finalize the urban renewal activities arose from the devastating earthquake before 2020, but at the same year it was struck by a pandemic. Today, as the country continues to battle the coronavirus pandemic, all the urban renewal works has been halted and there is hardly any tourist in the country.

The covid-19 epidemic has wreaked havoc on socioeconomic activities, particularly the tourism industry. Because of the coronavirus epidemic, nearly all domestic and foreign tourism locations have imposed travel restrictions for the first time in history. The covid-19 pandemic is an ongoing problem in more than 210 countries in the world. (Panthhe & Kokate, 2021). The global pandemic wrecked Nepal's economy in 2020, and its impact will be felt on tourist arrivals for at least the next two years. Nepal is a trekker's wonderland, gifted with a diversified terrain, stunning snow-capped mountains, picturesque hills, and plentiful green natural forests. It is one of the world's most popular vacation destinations, attracting over a million people each year. But, as a result of the corona epidemic, the tourist arrival rate has dropped below

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.adventuretravelnews.com/nepal-government-prepares-action-plan-for-recovery-of-tourism-industry>  
Retrieved on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 2022

10%.<sup>12</sup> The service industry, particularly tourism, aviation, and the hotel sector, has been severely impacted. As a result, Visit Nepal 2020 has been postponed due to the risk of the virus.

Tourism is interwoven in all sectors, including jobs, hotels, restaurants, transportation, and so on. The cancellation of all Nepal trips, as well as the lockdown, has caused a severe impact on the country's economy. The country also experienced a loss of thousands of jobs in the tourism sector.

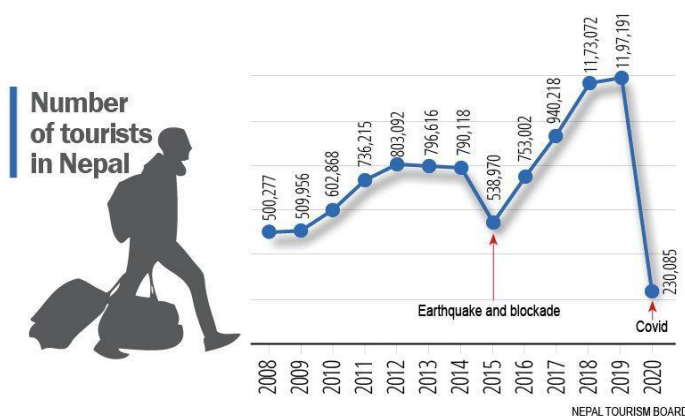


Figure 13: Number of tourists in Nepal | Source: Nepal Tourism Board

Tourism netted Nepal \$700 million in 2019, making up 8% equivalent of the country's GDP.<sup>13</sup> Over 1 million Nepalis were directly engaged in the hospitality business, trekking, and climbing, with many more benefiting indirectly from tourism. But the tourism industry in Nepal has never suffered as much as it did during this pandemic. According to figure 4, just 230,000 visitors visited Nepal in 2020, which is fewer than during the worst years of the conflict and less than during the 2015 earthquake. Tourism has hit rock bottom and the prediction of post pandemic travel is that people will avoid long distance flights. The situation is alarming as it is still uncertain about how deep and widespread the economic fallout will be because of the deadly virus. Although we are yet to experience full impact and aftermath of the coronavirus, this worldwide threat has already created economic uncertainty among all of us.<sup>14</sup> The dilemma is whether we should continue to chase tourist arrival numbers and yearly foreign currency profits, or if we should strive to shift the focus to something other than tourism in order to continue the urban renewal work.

The crisis is still ongoing, but the influence of covid is fading in different regions of the world, and the lockdown has been relaxed with precaution. Similarly, the number of infected people is declining. Several nations have made their borders open to tourism. After a spike in cases, Nepal has managed to stabilize the situation, and the recovery rate is impressive. The administration is has resumed international flight connections. Nepal has made the effort to open up tourism-related activities in accordance with safety regulations. While this appears to be a step in the right

<sup>12</sup> <https://thehimalayantimes.com/blogs/covids-impact-on-tourism> Retrieved on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.nepalitimes.com/editorial/survive-revive-thrive/> Retrieved on 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021

<sup>14</sup> [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/sawdf\\_nepal\\_e.pdf](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/sawdf_nepal_e.pdf) Retrieved on 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021



direction, the impact of covid has highlighted issues such as, the immediate and long-term measures that can be implemented. It is a tough issue to answer in a developing country like Nepal, which is ill-equipped to deal with crises and finds it difficult to formulate and execute regulations. As soon as the epidemic is contained, it can be seen that an enthusiastic effort is made by many to resume normal operations, potentially to compensate for losses by even more forceful economic boom. However, the future of tourism and the definitions of success and failure will possibly alter.

### 2.5.3 Current Trends in Tourism Industry

(Nguyen Do Dzung, n.d.) has stated that, *there would be no “post-” covid context. Governments and urban planners need to find solutions to corporately adapt to the covid-19 indefinitely. As a result of the pandemic's severe impact on the tourist sector, the future of international tourism has become uncertain, as governments continue to experiment with regulations such quarantines and vaccination passports. The tourist industry is progressively rebounding as a result of rising vaccination rates and relaxing travel restrictions throughout the world, as well as shifting passenger preferences. It's followed by five pandemic-related trends that help the industry adjust to a new era of travel with shifting needs and standards:* (Nguyen Do Dzung, n.d.)

- Shift from international to domestic locations: Due to tight travel limitations, industry stakeholders must focus on home clients rather than foreign customers. Hotels, airlines, and other stakeholders would have to apply new methods to appeal to local customers as new value considerations.
- Acceptance of technology throughout the travel journey: The online channel has evolved into a critical platform for travelers. Travelers will prioritize operators that can give thorough online and offline packages. In addition, as the virtual world advances, the tourist sector will need to embrace virtual travel to allow visitors to interact and discover in new ways.
- Address the importance of local experience: Tourists seek to form a stronger bond with the places they travel and the people they encounter. New visitors don't want to be encased in a social bubble that isolates them from the areas they visit. They want to be a part of the local culture and participate in it. Local experiences are likely to become some of the top tourism trends to monitor, from experiencing local food to celebrating area festivities and celebrations.



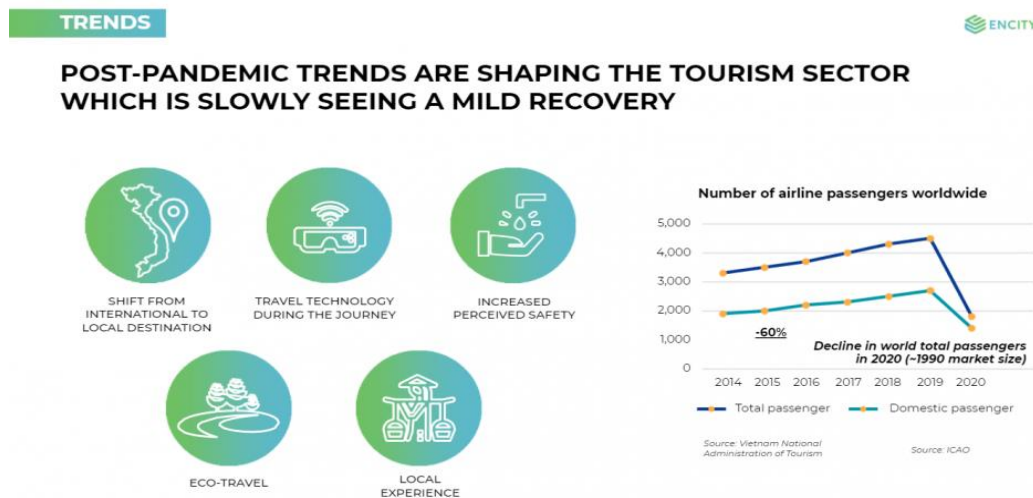


Figure 14: Five trends which are shaping the tourism industry | Source: (Nguyen Do Dzung, n.d.)

- Prioritize safety and convenience: Future passengers will be expected to put cleanliness, safety, and security first. According to Google Trends, the word sterilization became a breakout worldwide search phrase in 2020. (Nguyen Do Dzung, n.d.)
- Focus on eco-travel: As people become more conscious of the complexity of globalization, there is a growing desire for sustainable options. These tourism - related trends include eco-travel, which reflects a rising concern among today's visitors for moral and ecological tourism alternatives.

Therefore, urban planning is undeniably important in the development of tourism. As a result, in the post covid scenario, proper policies and recommendations for tourism in cities are required. The growth of the tourist business is built on the foundation of urban planning. The analysis of the government's efforts in promoting cities as a worldwide tourist destination revealed the intimate linkages between tourism and urban renewal. Given the progressive reopening of international travel, it is critical to establish a set of principles and rules that will aid in the growth of the tourist industry in the years ahead. Hence, some of the holistic strategies to develop tourism cities in the coming years are as follows: (Nguyen Do Dzung, n.d.)

- Protect environment and heritage in order to attract visitors and establish local identities.
- To reduce travel limitations caused by worldwide pandemics, create new local destinations.
- Facilitate collaboration in land use rules to support the city's tourist plan.

- Expand and upgrade vital transportation infrastructure to improve connectivity.



Figure 15: Transformative strategies to develop tourism in post covid context |  
Source: (Nguyen Do Dzung, n.d.)

## 2.6 Summary of Literature Review

Kathmandu Durbar Square with its temples and its urban setting is the functioning core as well as the cultural center of the former royal city of Kathmandu with the palaces of Kings as the center of attraction. Since 1979 it has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List as a part of the Kathmandu World Heritage Property.<sup>15</sup> Many of the square's landmark buildings were badly damaged by the earthquake of 2015. Of the UNESCO World Heritage sites in the Kathmandu Valley, Kathmandu's Durbar Square took the biggest hit. It is also the site where, six years after the Gorkha Earthquakes of 2015, the least progress has been made in reconstructing temples which were totally destroyed and repairing many buildings which suffered less serious structural damage.<sup>16</sup>

Nepal has been on a long and difficult road to recovery after the earthquake, which killed over 9,000 people. On the other hand, urban renewal work that was already going painfully slow has been suspended now because of the pandemic. In addition, the covid-19 epidemic has wreaked havoc on socioeconomic activities, particularly the tourism industry. The post-earthquake urban renewal and repair was planned to be

<sup>15</sup> <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/121/> Retrieved on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021

<sup>16</sup> <https://albinger.me/2018/07/19/kathmandus-durbar-square-after-the-2015-earthquakes-is-it-worth-1000-nrp/> Retrieved on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021

finished by 2020, to make the Visit Nepal 2020 campaign successful. In order to welcome 2 million tourists, Nepal was all set to finalize the urban renewal activities arose from the devastating earthquake before 2020, but at the same year it was struck by the pandemic. Today, as the country continues to battle the coronavirus pandemic, all the urban renewal works has been halted and there is hardly any tourist in the country. The tourism industry in Nepal has never suffered as much as it did during this pandemic.

The recovery of tourism business is closely linked with the rebuilding of tourism infrastructure

and cultural/religious attractions of touristic importance that were destroyed by the earthquake. And the development of tourism business is closely tied with the timely restoration of important tourism infrastructure that will drive future tourism businesses of the country. Hence, it is important to highlight tourism as an important aspect in urban renewal efforts of historical settlements.

Although we are yet to experience full impact and aftermath of the coronavirus, this worldwide threat has already created economic uncertainty among all of us.<sup>17</sup> The dilemma is whether we should continue to chase tourist arrival numbers and yearly foreign currency profits, or if we should strive to shift the focus to something other than tourism in order to continue the urban renewal works. Therefore, to address the complicated issue of urban renewal, an approach that considers an urban area as a whole and the dynamic factors existing in and outside it that are responsible for its functioning must be implemented. Hence, this paper aims to explore long-term and short-term impact of covid 19 in the communities threatened by the 2015 earthquake, especially the urban renewal work.

## 2.8 Conceptual Framework

### 2.8.1 Systematic Approach for Identifying Criteria of Urban Renewal Activities

While the theoretical background of this study has been provided from the previous chapter by reviewing existing literature on the theoretical approaches and concepts adopted in this study, this chapter now discusses how and to what point the approaches are applied in this particular study to achieve the study objectives.

Firstly, a guideline for identifying the criteria of urban renewal activities was developed. Based on the literature review, five prominent field of criteria were identified for the urban renewal activities, i.e., physical, social, economic, environmental, and cultural renewal. However, there is no scale for assessing urban decline, stress, or deprivation that rings a bell when the city reaches a certain point. Further organization of the criteria was acquired from the prevailing concepts of urban renewal into categories that acknowledge the post-earthquake scenario, resulting in a systematic framework presenting a set of criteria which covers multiple

<sup>17</sup> [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/sawdf\\_nepal\\_e.pdf](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/sawdf_nepal_e.pdf) Retrieved on 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021

dimensions of urban interventions. It is clear from the literature review that a new set of ideas for urban renewal is emerging that represents the goals of integrating people, business, and place and implementing suitable policies to achieve this goal. The guideline appears to identify the existence of integrated methods and support the goal of community capacity building with the long-term goal of producing real improvements and leveraging ethnic competitiveness. It is flexible and considers the renewal process to be a learning system.

Secondly, the field of criteria were further classified based on the findings of a comprehensive literature review of drivers, stakeholders, or governance from various institutes in order to determine which institutes are mainly accountable for or seek interest in the five broad criteria of urban renewal activities mentioned earlier. Furthermore, the list of potential stakeholders was categorized under the field of criteria on the basis of their role, interest, power, legitimacy, and urgency.

Finally, after defining the stakeholders for each of the criteria, a conceptual framework was created that included the primary theoretical approaches and outlined how they would be utilized in this study. The conceptual framework aided in defining a clearer boundary between what was being studied and being selective and focused on terms of theoretical approaches. It gave the research design, particularly the data collecting, a distinct direction. Overall, developing and improving the conceptual framework aided in the study's continuous reflection and reassessment, as well as staying focused on the study's objectives as it progressed.

The conceptual framework reflects the complexities of researching tourism in the context of urban regeneration, it establishes a clear boundary for the study topic, and it addresses the study objectives in connection to theoretical methods and their interactions. It also depicted the interconnections between tourism and urban renewal players, thereby addressing the study's goals and objectives in diagrammatic terms. Hence, based on comprehensive literature of various dimensions of urban renewal, a conceptual framework was developed which builds on a combination of contributions from theories about urban renewal, tourism, and system mapping. Furthermore, table 5 depicts the first step of developing the systematic framework by providing the guidelines for identifying the criteria of urban renewal activities.

Table 4: Guideline for identifying criteria of different dimensions in urban renewal through Nepalese perspective

Urban renewal (Field of criteria)	Actions for realizing the criteria	Set of criteria
Physical renewal (Leads to improvement of urban fabric)	Reconstruction, Restoration, renovation, replacement, improving infrastructures, demolition, destruction, dislocation.	Redevelopment of derelict regions, re-allocation of land uses, repair and adaptive reuse of ancient buildings, development of physical urban infrastructures.
Social renewal (Leads to improvement of community and housing)	Rehabilitation, social security, upgrading quality of life, removing decline and distress areas.	Rehabilitation of weaker sections, upgrading of communal spaces, social awareness camps.
Economic renewal (Creation of employment opportunities and generate revenue)	Opportunities for employment, creation of resources, the generation of income, development of local economies, and tax benefits.	Emphasis on utilization of fund, fund generation, revenue generation mainly through taxation and charges.
Environmental renewal (Leads to minimizing ecological imbalances in urban environment)	Improve the quality of local environment through restoring sustainability, balancing ecosystems, using natural resources, and upgrading impoverished regions.	Stresses on environmental preservation and the creation of oxygen-rich places, awareness to sustainability issues.
Cultural renewal (Promotes enhancement of culture and traditions)	Creative tourism, urban culture marketing, cultural and historic heritage protection, rehabilitation of old buildings with historic importance.	Conservation of heritage sites, traditional approach for cultural renewal.

Now, the diagram below portrays stakeholders sorted by their roles, responsibilities and interests particularly those who play a significant role in the urban renewal activities of Kathmandu Valley. Owing to the big earthquake, urban renewal has been a particularly controversial topic of planning in the past, notably in Kathmandu, where individuals and communities have been displaced due to renewal procedures.



However, policies are evolving, and modern renewal projects take people and the environment into account to a far greater extent. Basically, the field of criteria are different approaches that basically try to achieve the same objective of improving physical and social environments.

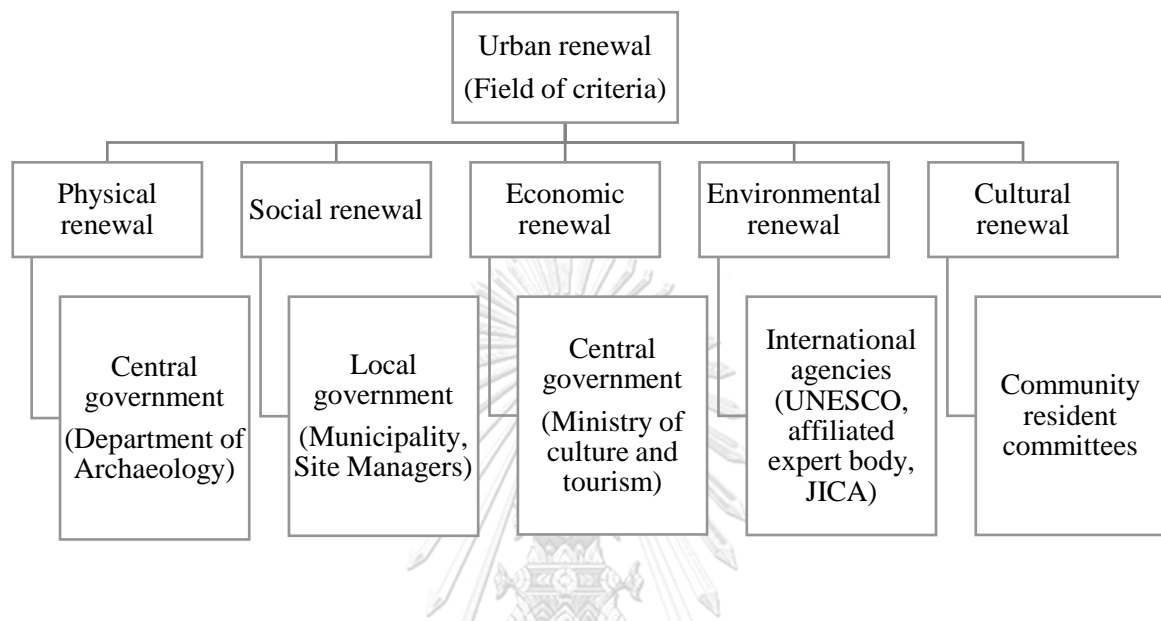


Figure 16: Figure of stakeholders with their interests in field of urban renewal

### 2.8.2 Conceptual Framework of the Research

In aiming to answer the research questions, a conceptual framework is developed which shows how the answers can be determined for each research question and what evidences must be collected in order to justify the answer. The theoretical framework shows the focus of this research which describes the relationship amongst the variables in the research which can also be seen as an input-output process. Overall, the conceptual framework is more coherent and integrated, particularly in terms of how it explains the linkage between the theoretical approaches and the study objectives.

After classifying the stakeholders, they were contacted, and individual interviews were conducted following the conceptual framework of the research. Urban renewal has grown into a strategy centered, less on demolition and more on renovation and investment over time, and it is now an important feature of many municipal government, frequently in collaboration with small and large incentive schemes. It has evolved into a complicated task. While urban renewal in Nepal has traditionally focused on physical improvements, the goals and methods of renewal have evolved through time to become increasingly comprehensive and difficult to manage. They bring together many sectors and players at various levels and in various circumstances. Hence, the conceptual framework promotes a collaborative planning



approach which can be achieved by maintaining regular touch with the relevant parties and communities.

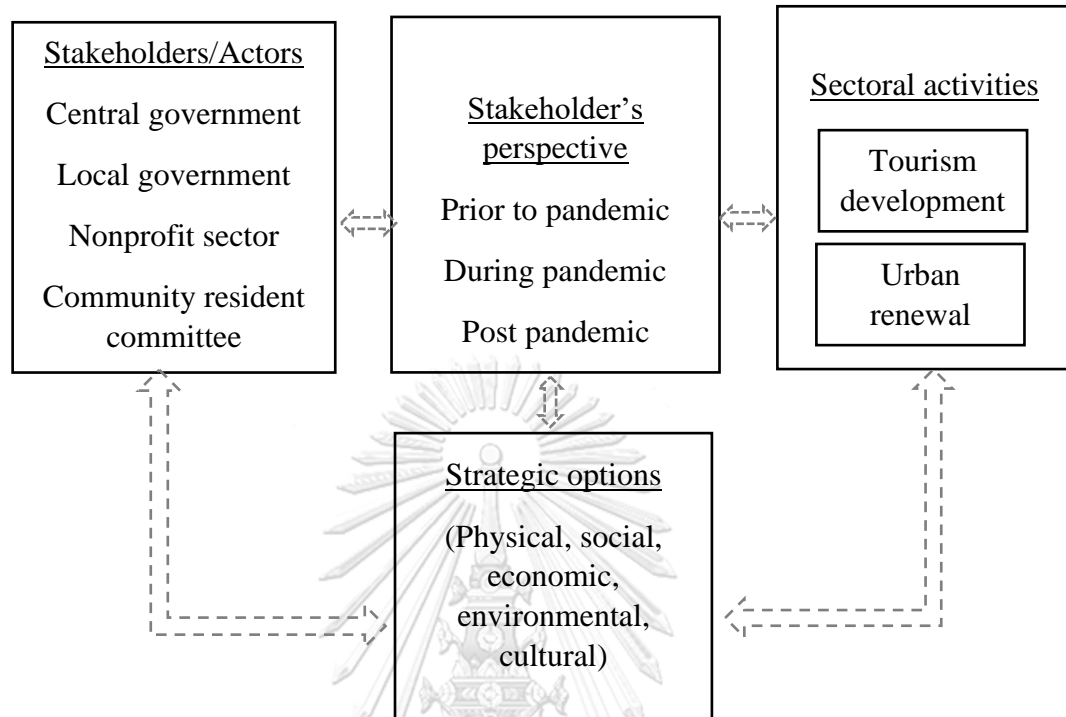


Figure 17: Conceptual framework of the research

A distinctive feature of this framework is that it is a multi level conceptual framework which connects before, during, and after-pandemic analyses using the systematic approach. The 'stakeholder's perspective' box in the conceptual framework was developed to address the research questions of this study.

The research questions 1 and 2 addresses the before pandemic situation:

1. How much did tourism as a driving factor influenced the urban renewal in Kathmandu Valley before the pandemic?
2. Does tourism have a positive or negative influence on urban renewal of historical commercial areas?

The research question 3 addresses the during pandemic situation:

3. How much has the collapse of tourism industry impacted the urban renewal effort, both in short and long term?

The research question 4 addresses the after-pandemic situation:

4. What are the stakeholders' opinions on both tourism and urban renewal efforts in Kathmandu's historic commercial center in the post covid years?

Likewise, the 'stakeholders/actors' and 'sectoral activities' box in the conceptual framework was developed to address the research objectives number two, 'to get a better understanding of the stakeholders' perspectives on the connection between tourism and urban renewal.' and research objective number one, 'to comprehend the relation between tourism and urban renewal in the light of covid 19 scenario' respectively. The last of the key theoretical approaches, the 'policy outcomes' overarches the conceptual framework and connects the different parts of the framework. It addresses objective number three, 'to provide possible policies and strategies on how tourism can contribute to the development and promotion of historical settlements and their heritages in Kathmandu Valley.' Therefore, this conceptual framework focuses on determining the impact of tourism on urban renewal in historical town of Kathmandu Valley prior to the pandemic, during pandemic and after pandemic.

The conceptual framework highlights the complexities of researching tourism in an urban (renewal) context. It establishes a clear boundary for the research issue, and it addresses the study objectives in connection to theoretical methods and their interactions. It aids in the construction of a bridge between the theoretical and practical contexts of this study, as well as binding the study together. It also aided in the organization of the data analysis and interpretation, as well as the structuring of the thesis's outcomes chapters. The research design procedures, including the research approach, research methodology, and data collecting, are discussed in the following chapter on 'Research Methodology,' as well as the analytical methodologies used in this study.

## CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The methodological approach is developed in this chapter, based on the purpose, objectives, and research questions defined in chapter one. It describes the research methodologies and phases used in this study, as well as the methods of investigation. It also discusses the rationale of case selection and how to do research on it. This chapter also focuses on revealing the methodology's structure in three steps - data preparation, data collecting, and data analysis. Finally, the research restrictions, and constraints that arose during the study procedure are addressed. Hence, this chapter covers the research process and methodologies that have been used in this research. Information regarding the research area, interviews, collection of data and analysis procedure is provided in this chapter. The following sub chapters contains a comprehensive description of each section.

### 3.1 Research Design

The research design is essential as it outlines the techniques for collecting data, analyzing it, and evaluating it. Research design is a kind of inquiry that gives precise decision for process within qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods and selected

based on a research problem or concerned issues, the personal experience of the researchers and audiences (Creswell, 2009). Since this research aims to understand the impact of covid-19 pandemic on tourism and post-earthquake urban renewal efforts in historical commercial areas of Kathmandu Valley from different perspectives of the experts, it demands a wider approach. Therefore, the qualitative method is more appropriate in this case. As part of this research, the experts are interviewed from different background relating to the post-earthquake urban renewal in Kathmandu Valley, and how the collapse of tourism industry has affected the urban renewal efforts.

More so, a review of the literature shows that there has been a limited number of studies conducted to analyze the impact of covid 19 on tourism and post-earthquake urban renewal efforts. This once more highlights the importance of this research project. Most of the studies are associated with only the impact of covid on tourism but there has been no mention of the impact upon urban renewal efforts. Hence, it is important to carry out the study in order to identify tourism as one of the driving forces for urban renewal works in Nepal and to develop a framework for strategical planning approach for both tourism and urban renewal of traditional settlements in Kathmandu.

### 3.1.2 Qualitative Analysis

Some research related government policies and documents are required in the qualitative analysis. The social interviews from the stakeholders are understood in term of their attitudes about tourism and urban renewal. To comprehend the prevailing issues of urban renewal due to the pandemic, the social practices, land use, economic activities and cultural values as well are studied to understand the situation of Kathmandu post covid. Along with the qualitative analysis, quantitative verifications are also required. Hence, on delving into the specifics of the study approach used, qualitative analysis supplemented by quantitative data is adopted as a technique. Direct interaction with individuals on a one-to-one basis or direct interaction with individuals in a group are common data gathering procedures for qualitative research. For this study, direct interviews with stakeholders are conducted. As qualitative research data gathering methods are said to be time demanding, data is generally acquired from a lower sample size than quantitative ones. However, the qualitative technique has the advantage of providing fuller information and a deeper understanding of the topic under investigation. The qualitative approach of this study is demonstrated in the figure below:

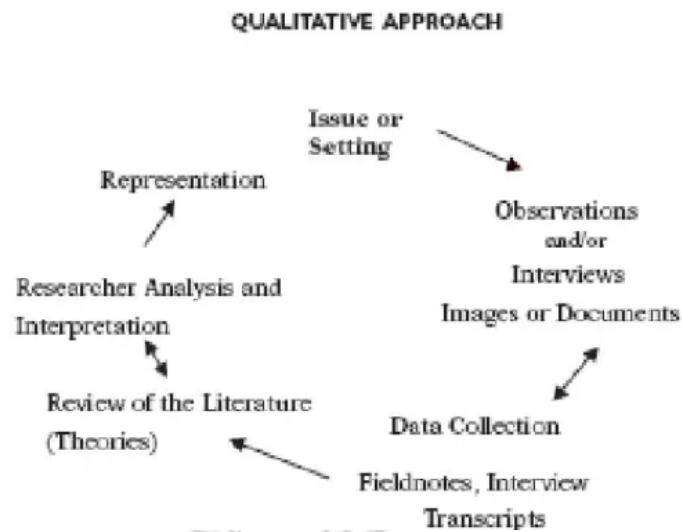


Figure 18: Qualitative analysis for methodology | Source: (Bhatt, 2017)

### 3.2 Data preparation

The research is intended to explore the impact of Covid-19 on urban renewal in Nepal following the 2015 earthquake from the perspective of various stakeholder involved and/or familiar with the matter. In terms of methodology, this research used a qualitative approach using a case study as a research strategy. A case study approach was deemed suitable as it allowed the researcher to explore and investigate a contemporary phenomenon within its real-life context through detailed contextual analysis (Kc, et al., 2018). The preliminary research will involve collection of information through reviewing literature from different sources and personal discussions with selected personnel related to this issue. This can contribute to identify the issues relating to post earthquake urban renewal work that will help to formulate and test the conceptual framework of this research work. And finally, the study will use conceptual framework of system dynamics for data processing and analysis.

Two main interviews with the local/professional respondents are performed in this stage. One local people and a member of the local government were questioned. This allowed the analyst to reconsider whether or not some of the questions should be included in the data collecting stage. This stage also allowed to get additional interviewing experience and familiarize with data collection and management issues. Moreover, during the preliminary stage, access to crucial documents was arranged with the authorities.

### 3.3 Stakeholder's views as research tool

It is particularly clear that various stakeholders would have quite varied motives and opinions of a subject. A government officer may have a very different sense of what

makes a desirable urban environment than an architect, and a developer may interpret the additional value in a development quite differently than a local person. This represents the ease with which the built environment enables various stakeholders to achieve their own goals. In this regard, a wide range of stakeholders are involved in the creation, use, and management of urban projects. Additionally, the motivations that each stakeholder has for making an engagement in the project are not constant over time. The process of urban renewal is complicated, as connections between stakeholders and the relative significance of their respective sets of considerations alter over time. Some stakeholders may want to gain from the settings in the short term, while others will center their strategy on long-term outcomes.

As a result, this study examined the variations in how the central government, local government, foreign organizations, and neighborhood resident committees were each seen as players in the urban renewal of Kathmandu Durbar Square and the area around it. The primary research instrument utilized to address the study questions and draw findings is the perspectives of the stakeholders.

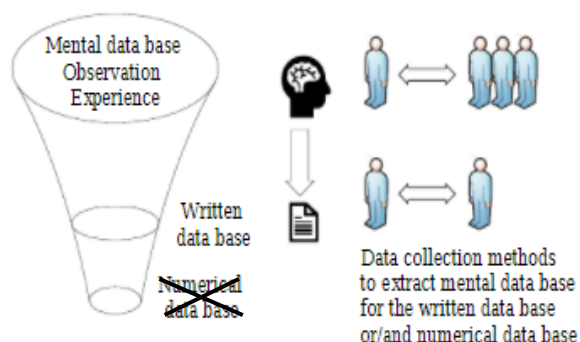
#### 3.4 Data Collection Methods

The data used in this research can be divided into primary and secondary data. Primary data and information will be collected through in depth, semi structured interviews, and focus person interviews. The interviews will be started with basic inquiries and will progress to more focused ones. Each interview of the participants starts with a broad question such as ‘how has covid affected the post-earthquake urban renewal work in Kathmandu Valley?’ Analysis will be done based on each participant's perspectives on urban renewal and their needs, the opportunities, and challenges of rebuilding. On the other hand, secondary data, which is mainly about literature review are collected from reports, action plans and reflection papers of governmental entities, non-governmental organizations, private sector businesses and the online news. Newspaper articles and field report authored by journalist and experts are reviewed to make some opinion for this research.

There are three important data sources for system dynamics modeling. The first is the mental database, the second is written or textual database and the third is the numerical database. In this research, the numerical database will not be used. After the interview, all the collected information will be transformed into text. The text will be analyzed based on patterns, definitions, stories, or key aspects that the researchers is looking for. This method is useful in discovering and building a dynamic hypothesis and understanding of the overall system process. Hence the main methods used for collecting qualitative data in this research are:

- Individual long interviews
- Policy documents analysis
- Observations

Basically, the study will be conducted in Kathmandu Durbar Square. As such, the interviews include engineer and social mobilizer working in urban renewal, professor and experts and local social workers.



Participants are selected based on the following inclusion criteria:

Figure 19: Data collection methods | Source: (Nick Cavill, 2020)

- Participation in urban renewal projects
- Willingness to participate in the research
- Ability to provide unbiased information on the present status of urban renewal projects
- Familiar with the current scenario in Nepal

The data collection was completed through various methods, from February to March 2022. At this stage, the methods used to collect data were structured in three phases, illustrated below:

Table 5: Methods and materials used at the data collection stage

Phase	Method	Materials	Category	Number of interviews	Expected data
I	Local observation	Maps, pictures, reports	Place and usage space	-	Spatial analysis
II	Professional/official interviews	Speech to text recorder, archives	Site managers, experts, planners, and developers	12	Professional stakeholders' interpretative data
III	Local interviews	Speech to text recorder, archives	Locals at the different stage of the process	3	Collective interpretative data



The first phase of data collection began by observing the local places and usage spaces through maps, pictures, and reports. In the second phase, there were in-depth interviews with the professional stakeholders involved in the projects such as the urban managers and experts, planners, and developers about the involvement role, expectations, and effects on the sense and beliefs. The next phase was an interview with the local people. Some questions were drafted before the interview, while some were asked whenever it was thought was needed. This is the basic difference between a semi-structured and structured interview, in which everything, including questions, is carefully arranged ahead of time. A qualitative semi-structured interview occurs in a “natural setting” (Creswell, 2009). This is the basic difference between a semi-structured and structured interview, in which everything, including questions, is carefully arranged ahead of time. Face-to-face interviews with participants and observation of their behaviors and reactions were used to collect data, which are the important aspects of a qualitative research.

### 3.5 Data Processing and Analysis

Data analysis is performed after all the required data are collected, before reaching any conclusions. It is a diagram-based technique, which combines brainstorming with a type of mind map, urges to consider all possible challenges, rather than just the ones that are most obvious. The interpretation of interviews from the stakeholder contains information in the form of texts. While some researchers recommend the use of text analytical tools and text analysis software to support the analysis activities, in this research with the help of qualitative analysis and information from textual information are used in the system mapping process. This will also allow to create a storyline of the system of the case.

#### 3.5.1 System Mapping as a Tool for Analysis

To address the complicated issue of urban renewal, an approach that considers an urban area as a whole and the dynamic factors existing in and outside it that are responsible for its functioning must be implemented. In this context, a system mapping approach appears to be more relevant, assisting researchers and urban planners in meeting the issues of strategy formulation for the urban renewal process. Hence, a thorough understanding of system mapping is required before its application. As a result, a thorough literature study is conducted, the results of which are described in simple terms in the following paragraphs.

A useful first step in exploring complex systems is to produce a conceptual map of the multiple factors that constitute the system being considered and the ways that they interact (Nick Cavill, 2020). This can be used for a variety of purposes, including informing stakeholders about multiple factors and the nature of their influences on the urban renewal process, illustrating the broad scope of opportunities to influence the system, strengthening partnerships, and highlighting critical areas for action that could represent significant policy leverage. These maps can be developed in close

collaboration with the affected community and may include input from stakeholders. In the system mapping methodology, a problem or a system is first represented as a causal loop diagram. A causal loop diagram is a basic system map that depicts how one variable affects another. It is a problem-solving strategy centered on the idea that the structure of a system, or how its main components are linked, determines its actions. The system map (or causal loop diagram) presents an overview of relevant components and their causal relationships based on a stated problem.

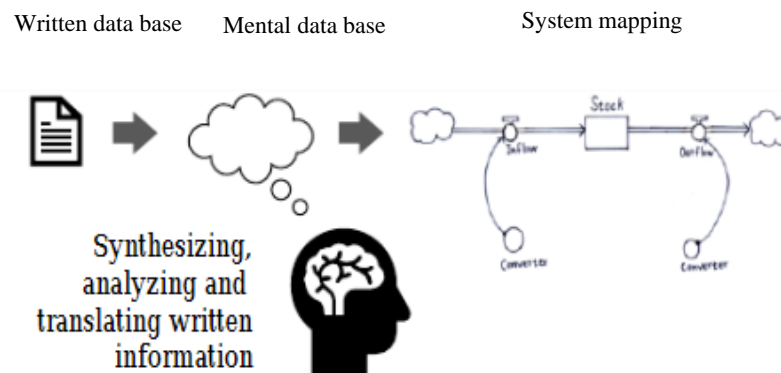


Figure 20: System mapping as a tool for analysis | Source: (Nick Cavill, 2020)

Creating a causal summary helps to critically reflect on the issue, discover missing connections, and consider other elements that should be included. The map serves in connecting people and bridging gaps caused by various functions or experience. A system map can be viewed and contributed to by anybody, regardless of their field of expertise. The map creates discussions while also combining ideas.

Based on a given issue, the system map (or causal loop diagram) offers an overview of essential components and their causal linkages. The map sparks discussions while simultaneously bringing together ideas. The strength of system mapping is that it helps us understand how different components perform together as a system. The components of the system are connected by arrows that connect cause and effect variables to construct causal chains in these diagrams. A positive link indicates parallel behavior of variables: in the case of an increase in the causative variable, the effect variable also increases, while a decrease in the causative variable implies a decrease in the affected variable (Azhar Inam, 2015). A negative link, on the other hand, denotes an inverse relationship between the variables. Hence, it is a problem-solving strategy based on the concept that a system's structure, or how its key components are connected, impacts its behaviors.

## CHAPTER 4: DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

In this chapter, the interview answer's will be presented and analyzed based on the findings, following the conceptual framework of the research. The main research instrument is the system mapping technique of qualitative research and in the order of the interview questions along with the research questions. Both English and Nepali versions of the questionnaire can be found in appendix 1 of 'Appendixes' at the end of the report.

### 4.1 Respondent's Basic Information

Altogether in both English and Nepali version of the survey, there were total 15 respondents. From each field of criteria, a group of 3 respondents were interviewed. For example, for economic renewal from central government (department of archeology) 3 people were interviewed with the same set of questions. The interviews were scheduled once at a time with each respondent, in order to understand the conflicting attitudes and views of the respondents from the same group. This helped in developing a system map of the three different scenarios, before, during and after the pandemic comprising of views and ideas of 5 different categories of stakeholders holding interest in different dimensions of the urban renewal.

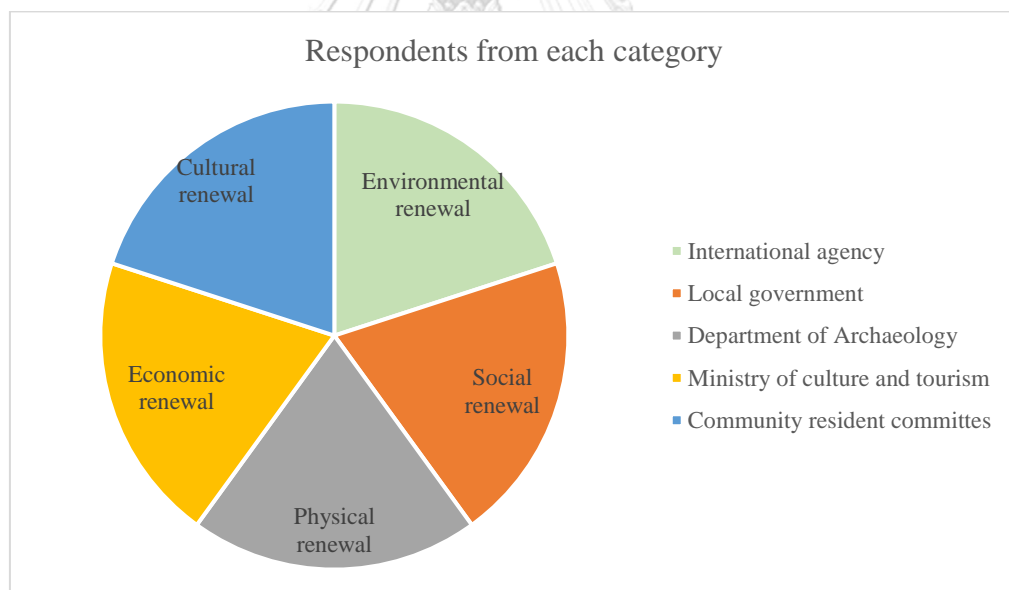


Figure 21: Respondents field of interest/criteria

### 4.2 The Stakeholder's Perspective

#### 4.2.1 General Findings

In order to get the respondents' perception regarding the role of tourism in urban renewal activities in Kathmandu Valley before, during and after pandemic, the interview questions were arranged in the order with the research questions of this study. This helped in getting a clearer picture of the three different scenarios. With the stakeholders participating from different field of interest, it could help in portraying

some conflicting views and attitudes regarding the impact of tourism in the three different scenarios. Later it also aided in the structuring of the strategies according to the different dimensions of urban renewal.

Table 6: Theoretical framework addressing study questions in connection to interview questions and their outcomes

Interview Questions	Research Questions	Key outcomes from qualitative in-depth interviews
a) Do you think heritage or cultural tourism is one of the strategy or motivation for urban renewal of Kathmandu Valley? b) How does cultural tourism affect the urban renewal works in Kathmandu? c) Besides tourism, what are other drivers for urban renewal in Nepal?	1. How much did tourism as a driving factor influenced the urban renewal in Kathmandu Valley before the pandemic? 2. Does tourism have a positive or negative influence on urban renewal of historical commercial areas?	Before pandemic scenario
d) How do you think covid has affected the post-earthquake urban renewal work in Kathmandu Valley? Is there any difficulty in the urban renewal activities of Kathmandu valley after covid?	3. How much has the collapse of tourism industry impacted the urban renewal effort, both in short and long term?	During pandemic scenario
e) If covid has affected the urban renewal activities, how will the stakeholders like to deal with this situation?? f) Is there a strategy, or policy to overcome the challenges caused by	4. What are the stakeholders' opinions on both tourism and urban renewal efforts in Kathmandu's historic commercial center in the post covid years?	Post pandemic scenario

<p>covid in regard to the urban renewal efforts?</p> <p>g) If covid lasts longer, there will be longer effect on tourism as well. In this case what do you think should be done in the near future to overcome such challenges?</p>		
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The result drawn from the interview with the stakeholders are based on what is known and observed up to this point, more than two years since the crisis began, and at a period when vaccines has begun in countries throughout the world with varied degrees of impact and success. As new strains of the virus emerge and reemerge in different parts of the world, the situation stays unpredictable. Furthermore, in many countries, the effectiveness of vaccination programs is unknown, and lockdowns and restrictions stay in place for a significant number of people, or are imposed frequently in others, with some governments modifying restrictions on a weekly and temporary basis.

In general, the common impressions of respondents regarding the overall impact of tourism on urban renewal activities are the city's buzz, the cultural diversity of the city and the rapid growth of tourism. Some people described those positively with having a distinct food culture, being more vibrant, more user friendly. On the other hand, the negative description was crowded, hectic, chaotic.

Besides the structured interview questions, initially a broad question was put forward to the respondent 'How would you describe the impact of tourism on urban renewal activities in the historical town of Kathmandu Valley?' It was quite a mix of negative and positive opinions from the respondents. The repetitive pattern and keywords of the general impressions/findings are accumulated in figure 22.



Figure 22: How would you describe the impact of tourism on urban renewal activities in the historical town of Kathmandu

#### 4.2.2 Stakeholder's Perspective and Impact of Tourism on Urban Renewal Prior to the Pandemic

Table 7: Stakeholder's perspective: A survey to gather trends and issues prior to pandemic

Interview Questions	Main trends in the answers
<p>a) Do you think heritage or cultural tourism is one of the strategy or motivation for urban renewal of Kathmandu Valley?</p> <p>b) How does cultural tourism affect the urban renewal works in Kathmandu?</p> <p>c) Besides tourism, what are other drivers for urban renewal in Nepal?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cultural tourism as a catalyst for urban renewal activities in Kathmandu.</li> <li>- Cultural as a way of life.</li> <li>- Cultural tourism has gained a central position in driving urban renewal approaches in the past years.</li> <li>- Tourism have positive and negative impact towards urban renewal activities.</li> <li>- Tourism is frequently thought of in terms of economic effect, employment, and taxation.</li> <li>- It has a wide range of effects, and it frequently has an impact, both positive and negative on sectors other than those commonly identified with tourism.</li> <li>- Key components besides tourism: haphazard development, sense of belonging, cultural events and activities, sense of placemaking, upgrading quality of life, disaster prone zone.</li> <li>- Nevertheless, while these actors are crucial to cities' essential cultural life, they remain particularly exposed to possible crises which is also another driver for continuing urban renewal approaches for disaster risk reduction.</li> </ul>



Keywords: Tourism as a catalyst, both positive and negative impact, key drivers beside tourism

All of the stakeholders consulted agreed that tourism is a key tool for urban renewal. However, a few professionals have said that tourism is not a perfectly successful driver of urban renewal because it has certain negative consequences. For example, the tourism development has a significant impact on the social environment and the cost of living. Some activities that were formerly a regular part of locals' life are now presented as though in a theater, at inconvenient times, and hence have no value or cultural purpose. While travelers are interested in cultural events, they also want to participate in local experiences. Promoting cultural events as entertainment develops a sense of artificiality in visitors, causing them to lose interest. On the other hand, as the number of tourists has increased, so has demand for almost all goods, driving up the price of numerous things. Prices are driven further higher since tourists are ready to pay more for the same product or service as locals. Tourists consider some costs fair since no comparable product or service exists in their own countries. Others believe they are paying more than locals but are willing to pay more to those who make less money. Eventually, the increased price becomes the standard for everyone, including locals.

As a result, tourism-led urban regeneration is not entirely effective since it has a few negative consequences. The participant questioned claimed that tourism is not a sustainable method of urban renewal, and that they were working to address this before to the pandemic. The current infrastructure in Kathmandu is incapable of meeting the demands of the city's strong influx from the rural, which marks the beginning of unregulated and unplanned settlements. While tourism has a positive economic impact, it may also have a detrimental impact on the quality of life of the local community if not properly handled. Hence, sustainable tourism development must be regulated to ensure that the business meets the requirements of Nepalese people while remaining within the built and natural environment's carrying capacity.

Figure 23 portrays tourism as a catalyst for urban renewal activities in Kathmandu with the keywords extracted from the main trends in the answers to the interview questions. It explains that tourism has gained a central position in driving urban renewal approaches in the past years. However, it has both positive and negative impact towards urban renewal activities. It has a wide range of effects, and it frequently has an impact, both positive and negative on sectors other than those commonly identified with tourism. It is frequently thought of in terms of economic effect, employment, and taxation. Other examples are, enhancement of culture and traditions, improvement of urban fabric, enhancing quality of life, informal economy. Some of the negative impacts are commercialization of culture, overcrowding,

construction resource consumption, deteriorated built environment. The figure depicts how these sectors are associated with the different dimensions of urban renewal, which might be both positive and negative.

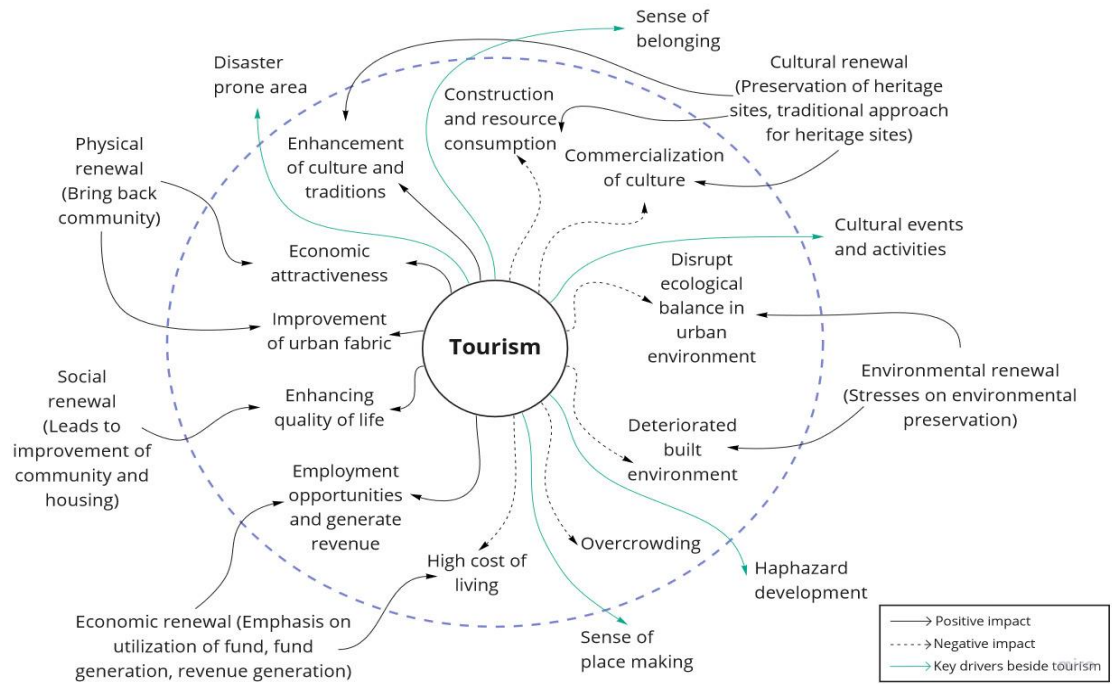


Figure 23: Tourism influences on some aspects of urban renewal, but it also has some negative consequences

#### 4.2.3 Stakeholder's Perspective and Impact of Tourism on Urban Renewal During Pandemic

Table 8: Stakeholder's perspective: A survey to gather trends and issues during pandemic

Interview Questions	Main trends in the answers
<p>How do you think covid has affected the post-earthquake urban renewal work in Kathmandu Valley? Is there any difficulty in the urban renewal activities of Kathmandu valley after covid?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Economic impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduction in revenues</li> <li>- Reviewing of strategies</li> <li>- Postponement of ongoing projects</li> <li>- Rescheduling of events</li> </ul> </li> <li>2) Online turn, integration of physical and digital spaces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduction in face-to-face activities</li> <li>- Digitalization of many activities</li> <li>- Tools for reservations and entrances</li> <li>- Virtual tours</li> </ul> </li> <li>3) Eliminate or reduce crimes and other social ills, improved quality of air, reduced pollution level</li> <li>4) Stranded technicians, craftsmen</li> <li>5) Spike in illegal trade of antiquities</li> <li>6) Unavailability of manpower, materials, and recourse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Major portion of Government budget were spent in health sectors due to which portion of budget available for development sector was reduced to great extent.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

Keywords: Effect due to pandemic, economic impact, positive and negative impact on renewal process.

The collapse of tourism industry has struck a huge blow to the urban renewal activities as tourism was considered a key strategy for the renewal activities. The general results of the interview and consultation with experts confirms that the full or partial closure of heritage site in Kathmandu Valley has resulted in severe impacts including disruption of community life in and around the site, loss of livelihoods and the deepening of poverty, reduced maintenance and conservation, lack of protection and management and increased threats, including illegal trafficking of antiquities. The crisis's impact has intensified existing problems in some situations while creating new ones in others. While some of respondents also stated that, as a result of the pandemic,

the reduction of human activities provided space for relief and recovery at some heritage sites, considering the pre-crisis aspirations to 'build back better' is evident for maintaining appropriate management and conservation approaches to heritage sites.

As a result, both negative and positive consequences of the crisis may be recognized in connection to the historic site's urban renewal operations. The sudden halt in travel and tourism cut off the flow of visitors and the revenue they bring, which is oftentimes the only source of income to finance conservation, maintenance, and employees. Surrounding communities have also been negatively impacted, with many individuals losing their jobs and income. On the other side, rehabilitation and restoration work could be done more successfully, and human-made pressures were reduced. This difference and wide range of observations within the site caused by the crisis also provides an opportunity to maximize the benefits of easing specific pressures on specific monuments while conducting appropriate research and recovery planning to minimize any weaknesses in the site.

All in all, the individuals interviewed highlighted the need to shift the focus from tourism to something more sustainable and contributing to the positive impact on physical, social, economic, environmental, and cultural dimensions of urban renewal. Some stakeholders even mentioned that how post-crisis activities may be used as an opportunity to enhance people's lives and the crisis can be considered as an eye opener for the government as well as the people.

The effect due to the pandemic and its impact on tourism from stakeholder's perspective is depicted in figure 24. The positive effects are improved quality of air, reduced pollution level, eliminate or reduced crimes and other social ills. While the negative effects are delay in completion of reconstruction projects, reduction in revenues, postponement of ongoing projects, unavailability of manpower materials and resources, stranded technicians, craftsmen, spike in illegal trade of antiquities. And major portion of government budget was spent in health sectors due to which portion of budget available for development sector was reduced to great extent. Hence funds for urban renewal have largely decreased. After all these effects, the post covid cultural experiences is likely to change and there will be an online turn with integration of physical and digital spaces. For example: reduction in face-to-face activities, digitalization of many activities, tools for reservations and entrances, and virtual tours.

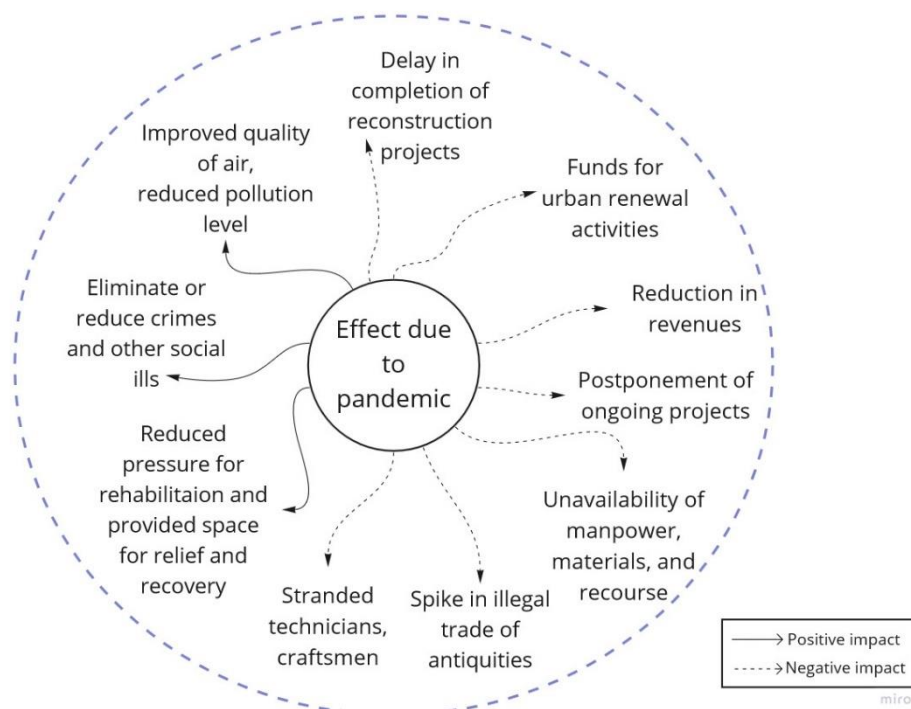


Figure 24: The effect due to the pandemic and its influence on tourism

4.2.4 Stakeholder’s Perspective and Impact of Tourism on Urban Renewal Post Pandemic

Table 9: Stakeholder’s perspective: A survey to gather trends and issues post pandemic

Interview Questions	Main trends in the answers
<p>a) If covid has affected the urban renewal activities, how will the stakeholders like to deal with this situation??</p> <p>b) Is there a strategy, or policy to overcome the challenges caused by covid in regard to the urban renewal efforts?</p> <p>c) If covid lasts longer, there will be longer effect on tourism as</p>	<p>1) Redistribution of visitor’s flow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduction in overcrowding risks</li> <li>- Respecting social-distancing restrictions</li> <li>- Better cultural experiences</li> </ul> <p>2) Shift focuses on domestic tourism.</p> <p>3) Underline the importance of the inclusion of culture in national resilience plan</p> <p>4) Multi-stakeholder approval processes for major developments bring wider expertise, reducing negative impacts and building greater sustainability.</p> <p>5) Combine tangible buildings and spaces with intangible cultural and creative activities.</p> <p>6) Promote and assist the development of holistic tourism recovery plans in order to rehabilitate destinations, support innovation</p>

<p>well. In this case what do you think should be done in the near future to overcome such challenges?</p>	<p>and investment, and rethink the tourism industry.</p> <p>7) Nepal government has a strategy to refinance and subsidize loans for the hospitality and tourism sector to bounce back.</p> <p>8) Finding balance: Cultural preservation and tourism</p> <p>9) Reschedule campaign like ‘Visit Nepal 2020’</p>
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Keywords: Post pandemic strategies, tourism as a key driver.

The individuals questioned, emphasized the importance of advancing an innovative, more futuristic, and even broader understanding of art and culture capable of overcoming an older, more passive perspective. This entails promoting cultural activity production, for example, by demanding a more integrated interaction between heritage setting and innovation. They also stressed the need to modernize the heritage experience through greater technical innovation and new digital services, with the main goal always being to maintain the authenticity. Addressing future developments in the renewal projects, all of the participants emphasized the necessity of digital innovation in both the provision of services and day-to-day operations. They think that the current massive digital and internet transformations will be permanent, reshaping and influencing future investments, plans, and strategies.

However, the stakeholders also mentioned that despite all the planning and measures, there is a huge possibility of slowing down innovation processes and reverting the industry to its earlier state in which tourism plays the key driver for the renewal processes (Figure 25). Apart from the issue of technological development, the analysis highlights the need to redistribute tourist or visitor flows, and more broadly, to avoid overcrowding risks and adhere to social-distancing regulations. Although just a few participants specifically addressed this problem, the necessity to regulate, redistribute, and organize visitor flow is crucial, especially with activities, such as ticket reservations and visitor slots.

The current scenario emphasizes the urgent need to rethink tourism and heritage locations, particularly at sites that have become heavily reliant on visitor-generated revenue to maintain their operations. The epidemic has caused a break in visitor traffic, allowing many to reconsider existing visitation and tourism patterns for overcrowded sites. The new approaches should stress the need of directing post-covid activities besides tourism, in accordance with Nepal’s motto of build back better which was established after the great earthquake and advocate a balanced approach that improves resilience and benefits both heritage and communities.



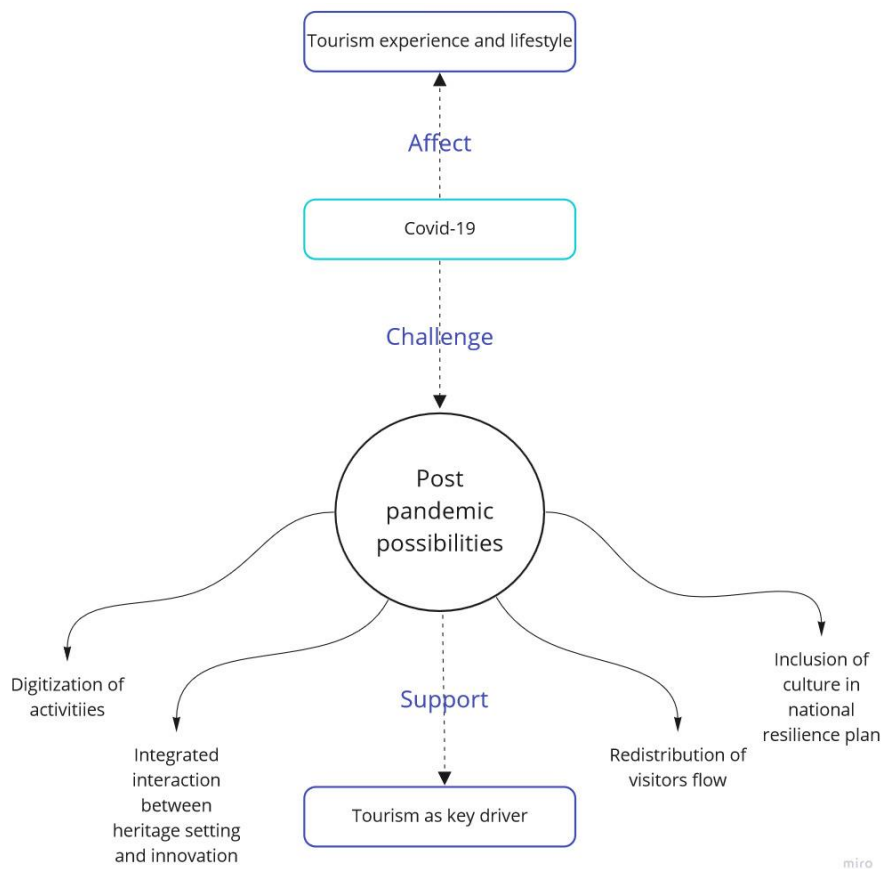


Figure 25: Stakeholder's perspective on post pandemic possibilities

#### 4.3 Visualization Through System Mapping Diagram

On the basis of the participants interviews, a casual loop diagram is created as a synthetic representation that depicts all of the different drivers of urban renewal, impact of tourism on urban renewal activities and the effect due to pandemic. Causal loop diagrams are effective tools for qualitative analysis as they help in the representation of a system's structure. Therefore, causal loop diagrams are a good tool to capture stakeholders' perspectives and ideas within a model framework. The system map shows the interconnections between different prominent drivers, the mutual linkages between different drivers, the interaction between positive/negative impact of tourism upon it. The components of the system are connected by arrows that connect cause and effect variables to construct causal chains in these diagrams. A positive link indicates parallel behavior of variables: in the case of an increase in the causative variable, the effect variable also increases, while a decrease in the causative variable implies a decrease in the affected variable (Azhar Inam, 2015). A negative link, on the other hand, denotes an inverse relationship between the variables.

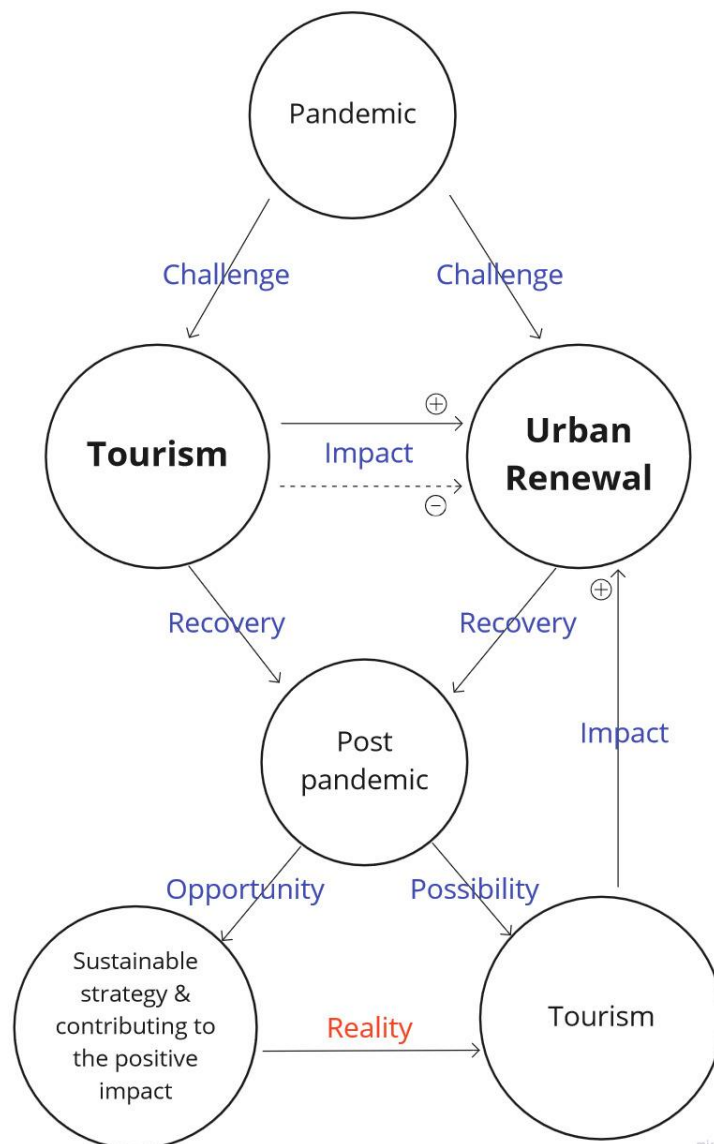


Figure 26: Summary of the relationship between urban renewal and tourism in the case of Kathmandu

The system map describes the relationship between urban renewal and tourism through Nepalese perspective. It portrays that the tourism business is closely linked with the rebuilding of tourism infrastructure and cultural/religious attractions of touristic importance that were destroyed by the earthquake. And the development of tourism business is closely tied with the timely restoration of important tourism infrastructure that will drive future tourism businesses of the country. Hence, it is important to highlight tourism as an important aspect in urban renewal efforts of historical settlements.

However, the pandemic has caused a huge impact upon both tourism and urban renewal. Tourism activities, by their nature, have an impact on the urban renewal

activities and they may differ based on the scope of tourism activities as well as the causes influencing their growth or decline. On the other hand, urban renewal activities, regardless of its various dimensions is undeniably important in the development of tourism. The map reveals the analysis of stakeholder's perspective on how it is important to address the shift of focus from tourism to something more sustainable and contributing to the positive impact on physical, social, economic, environmental, and cultural dimensions of urban renewal. The post-crisis activities may be used as an opportunity to enhance people's lives and the crisis can be considered as an eye opener for the government as well as the people.

Given the progressive reopening of international travel, it is critical to establish a set of principles and rules that will aid in the growth of urban renewal activities in the years ahead. Despite the fact that Kathmandu needs a more sustainable and contributing measures to enhance the urban renewal activities, there is a huge possibility of slowing the planning and measures and reverting the industry to its earlier state in which tourism plays the key driver for the renewal processes. As a result, in the post covid scenario, proper policies and recommendations for tourism in cities are required. The growth of the tourism business is built on the foundation of various dimensions of urban renewal. Hence, the map portrays that even though the situation post pandemic is complex and challenging as tourism will be a critical component of it, the identification of problems and possibilities for the city to accomplish urban renewal through tourism can be achieved by mitigating the negative impact of tourism which can provide insight into the nature of policy-making and executive measures. The table below shows several variables the direct drivers, impact of tourism on urban renewal and effect due to the pandemic) that were identified from interview responses.

Table 10: System variables of the role of tourism on urban renewal activities

<b>System variables</b>		
<b>Direct drivers of tourism</b>	<b>Impact of tourism on urban renewal</b>	<b>Effect due to pandemic</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Damages heritage</li> <li>- Tangible/ Intangible heritage</li> <li>- Festivities/ Annual feasts</li> <li>- Motivation for reconstruction</li> <li>- Traditional approach for cultural renewal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Overcrowding</li> <li>- Commercialization of culture</li> <li>- Marketing of cultural tourism</li> <li>- Ability to produce jobs</li> <li>- Vandalism, physical wear, and tear</li> <li>- Deteriorated built</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Human resources</li> <li>- Material supply</li> <li>- Funds for urban renewal activities</li> <li>- Recovery of heritage resources</li> <li>- Delay in</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Uplift economic activities</li> <li>- Economic growth</li> <li>- Urbanization</li> <li>- Improving quality of life</li> <li>- Old houses/ Old commercial buildings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>environment</li> <li>- Quality of life</li> <li>- Improvement of urban fabric</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>completion of projects</li> <li>- Economic attractiveness recovery</li> <li>- Cultural asset reconstruction</li> <li>- Reduction in revenues</li> </ul>
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## CHAPTER 5: DEBATES AND STRATEGIES

Kathmandu's most important sector and employer is tourism. The success of the tourism business is dependent on the cultural heritage resources; thus, if these resources are not maintained sustainably, the tourism destination would suffer. While tourism has a good economic impact, it may also have an adverse influence, if it is not properly managed. As a result, tourism industry must be managed to ensure that the industry meets people's expectations while still remaining within the built and cultural environment. Large-scale, rapid development, with a particular emphasis on developing infrastructure, is clearly going to have a significant physical, social, economic, and environmental and cultural impact on the Durbar Square and nearby regions unless measures are introduced. To protect the square's physical, social, economic, environmental, and cultural assets, the scale and circumstances of tourism development must be managed.

### 5.1. Impact of Tourism on Urban Renewal

Although tourism is and remains to be one of the catalysts for urban renewal, there are few negative impacts of it. In Kathmandu, the growth of the tourism sector has been a driving force behind increased economic activity. The tourism industry adapts to changes and trends in the world economy and consumers' tastes and fashions (Galdini, 2007). Tourism has evolved into an essential aspect in the context of urban renewal during the last few years, both in negative and positive terms. In the case of Nepal, it is still recovering from the devastating earthquake. However, the number of visitors visiting Nepal is likely to rise in the future years. This poses major threats to the environment and human wellbeing, as well as the tourism sector itself. In Kathmandu, there have been many big investments in infrastructure development and cultural development, especially for the year 2020, because of the Visit Nepal 2020 campaign. This trend is expected to continue, with both good and adverse consequences for the economy, culture, and environment, since the combined effects of substantial infrastructure investments and the resulting inflow of visitors imply that tourism may have a major influence. Tourism is frequently thought of in terms of economic effect, employment, and taxation. However, tourism has a wide range of effects, and it frequently has an impact, both positive and negative on sectors other than those

commonly identified with tourism. The impacts of tourism can be sorted into three broad categories:

i. Economic impact:

There is no doubt that Kathmandu depends largely on a single industry for its economy and benefits a lot from tourism. It expands the pool of available jobs. As tourism grows, additional investment, development, and infrastructure development possibilities emerge. Tourism typically results in improvements in areas such as public utilities and transportation infrastructure, as well as new business possibilities that benefit both visitors and locals. In addition, increased restaurant and tourist retail activities will increase state and local sales tax income. New jobs, on the other hand, create more income tax revenues, and increased demand for products, services, real estate, and accommodation may lead to higher pricing, which will raise the cost of living. At the same time, tourism allows for the creation of extra amenities and leisure facilities that would not otherwise be possible in the town.

Tourism has created considerable employment opportunities in Kathmandu Valley. Jobs were multiplied in many occupations, especially in the areas of hotel and restaurant work, handicrafts, souvenir sales, transport services (rickshaw, bicycle renting, motorbikes) etc. Handicraft industry was a good example of how tourism had an impact on the local enterprise. In the past, this industry targeted local residents and the export market but when tourist numbers began to increase in the durbar square, some people quickly realized the opportunities. Today, the handicraft industry is well established in the square and extends well beyond the core heritage area. In addition, some handicraft shop seeks to extend their customer base by creating websites to collect orders from overseas.

However, the interviews conducted with the community resident committee showed that the attractions of the outside, modern culture are drawing young people away from traditional occupations. The respondent stated that ‘there are increasing number of young people choosing not to become an artist or run the handicraft business like their older brothers and fathers.’ Despite that, it is evident that the increased revenue from tourism is increasing the average income for local people and therefore contributing to reducing poverty rates. Almost all the stakeholders feel that tourism is significantly adding to economic growth.

ii. Environmental impact:

Tourists seeking religious and psychological connections with nature come to locations rich in natural resources and beauty. Because these people care about the environment, certain natural places have been preserved, maintained, and protected from further environmental degradation. However, as the number of tourists has increased, so has traffic, noise, and air pollution. The peaceful

small-town ambience of Kathmandu Durbar Square is vanishing as huge tour buses and other vehicles congest the tiny alleys, causing noise and pollution. While tourism has certain bad features, such as the potential to destroy the environment by creating pollution, it also has some beneficial characteristics, such as the ability to conserve and repair historic structures and monuments from the tourism revenue. Tourism also commonly expands and focuses on specific locations, allowing for expansion while avoiding sprawl. Historic structures and landscapes, which would ordinarily deteriorate over time, provide a great deal of attractiveness for tourism development, and are regularly renovated to meet the demands of the future. Hence, tourism should have a controllable influence on natural resources, biodiversity, and the natural environment's ability to absorb all impacts.

iii. Social and cultural impact:

The flow of tourist offers a variety of values to the town and have an impact on behavior and attitude of the locals. Interactions between inhabitants and visitors may have a beneficial or bad influence on creative expression by opening up new possibilities (positive) or suffocating originality with additional constraints (negative). Increased tourism can lead to a shift in moral behavior in a town. Residents can meet fascinating people, form connections, learn about the globe, and get fresh perspectives by participating in tourism. At the same time, via possibilities offered by tourism growth and interactions with travelers, tourism frequently fosters better levels of psychological fulfillment.

On the other hand, municipal officials have strongly encouraged the conversion of old buildings around the square into commercial spaces such as shophouses and restaurants. While this has been effective in terms of producing tourist revenue, it has come at the cost of deteriorating the integrity of the heritage assets. The family residency has been significantly reduced in and around the square. In many situations, the original owners lease the house for business reasons and relocate to outskirts to reside. In other circumstances, people remain in the structure, but the majority of the available space, is rented for commercial use. Thus, while the appearance and structure of buildings have been carefully preserved, the functions of buildings and living spaces have altered dramatically. While local government officials and business owners see these changes optimistically, tourists are beginning to perceive a loss of Kathmandu Durbar Square's authenticity. According to the respondents, the old town is becoming a museum exhibit, lacking liveliness and tourist attraction.

However, local people understand the need of preserving ancient skills and goods in order to preserve their town, attract tourists. They are proud of their traditional festivals. However, maintaining the authenticity of such traditional practices is challenging due to the great demand for such events from tourists. Many ancient



forms of performance and ceremonies have simply become tourist attractions, losing their original meaning and purpose. Similarly, activities that were once part of locals' everyday lives are now presented as though in a theatre, at inconvenient hours, and hence have no value or cultural role. Traditional rites are performed for the benefit of tourists rather than for spiritual reasons. While tourists are interested in cultural events, they also want to enjoy experiences that are significant to the locals. As a result, offering cultural activities as entertainment risks instilling a sense of artificiality in visitors, who may eventually lose interest.

iv. Physical impact:

New routes, walkways, streetlights, and stormwater infrastructure have been built in response to the increase in tourist numbers. However, the new infrastructure does not necessarily match the town's historic identity. In the ancient lanes, for example, new stone walkways were built. Originally, each home featured a tiny brick porch that matched the house's features. The respondent stated that 'the new walkways are out of character for the area and have degraded the aesthetic of the historic streets.' With the massive rise in visitors, building of restaurants and hotels has increased significantly, notably along the heritage stretch of Durbar Square. Such construction is often unsupervised, with little regard for the social and environmental consequences of such constructions. Buildings outside of the square are no longer constructed in the traditional manner. Traditional architectural types are becoming outdated as more hotels and restaurants are constructed in a contemporary style. The use of drinking water, energy, and other resources is rapidly growing as visitor numbers rise and residents' lifestyles change. Because this consumption is not monitored, it will not be sustainable in the long run. Wood, for example, is becoming increasingly scarce, making it difficult to restore ancient structures. There is no action plan or supervision of current wood supplies, despite the fact that heritage structures cannot be restored or maintained without wood.

The stakeholders have emphasized the need to change the focus away from tourism to something more sustainable and contributing to the good impact on physical, social, economic, environmental, and cultural components of urban renewal now that there are extra problems due to covid. Some stakeholders have even stated that post-crisis initiatives might be a chance to improve people's lives and that the crisis could serve as a wake-up call for both the public and the government.

## 5.2 Stakeholder Co-operation

It is crucial to develop a set of guidelines and standards that will support the development of urban renewal operations in the years to come, given the gradual reopening of international travel. Despite the fact that Kathmandu requires more effective urban renewal strategies, there is a great chance that the planning and

implementation will be slowed, and the industry will return to its previous condition, when tourism was the primary engine of the renewal processes. Due to the lack of coordination among the stakeholders, it is challenging to suggest an alternative strategy other than tourism. Conflicts of opinion amongst institutes/stakeholders were most frequently observed due to differences in their roles. For example, those working for economic growth would propose ideas in favor of increasing tourism such as converting traditional buildings into hotels or shopping malls, seemingly unconcerned about the cultural significance or traditional value of the location, whereas those working for cultural renewal would oppose this strategy and would not want to restore or reconstruct traditional old buildings for the sake of the economy, preferring to preserve the traditional touch of the place and would see tourism as a threat to the cultural heritage because the new infrastructure does not always suit the historic character of the area.

As a result, in the post covid scenario, proper policies and recommendations for stakeholder cooperation and mitigation of the negative impact of tourism are required in Kathmandu. One of the important concerns that has to be addressed in order to promote the tourism sector and limit its negative influence on urban renewal operations in Kathmandu Durbar Square is conflicts of opinion among institutes/stakeholders owing to differences in their interest and duties. To achieve the shared goals, one of the first stages is to define common development goals and promote communication and collaboration among stakeholders. Clearly, the development of the square involves three main groups of players: government agencies, civic society, and the private sector. The participation of different stakeholders from different institutes is essential in planning of tourism and scheduled urban renewal operations for ensuring that tourism is managed in a way that meets the needs of the residents and minimizes negative impacts in the local culture and environment. As shown in the table, many types of stakeholder engagement can be utilized to achieve the common goal. However, the sort of engagement has an impact on the types of outcomes that are achieved.

Table 11: Cooperation between different stakeholders with the type of participation and its implications

<b>Stakeholders</b>	<b>Type of participation</b>	<b>Implications</b>
Government agencies (Policy making bodies)	Decision makers	Government bodies are actively involved in the problem-solving process, as well as planning and decision-making. They have a vested interest in the continuation of institutional frameworks and practices, as well as authority over the outcomes.
Government agencies	Implementing agencies	This department is in charge of carrying out cultural heritage and tourism-related activities.

(Local government)		Responsible for informing about the regulations and enforcing those regulations.
International agencies	Contributors or consultants	They are consulted about challenges and opportunities, and they contribute knowledge and resources to the process. Their vision is that heritage preservation will develop tourism, and in return, tourism will help to preserve heritage assets.
Community resident committees	Self-mobilization	People's committees are responsible of their own local tourism efforts and collaborate with other offices to handle tourism, services, & economy. They are in charge of enforcing tourism management regulations. They are in charge of running the world heritage site and managing the town in order to preserve heritage and promote its assets.
Public participation	Passive	They engage on their own choice, rather than being prompted by external agencies. They may seek the help of others, yet they maintain control over the process. Decision-makers consult with the public and share necessary information.

Recommended approaches to encourage integrated planning include the following:

- Increase stakeholder participation in decision-making processes, analyzing stakeholder perspectives, and updating planning procedures accordingly.
- Ensuring municipal-level coordination and communication among government bodies responsible for local resources, transportation, and infrastructure development in tourism strategic planning.
- Creating participative stakeholder strategies for tourism development and management that consider the renewal operations of cultural resources.
- Providing community-wide education on built, cultural, and natural heritage, as well as education for tourism sector decision-makers.
- More financing for local governments to acquire and restore privately owned houses in order to prevent gentrification, prevent outsiders from purchasing local property, and allow local citizens to continue living in their ancestral homes.

Furthermore, it is evident that the crisis' effects on heritage sites are really just beginning. Measures such as social distancing are likely to remain a requirement at such world heritage properties, affecting the site in a variety of ways, including how visitors experience and visit the site, the number of people allowed in at any given

time, scientific research, general maintenance, infrastructure, conservation, and sustainable development. As a result, certain factors need be handled from a more political and institutional standpoint:

- Recognizing cultural sector as a real economic driving force.
- Emphasize the significance of incorporating culture into national recovery plans.
- Encouraging and promoting for the implementation of new health regulations and standards in order to ensure safe travel, as well as continuing to expand the visitor experiences.
- Promoting and assisting in the development of comprehensive tourism recovery plans in order to rehabilitate destinations, foster innovation, and investment, and rethink the tourism industry.

### 5.3 Mitigating Negative Impacts of Tourism

Kathmandu's most important sector and employer is tourism. The success of the tourism business is dependent on the cultural heritage resources; thus, if these resources are not maintainable sustainably, the tourism industry will suffer. While tourism has a good economic impact, it may also have an adverse influence, if it is not properly managed. As a result, tourism industry must be managed to ensure that the industry meets people's expectations while still remaining within the built and cultural environment. Some recommended strategic options and activities which can be adopted in order to manage and mitigate the negative impacts of tourism on heritage assets are as follows:

Table 12: Recommended strategic options to mitigate negative impact of tourism

<b>Urban renewal (Filed of criteria)</b>	<b>Strategic options</b>	<b>Actors/ Stakeholders</b>
Physical impact mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementing restrictions to prohibit vehicle circulations in portions of ancient quarter at particular times of day in order to minimize traffic, noise, and air pollution.</li> <li>• Reducing the aesthetic appeal of modern infrastructure, ensuring that the traditional materials are used in restoration of ancient buildings rather than inappropriate modern materials.</li> </ul>	Central government (Department of Archaeology)
Social impact mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrate cultural heritage education into the curriculum of local schools in order to teach fundamental awareness</li> </ul>	Local government (Municipality,

	<p>of historical values, build pride in cultural heritage, and encourage respectful behavior while encountering visitors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating suitable property rights rules, as well as commencing land-use planning by local governments, to guarantee that the needs of the most disadvantaged communities are not neglected.</li> </ul>	Site Managers)
Economic impact mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offering training and financing to low-income families in order for them to obtain the essential skills for careers in the tourism industry.</li> <li>• Developing legal provisions, regulations, and economic incentives to reduce the negative impact of tourism on local resources.</li> <li>• Rather than relocating local enterprises such as traditional handicrafts out of the durbar square, encouraging them to serve the tourism market. This type of collaborative strategy would produce tourism revenue while still preserving the square's authenticity.</li> </ul>	Central government (Ministry of culture and tourism)
Environmental impact mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing environmental (green) credentials for local hotels and tourist businesses so that guests may choose ecologically conscious decisions.</li> <li>• Encouraging the use of traditional passive cooling methods of shop houses (i. e., keeping doors open to maintain airflow, etc.) as an alternative to air conditioning.</li> <li>• Creating a culturally relevant environmental management plan for the Durbar Square and surrounding region.</li> </ul>	International agencies (UNESCO, affiliated expert body, JICA)

Cultural impact mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the preservation of traditions and rituals as part of everyday life rather than only as tourist attractions.</li> <li>• Encourage investment, such as hotels and commercial buildings, to take place outside of Kathmandu's historic center in order to decrease crowding and minimize pressure on cultural resources.</li> </ul>	Community resident committees
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Managing the tourism industry in Kathmandu requires specific strategies and activities by the local and provincial authorities and should consider stakeholder cooperation. The tourism industry's well-being depends on proper multidimensional planning and implementation of actions, as well as the development of new attractions, products, and services, public-private partnerships, investments in basic infrastructure and tourism-specific infrastructure, developing appropriate target markets, industry knowledge, quality management, easier access to finance for tourism establishments, hospitality, and services-related education, and so on. Tourism is a factor of growth that affects and stimulates the economy. It is a physical, social, economic, environmental, and cultural, force that causes societal transformation. Recognizing, reacting to, and controlling these forces will eventually need skill among professionals capable of dealing with a wide range of challenges linked to tourism, travel, hospitality, and the increasingly complex operational environment in which they operate.

## CHAPTER 6: DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

When making choices, a stakeholder viewpoint considers the interests of all parties. Making judgments becomes more difficult as the number of actors increases. When stakeholder interests' conflict, there are fewer alternatives for making decisions, which frequently results in lack of collaboration between the stakeholders, and it directly affects the project. There are three possible strategies for handling conflicting stakeholders:

- Seek out win-win solutions, but this reduces the range of possibilities for decisions.
- Decide on a win-lose solution, which means putting the interests of one stakeholder group ahead of another.
- Look for compromises that require some concessions from each stakeholder group.



Each of these strategies involves discussion and complexity. However, it seems easy to find a stakeholder perspective, when there are obvious win-wins, but such outcomes cannot get so far. Sustainability often requires hard trade-offs among stakeholders. A systems perspective might be one of the suggested answers. It evaluates the entire system, not just the stakeholder groups, when making decisions. It suggests moving the focus from stakeholders to society. When the representative views society as a whole, new possibilities emerge. It is feasible to identify unexpected win-win situations or essential trade-offs that will benefit the overall system. This may mean that no single stakeholder is pleased, but in the long term, all stakeholders will benefit. This might be a lose-lose situation with long-term advantages, rather than a win-win situation. This is a systems viewpoint, not a stakeholder viewpoint. Therefore, a systems approach goes beyond stakeholder conflicts because it focuses on the larger picture in the long run, not simply stakeholders' perspectives. Rather than solving conflicts between stakeholders in the short run, it requires to determine what is best in the long run, even if it demands to give up something in the short run.

On the other hand, while tourism remains to be one the sector's hardest hit by the pandemic and even though there are plans and measures of shifting the focus from tourism to something more sustainable, there is a huge chance that post pandemic, tourism will still remain the key driver for urban renewal. Hence, building upon the debates and strategies from chapter five, below are some action-oriented policy recommendations for authorities, at all levels, to collaborate in improving recovery efforts in light of lessons learned from the great earthquake and the pandemic. Additionally, they build on earlier guidance provided by the literature review on understanding how stakeholder co-operation is important in strategy development and how tourism can contribute to the development and promotion of historical settlements and their heritage in Kathmandu Valley.

### 6.1 Strategies for Long Term Recovery and Resilience

Nepal must quickly evolve and adapt the new reality if it is to survive the crisis stronger. Covid will probably still be a part of our lives in post covid life. Kathmandu must look beyond the crisis to the recovery efforts that will be required following the covid-19 outbreak. Kathmandu has a history of creativeness and art, and officials are working to ensure that this continues. Post-crisis activities may be used as an opportunity to enhance people's lives and promote innovation, ranging from widespread usage of digital solutions. This has the potential to stimulate long-term behavioral changes that will make cities more resilient and efficiently connected in terms of how things are generated, energy is used, and transportation is arranged.

Kathmandu has the potential to establish a new normal as a result of the post-covid recovery, making its physical, economic, social, environmental, and cultural aspects less vulnerable. The social well-being and economic expansion of both the present

and future generations may be threatened by predictions about the effects of population change, urbanization, and climate change. In light of these megatrends, Kathmandu may step up its efforts to implement measures to become more resilient, greener, and smart. The crisis and the responses to it highlight the value and possibility of long-term plans for Kathmandu to be more inclusive, environmentally friendly, and intelligent in its recovery efforts, as well as the underlying governance and resource needed to enable transformation. Following is a list of various measures for long-term recovery from the epidemic and building resilience to unforeseen events. The strategies are presented in three categories.

Nevertheless, while contemplating potential future possibilities for urban heritage renewal, it is important to consider the general unpredictability of present trends related to potential and prolonged, soft, or harsh lockdowns, as well as the complexities of the virus and the ultimate introduction of vaccinations. In addition, the crisis-affected months and the creative processes that resulted from them have already shown some potential economic and political inclinations and orientations. This research offers some potential consequences and advice on how the stakeholders might contribute to the advancement of post-covid urban renewal processes by considering viewpoints from cultural actors and ongoing local and global trends. The future of urban renewal projects themselves will not be the main topic of discussion; rather, it will be how important stakeholders are, whose roles were emphasized in the previous sections and what role they can play in fostering innovation, culture, and the revitalization of urban heritage in the face of the present's difficult challenges.

#### 6.1.1 Recognize Tourism as a Means of Accelerating Economic Growth

In Kathmandu, the tourism industry is essential for sustaining employment, commerce, and services. While domestic tourism is already on the mend by 2022, it will probably take two years or longer for international tourism to recover. Considering how heavily Kathmandu depends on international tourism, proactive steps are being developed. These include plans to promote Kathmandu as a safe city that complies with health protocols and plans for the gradual reopening of creative and cultural activities to local, then to foreign visitors. Together with tourism, the culture and creative industries are among the sectors most severely affected by the coronavirus outbreak and the subsequent crisis. In order to orient the recovery strategies towards the support of these sectors key initiatives of recovery strategies with a focus on the culture and creative industries sector include:

- Consider the crisis as an eye-opener. Introduce new approaches especially for the management of covid and its aftermath while highlighting Kathmandu's prior preventative steps for disaster and crisis circumstances.
- Local communities in locations where tourism is the primary focus require much more attention. Encourage the hiring of local staff. Initially prioritize recruiting as many locals as possible.

- Make domestic tourism a priority. Create an economic strategy that will assist Kathmandu in establishing a creative economy in such a way that most people will profit from tourism. People from all backgrounds of society should participate, rather than just those in the hospitality and business sectors.
- Organize community awareness-building events and provide training to local businesses. Use regional goods, decorations, and even architecture to include regional cultural characteristics into the hospitality context.
- Create a recovery approach that integrates measures for individuals, enterprises, and cultural. This plan will prioritize culture. It includes financial support for cultural and creative industries, partial reimbursement for cancelled events, support for stage arts, deduction from certain charges, engagement of educational institutions in cultural educational events, and festival strengthening through the participation of local authors and performers.
- Separate emergency funds to support at risk culture and creative industries, including temples and deities inside the durbar square and independent shophouses.

#### 6.1.2 Inclusive Recovery

The crisis has emphasized how critical it is to confront current socioeconomic injustice in Kathmandu. Lockdowns have impacted a large range of enterprises, but small and medium businesses that depend on face-to-face engagement were particularly hard hit. Despite affecting all aspects of society, vulnerable groups including women, children, the homeless, and the elderly were particularly affected by the crisis. The officials of the city need to implement a number of recovery measures, particularly for local business assistance and employment, affordable housing building and restoration, and help to vulnerable households, to reduce the gap and alleviate structural inequalities as a part of the recovery from the pandemic. Some of the recommended initiatives are as follows:

- Allocate the profit from revenues and taxation to local people directly and use it for recovery purposes, improve the utilities for the community.
- Create a framework for businesses to operate further into the street during planned road closures by establishing pilot projects for recovery strategies that allow businesses to expand outdoor space on the sidewalk, turn curbside parking spaces into shared outdoor dining spaces known as streateries.
- Measures to make sure that everyone participates, including local institutions, representatives, non-profit and citizens associations, by enhancing the use of digital tools and putting the right policies in place for the most vulnerable in areas like food, assistance, and grocery delivery in partnership with non-profits and donors.

- Make investments in the construction of new, modular, earthquake-resistant housing and community facilities as well as in the restoration of houses for disadvantaged households that are particularly at danger from covid. This can also provide construction jobs to the people.

### 6.1.3 Determine the Tourism-Carrying Capacity of Kathmandu Through Urban Planning

The issue about the effect of tourism industry is one of the most talked issues in the policy circles. The carrying capacity is one of the attempts to identify boundaries of tourism expansion. Carrying capacity measurements focus on local factors when evaluating the limits to tourism development or tourism usage of a resource, whether this is a destination, attraction, or any other spatially defined unit of the tourism industry.

The national economy has benefited more and more from the tourism sector, and society as a whole has begun to pay more and more attention to it. The rapid rise of tourism in recent years, however, has not only aided in economic advancement but also presented significant difficulties for society and the economy, such as environmental contamination in tourism destinations. Hence, in order to achieve the sustainable growth of the city's tourism, it is crucial to assess the tourism carrying capacity of a tourist destination city. Some of the recommended initiatives for determining the tourism carrying capacity are as follows:

- Determine the physical carrying capacity by the amount of use of the resource or destination before it starts to deteriorate in an unacceptable way.
- Measures to recognize the economic dependency on tourism by determining the greatest amount of use of the resource before becoming complete dependent on tourism.
- Evaluate the highest degree of use that may be made of a tourism resource without causing the resource's ecosystem unacceptable harm.
- Determine the highest level of usage that a tourism resource can support without contributing to political unrest, such as disputes between stakeholders or control of tourism revenues.

### 6.1.4 Smart Recovery

Addressing future developments in the renewal projects, it is important to emphasize the necessity of digital innovation in both the provision of services and day-to-day operations. The current massive digital and internet transformations will be permanent, reshaping and influencing future investments, plans, and strategies.

With many nations now phasing out of lockdown, cities are strengthening and increasing their use of smart city systems to promote and establish new patterns and habits as the need for social distance persists, while being attentive and monitoring the risk of spread. As municipal services, communication and methods of participation,

and cultural resources are digitalized, the virtual environment is becoming more integrated into the public spheres of cities. Digitalization has also played an important part in Kathmandu's emergency response to the epidemic. Adequate internet connection thus becomes a necessary service, for which universal access must be ensured through technology.

Hence, some of the key initiatives are:

- Introduce crowd-based decision making and innovation and apply it to the funding of project. Build a crowdfunding ecosystem in which internet enables the stakeholders to raise money in the form of either donations or investments from multiple individuals.
- Recognize the digitization initiatives that must be complemented by public interventions in order to limit the digital gap and expand access to technology for all.
- Commit to fully digitizing municipal services. This involves the digitization of construction and landscaping procedures, with the goal of simplifying the authorization process.
- Facilitate remote and flexible working by providing necessary services and facilities, as well as safe surroundings.
- Adopt a strategy that attempts to create a system for monitoring outbreak. The proposal, also supports traditional live events, aims to encourage online cultural activities, and increase online library inventories. In order to reconsider delivery logistics and promote local demand, it will also create a digital platform for Kathmandu.
- Promote healthcare, telecommuting, online education, and the digitization of public services as a step up for efforts toward digital transformation.

## 6.2 Conclusion

The whole idea of urban renewal has gained new insights especially in the aftermath of the great earthquake in Nepal as there are new dimensions added to the renewal of towns, especially those housing cultural heritages and traditional buildings from ancient times. The structures are poorly constructed, and due to lack of maintenance more vulnerable to disasters like earthquake. The main goal of urban renewal is to address the complex dynamics and challenges of urban area and tourism is a critical component of it. Tourism activities, by their nature, have an impact on the environment and they may differ based on the scope of tourism activities as well as the causes influencing their growth or decline. The identification of problems and possibilities for the city to accomplish urban renewal through tourism can provide insight into the nature of policy-making and executive measures. As a result of the fast development of tourism, tourism destinations are experiencing excessive pressure on their natural, cultural, and socioeconomic contexts. Uncontrolled tourism development degrades the attractive natural and cultural features of a location, and it

cannot sustain the basic resources on which it relies, nor can it rely on itself as an industry in the long run, despite the fact that tourism can benefit many countries, regions, and local communities economically.

On the other hand, it is crucial to accept that covid-19 might not go away in the near future. This once more highlights why we need to make our cities healthier today. Hence, urban renewal may be a potent tactic in the battle against the pandemic because it is about more than just energy efficiency or the removal of existing structures. It's more about a new way of looking at urban life, one in which social inclusion, environmental protection, digital innovation, and tourism, all play a role in the same development. As a result, it is crucial to strike a proper balance between tourism and cultural preservation. At the same time, it is important to have a responsible tourism strategy to maximize the positive impact and minimize the negative ones. Therefore, some recommendation for future decision-making processes is proposed in this paper to manage and mitigate the negative impacts of tourism on heritage assets of the square.

In addition, the research's study revealed the gap between the players participating in the various sectoral activities of tourism development and urban renewal was proven by this study. It became clear that the gap between tourism development and urban renewal was not only a matter of stakeholders' roles, but rather a more complex and wide-ranging issue connected to resource dependency and power dynamics in the decision-making processes. Such divisions between sectoral activities were seen not just across organizations but also inside an organization. There was a lack of interaction between people responsible for tourism development and those for urban renewal activities. According to the findings of the critical analysis, conflicts arise between institutes/stakeholders most often due to differences in their roles.

In summary, the urban renewal approach in Kathmandu connects economic growth and environmental enhancement with social and cultural vitality. The various dimensions of urban renewal are a typical stakeholder-led process of planning, decision making, implementation, maintaining and updating. By unfolding the process of how tourism plays a significant role in urban renewal of Kathmandu Valley and paying specific attention to its stakeholder's perspective, it can be concluded that collaborative stakeholder approach is efficient in the urban renewal process if stakeholder's viewpoint is appropriately considered. There might not be a rule of thumb for stakeholder cooperation due to the complexity. However, it is vital to include broader policy and local development contexts which is why a systems perspective is suggested.



## CHAPTER 7. APPENDICES

### Appendix A: Key Informant Interview Questions

Dear Respondents,

Given Nepal's current circumstances, it is important to highlight the impact of tourism on urban renewal activities of Nepal and how it has affected the post-earthquake urban renewal efforts in Nepal. The pandemic is still ongoing, and in-depth investigations into the situation is necessary. While tourism continues to be one of the sectors hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic there are additional challenges in the decision making of renewal works in Kathmandu Valley. Kathmandu Valley has been chosen as a field site in order to highlight the challenges in efforts of reconstruction, renovation, and renewal especially in the traditional urban center that is home to a significant World Heritage Site. The urban renewal activities of Kathmandu Valley have been one of the most strongly debated issues, notably in Kathmandu Durbar Square with the accusations of locals that contractors rebuilding structures have not faithfully followed original designs and are using cheap materials. So, this research is conducted to identify the perception of experts and stakeholders regarding the impact of tourism upon the post-earthquake urban renewal activities in the wake of covid 19.

Your time and effort to complete this survey are much appreciated. Please be assured that the responses furnished in this questionnaire will be used at the aggregate level for the purpose of the study and will be held strictly confidential.

Thankyou.

Questions:

1. Do you think heritage or cultural tourism is one of the strategy or motivation for urban renewal of Kathmandu Valley?
2. How does cultural tourism affect the urban renewal works in Kathmandu?
3. Besides tourism, what are other drivers for urban renewal in Nepal?
4. How do you think covid has affected the post-earthquake urban renewal work in Kathmandu Valley? Is there any difficulty in the urban renewal activities of Kathmandu valley after covid?
5. If covid has affected the urban renewal activities, how will the stakeholders like to deal with this situation?

6. Is there a strategy, or policy to overcome the challenges caused by covid in regard to the urban renewal efforts?
7. If covid lasts longer, there will be longer effect on tourism as well. In this case what do you think should be done in the near future to overcome such challenges?
8. Anything that you would like to add/say? (Your opinion/say on how tourism has affected the urban renewal efforts in and around the durbar square)

प्रिय उत्तरदाताहरू,

नेपालको वर्तमान परिस्थितिलाई ध्यानमा राख्दै, नेपालको सहरी नवीकरण गतिविधिहरूमा पर्यटनको प्रभाव र भूकम्पपछिको सहरी नवीकरण प्रयासमा यसले कस्तो प्रभाव पारेको छ भनेर प्रकाश पार्नु महत्वपूर्ण छ। महामारी अझै जारी छ, र स्थितिमा गहिरो अनुसन्धान आवश्यक छ। कोरोनाभाइरस महामारीबाट सबैभन्दा बढी प्रभावित क्षेत्र मध्येको एक पर्यटन जारी रहे पनि काठमाडौं उपत्यकामा नवीकरण कार्यको निर्णयमा थप चुनौतीहरू छन्। विशेषगरी महत्वपूर्ण विश्व सम्पदा क्षेत्रको घर रहेको परम्परागत सहरी केन्द्रमा पुनर्निर्माण, नवीकरण र नवीकरणका प्रयासमा रहेका चुनौतीहरूलाई उजागर गर्न काठमाडौं उपत्यकालाई फिल्ड साइटको रूपमा छनोट गरिएको हो। काठमाडौं उपत्यकाको सहरी नवीकरण गतिविधिहरू सबैभन्दा बलियो विवादित मुद्दाहरू मध्ये एक भएको छ, विशेष गरी काठमाडौं दरबार स्कायरमा संरचनाहरू पुनर्निर्माण गर्ने ठेकेदारहरूले इमानदारीपूर्वक मौलिक डिजाइनहरू पालना नगरेको र सस्तो सामग्री प्रयोग गरेको स्थानीयहरूको आरोप छ। त्यसैले कोभिड-१९ का कारण भूकम्पपछिको सहरी नवीकरणका गतिविधिमा पर्यटनमा परेको प्रभावबारे विज्ञ र सरोकारवालाको धारणा पहिचान गर्न यो अनुसन्धान गरिएको हो।

यो सर्वेक्षण पूरा गर्न तपाईंको समय र प्रयास धेरै सराहनीय छ। कृपया ढुक्क हुनुहोस् यस प्रश्नावलीमा दिइएका जवाफहरू अध्ययनको उद्देश्यको लागि समग्र स्तरमा प्रयोग गरिनेछ र कडा रूपमा गोप्य राखिनेछ।

धन्यवाद।

प्रश्नहरू:

- काठमाडौं उपत्यकाको सहरी नवीकरणको लागि सम्पदा वा सांस्कृतिक पर्यटन एक रणनीति वा प्रेरणा हो जस्तो लाग्छ?
- सांस्कृतिक पर्यटनले काठमाडौंको सहरी नवीकरण कार्यलाई कसरी असर गर्छ?
- पर्यटन बाहेक, नेपालमा सहरी नवीकरणका लागि अन्य चालकहरू के छन्?

- काठमाडौं उपत्यकामा भूकम्पपछिको सहरी नवीकरण कार्यमा कोभिडले कस्तो प्रभाव पारेको छ जस्तो लाग्छ? कोभिडपछि काठमाडौं उपत्यकाको सहरी नवीकरणका काममा कुनै कठिनाइ छ ?
- यदि कोविडले सहरी नवीकरण गतिविधिहरूलाई असर गरेको छ भने, सरोकारवालाहरूले यो अवस्थालाई कसरी सामना गर्न चाहन्छन्?
- सहरी नवीकरण प्रयासहरूको सन्दर्भमा कोभिडका कारण उत्पन्न चुनौतीहरूलाई पार गर्ने रणनीति वा नीति छ?
- यदि कोभिड लामो समय सम्म रह्यो भने, पर्यटन मा पनि लामो समय सम्म प्रभाव हुनेछ। यस्तो अवस्थामा निकट भविष्यमा यस्ता चुनौतीहरू पार गर्न के गर्नुपर्छ जस्तो लाग्छ ?
- तपाईं थप्नु/भन्नु चाहनुहुने केहि? (दरबार स्क्रायर र वरपरको सहरी नवीकरण प्रयासमा पर्यटनले कसरी प्रभाव पारेको छ भन्ने बारे तपाईंको विचार/भन्नुहोस्)

#### Appendix B: An Example of Analysis of First Interview

Response of question 1: Do you think heritage or cultural tourism is one of the strategy or motivation for urban renewal of Kathmandu Valley?

Yes, indeed. Urban renewal as a tool that aims to develop an urban settlement based on its economic upliftment. Cultural tourism-based industries on one hand will give continuity to our culture and traditions as well as provide a platform to generate income-based activities which will ultimately uplift the economic activities of the city as a whole. Urban renewal is an intervention to reverse the trend of decay and decline in the city, however, its meaning indicates getting rid of blighted areas. Ironically heritage or cultural tourism requires the area of cultural or heritage importance to be maintained and cherished. Those areas are not necessarily in good condition or of proper use. Despite the discordance, through a proper change of perception and implementation, we can lead to a better outcome where those areas in blighted conditions can be renewed without changing their essence and the users. The path of urban renewal should be such that it prioritizes the culture and heritage of the place. This way heritage and cultural tourism serves as a part of urban renewal of Kathmandu Valley.

Response of question 2: How does cultural tourism affect the urban renewal works in Kathmandu?

Cultural tourism has positive affect towards urban renewal. Cultural tourism motivates the local people and related stakeholders to preserve and rehabilitate our heritages and our traditional settlements as a whole. As dilapidated, damaged, and ill conditioned buildings, heritages and infrastructures will

adversely affect the tourism. Worshipping and other religious rites are practiced throughout the city, including annual festivals at certain times, e.g., worship a certain deity at a certain time. Religion and rituals are incorporated in daily life of people living all over Nepal. Kathmandu has been designed in such a way that every small tole consists of a small deity or any Hindu deity to protect the space. The deities may come in between of the newly designed pathways or road network or any infrastructural work that is necessary in the present or future days. The demolishment of such deity is strictly beyond the cultural beliefs and hence the urban renewal process is hampered.

Response of question 3: Besides tourism, what are other drivers for urban renewal in Nepal?

Heritage conservation for retaining identity. Awareness, improvement in socio-economic status, improvement in living standard, sense of belonging, sense of placemaking, improvement in education etc.

Response of question 4: How do you think covid has affected the post-earthquake urban renewal work in Kathmandu Valley? Is there any difficulty in the urban renewal activities of Kathmandu valley after covid?

In context of Nepal all the reconstruction were done very slow. Many reconstructions have been done losing one's identity. Political dispute has also affected the urban renewal works. The pandemic has hampered people's lifestyles as well as urban development. Some had to make do with less food, while others died from a combination of hunger and the virus itself. Priority was given to the safety of people's lives, resulting in a nearly year-long lockdown. Covid posed multitude effect in the urban renewal work of Kathmandu valley. Main issues were delay in several ongoing reconstruction, restoration and rehabilitation works mainly due to unavailability of manpower, materials, and resources. Major portion of Government budget were spent in health sectors due to which portion of budget available for development sector was reduced to great extent.

Response of question 5: If covid has affected the urban renewal activities, how will the stakeholders like to deal with this situation?

Not all regions are equally prepared to deal with the crisis. It was extremely difficult for stakeholders in Nepal to deal with the situation. After the visible effect of covid on urban renewal activities, the stakeholders would find the balance between the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of urban renewal, the dimensions that has major impact on urban renewal.

Response of question 6: Is there a strategy, or policy to overcome the challenges caused by covid in regard to the urban renewal efforts?

The strategy or policy to overcome the challenges caused by covid in regard to the urban renewal efforts is to move forward with sustainable recovery. This way the impact created in those renewal works due to different events such as earthquake and global pandemic can be minimized.

- Create capacity-building and learning activities to encourage meaningful and inclusive online participation.
- Encourage individuals to participate in construction activities while ensuring their health and safety.
- Implementing various safety measures and involving youth in urban development projects.
- Guaranteed minimum revenue to the workers.

Response of question 7: If covid lasts longer, there will be longer effect on tourism as well. In this case what do you think should be done in the near future to overcome such challenges?

Tourism should not be only focused on international tourists and should be oriented towards national or local tourists as well. This way the effect caused by the covid, and travel ban within the world might lessen to some point. Similarly, the situation demands proper management which incorporates a larger number of people while avoiding crowd collection should be done. This way the social distancing and avoiding of crowded places which is the prime goal during the pandemic can be maintained whilst people can enjoy their tourism experiences and the effect on the tourism industry can be lessened. All this needs to be happen within the areas in the core areas of Kathmandu Durbar Square which everyday caters thousands of people every day.

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