

**A PROJECT WORK REPORT ON
EXAMINING HOW LOCAL POLICIES SHAPE
CULTURAL PRACTICES AND HOSPITALITY TRADITIONS IN
RURAL NEPALI HOMESTAY OPERATIONS**

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DECLARATION

I, Srishti K.C declare that the project work report entitled “**Examining how local policies shape cultural practices and hospitality tradition in rural Nepali homestay**” submitted to Nepal Tourism and Hotel Management College for the BHM is my original work and project work report is not formed for the basis of the award of any degree, diploma or other similar. This project is submitted for practical fulfillment of the requirement for the degree in Bachelor of Hotel Management (BHM). This project work report has not been submitted to any other or the institution.

Srishti K.C

July 2026

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the project work titled **“Examining how local policies shapes cultural practices and hospitality traditions in rural Nepali homestay”** submitted by Srishti K.C (23150274) for the partial fulfillment of the requirement of BHM embodies the bonafide work done by her under my supervision.

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Project Work Supervisor.

July, 2026

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Tourism has become an important tool for rural development by creating livelihood opportunities, encouraging community participation, and supporting the preservation of local culture. Among different forms of tourism, homestay tourism has gained importance because it allows visitors to experience local lifestyles, traditional practices, food culture, and hospitality within community households.

In Nepal, rural homestays have emerged as a significant form of community-based tourism. They provide economic opportunities for local communities while promoting cultural exchange between hosts and visitors. Unlike conventional accommodation services, homestays are closely connected with local traditions, social relationships, and cultural identity. Therefore, the development and management of homestays are influenced not only by tourism demand but also by local policies and community practices. Local policies play an important role in shaping homestay operations through regulations, training programs, tourism promotion, and institutional support. These policies influence how communities manage tourism activities, preserve cultural practices, and adapt hospitality traditions to changing visitor expectations. Ghandruk, Nepal, is a prominent rural tourism destination known for its Gurung culture, traditional lifestyle, and community-based tourism practices. Homestay operations in Ghandruk provide visitors with opportunities to experience local food, cultural performances, and traditional hospitality. However, increasing tourism has also created challenges related to infrastructure, marketing, service improvement, and maintaining cultural authenticity.

This study examines how local policies shape cultural practices and hospitality traditions in rural Nepali homestay operations, focusing on Ghandruk, Nepal. It explores the experiences of homestay operators, local community members, and government stakeholders to understand the relationship between tourism policies, cultural preservation, hospitality practices, and challenges faced by rural homestay operators.

1.1 Background of the Study

Globally, tourism is now one of the main drivers of rural development, cultural interchange, and economic expansion. In developing nations like Nepal,

tourism plays a significant role in maintaining regional customs, fostering cultural identity, and enhancing rural residents' quality of life in addition to creating jobs and revenue. Among the different types of tourism, homestay and community-based tourism have become popular sustainable strategies that let tourists experience local ways of life while directly helping host communities. Through traditional cuisine, regional traditions, festivals, architecture, farming methods, and regular social contacts, homestays give visitors the chance to partake in genuine cultural experiences (UNWTO, 2021).

Nepal's spectacular natural landscapes, distinct ethnic communities, and rich cultural variety have earned it international recognition. Trekking, climbing, and history tourism have historically been the main focuses of the nation's tourism sector. However, in an effort to diversify tourism offerings and enhance rural livelihoods, the Nepali government has been promoting rural tourism more and more through homestay programs in recent years. The Ministry of Culture, Tourism, and Civil Aviation introduced the Homestay Operating Procedure, which offers administrative and legal standards for setting up and running private and community homestays around the nation. According to the (MoCTCA, 2010), these regulations seek to guarantee high-quality service, protect local culture, promote community involvement, and create economic prospects in rural areas. In Nepal, homestay tourism is different from traditional lodging services since it prioritizes hospitality and cultural immersion over just business dealings. In addition to learning about indigenous customs and cultures, visitors stay with local families, take part in traditional ceremonies, and eat food cooked locally. In addition to generating additional revenue for households, this engagement fosters significant cultural exchanges. As a result, homestays support the preservation of intangible cultural assets, such as traditional music, dance, language, rituals, clothing, handicrafts, and culinary customs, in addition to rural economic development (Bhattarai, 2019).

Nepali culture has long placed a strong emphasis on hospitality customs. "Atithi Devo Bhava," which translates to "Guests are equivalent to God," is a cultural idea that reflects the traditional philosophy of treating visitors with respect, generosity, and love. This parameter affects how rural households greet and tend to guests. In many communities, hospitality encompasses more than just lodging; it often includes taking part in family events, religious rituals, farming, and regional

celebrations. These customs enhance cultural awareness and appreciation while offering tourists genuine experiences. But there are drawbacks to growing tourism commercialization, such as cultural commodification, shifting societal values, and the need to modify customs to satisfy visitors (Timothy & Nyaupane, 2009). The development of homestay tourism and the preservation of cultural customs are significantly influenced by local government policy. Local governments were given more control over infrastructure development, tourism planning, cultural preservation, and local economic promotion after Nepal's federal restructuring in 2015. These days, municipalities and rural municipalities create tourism strategies, distribute funds, control homestay registration, plan cultural events, train hosts, and work with federal and provincial organizations. The quality of hospitality services, cultural heritage protection, and community involvement in tourist development are all greatly impacted by these policy initiatives (GoN, 2015).

Traditional hospitality behaviors may be strengthened or weakened by local policy implementation. Financial incentives, capacity-building initiatives, infrastructure development, cleanliness standards, and marketing assistance, for instance, may enhance the overall visitor experience while motivating local populations to preserve traditional buildings, foods, and cultural events. On the other hand, poor policy execution, a lack of institutional support, inadequate oversight, and unequal benefit distribution could deter community involvement or lead to the commercialization of regional culture for tourism. In order to ensure that tourism development continues to be both economically advantageous and culturally sustainable, it is crucial to comprehend the interaction between local policies and cultural practices (UNESCO, 2022). In rural homestays, cultural customs are changing rather than stagnant. In reaction to shifting social, political, and economic circumstances, communities constantly modify their customs. In addition to creating new opportunities, tourism also shapes local identities, traditions, and standards of hospitality. Because tourism generates economic value for cultural heritage, communities sometimes bring back traditional dances, songs, handicrafts, and festivals. In other cases, customs might be simplified or altered to suit the tastes of visitors, which could eventually diminish their authenticity. As a result, local regulations become crucial tools for striking a balance between the growth of tourism and cultural preservation.

Policy frameworks also have an impact on hospitality customs. Local government-funded training programs frequently motivate homestay owners to raise standards for accommodations, customer service, hygiene, and communication. Although these upgrades increase tourist happiness, they could also bring in contemporary hospitality techniques that deviate from more conventional methods of entertaining. Because of this, rural communities have to continuously balance upholding traditional cultural values with satisfying modern tourism requirements. Analyzing this relationship offers insightful information about how policy influences routine hospitality procedures in homestay businesses. Numerous studies have examined the economic advantages of homestay tourism in Nepal, with a focus on rural business, employment prospects, women's empowerment, and income generation. Other scholars have looked at homestay programs for cultural preservation, sustainable tourism, and community involvement. However, only a small amount of research has clearly examined the ways in which local government regulations directly impact cultural customs and hospitality traditions in rural Nepali homestays. Instead of looking at how policy implementation, cultural preservation, and hospitality experiences interact, the majority of current research either focuses on tourism development or cultural heritage separately.

By investigating how local policies influence cultural customs and hospitality traditions in rural Nepali homestay enterprises, this study aims to close this knowledge gap. The study will look into how policy provisions affect hospitality practices, community involvement, the preservation of regional traditions, and the general sustainability of rural tourism. Additionally, it will investigate how community residents, local government representatives, and homestay operators see the efficacy of current tourism regulations. By understanding these relationships, the study will aid in the formulation of policy suggestions that support environmentally friendly travel while preserving Nepal's rich cultural heritage. Policymakers, local governments, tourism planners, homestay businesses, researchers, and development organizations are anticipated to find value in the study's conclusions. The study will offer evidence-based perspectives on how local governance contributes to rural economic development while preserving genuine cultural experiences. Additionally, the study will add to the body of knowledge on community-based tourism, sustainable

tourism, and cultural heritage management in developing nations, especially in light of Nepal's decentralized governance structure.

This study explores how local policies influence cultural practices and hospitality traditions in rural homestay operations in Ghandruk, Nepal, a well-known community-based tourism destination. It examines how homestay tourism supports local livelihoods while preserving Gurung culture through traditional food, festivals, customs, and hospitality practices. The study also considers the challenges faced by homestay operators, including maintaining cultural authenticity, adapting to changing tourist expectations, limited infrastructure, marketing constraints, and gaps in policy implementation. By investigating the experiences of homestay operators, local communities, and government stakeholders, the research assesses the role of local policies in promoting sustainable tourism, strengthening community participation, and preserving cultural heritage. Ultimately, the study aims to provide insights that can improve policy implementation and support sustainable homestay tourism while protecting the cultural identity of rural communities.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Homestay tourism has become an important strategy for promoting rural development, cultural preservation, and sustainable tourism in Nepal. Through homestay programs, rural households provide accommodation and cultural experiences that enable visitors to interact with local communities, participate in traditional activities, and experience authentic Nepali hospitality. Recognizing its potential, the Government of Nepal and local governments have introduced policies and operational guidelines to support the establishment and management of homestays, improve service quality, and promote community-based tourism (MoCTCA, 2010).

Following the implementation of Nepal's federal system, local governments have been entrusted with greater responsibilities in tourism planning, cultural heritage conservation, infrastructure development, and local economic promotion. Municipalities and rural municipalities are expected to formulate tourism-related policies, regulate homestay operations, provide training, allocate financial resources, and organize cultural promotion activities. These policy interventions are intended to

strengthen rural tourism while preserving the cultural identity and hospitality traditions of local communities (Government of Nepal, 2015).

Despite these policy initiatives, significant challenges remain in the implementation and effectiveness of local tourism policies. In many rural areas, inadequate institutional capacity, limited financial resources, inconsistent policy implementation, and weak monitoring mechanisms affect the development of homestay tourism. Moreover, communities often face difficulties in balancing the preservation of authentic cultural practices with the increasing demands of commercial tourism. As tourism expands, traditional customs, rituals, food culture, architecture, and hospitality practices may be modified to satisfy visitor expectations, raising concerns about the authenticity and sustainability of local cultural heritage (Timothy & Nyaupane, 2009).

Existing studies on homestay tourism in Nepal have primarily focused on its economic benefits, community participation, poverty reduction, women's empowerment, and rural livelihood improvement (Bhattarai, 2019). While these studies provide valuable insights into the contribution of homestays to local development, relatively little attention has been given to understanding how local government policies influence the preservation of cultural practices and the evolution of hospitality traditions within rural homestay operations. Similarly, there is limited empirical evidence regarding how homestay operators and local stakeholders perceive the effectiveness of these policies in maintaining cultural authenticity while promoting tourism development.

The relationship between policy implementation and cultural practices is particularly important because local governments now play a central role in shaping tourism development within their jurisdictions. Policies related to tourism promotion, cultural heritage conservation, training, infrastructure, financial incentives, and quality standards can directly influence the way homestays operate and how local communities preserve and present their cultural identity. However, the extent to which these policies effectively support traditional hospitality values and cultural sustainability remains insufficiently explored.

Therefore, there is a need to examine how local policies shape cultural practices and hospitality traditions in rural Nepali homestay operations. This study

seeks to address this research gap by investigating the influence of local government policies on the preservation of cultural heritage, hospitality behavior, and sustainable homestay management. The findings will contribute to a better understanding of the interaction between governance, culture, and tourism and will provide evidence-based recommendations for policymakers, local governments, and homestay operators to strengthen sustainable rural tourism while safeguarding Nepal's rich cultural heritage.

1.3 Research Questions

- a) How do local government policies influence cultural practices in rural Nepali homestay operations?
- b) In what ways do local policies shape traditional hospitality practices among homestay operators?
- c) What challenges do homestay operators face while implementing local tourism policies and preserving traditional culture and hospitality?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

- To identify the influence of local government policies on cultural practices in rural Nepali homestay operations.
- To assess how local government policies shape traditional hospitality practices among homestay operators.
- To examine the challenges faced by homestay operators in implementing tourism policies and preserving local culture and hospitality traditions.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study is significant because it examines the relationship between local tourism policies, cultural practices, and hospitality traditions in rural Nepali homestay operations. Rural homestay tourism has become an important part of Nepal's tourism industry, contributing to economic development, cultural preservation, and community participation. However, the success and sustainability of homestay tourism largely depend on effective policy implementation and the ability of local communities to preserve their authentic culture and hospitality traditions. Therefore, this study will provide valuable knowledge and practical understanding regarding the role of local policies in shaping rural homestay tourism in Nepal.

The study will be beneficial to local governments and policymakers because it will help them understand how tourism-related policies affect cultural preservation

and hospitality management in rural communities. The findings may assist policymakers in developing more effective tourism policies, cultural preservation strategies, and homestay management programs. It may also help local governments improve policy implementation, monitoring systems, training programs, and infrastructure development in rural tourism areas.

This study will also be important for homestay operators and local communities. It will increase awareness about the importance of preserving local culture, traditions, and hospitality values while operating tourism businesses. The research may encourage homestay operators to maintain authentic cultural experiences for tourists and balance economic benefits with cultural sustainability. In addition, the study may help communities identify the challenges they face in implementing tourism policies and maintaining traditional practices.

Similarly, the study will contribute to the academic field by providing information and literature related to rural tourism, cultural preservation, community-based tourism, and hospitality management in Nepal. Since there are limited studies focusing specifically on the influence of local policies on cultural practices and hospitality traditions in rural homestays, this research may serve as a useful reference for future researchers, students, and scholars interested in tourism and rural development studies.

The study is also significant for tourism organizations and development agencies working in rural tourism promotion and cultural conservation. The findings may help such organizations design programs and projects that support sustainable tourism development, community participation, and protection of indigenous culture and traditions.

Furthermore, the study will highlight the importance of sustainable tourism practices in rural Nepal. By examining the relationship between tourism policies and cultural preservation, the research may encourage responsible tourism development that respects local identity, environmental sustainability, and social values. This may ultimately contribute to long-term rural development and the promotion of Nepal as a culturally rich and sustainable tourism destination.

1.6 Literature Review

Homestay tourism has gained increasing attention as an important component of community-based and sustainable tourism. Unlike conventional accommodation services, homestays allow tourists to stay with local families and experience their daily lifestyles, traditions, customs, food, and cultural values. This form of tourism promotes direct interaction between hosts and visitors, creating opportunities for cultural exchange while generating economic benefits for local communities. Numerous studies have highlighted that homestay tourism contributes to rural employment, poverty reduction, women's empowerment, and the conservation of cultural and natural resources.

In Nepal, homestay tourism has become a key strategy for rural tourism development. The Government of Nepal has introduced policies and operational guidelines to encourage community participation in tourism and to promote local cultures as tourism assets. Following the country's transition to a federal governance system, local governments have assumed greater responsibility for tourism planning, cultural heritage conservation, infrastructure development, and the regulation of homestay operations. Consequently, local policies have become increasingly important in determining how homestay businesses operate and how communities preserve and present their cultural heritage.

Cultural practices and hospitality traditions are central to the success of rural homestay tourism. Nepal is home to diverse ethnic communities, each possessing unique languages, rituals, festivals, architecture, culinary traditions, and social customs. These cultural elements represent significant attractions for domestic and international tourists seeking authentic experiences. Hospitality traditions, characterized by warmth, respect, and community participation, further enhance visitor satisfaction and strengthen cultural exchange. However, the growth of tourism and commercialization may also influence the way these traditions are practiced, potentially altering or commodifying cultural expressions to meet market demands (UNESCO, 2022).

The implementation of local tourism policies can significantly influence the preservation and transformation of cultural practices within rural homestays. Policies related to tourism promotion, cultural heritage conservation, infrastructure

improvement, training, and quality standards may encourage communities to maintain traditional customs while improving service quality. Conversely, inadequate policy implementation, insufficient institutional support, and limited community participation may weaken efforts to preserve local cultural identity. Understanding these policy influences is therefore essential for achieving a balance between tourism development and cultural sustainability.

Although previous studies have examined community-based tourism, rural development, and the economic contributions of homestay tourism in Nepal, comparatively few have explored the direct relationship between local government policies, cultural practices, and hospitality traditions. Most research has emphasized economic outcomes, community participation, or tourism management, while giving limited attention to how policy frameworks shape everyday cultural expressions and traditional hospitality in rural homestay settings. This gap highlights the need for a comprehensive review of literature that integrates tourism policy, cultural heritage, and hospitality studies.

Accordingly, this literature review examines relevant theoretical concepts, policy frameworks, and empirical studies related to homestay tourism, local government policies, cultural practices, and hospitality traditions. It also identifies the research gap that justifies the present study and provides the conceptual foundation for examining how local policies shape cultural practices and hospitality traditions in rural Nepali homestay operations.

1.6.1 Local Government Policies and Tourism Development in Nepal

Tourism development in Nepal is strongly influenced by government policies, institutional frameworks, and local governance mechanisms. In rural areas, tourism policies play a significant role in determining how communities participate in tourism activities, how local resources are managed, and how cultural heritage is preserved. With the adoption of federal governance in Nepal, local governments have gained greater responsibility for tourism planning, destination promotion, cultural conservation, and the regulation of community-based tourism initiatives such as homestays.

MoCTCA (2010) established the first formal policy framework for homestay development in Nepal. The guideline highlighted homestays should promote rural

tourism by utilizing local resources, encouraging community participation, and preserving cultural traditions. It provided standards related to registration, accommodation management, hygiene, and service delivery, creating an institutional foundation for rural households to participate in tourism activities. GoN (2015), emphasized the importance of local-level governance and decentralized decision-making. The constitutional arrangement provided local governments with authority over areas including tourism promotion, cultural preservation, and local development planning. This change has increased the role of municipalities and rural municipalities in designing tourism-related programs according to local resources, community needs, and cultural characteristics. MoCTCA (2016), highlighted that community participation and diversification of tourism products are essential for sustainable tourism development in Nepal. The plan emphasized the promotion of rural tourism, cultural tourism, and community-based tourism as strategies for expanding tourism benefits beyond major destinations. It also recognized the importance of improving local capacity, infrastructure, and institutional coordination for successful tourism development. Paudyal (2021), explored the role of local governance in tourism development in Nepal and highlighted that local governments have become important actors in promoting tourism destinations after federal restructuring. The study noted that municipalities are increasingly involved in tourism promotion, infrastructure development, and cultural programs. However, it also identified challenges such as limited technical expertise, insufficient resources, and weak coordination between different levels of government. Kafle (2023), asserted that policy support is one of the major factors influencing the sustainability of homestay operations in Nepal. The study highlighted that although homestay programs have expanded across rural areas, many communities continue to face difficulties related to training, marketing, infrastructure, and institutional assistance. Kafle added that effective policy implementation is necessary to ensure that homestays maintain service quality while preserving local cultural values. Lamichhane et al. (2024), explored the challenges and opportunities of homestay tourism in Nepal and related that government support and local institutional involvement are essential for strengthening rural tourism. The study emphasized that policies related to skill development, financial support, infrastructure improvement, and cultural promotion directly influence the performance of homestay enterprises. The authors further asserted that collaboration

between local governments and communities is necessary to achieve sustainable tourism outcomes.

Overall, the literature indicates that tourism policies in Nepal have created opportunities for rural communities to participate in tourism development, particularly through homestay programs. However, the effectiveness of these policies depends largely on local-level implementation, institutional capacity, and community involvement. Since cultural practices and hospitality traditions are central components of Nepalese homestays, understanding the relationship between local policies and tourism development is essential for examining how policies influence the preservation and transformation of rural cultural identity.

1.6.2 Cultural Practices in Rural Nepali Homestays

Cultural practices are the foundation of rural homestay tourism in Nepal because they provide visitors with opportunities to experience local traditions, lifestyles, social values, and indigenous knowledge. Unlike commercial accommodation services, homestays are based on direct interaction between visitors and host communities, where culture becomes an important part of the tourism experience. Traditional food, festivals, rituals, local languages, handicrafts, dress, architecture, and community hospitality are often incorporated into homestay activities, allowing rural communities to present and preserve their cultural identity.

Karmacharya et al. (2025), highlighted that homestay tourism contributes significantly to the preservation of indigenous culture in Nepal. The study explored that community homestays provide opportunities to promote traditional Tharu food, cultural performances, social practices, and local lifestyles while generating economic benefits for rural households. The authors asserted that homestays can strengthen cultural pride because communities recognize their traditions as valuable resources for tourism development. Gautam (2024), noted that cultural preservation is one of the major contributions of homestay tourism in Nepal. The study highlighted homestays encourage communities to maintain traditional festivals, indigenous crafts, local cuisines, and cultural performances because these elements attract visitors seeking authentic experiences. Gautam further added that cultural interaction between tourists and host communities enhances mutual understanding and promotes appreciation of Nepal's diverse ethnic heritage. Duwadi (2026), explored the role of homestays in

promoting Gurung cultural traditions in the Annapurna region. The study related that local customs, traditional hospitality, cultural performances, and community lifestyles are important attractions for visitors. Duwadi asserted that homestays provide a platform where rural communities can share their cultural knowledge while creating economic opportunities. The study also emphasized that maintaining cultural authenticity is necessary for ensuring long-term sustainability of homestay tourism. Kafle (2023), highlighted Nepalese homestays are closely connected with traditional hospitality values. The study explained that visitors are attracted to homestays because they experience family-based hospitality, local lifestyles, and cultural practices that are difficult to obtain through conventional tourism facilities. Kafle added that homestay tourism helps rural communities promote their cultural identity; however, maintaining authenticity while adapting to tourist expectations remains an important challenge. G.C. (2025), examined the relationship between homestay tourism and rural community development in Nepal. The study highlighted that cultural preservation is one of the positive outcomes of homestay operations because tourism creates incentives for communities to continue traditional practices. The author added that local food preparation, cultural activities, and community-based hospitality contribute to strengthening social identity while improving household livelihoods.

Overall, the literature indicates that cultural practices are not only attractions for rural homestay tourism but also important elements of community identity and social continuity in Nepal. Homestays allow rural communities to maintain and promote traditions while adapting them to changing tourism demands. However, cultural practices may be affected by commercialization, changing visitor expectations, and inadequate policy support. Therefore, understanding how local policies influence cultural preservation and cultural presentation is essential for examining the sustainability of rural Nepali homestay operations.

1.6.3 Challenges Faced by Rural Homestay Operators in Nepal

Although homestay tourism has expanded as an important rural tourism initiative in Nepal, rural homestay operators continue to face various challenges that influence the sustainability and effectiveness of their operations. These challenges are related to infrastructure limitations, inadequate training, marketing difficulties, financial constraints, policy implementation gaps, and the need to balance tourism

development with cultural preservation. Understanding these challenges is essential because the success of homestay tourism depends not only on community participation but also on effective institutional support and favorable operating conditions.

According to [Kafle \(2023\)](#), inadequate infrastructure is one of the major challenges affecting homestay development in Nepal. The study noted that many rural homestay destinations face difficulties related to transportation access, communication facilities, sanitation, and basic tourism infrastructure. Kafle asserted that these limitations reduce visitor satisfaction and create operational difficulties for homestay owners, particularly in remote areas where government support and investment remain limited. Similarly, [Gautam \(2024\)](#), explored that limited managerial skills and insufficient professional training are significant barriers for rural homestay operators. The study explained that many homestay owners begin operations based on traditional hospitality knowledge but lack formal skills in areas such as customer service, digital marketing, financial management, hygiene standards, and tourism management. Gautam added that capacity-building programs are necessary to improve service quality while allowing communities to maintain their traditional hospitality values. Likewise, [Lamichhane et al. \(2024\)](#) highlighted that marketing and promotion remain major challenges for many rural homestays in Nepal. The study related that while rural communities possess attractive cultural and natural resources, many homestays struggle to reach potential visitors due to limited online presence, weak branding, and insufficient promotional activities. The authors asserted that stronger cooperation between local governments, tourism organizations, and communities is required to improve destination visibility and market access. [Karmacharya, Agri, and Shrestha \(2025\)](#), examined challenges faced by culturally based homestay communities and noted that maintaining cultural authenticity while responding to tourist expectations can be difficult. The study explained that tourism may encourage communities to preserve traditions, but it may also influence cultural practices through commercialization and adaptation. The authors emphasized that homestay operators need appropriate guidance to balance cultural preservation with the changing demands of tourism markets.

However, [Bhattarai \(2019\)](#), explored financial limitations are another important challenge affecting rural homestay operations. The study highlighted that

many households face difficulties in investing in accommodation improvements, sanitation facilities, kitchen upgrades, and promotional activities due to limited access to financial resources. Bhattarai further noted that although homestays provide additional income opportunities, the initial investment required for meeting tourism standards can be challenging for rural families. MoCTCA (2010), established operational guidelines to improve homestay management in Nepal; however, implementation at the local level remains a challenge. Many rural operators experience difficulties in accessing government support, training opportunities, and administrative services due to limited coordination among government institutions. Effective implementation of policies at the local level is therefore necessary to ensure that homestay operators receive adequate assistance and that tourism development benefits rural communities.

Overall, the literature shows that rural homestay operators in Nepal face multiple interconnected challenges that affect the sustainability of their businesses. While homestays have significant potential to promote rural development and cultural preservation, issues related to infrastructure, skills, marketing, finance, and policy implementation continue to restrict their growth. Addressing these challenges requires stronger collaboration between local governments, tourism stakeholders, and community members. Effective policy support and capacity development are particularly important for enabling rural homestay operators to maintain authentic hospitality traditions while meeting the evolving expectations of tourists.

1.6.4 Literature Gap

Existing literature on homestay tourism in Nepal has mainly focused on its contribution to rural development, livelihood improvement, community participation, and cultural promotion. Previous studies have highlighted homestays support local economies and help preserve cultural practices such as traditional food, festivals, indigenous knowledge, and hospitality values. However, limited attention has been given to understanding the relationship between local government policies and the transformation of these cultural practices within rural homestay operations.

Although several studies have discussed tourism policies and institutional support for homestay development, most have focused on broader national-level frameworks rather than examining how local-level policies influence the daily

practices of homestay operators. The role of municipalities in providing support, implementing regulations, and balancing tourism development with cultural preservation remains insufficiently explored.

Similarly, existing research has identified challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, limited training, marketing difficulties, and financial constraints faced by homestay operators. However, fewer studies have examined these challenges in relation to local policy implementation and the ability of operators to maintain cultural authenticity while meeting tourism requirements.

Therefore, this study attempts to fill this gap by examining how local policies shape cultural practices and hospitality traditions in rural Nepali homestay operations. It aims to provide a deeper understanding of the connection between local governance, cultural preservation, and sustainable homestay development in Nepal.

1.6.5 Summary

The literature reviewed shows that homestay tourism in Nepal has become an important community-based tourism model that contributes to rural development, livelihood improvement, and cultural preservation. Studies have highlighted homestays allow rural communities to utilize their cultural resources, traditional hospitality practices, local cuisine, and indigenous knowledge as tourism assets while generating economic opportunities.

The review also indicates that government policies play a significant role in shaping homestay development in Nepal. Local and national tourism policies influence registration procedures, training opportunities, infrastructure development, and community participation. However, the effectiveness of these policies depends on proper implementation and coordination between government institutions and local communities.

Furthermore, cultural practices such as traditional festivals, rituals, food culture, and hospitality values are central elements of rural Nepali homestay experiences. While homestay tourism supports cultural preservation, challenges such as commercialization, changing tourist expectations, and limited policy support may affect cultural authenticity.

The literature also identifies several challenges faced by rural homestay operators, including inadequate infrastructure, limited skills and training, weak marketing, financial constraints, and difficulties in accessing institutional support. Although previous studies have examined the benefits and challenges of homestay tourism, limited research has focused on how local policies specifically influence cultural practices and hospitality traditions in rural Nepali homestay operations.

Therefore, this study aims to address this gap by examining the relationship between local policies, cultural practices, and hospitality traditions, contributing to a better understanding of sustainable homestay tourism development in Nepal.

1.7 Research methodology

This study employed a qualitative research method to examine how local policies shape cultural practices and hospitality traditions in rural Nepali homestay operations, with a particular focus on Ghandruk, Nepal. A qualitative approach was adopted because the study aimed to explore the experiences, perceptions, and viewpoints of homestay operators and other stakeholders regarding local tourism policies, cultural preservation, and hospitality practices. This method allowed the researcher to gain an in-depth understanding of the social and cultural dimensions of homestay tourism.

1.7.1 Research Design

Tourism, including the experiences, opportunities, and challenges faced by local operators. This research design was suitable for understanding the relationship between local governance, tourism development, and cultural sustainability. The study adopted a descriptive exploratory research design. The exploratory aspect helped investigate how local policies influence the operation of homestays, preservation of cultural practices, and continuation of traditional hospitality values in Ghandruk. The descriptive aspect focused on presenting the existing situation of homestay

1.7.2 Study Area and Participants

The study was conducted in Ghandruk, Kaski District, Gandaki Province, Nepal. Ghandruk was selected as the study area because it is one of Nepal's well-established rural tourism destinations with a long history of community-based tourism

and homestay practices. The village is widely recognized for its Gurung cultural heritage, traditional lifestyle, local hospitality, and mountain tourism activities.

Ghandruk provides an appropriate setting for examining the relationship between tourism policies, cultural practices, and hospitality traditions because local communities actively participate in tourism through homestays, cultural programs, traditional food services, and visitor management. The area also represents a rural destination where tourism development has influenced both economic activities and the preservation of local cultural identity.

The participants of the study were selected through purposive sampling based on their involvement, experience, and knowledge of homestay tourism in Ghandruk. The participants were chosen because they could provide relevant information regarding local policies, cultural practices, hospitality traditions, and challenges associated with homestay operations.

The study included:

- **10 Homestay operators/owners:** Owners selected to understand their experiences regarding tourism policies, operational practices, cultural preservation, and challenges faced in managing homestays.
- **5 Local community members involved in tourism activities:** Participants from local community members were selected to explore changes in cultural practices, traditional hospitality, and community participation in tourism.
- **5 Local government/tourism-related stakeholders:** To understand the role of policies, institutional support, and local-level tourism management.

1.7.3 Data Collection Methods

The study used primary data collection methods to gather information from participants involved in rural homestay tourism in Ghandruk, Nepal. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews and field observation to obtain detailed information about local policies, cultural practices, hospitality traditions, and challenges faced by homestay operators.

Semi-structured interviews were the main method of data collection. The interviews were conducted with homestay operators, local community members involved in tourism activities, and relevant tourism stakeholders. The interview questions focused on participants' experiences regarding local government policies,

policy implementation, cultural preservation, traditional hospitality practices, and operational challenges. The semi-structured format allowed participants to express their views freely while ensuring that the discussion remained related to the research objectives.

In addition to interviews, field observation was conducted in Ghandruk to understand the practical aspects of homestay operations and cultural practices. The researcher observed homestay facilities, traditional food preparation, local hospitality practices, cultural activities, and interactions between hosts and visitors. These observations helped to support and enrich the information collected through interviews.

Secondary sources, including government documents, tourism-related reports, published research articles, and relevant literature on homestay tourism in Nepal, were also reviewed to provide background information and support the interpretation of primary data.

The collected data were organized and analyzed thematically by identifying recurring themes related to local policy influence, cultural practices, hospitality traditions, and challenges faced by homestay operators in Ghandruk.

1.7.4 Data Analysis

The collected qualitative data were analyzed using thematic analysis. The interview responses and field observation notes were carefully reviewed to identify common patterns, ideas, and meanings related to local policies, cultural practices, hospitality traditions, and challenges faced by rural homestay operators in Ghandruk.

Initially, the recorded interview information was organized and transcribed to ensure accuracy. The researcher then conducted a detailed review of the collected data and assigned codes to important statements and responses related to the research objectives. Similar codes were grouped together to develop broader themes.

The major themes identified from the data included:

- influence of local policies on homestay operations,
- role of homestays in cultural preservation,
- changes in traditional hospitality practices,
- challenges faced by homestay operators, and
- the need for improved policy support and community participation.

The researcher interpreted these themes by comparing participants' experiences and perspectives with the objectives of the study. Field observations were also used to support and validate the information obtained from interviews. The findings were presented in a descriptive manner using thematic categories, allowing a deeper understanding of how local policies shape cultural practices and hospitality traditions in rural Nepali homestay operations.

1.7.5 Ethical Consideration

The following ethical considerations were maintained throughout the research process:

- **Informed Consent:** Before collecting data, participants were informed about the purpose of the study, research objectives, and their role in the research. Consent was obtained from participants before conducting interviews, ensuring that their participation was voluntary and based on proper understanding of the study.
- **Voluntary Participation:** Before collecting data, participants were informed about the purpose of the study, research objectives, and their role in the research. Consent was obtained from participants before conducting interviews, ensuring that their participation was voluntary and based on proper understanding of the study
- **Confidentiality and Privacy:** The privacy of participants was maintained throughout the study. Personal information and individual responses were kept confidential, and participants' identities were protected to ensure that their opinions and experiences were shared safely. To maintain confidentiality and protect participants' identities, pseudonyms were assigned to all respondents. The names of participants and homestays presented in this study are fictitious and used solely for reporting purposes.
- **Respect for Local Culture and Traditions:** During the research conducted in Ghandruk, the researcher respected local customs, cultural values, and community practices. Interviews and observations were carried out in a culturally sensitive manner to avoid misunderstanding or disrespect toward local traditions.
- **Accuracy and Honesty in Data Reporting:** The researcher ensured that collected information was presented accurately without changing or

misrepresenting participants' views. The findings were reported based on the actual responses and observations obtained during the research process.

- **Use of Data for Academic Purpose:** The collected information was used only for academic purposes related to this research. The researcher ensured that the data was not used for any purpose beyond the objectives of the study.

1.7.6 Limitations of the Study

The study had certain limitations that may have influenced the scope and interpretation of the findings:

- **Limited Study Area:** The study was conducted only in Ghandruk, Kaski District, Nepal. Since the research focused on a single rural homestay destination, the findings may not fully represent the experiences and conditions of homestay operators in other regions of Nepal.
- **Limited Number of Participants:** The study involved a limited number of participants selected through purposive sampling. Although the participants provided relevant information, their experiences may not represent the views of all homestay operators, local authorities, and community members across Nepal.
- **Subjectivity of Participants' Responses:** Since the study relied on qualitative interviews, the findings were based on participants' personal experiences, perceptions, and opinions. Individual perspectives may have been influenced by personal interests, memories, or relationships with tourism activities.
- **Time Constraints:** The research was conducted within a limited period, which restricted the opportunity for long-term observation of changes in cultural practices, hospitality traditions, and policy implementation in the study area.
- **Limited Access to Policy Information:** The study mainly focused on participants' experiences and perceptions of local policies. Limited access to detailed government documents, implementation records, or administrative information may have affected a broader understanding of policy practices.

1.7.7 Delimitations of the Study

The study was intentionally limited by the researcher to maintain focus and achieve the research objectives:

- **Focus on Rural Homestay Operations:** The study was delimited to rural homestay operations rather than general tourism businesses such as hotels, resorts, and restaurants. This allowed the research to specifically examine household-based tourism and community hospitality practices.
- **Focus on Ghandruk as the Study Area:** The research was deliberately conducted in Ghandruk because it is a recognized rural tourism destination with established homestay practices, strong cultural identity, and active community participation in tourism.
- **Focus on Local Policy Influence:** The study specifically examined how local policies influence homestay operations, cultural practices, and hospitality traditions rather than analyzing the entire tourism policy system of Nepal.

CHAPTER II

FINDINGS

This chapter presents and analyzes the findings of the study on "Examining How Local Policies Shape Cultural Practices and Hospitality Traditions in Rural Nepali Homestay Operations." The findings are based on data collected through qualitative research methods, including semi-structured interviews with homestay owners, local government officials, tourism committee members, and other relevant stakeholders.

The data have been organized and presented according to the research objectives and research questions. The chapter identifies the major themes that emerged from the participants' responses regarding the role of local policies in preserving cultural practices and hospitality traditions, as well as the challenges and opportunities associated with policy implementation. Where appropriate, the findings are supported by direct quotations from participants to provide a clear understanding of their views and experiences.

The chapter concludes with a discussion of the findings by relating them to the existing literature and the theoretical framework presented in the previous chapter. This helps to explain how the findings contribute to a better understanding of the relationship between local policies, cultural practices, and hospitality traditions in rural Nepali homestay operations.

2.1 Influence of local policies on homestay operations

The analysis of the interview data suggested that local government policies have influenced the operation and development of homestays in Ghandruk.

2.1.1 Awareness of Local Tourism Policies

Most homestay owners were aware of local government policies related to tourism and homestay management. They explained that they had received information through municipality meetings, tourism committees, and training programs. Local government officials stated that awareness programs were conducted to encourage community participation in tourism development. Community members were generally aware of tourism initiatives but had less knowledge of specific policies. One homestay owner, Ms. Maya Gurung from Annapurna Gurung Homestay, Ghandruk, stated, "*The municipality informed us about homestay*

registration and organized training on hospitality. These programs helped us understand how to manage our homestay." Another homestay owner, Mr. Dhan Bahadur Gurung from Mountain View Homestay, Ghandruk, explained, *"We know about the local tourism policy because we regularly attend meetings organized by the ward office."* Likewise, Mr. Ramesh Adhikari, a Local Government Official from Annapurna Rural Municipality, Ghandruk, remarked, *"Our goal is to ensure that every registered homestay understands the guidelines and receives the necessary information about tourism programs."*

These responses indicate that awareness of local tourism policies among homestay operators was relatively high. Regular interaction between local government institutions and homestay owners appeared to improve understanding of tourism regulations and encouraged participation in government-supported programs.

2.1.2 Policy Support for Homestay Development

Participants generally believed that local government policies had contributed to the growth of homestay tourism through training, destination promotion, and limited infrastructure improvement. Homestay owners appreciated hospitality training and promotional activities, while government officials highlighted efforts to strengthen community-based tourism. Mrs. Laxmi Gurung from Himalayan Heritage Homestay, Ghandruk, commented, *"The training provided by the municipality improved our hospitality skills and helped us serve guests more professionally."* Similarly, Mr. Tek Bahadur Gurun from Annapurna View Homestay, Ghandruk, shared, *"Tourism promotion by the local government has brought more visitors, especially during the trekking season."* Furthermore, Mr. Bishnu Adhikari, a Local Government Official from Annapurna Rural Municipality, Ghandruk, explained, *"We have focused on promoting Ghandruk as a cultural tourism destination and supporting homestay operators through awareness and promotional programs."*

The findings suggest that local policies have supported homestay development by improving operators' knowledge and increasing the visibility of Ghandruk as a tourism destination. However, participants also indicated that the level of support varied depending on available resources.

2.1.3 Challenges in Policy Implementation

Although participants acknowledged the benefits of local policies, many believed that implementation remained inconsistent. Homestay owners reported that financial assistance, infrastructure development, and follow-up support were insufficient. Local government officials also recognized that limited budgets and technical resources affected policy implementation. Mr. Kiran Gurung from Peaceful Village Homestay, Ghandruk, stated, *"Policies are good, but we need more practical support. Road improvement and better marketing would help us much more."* Likewise, Mrs. Sushila Gurung from Gurung Family Homestay, Ghandruk, added, *"Training is useful, but it is not conducted regularly, and not everyone gets the opportunity to participate."* In addition, Mr. Hari Prasad Adhikari, a Ward Representative from Ward Office, Annapurna Rural Municipality, Ghandruk, explained, *"We try to support homestay operators, but our budget is limited, and many tourism projects take time to implement."*

The findings indicate that local tourism policies have created a supportive framework for homestay development, but implementation challenges reduce their overall effectiveness. Participants consistently emphasized the need for improved infrastructure, regular capacity-building programs, and stronger collaboration between local government and homestay operators to ensure sustainable tourism development.

2.2 Contribution of Homestays to Cultural Preservation

The analysis of the interview data indicated that homestay tourism has contributed significantly to the preservation and promotion of cultural practices in Ghandruk.

2.2.1 Preservation of Traditional Culture

Most participants stated that operating homestays encouraged families to preserve traditional Gurung customs, cuisine, festivals, and cultural performances. Homestay owners explained that tourists were interested in experiencing authentic local culture, which motivated them to continue traditional practices. Mr. Ram Gurung from Gurung Heritage Homestay, Ghandruk, stated, *"Guests enjoy eating our traditional Gurung dishes. Because of their interest, we continue preparing local food using traditional methods."* Similarly, Mr. Dinesh Gurung from Gurung Eco Homestay, Ghandruk, explained, *"During festivals, we invite visitors to observe and*

sometimes participate in our cultural celebrations. They appreciate learning about our traditions." Furthermore, Mr. Surendra Gurun, a Community Member from Ghandruk Village, remarked, *"Homestay tourism has encouraged many families to continue wearing traditional dress and performing cultural dances during special occasions."*

The findings suggest that homestay tourism has strengthened efforts to preserve traditional cultural practices in Ghandruk. Tourism has increased the value of local traditions by encouraging communities to continue practices that might otherwise decline over time.

2.2.2 Promotion of Local Cultural Identity

Participants highlighted homestays have become an effective platform for showcasing the unique cultural identity of the Gurung community. Traditional architecture, local language, cultural performances, and community lifestyles were commonly presented as important attractions for visitors. Mrs. Laxmi Gurung from Himalayan Heritage Homestay, Ghandruk, stated, *"Visitors come here not only for the mountains but also to experience our Gurung culture and lifestyle."* Likewise, Mr. Dhan Bahadur Gurung from Mountain View Homestay, Ghandruk, shared, *"We explain our customs and traditions to guests so they understand our way of life."* Furthermore, Ms. Sunita Sharm, a Tourism Officer from the Tourism Section, Annapurna Rural Municipality, Ghandruk, commented, *"One of our priorities is to promote Ghandruk as a destination where tourists can experience authentic Gurung culture."*

These findings indicate that homestay tourism has strengthened the cultural identity of the community by encouraging residents to actively present and promote their heritage. Cultural tourism has become an important component of destination branding in Ghandruk.

2.2.3 Intergenerational Transmission of Cultural Knowledge

Many participants explained that homestay tourism has encouraged younger family members to learn about traditional customs, local cuisine, cultural performances, and hospitality practices. Participants believed that tourism has increased young people's interest in preserving cultural knowledge because it also creates economic opportunities. Mrs. Nirmala Gurung from Mountain Breeze

Homestay, Ghandruk, explained, *"Our children help welcome guests and learn about our traditions while working with the family."* Similarly, Mrs. Kamala Gurung from Traditional Gurung Homestay, Ghandruk, noted, *"Young people now participate more in cultural dance programs because visitors enjoy watching them."* Furthermore, Mr. Deepak Paudel, Tourism Development Officer at Annapurna Rural Municipality, Ghandruk, stated, *"We encourage youth participation in cultural programs because they are essential for preserving our heritage."*

The findings suggest that homestay tourism provides opportunities for transferring cultural knowledge from older to younger generations. By involving youth in tourism-related activities, the community not only preserves its cultural heritage but also ensures its continuity for the future.

2.3 Transformation of Hospitality Traditions in Rural Homestays

The findings revealed that hospitality traditions remain a central feature of homestay operations in Ghandruk. Participants explained that traditional values of welcoming guests, providing home-based experiences, and treating visitors as family members continue to shape homestay services. However, participants also indicated that tourism development and changing visitor expectations have influenced certain aspects of traditional hospitality practices.

2.3.1 Continuation of Traditional Welcoming Practices

Most participants explained that traditional hospitality practices continue to be an important part of the homestay experience in Ghandruk. Homestay operators stated that guests are welcomed through local customs, respectful communication, traditional greetings, and locally prepared food. Participants believed that these practices create a sense of cultural connection between hosts and visitors. Mrs. Sita Gurung from Sunrise Homestay, Ghandruk, stated, *"We do not treat visitors only as customers. We welcome them as guests of our family and try to make them feel comfortable."* Likewise, Mrs. Nirmala Gurung from Mountain Breeze Homestay, Ghandruk, explained, *"We welcome guests with traditional greetings and serve local food because this represents our culture."* Furthermore, Mrs. Meena Gurung, a Community Member from Ghandruk Village, shared, *"Hospitality has always been part of our Gurung tradition, and homestays have helped us continue this practice."*

The findings indicate that traditional hospitality values remain a fundamental aspect of homestay tourism in Ghandruk. Unlike commercial accommodation, homestays continue to emphasize personal relationships, cultural exchange, and family-based service.

2.3.2 Adaptation to Modern Tourism Expectations

Participants reported that hospitality practices have changed over time due to increasing tourist expectations and competition among tourism destinations. Homestay operators explained that they have adopted modern facilities and service improvements while maintaining traditional hospitality values. Ms. Maya Gurung from Annapurna Gurung Homestay, Ghandruk, stated, *"Previously, guests were satisfied with simple rooms and local food, but now they expect internet, better bathrooms, and more facilities."* Similarly, Mrs. Sushila Gurung from Gurung Family Homestay, Ghandruk, explained, *"We have improved our rooms and cleanliness because tourists compare services with other destinations."* Furthermore, Mr. Ramesh Adhikari, a Local Government Official from Annapurna Rural Municipality, Ghandruk, noted, *"Training programs encourage homestays to improve service quality while maintaining their cultural uniqueness."*

The findings suggest that hospitality traditions in Ghandruk are not disappearing but are adapting to meet contemporary tourism requirements. Homestay operators are attempting to maintain cultural authenticity while improving services to satisfy visitors.

2.3.3 Balancing Cultural Authenticity and Service Improvement

Participants expressed that maintaining a balance between traditional hospitality and modern service standards is a major concern. While tourism creates opportunities to share culture, some participants felt that excessive commercialization could reduce the authenticity of local experiences. Mr. Kiran Gurung from Peaceful Village Homestay, Ghandruk, stated, *"We need to improve facilities, but we should not lose our traditional way of welcoming guests."* Likewise, Mr. Tek Bahadur Gurung from Annapurna View Homestay, Ghandruk, added, *"Tourists come here to experience our culture, not only to stay in a comfortable room."* Furthermore, Mr. Bishnu Adhikari, a Local Government Representative from Annapurna Rural

Municipality, Ghandruk, explained, *"Our focus is to promote tourism development without damaging local cultural values."*

The findings demonstrate that hospitality traditions in Ghandruk are undergoing gradual transformation due to tourism growth. Local communities are adapting their practices while attempting to preserve the cultural values that make homestays unique. This balance between authenticity and modernization has become an important factor in sustainable homestay development.

Summary

The study examined how local policies influence cultural practices and hospitality traditions in rural homestay operations in Ghandruk, Nepal. The findings indicate that local policies have contributed to homestay development by providing training, promoting tourism, and offering institutional support. However, their effectiveness has been constrained by limited financial resources, inconsistent policy implementation, and inadequate infrastructure.

The study also found that homestay tourism has played an important role in preserving and promoting Gurung cultural heritage. Traditional food, cultural performances, festivals, local customs, and indigenous knowledge remain key attractions for visitors and encourage the transfer of cultural values to younger generations. At the same time, hospitality traditions, including family-based accommodation, warm guest reception, and the sharing of local lifestyles, continue to define the homestay experience. However, operators have gradually adapted these practices to meet changing tourist expectations for better sanitation, modern amenities, and improved service quality.

Despite these positive contributions, homestay operators continue to face challenges such as limited marketing opportunities, financial constraints, inadequate infrastructure, and insufficient policy support. The findings highlight the importance of stronger collaboration among local governments, tourism stakeholders, and community members to ensure the sustainable development of homestays. Overall, the study concludes that local policies influence both the operational development of homestays and the preservation of cultural practices and hospitality traditions, emphasizing the need to balance economic growth with the protection of cultural authenticity and traditional community values.

CHAPTER III

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Conclusion

This study examined how local policies shape cultural practices and hospitality traditions in rural Nepali homestay operations, with a focus on Ghandruk, Nepal. The study revealed that local policies have an important influence on the development and management of homestay tourism by providing guidelines, training opportunities, tourism promotion, and institutional support. However, the effectiveness of these policies depends on proper implementation, resource availability, and coordination between local authorities and community members.

The study found that homestay tourism has contributed significantly to the preservation and promotion of local cultural practices. Traditional Gurung cuisine, cultural performances, festivals, customs, and indigenous knowledge have become important components of the tourism experience. Homestay operations have encouraged local communities to continue practicing and sharing their cultural heritage while creating opportunities for cultural exchange between hosts and visitors.

The research also highlighted that hospitality traditions remain a core element of rural homestay tourism in Ghandruk. The values of welcoming guests, providing personal care, and sharing local lifestyles continue to define the homestay experience. However, these traditions are gradually adapting due to changing tourist expectations and the need to provide improved facilities and services. Homestay operators are attempting to maintain cultural authenticity while incorporating modern tourism requirements.

Despite the positive contributions of homestay tourism, the study identified several challenges, including limited infrastructure, insufficient marketing, financial constraints, and gaps in policy implementation. These challenges affect the ability of rural homestay operators to improve their services and sustain cultural practices. Therefore, stronger collaboration between local governments, tourism organizations, and local communities is necessary to address these issues.

In conclusion, local policies play a significant role in shaping the cultural and hospitality dimensions of rural homestay tourism in Nepal. Effective policy implementation can strengthen cultural preservation, improve homestay operations,

and support sustainable tourism development. The experience of Ghandruk demonstrates that successful homestay tourism requires a balance between economic growth, service improvement, and the protection of local cultural identity.

3.2 Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are proposed to strengthen rural homestay tourism, preserve cultural practices, and improve hospitality traditions in Ghandruk, Nepal.

- **Strengthening Local Policy Implementation:** Local governments should focus on effective implementation of existing tourism and homestay policies. Although policies provide a framework for homestay development, regular monitoring, follow-up programs, and coordination between government authorities and homestay operators are necessary to ensure that policies create practical benefits at the community level.
- **Supporting Cultural Preservation Programs:** Tourism policies should include stronger programs for protecting and promoting local cultural heritage. Local governments should support cultural events, traditional performances, local cuisine promotion, handicraft development, and documentation of indigenous knowledge to ensure that cultural practices are preserved for future generations.
- **Promoting Digital Marketing and Online Visibility:** Homestay operators should be supported in developing digital marketing skills and online promotion strategies. Local authorities and tourism organizations can assist by creating online platforms, tourism websites, and promotional campaigns to increase the visibility of rural homestays and attract more visitors.
- **Encouraging Youth Participation in Homestay Tourism:** Programs should be developed to encourage youth involvement in homestay tourism. Young people can contribute through digital marketing, tourism management, cultural activities, and innovation while also learning and preserving traditional knowledge from older generations.

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APPENDIX

Dear respondents, Greetings.

We are the students of BHM VI in bachelor of Hotel Management from Nepal Tourism and Hotel Management, Chhinedanda-14, Pokhara conducting a survey entitled “Examining how local Policies shape cultural practices and hospitality tradition in rural Nepali Homestay Operations”. The purpose of this survey is to understand how does local policies shape cultural practices and hospitality tradition in rural Nepali homestay. Please answer each questions honestly. All responses will remain confidential and used for only academic purpose. Thank you for your time and cooperation.

Section A: Background Information

1. What is your role in the homestay tourism sector?
2. How long have you been involved in homestay tourism?
3. How many years has your homestay been in operation?
4. Have you received any training related to homestay management or tourism? If yes, from whom?

Section B: Local Policies and Homestay operations

5. What local government policies or programs related to homestay tourism are you aware of?
6. How have these policies influenced the operation and management of your homestay?
7. What types of support have you received from the local government (e.g., training, financial assistance, infrastructure, or promotion)?
8. In your opinion, are the existing local tourism policies effective? Why or why not?

Section C: Cultural Practices

9. What cultural practices or traditions do you present to visitors staying at your homestay?
10. How has homestay tourism contributed to preserving local culture and traditions in your community?

11. Have you noticed any changes in local cultural practices since homestay tourism developed? Please explain.
12. Do local government policies encourage the preservation of cultural heritage? If yes, how?

Section D: Hospitality Traditions

13. How do you traditionally welcome and host visitors in your homestay?
14. Have your hospitality practices changed over time because of tourists' expectations or government guidelines? Please explain.
15. Which traditional hospitality practices do you consider most important to preserve?

Section E: Challenges

16. What are the major challenges you face in operating your homestay?
17. Do local government policies help you overcome these challenges? Why or why not?
18. What difficulties do you face in preserving local culture while meeting tourists' expectations?
19. What improvements would you like to see in local tourism policies?

Section F: Recommendations

20. What suggestions would you give to the local government to improve homestay tourism in Ghandruk?
21. What should be done to better preserve local culture and hospitality traditions through homestay tourism?
22. Is there anything else you would like to share about your experience with homestay tourism?