

BRAHMA KAMAL: A SOURCE OF LIVELIHOOD IN THE LIFE OF LOCALS OF KEDARNATH SHRINE

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Brahma Kamal plays an important role in the life of local community of Kedarnath shrine. It is considered as extremely sacred flower in the Kedarnath valley. The Kedar Sabha has developed its own rules and regulations for the collection and picking of the sacred flowers from their natural habitat. In this regards, the socio-economic assessment of the species in Kedarnath valley was investigated. The total income of authorized shopkeepers was recorded as more than Rs. 45,000 in 2016. The income earned by the shopkeepers through the sale of Brahma Kamal inflorescences is an add-on to their personal annual income.

Keywords: *Brahma Kamal, Kedarnath shrine, sacred flower, Kedar Sabha, socio-economic.*
