

THE STUDY OF DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AREA IN PALGHAR DISTRICT THROUGH ECO TOURISM

Ankita Vartak

Research Scholar,

Department of Rural Development,

Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension (Dlle), Mumbai,

Mumbai University.

Abstract

Tourism in a upcoming sector in India. The growing demand for tourism in recent year have led to development of many new tourist places. Peace of mind, clean environment and delicious food apart from entertainment are few necessities of tourism. Palghar district is getting popular tourist destination in last few years. The diversity in ecology and topography are main reasons for the increase in tourism in rural areas of Palghar district. The tourism has directly contributed economically to the person connected to this industry. This has also led to overall development of the other people in the area. The development has been due to direct employment or sale of agriculture produce of the surrounding area. Many people are benefitted due to services rendered to tourist. The Eco tourism has contributed to the development of rural area in Palghar district.

Keywords:

Eco tourism, Tourist, Seashore, Mountain Terrain.

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INTRODUCTION :

The journey of tourism has been changing. In ancient times tourism was confined to worship places and historical places. The entertainment factor was added and then seashores, rivers, lakes were places of attractions. The changing life styles and values of living made tourist haunt for Eco Tourism. The busy and hectic life-styles of the people living in cities have made short break holidays a necessity for them. This has increased the demand for new tourist places near the cities.

Palghar district was formed on 1st August 2014 after the bifurcation of Thane District. Palghar district comprises of eight talukas namely Palghar, Dahanu, Talasari, Vikramgad, Jawhar, Mokhada, Wada and Vasai. Palghar district has Mumbai city on the southern side, densely populated Thane district on the eastern side. It has Gujarat state on the Northern side which has Valsad and Surat cities. Also on the north east side the historic city of Nasik is situated a few kilometers away from Palghar district borders.

Palghar district has a mixture of urban and rural population. It has topography of seacoast, mountain hilly area and urbanised areas as well agricultural land. This has given advantage of development of tourism in Palghar district. The proximity to cities has helped to develop tourism in Palghar district. Less travelling time, clean and healthy environment, good food are few of the factors which has increased the scope of tourism in the rural areas of the district. Many areas in the district have explored the tourism opportunities and have been popular tourist destinations.

Agriculture is the main occupation in Palghar rural district. There is industrialisation in few talukas of the district and Vasai Taluka has dense population of cosmopolitan demography. There are coconut plantations along with rice as the main crop. There is good horticulture in the district. Mangoes, chikoos, jackfruit, bananas and local fruits are few of

them. Chikoos of Gholvad has obtained geographical index (GI). Jambhol of Bardoli in Palghar taluka is also having significant demand in the cities. It is seen that tourism and development of tourist places have been complementary to each other.

Eco tourism a relatively new concept in tourism, has been developed in Palghar district. With diversified ecology the locals have developed agro tourism along with conventional tourism. The seashore, the hill tops and the rivers and lakes are hot destinations of Eco Tourism in the district.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM :

1. The tourist leave plastic and tetra packs on the places of visit. Also newspapers and paper products are not disposed properly. This causes the area to get dirty.
2. The tourist visit on weekends and holidays. Many resorts and hotels play music and DJ's till late night. This causes trouble to locals people.
3. Lonely places on seashore and other places is often occupied by couples and lovers. This has lead to ill effect on the tribal youth and children.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

1. Yatra : Nisarg va Dharmik Stalanchi Bhaag 2

Author : Sau. Ranjana Unhale

Publisher : Srujanrang Prakashan

Tourism is a source of entertainment for human beings. By the way of tourism human beings try to let away grief and sadness. The tourist places help to understand nature and information of historical importance. There is no better friend and environment because of environment is the best friend are the thoughts shared by the author.

The author has visited tourist places in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh and penned the information of these places. The author has described Ganpatipule, Bor Wild Life Sanctuary, Anjurle-Velas, Tortoise Mohotsav, Vijaypur (Vijapur), Lucknow, Dudhwa National Park, Kaziranga Wild Life Sanctuary, Coorg (Madikeri), Gandhinagar (Gujarat), Ujani Water Kingdom in the articles in the book.

2. Paryatan Bhoogol

Author : Dr. Sunita Shankarrao Shinde

Publisher : Educational Publishers and Distributors

In this book the author has written taking into consideration geographical aspect. The author has defined tourism, its aspect and scope as well as the importance of the same. It also mentions marketplaces at tourist places, planning during tour and effects of touring. In the book the author has mentioned details about many tourist places in Maharashtra.

3. Paryatakanche Nandanvan Goa

Author : Na. S. Deshpande and Dinesh Manerkar

Publisher : Vidya Vikas Publishers Pvt. Ltd.

In this book the author had described the tourist spots in Goa in details. In this book the author has guided the reader how to plan the visit in tourist places in Goa. The book contains information of beaches, the seashores, temples and churches and ancient historical monuments.

4. Safar Madhya Pradeshchi

Author : Shrinivas Gadkari

Publisher : Navchaitanya Prakashan

Madhya Pradesh is a state which has a big geographical area and is situated in the centre of India. It is address as the heart of the motherland. Madhya Pradesh has many places of historical and environmental in importance. The author as written information about Indore, Mandav, Ujjain, Bhopal, Bhojpur, Sanchi-Vidishi, Jhansi, Gwalior, Khajurao and Jabalpur and other places in the state.

NEED OF STUDY :

1. There are many places which are notified as tourist places in Palghar district. A few of them are emerging as new tourist places.
2. Palghar district is barely two hours from Mumbai city. There is inclination of tourists from Mumbai to come to Palghar District for tourism.
3. This will encourage development of the tourist places in Palghar district.

OBJECTIVES OF STUDY :

1. To study the importance of Eco Tourism and development of rural development in Palghar district.
2. To review the tourist places in Palghar district.

3. To check the scope of Eco Tourism employment in Palghar district.

HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY :

1. Eco Tourism has favourable and adverse effect on the people of district.
2. Tourist places in the district has been positively impacted.
3. Eco Tourism has resulted in the rise of employment.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY :

1. The study is limited to Palghar district.
2. Hotel owners and locals as well as the factors related to this study were unavailable for meeting due to preoccupied work or prior appointment.
3. The study of this research is confined to Palghar district and need not be applicable for other districts.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY :

The people of Palghar district have contributed to economic and social development by Eco Tourism. While doing the research primary resources of observation, interview and discussions were used. In this research secondary sources like books, websites and news published in newspaper and magazine were also used.

DEFINITION :

1. Oxford Dictionary : A person who is travelling or visiting a place for pleasure. One who travels for solitude and fun to describe how the said travel is called tourism.
2. Jose Arilaga : Travel by Car or bicycle ride, mountaineering, camping, boating, sports, etc. for expedition means tourism.
3. Eco Tourism :
Discovering the culture of the locals, the study of wild animals, birds, plants, shrubs in an unpolluted and natural area, getting to know nature, enjoying nature is eco-tourism.
Tourism is done in a way that minimizes the damage to the environment.

ANALYSIS OF DATA :

Palghar district is situated adjoining Mumbai city. Palghar district has a vast diversity of natural resources. The rich natural resources have led to the development of tourism. The cleanliness and the non polluted environment has led to development of Eco Tourism.

The Eco Tourism in the district can be basically classified into seashore tourism and mountain terrain tourism. This is situated in the rural part of Palghar District. It has an advantage of clean environment which is luring tourists in a good number. Also nearness to the city has cut down the travelling time of the tourist thus made Palghar district Eco Tourism a preferred destination for the tourist.

Seashore Eco Tourism :

Palghar district is blessed with 112 kilometers of seashore from Uttan village in the south and Zai village in the north. There are many tourist destinations along the sea coast. Uttan, Aarnala, Dativare, Edwan, Kelve, Mahim, Shirgaon, Tarapur, Chinchani, Wadhwan, Dhakti Dahanu, Dahanu, Narpad, Bordi and Zai are popular destinations of sea tourist places and all are situated in rural part of the district.

The clean beaches attract the tourist. Along with the beach the rides on the beaches are also enjoyable. Fresh seafood is a USP of Eco Tourism on seashores. Many of the tourist carry home dry fish which is utilised for monsoon season consumption. Promfet, Surmai, Crabs, Bombay Duck, Prawns and few varieties of fish has special demand from the tourist.

Along with the seashore beaches the tourist enjoy agriculture produce from the adjoining area. The fresh and cheap vegetables is a must take away for the tourist. Also local fruits like Mangoes, Chikoos, Tadgola are consumed and taken home by the tourist. Coconut water and Coconut cream is enjoyed by almost all of the tourist.

To encourage tourism in this area the government and the NGOs have started organising festivals to attract the tourist. In this festivals short plays, folk dances and other cultural events are presented. Along with sea food local specialty food in both vegetarian and non-vegetarian varieties is also served which is favourite for the visitors of such festivals. Handicraft produced by local craftsmen and other local manufactured goods of cloth and other items are also kept for sale in such festivals. Visitor's in such melas and festivals are in thousands. Bordi Mahotsav, Kelva Mohotsav, Kelve Beach Mohotsav, Shirgaon Mohotsav are a few such festivals which promote Eco Tourism.

Due to Eco Tourism the service sector has also benefited from it. The eateries cater to the needs of the tourist like breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks. The autos and the state transport buses also benefit by transporting the tourist to the nearby railway stations. Other

service providers like tea stalls and selling of essentials also so have benefited from the tourism industry.

The tourist visiting seashore tourism have created a small amount of trouble to the local residents. Sometimes tourist under the influence of liquor cause trouble by the way of fights and arguments with other tourist or local people. Also many of them play DJ's and songs on a higher noise levels till late light which causes trouble to local residents. The leftover plastic and paper on beaches and other public places have also been troublesome. A few number of couples use public places for place of romance thereby spoiling the culture and emotions of locals. Also no proper dress code of the tourist also creates bad impressions for the locals.

Mountain Terrain Tourism :

Palghar district has Jawhar, Mokhada, Wada, Vikramgad and Talasari as mountain talukas. All these talukas have rural population. Jawhar is often address as mini Mahabaleshwar. The pollution free environment with mountains, valleys-rivers and springs are favourite spots for tourism. The places are well connected with the roads which have made travel easy.

• Jawhar the most favourite tourist place:

Jawhar is situated at 518 meters height from sea level. It has a good dense forest with varieties of indigenous trees. Jawhar can be reached by road from Mumbai, Thane, Nashik, Trimbakeshwar and Gujarat States easily. Apart from pollution free air it has many points of visits. Jawhar has historic background from the age of Shivaji Maharaj and before.

Dabosa and Dadarkopra waterfalls, Hanuman point, Sunset point, Shirpa Maal, Jaivilas Palace the few points are visited by tourist.

Local agriculture produce of Naachni which was good iron content is a must take away for the tourists from this area. Bhakris of Nachani along with chicken and mutton varieties are mostly eaten by the tourist. In summer Karvanda, Jumboo, Kaju, Raanjan and other forest berries are enjoyed by the tourist.

Most of the tourist enjoy weekend tourism in this backward area of the district. But in non weekend days the income of the locals again shifts to agriculture. The scarcity of water after rains and winter hampers tourism after this period. This despite of many big dams in this area which are large water reservoirs. The mountain terrain tourism is therefore limited to rainy season and winter season.

Along with Jawhar there are many tourist places in the mountain talukas in the district. The Eco Tourism is now having preference from the tourist due to the clean environment. This Eco Tourism has generated work for many hands of rural population who renders services for tourist. It is allied with other commercial activities of that tourist area. Local handicraft is also sold in a limited scale.

The mountain terrain tourism can be developed in a big scale with a mountaineering, sky-diving, river boating and other activities. But lack of political leadership has not focused tourism as a new way of income. Ignorance of potentials amongst the local people is also another cause of non development of the potential of tourism in this area.

The weekend tourism in Palghar district with seashore and mountain terrain tourism can be integrated and tourist circuit with integration of various tourist place can be made. From Aarnala and Kelwe beaches and Bordi seashores for a duration of two days and Jawhar or mountain places can be integrated program for tourist for 5 to 7 days. This will flourish Eco Tourism and exploit available potential fully of this district. If Eco Tourism is developed fully in this area this will flourish the economics of the people in this area.

FINDINGS :

Taking into consideration the availability of a good environment and the factors which are encouraging for tourism there should be development in the sectors which are helpful for tourism. The development of residential premises, eateries catering to breakfast, lunch and dinner and snacks, entertainment facilities and public transport facilities are few of them. If these facilities are developed with the help of educated youth, this will solve the problem of unemployment and will raise the socio economic level of the people living in this area. Palghar district is now upcoming as a district of tourist places.

CONCLUSIONS :

1. Palghar district is preferred tourist destination with cheap and best sort of tourism.
2. With the development of Eco Tourism there is a development of remote places in the Palghar district.
3. There is healthy competition amongst the hotel owners catering to tourists.
4. Eco Tourism has led to employment of downtrodden and poor people in the district.

RECOMMENDATIONS :

1. An integrated tourist circuit comprising of tourist places situated at Seashore Eco Tourism and Mountain Terrain Tourism be made and well marketed for a tour of five to seven days.
2. Taking into consideration the environment, the tourist should take care of plastic and other consumable which are mostly not disposed off in a proper way.
3. In few tourist places there are malpractices and if so they should be opposed by local villages.
4. Many a times the tourists drown at waterfalls and in the sea. Adequate informative boards and instructions should be prominently displayed at such accident spots.
5. While catering to the needs of the tourist, the hotel business should not overlook the grievance caused by tourism in the area.

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