

Rural (Eco) Tourism and Sustainable Development in India

Sadhana Gautam^{1*}, Madhav Tyagi², Mahima Tyagi³, Shubham Gautam⁴, M. K. Gupta⁵

¹Research Scholar, Department of Commerce, Barkatullah University, Bhopal, India

^{2, 3, 4}Research Scholar, Department of Commerce, Barkatullah University, Bhopal, India

⁵Head of the Department, Department of Commerce, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukharjee College, Barkatullah University, Bhopal, India

Abstract: This research paper has discovered that there is a requirement for sustainable development in tourism, and the link between tourism and environment is much stronger than in other areas. Ecotourism must explain for social, economic and environmental implications, in order to succeed. The purpose of this study aspects ways in which ecotourism and sustainable development can be estimated; and propose ways to advance existing ecotourism practices. In equivalent with this purpose, it was meant at looking for an answer to questions of:

- What is Ecotourism?
- What are the effects of ecotourism?
- What are the types and needs of ecotourism?
- What is the relation between ecotourism and sustainable development?

Within this scope, I focused on the reasons of its emergence and development, ecotourism’s definition, its objectives, its principles, its types, its environmental, social and economic effects; ecotourism and sustainable development and on the inspection of approaches to ecotourism in India.

Keywords: Environmental tourism, socio economic, biodiversity, awareness.

1. Introduction

Eco tourism has received much attention in recent years specially with in the developing world. Eco tourism is a sub-component of the field of sustainable tourism. Eco tourism perceived potential as an effective tool for sustainable development is the main reason by developing countries are embracing it and including it in their economic development and conservative strategies. Eco tourism, as an alternative tourism, involves visiting natural areas in order to learn, to study or to carry out activities environmentally friendly. From the mountain of Himalayas in Kashmir the sea coasts of Kanyakumari and from the thar deserts of Rajasthan to the humid forest of the north east of INDIA, displays her wealth of diversity in cultures, religions, fairs and festivals. Indeed, INDIA follows unity in diversity the country has large treasure of natural beauty, archeological and architectural monuments. In addition, there are many hill resorts, beach resorts, mountains

and rivers etc. There are colorful tribal lifestyles of north eastern states of Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura and Manipur with their folk culture is also work mention. In the central Indian states of Orissa and Madhya Pradesh, tribal village life has resulted in a variety of artistically executed handicrafts. In past few years, tourism has been found as a backbone of private sector development. To meet the goals of sustainable development in eco- tourism a ‘high value, low impact’ strategy was adapted, which would help to increase the number of tourists in the next upcoming years. In this article, we analyze the contribution of eco-tourism to the sustainable development of INDIA. Polarizing on the socio economic, environmental and cultural, impacts of present time tourism. Information was gathered by analyzing several research papers, books and information provided on online sites on eco-tourism and sustainable development.

2. Sustainable Development

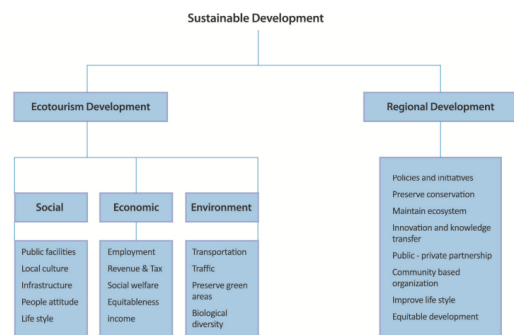


Fig. 1. Sustainable development through ecotourism (Bhuiyan et al., 2012)

Sustainable tourism development requires the informed participation of all relevant stakeholders, as well as strong political leadership to ensure wide participation and consensus building. Achieving sustainable tourism is a continuous process and it requires constant monitoring of impacts, introducing the necessary preventive and/or corrective measures whenever necessary. Sustainable tourism should also maintain a high

*Corresponding author: Sadhana.gm11@gmail.com

level of tourist satisfaction and ensure a meaningful experience to the tourists, raising their awareness about sustainability issues and promoting sustainable tourism practices amongst them.

3. Eco Tourism

“Accountable travel to natural region that preserves the environment, that goes through the welfare of the native peoples that includes the interpretation and education “(TIES 2015)” it is about connecting, preservation, grouping and sustainable travel.

Those who participate, contrivance in it should embraced the following principal.

- Minimize psychological, substantial, observable physical and social impacts.
- Construct aesthetic awareness, atmospheric surrounding and respect.
- Come up with affirmative experience for both visitors and hosts.
- Bring about financial advantages for both native people and private industry.
- Come up with direct financial advantages for preservation.
- Design, build and operate low impact facilities.

A. Types and needs of eco-tourism in India

There are four types of ecotourism observed here: -

1. *Eco – Logging*: - It is meant by the accommodations that are constructed with biological favor of particular area. These can be built of sustainable materials in natural settings to “Eco- Resort”. Which are mostly built-in remote places and offer environmental peace, bird Watching, hiking, or kayaking to tourism lovers.
2. *Argo – tourism*: - It is here to visit on rural farm communities. Tourist can work with the local communities to learn sustainable farming methods of a specific area and provide sustainable help to them.
3. *Community Development*: - representing opportunities which focuses on off- setting the negative impacts of mass tourism and modernization. Here tourists can plant trees, learn local trades and build houses. They can also represent in museums, research centers and in schools for further cultural awareness.
4. *Eco Tours*: - Participation in excursions to exotic or endangered areas in order to extend awareness of the area and support conservation. Treks can include hiking, rafting, rock climbing, caving, swimming, bird watching and sailing.

B. Needs of Eco- Tourism

- Eco tourism is now globally acknowledged as an effective device for conservation of forests, biodiversity/ natural world and scenic landscapes. It does so via creating sustainable opportunity livelihoods for wooded area-based groups and by means of generating conservation recognition amongst hundreds and decision makers.

- Ecotourism is the fastest developing section of the journey and tourism industry which is one of the maximum manufacturers of world wealth and employment.
- Apart from its conservation and economic value, public interest in nature-based totally exercise, i.e., Ecotourism is rapid increasing, and its miles the responsibility of the authorities to offer this carrier to the general public as far as well matched with conservation imperatives.
- For you to support community manage and management of the forests, it's far important to generate a sustainable flow of non-extractive economic advantages of forests for the communities, to make sure that the groups take interest within the conservation of forests and natural world. Ecotourism is perhaps the only means of achieving this quit.

C. Eco Tourism and sustainable development relation

Eco Tourism is promoted as a famous tool for encouraging the sustainable economic application in developing nation and for encouraging environmental preservation through across the world. The leading principal of sustainable development is to encounter the requirements and desires of regions present generation of people without compromising those of future generation. Sustainable development strategies also look for the development economic system that goes through the little or no cut utilization of natural resources and that avoid the ecological damage. The environmental effects and resources required the eco -tourism which involves the development of chain system and ingress roads, use of fuel and vehicle for transportation to end from the waste lands, and establishment of compounds, are minimum especially when compound to the land use.

“A number of international organization involving the united nation environment program (UNEP) and preservation international, support eco-tourism as element of their sustainable development and environmental preservation program.” Many international govt and non govt institutions (NGOS) encourage eco -tourism. In fact, 2002 was nominated as the international year of eco-tourism they besides cares that the eco-tourism should be exercised correctly in order to give positive results / outcomes for the region/sector is involved and for the trips member.

4. Top 10 Eco-Tourisms Destinations in India and Role of Tourism Ministry

Eco tourism in India may not be very popular terminology, but who cares about it, tries to conserve countries natural heritage. Ecotourism in India is gradually shaping up and making its presence appear popular as well as lesser explored destination in India.

1) Kerala

Kerala in the heart of Western Ghats, is a widespread halt for nature lovers. The ghats are counted among the top 18 biodiversity hotspots in the world, Hill stations, plantations, backwaters, and the unique biological surroundings of Kerala make it a perfect ecotourism destination in India.

2) *Karnataka*

Jungle cottages, heritage places, and resorts make Karnataka a prevalent ecotourism destination in the country. Karnataka Ecotourism Development Board (KEDB) and National Tiger Conservation authority have cooperatively rolled out guidelines aimed at fascinating more investment, generating more awareness at the tourist hot spot, and simplifying ambitious events to attract tourists.

3) *Sikkim*

To save the attractive atmosphere of the northeast, sustainable tourism and eco-friendly procedures have been developed by Directorate of Ecotourism in association with Forest Department of Sikkim. In this area, promotion of wildlife and nature has remained a main focus. Going Wild is another accountable organization in the northeast working in the direction of the expansion of ecotourism by encouraging several wildlife and birding tours.

4) *Assam*

Distant places, tribes, and their exciting ethnicities make Assam an exciting destination for ecotourism in India. People, over the years, have shown acceptance to responsible travel and now workshops are conducted at diverse places. Understanding the necessity of the hour, Ecotourism Society of India in corporation with Assam Tourism has been establishing workshops to promote responsible tourism. Assam Tourism Development Corporation (ATDC) has also been keen on supporting initiatives by setting up eco-camps all achieved by underprivileged youths in the region. These camps, mostly visited by the foreigners and hikers are a huge boost to the tourism.

5) *Meghalaya*

This unexplored heaven in the northeast has a lot of cultural diversity and abundantly of quiet wonders. Living Roots Ecotourism Society has extracted a unseen treasure in the northeast and glorified Nongblai – a lesser-known town in the East Khasi Hills district. The village has record 16 living root bridges. Raid Nongblai – a cooperative organization of Nongblai, Suthim, and Wahlyngkhat villages have together taken up the responsibilities of these living root bridges that are similar as a god to them.

6) *Arunachal Pradesh*

Arunachal Pradesh is one of the valued charms of the Northeast India. It assertions of various topography and unexplored terrains, which make it a popular destination for ecotourism in India. Organizations like Future Generations Arunachal and Green Pastures have been focussing on plans to convey awareness on ecotourism and boost homestays in the region. Also, institutions like Ngunu Ziro by Future Generation Arunachal have been contributive towards the cause of conservation of tribal culture and preservation of the nature around.

7) *Uttarakhand*

To make tourists aware of the diverse culture and surrounds, several village treks have been introduced by the tourism department of Uttarakhand. These trails give an intuition into the lives of Kumaoni villagers. It is a joint effort from Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board, Garhwal-Kumaon

Mandal Vikas Nigam, and ecotourism division of the state forest department and has seen the successful implementation of eco-tours, which has taken adventure tourism to new altitudes. The organizations also run homestays in the area by providing fundamentals and required funds to the landholders to operate proficiently.

8) *Delhi*

New Delhi has seen a worthy effort from organizations like Ecotourism Society of India that have been encouraging sustainable practices in the investment. From lessening carbon footprint to generating awareness and further working together with like-minded bodies to encourage eco-tourism, they have come a long way. Resources have also been fuelled to classifying new ecotourism destinations and making them popular. For example, Chhawla-Kanganheri – an ecotourism park near Najafgarh drain has been refurbished and recreational activities like camping, boating, paintball and obstacle course are offered for the entertainment of tourists. Farm stays also have a major role in the elevation of ecotourism; a few have come up in the heart of the city, also many in the outskirts.

9) *Himachal Pradesh*

The hilly landform of Himachal, bordering Tibet and Jammu & Kashmir, has rich biodiversity, which interests a large number of tourists every year. As a result, popular holiday destinations in Himachal are suffering due to unnecessary commercialization. The Ecotourism Society in Himachal has been involved in Community-Based Ecotourism (CBET), which is a collaborated effort towards the protection of nature and cultural resources in the area. Various approaches like Participatory Forestry Management for the expansion of forests have been introduced. The efforts have been broadly appreciated by the people of Himachal as well as travelers. Besides, they've produced a lot of revenue for the state.

10) *Ladakh*

The Himalayas have been on topmost of every tourist's bucket list and therefore left gasping for breath in current times. Now that tourism has found a position in Trans – Himalayan region and most of the places have been glorified, ecotourism is penetrating to inspire sustainable travel and widespread tours.

Leh Nutrition Project, formed by Save The Children Fund (UK) in 1979, happens to be the NGO working towards the overall upliftment in Ladakh. They have been addressing problems related to development, livelihood, child care, education, and watershed development in the tough terrains. In accumulation to that, Leh Nutrition Project and Ladakh Ecological Development Group have been actively employed to encourage the sustainable society in Ladakh.

Ministry of Tourism, Government of India promotes to proposal from all tourism sector associations for skill development. So that government introduced "Hunar Se Rojgar" scheme for welfare of unskilled, semiskilled and low skilled and craft men categories. Provides training trainers also for sustainable tourism through institutional arrangements. Ministry of tourism, Government of India had also arranged regional sensitization workshops in favor of all industry associations and their memberships and other stakeholders for sustainable tourism criteria for India and indicators, together

with state tourism departments.

5. Conclusion

This research paper was developed from the point of view to raise awareness about ecotourism in India amongst the visitors or tour lovers. Here I discussed about several benefits of ecotourism and sustainable development. It also consists of top ten destinations famous for ecotourism in India and discussed about the policies framed for the development of ecotourism and sustainable development by Government of India. All over paper consist of all important terms related to ecotourism and sustainable development in India.

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