

Tourism Potentials in Baglan Tashil

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Abstract:

Tourism is travel for recreational, leisure or business purposes. The World Tourism Organization defines tourists as people "travelling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes". Tourism has become a popular global leisure activity. The climatic conditions are very healthy and pleasant in the study area. Temperature remains much lower than the remaining part of Baglan Tahsil. Temperature increases from about the latter half of February up to May Temperature starts decreasing from the month of June still August. Rainfall mainly receives in the month June to Sept. from the monsoon. The study area has tremendous potential for the ecotourism and Religious tourism development but the rural tribal community is not aware about the ecotourism. Villagers are in there traditional functioning. Cattle and Goat grazing is considered as an economical activity which does not have any scope due to protected forest. So the economical condition of peoples is not changing. If the government agencies as ITDC and MTDC, forest department will promote and propagate such area for selling as tourists destination, which will attract people all around the world and number of tourist will definitely increase. To promote this side for tourism well planed infrastructure should be created. Construction of good hotels and restaurants is necessary so as homely cottages with local impact in food and building material should be consider. Boost in number of tourist will provide the job opportunities which will be beneficial to increase the economic condition of local tribal community.

Keyword: Ecotourism, ecotourists, ecotourism development, flora and fauna, tribal community, Culture, environmental conservation.

INTRODUCTION:

Tourism is travel for recreational, leisure or business purposes. The World Tourism Organization defines tourists as people "travelling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes". Tourism has become a popular global leisure activity. In 2010, there were over 940 million international tourist arrivals, with a growth of 6.6% as compared to 2009.

Ecotourism can be defined as travel to natural attractions that contributes to their conservation, respects integrity of local communities and enhances the tourist's understanding of natural attraction, its conservation and the local community. It contributes to the welfare of local and indigenous population.

The concept of modern tourism is relatively new. The main characteristics of modern tourism were obvious in the changes in mental attitudes towards pleasure seeking, to find relief from daily routine and the city dweller's yearning for physical adventure and pleasure. Scenic attractions are a very important factor in tourism, scenery of the landscape consisting of mountains, rivers, water falls, lakes, man made water reservoirs, glaciers, wide life, forests, deserts are the strong forces attracting people to visit them. Hence, it gives birth to a new concept a new concept of tourism called as "ecotourism". Ecotourism has been relatively new around since the nineteenth century, it has grown considerably in popularity and commercial importance in just the past ten years in response to interest in the environment and adventure, increase in leisure time and personal incomes and most important is accessibility to many natural attractions. Ecotourism is primarily an activity to enjoy natural beauty and authentic culture.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

In the national as well as in the international level many case studies related to the eco-tourism and community based eco-tourism are published. One research titled "Developing a Sustainable Eco-Tourism Framework for the Cordillera Region of the Philippines" by Arthur Joseph Paul D. Alipio clearly mentioned the impact of Natural resources, pollution and physical impacts on Ecotourism. In his project he described the socio-cultural impacts of tourism activities also economic impacts of tourism. One of the research paper was published by "Centre for East-West Cultural and Economic Studies", Bond University (2005) on the "Development of eco-tourism in tribal regions of Orissa: Potential and recommendations" which was written by NilakanthaPanigrahi, NKC Centre for Development Studies, Orissa, India. In the particular research paper it is explained very clearly the treasure of tourism and the tourist potential in the State of Orissa. One of the case studies was published in the, "The Hindu," (2006) magazine on the "Periyar tiger reserve and community participation", which was written by prominent ecologist Ashish Kothari and NeenaPathak. In the particular article it is explained very well how once the local people of the forested area were involved in stealing of wood and poaching activities and how the local people after being involved in the ecotourism activities as a part of Global Environmental Facility (GEF) funded Eco-development Project helped to control over the cases of poaching and how they were later benefited from the project. Another article was published by the same author Mr. Asish Kothari in, "The Hindu", magazine (2007) on the topic-"Tourism, wildlife and communities", explains how the successful ecotourism ventures are facing threat due to unclear policies. Two successful ecotourism destinations from Uttarakhand and one from the Rajasthan were discussed here. Another case study published in, "The Hindu", magazine (2007), titled, "Andaman and Nicobar Islands – dangerous tourism" explains how the unplanned tourism can cause great threat to the biodiversity hotspots and other natural environments. One case study published in "Current Science", Volume – 95 No. 11 (Dt. 10th Dec, 2008), titled, "Ecotourism in wetlands causes loss of biodiversity" by S.

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Sandilyan, K. Thiyagesan and R. Nagarajan – explains that wetlands might be adversely affected by ecotourism.

Ecotourists:

It is very difficult to determine who exactly the “Ecotourists” are the successful ecotourism will depend on ‘good’ tourist behaviour. Ecotourism has emerged from western environmentalism, therefore mostly related to the demand of western travellers who are generally educated and interested in culture and environment. Ecotourists can appreciate the surrounding nature while at the same time learn about unique culture of the local people.

Objectives:

The study is aimed at investigating the following objectives in the study area:

- To assess the natural and cultural resource potential for development of ecotourism.
- To examine the village wise land use pattern of study area.
- To find out the recent trend of tourism development in the study area.

Methodology:

Physical survey of 23 villages, having very rich flora and fauna was conducted for ecotourism development.

The secondary data is used for a closer look into the culture and tradition in the study area. Discussions and interviews were also organized with the forest officers, tourists and local tribal people with an aim to create awareness about ecotourism development collected from the forest department, Irrigation department and Trust of Mangi-Tungi Jain Temple of Bhiwad, Attempts have been made to analyse the resource potential entities for ecotourism development which is useful for the economic development of rural tribal developing community.

Study Area:

The study area lies between 20⁰42’ to 20⁰53’ North latitude and 73⁰45’ to 74.07’ East longitude having an area of 26714.63 hectares with the population of 32,808 including 80.7% tribal population (1991) of 23 villages selected for the study, which are situated in the north-western part of Baglan tehsil in Nashik district of Maharashtra.

The study area has tremendous potential for ecotourism development which is very useful for economic development of local tribal community.

Criteria for the assessment of resource potentials for Ecotourism:

Ecotourism is based on natural bio-physical attributes, while conservation of natural resources is fundamental to ecotourism. Tourists visit places of natural beauty and culture for leisure, adventure and study. While assessing potential of ecotourism sites, the following factors are considered:

- Attractiveness of natural features
- Richness in wild life
- Flora diversity
- Water resources
- Cultural and historical uniqueness
- Accessibility

- Local infrastructure

Attractiveness of Physical features:

Mountains and hills carry great aesthetic appeal than the lower relief. The study area is situated in the Eastern side of Sahaydri mountain range. Few highest points like Mangi(1326Mt) Tungi(1323Mt) are the main attractions of this area. Salbari pass provides road connection from the historical time. River Mousam originating from Western Ghats adds charm in to this scenic location

Few historical forts like Salher(1613mt), Hargad(1122mt), Auranggad (1129mt) Mulher, through opportunity to historical lovers. Salher (1613Mt) is the second highest peak in the Western Ghat.

Climate:

The climatic conditions are very healthy and pleasant in the study area. Temperature remains much lower than the remaining part of Baglan tahsil. Temperature increases from about the latter half of February up to May. May is the hottest month with mean daily max. Temperature 37.4° c. Temperature starts decreasing from the month of June still August. December is the coldest month with the mean daily min. temperature at 11.2°C. Annual Max temp is 32° C and min is 17.8°C. Rainfall mainly receives in the month June to Sept. from the monsoon.

Forests and Wild life

The study area has occupied the area of 13462 hectares of forest. The region has natural cover of vegetation. The floral wealth of study area is great in terms of variety. The forests in this area are of dry deciduous type, In this forest teak is the main species, other closely associated species are Sadada or Ain, Hed, Kalam, Sisum, Khair, Tiwas, Bibla & Dhavda in varying proportions. Bamboos are also common in western part. The vegetation is generally found along terraces and sheltered belt. The major portion of the study area of forest has been occupied by 'Reserved' forest.

The study area has an abundance of wild life, A number of species are found including insects, mollusks, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibian and fishes. The tiger 'Wagh' (Felis Tigris) is common in the study area. The panther 'bibtya' (Felis parades), Wolf (Canis pallipes), Fox, Monkeys, Mongoose and Jackals are commonly found in the study area. The Baglan panthers are especially large in size, many of them over seven feet in length.

Apart from these, the Stag Samber (Rusa aristotelis) the spotted deer, chital (Axis maculates), Nilgay (Portax pictus) wild boar 'dukkar' (Sus indicus) the barking deer (Cervulus aurcus) are found in small number.

Water resources:

Water bodies constitute major resources for ecotourism promotion. Lakes, tanks, dams etc can play a vital role in the aesthetic and recreational activities of the people. Water sports like swimming, boating, river rafting and other related activities can be developed in study area.

The headwaters of the Mousam river rise from the Sahyadris south of the Hanuman hill of Salher fort. The river runs eastwards past Mulher. It is joined by large number of affluent from the

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northern side as well as southern slopes of the Galana hills. The important among them are Tungadi nala, Kanjari nala, Dagadchand nala, etc. The Mousam has cut a wide valley.

There are number of water falls in the north-west and south-west part of study area. Lakes are a natural choice for ecotourism activities. There is major water project constructed on the Mousam River in 1982 at Ambapur known as Haranbari

Cultural and historical uniqueness:

People themselves are major source of tourist attraction. The total tribal population is 80.7% This study area as a cultural landscape of the region carries an unmistakable imprint of its history since the time of the cession of the region to the Muslim rule of Khans right through the Maratha occupation till the advent of the British. Being unique in their culture and tradition the people of this region still retain some of their basic cultural values. The transition between the territory of Delhi rulers and the kingdoms of the south, was a scene of encampment of armies, a theatre of conflict between the rival Maratha dynasties in the 18th and early 19th century and offered easy access or escape routes to the Arabian sea ports through the Selbari Pass. The Salher fort and the Mulher fort are the evidence of the uniqueness and historical importance of this area.

The people speak languages like Bhili, Kokani and Ahirani, The former is enumerated as the mother-tongue of tribal people of the area and the latter is classed as a dialect of Marathi, though there is a controversy about the origin and status of Ahirani as some consider it an admixture of Gujrati, Prakrit, Hindi and Marathi, once the language of Abhir dynasty.

The people of the region are straight forward, simple, hard working and love their motherland. The culture and art of this tribal community have significant potential for tourism development. They have a distinctive way of building their houses on the foothills of mountains. In addition their traditional dances, music, wedding ceremonies, their fairs and festivals are unique examples of culture. Three day celebration once in a year takes place on the day of Anant Chaturdashi by performing Ramlila known as 'Bhawada' local language. This tradition is going on from last 300years at Mulher.

These people prepare wine from 'Moha' Flowers for domestic use only. They workship various Hindu Gods as Lord Shiva, Ganesha, goddess Ambika etc.

RECENT TREND IN TOURISM DEVELOPMENT:

There has been a considerable increase in tourist arrivals (only domestic) in this region. Religious motivation plays an important role in pilgrimage tourism in study area. Mangi-Tungi is an important holy place of the Jains. There are seven caves on the hill top in which there are sculptures of Jain deities. More than two lakh peoples visit this holly place each year. There is another important holly place, known as "Dawal Malik Darga", located near Antapur. It is a symbol of national integration both Hindu and Muslims worship these god, more than 300 peoples from entire part of Maharashtra visit this place every week.

Apart from these holy places, many trekkers, excursionists, nature lovers, students are visit this area. As per the information collected from local people, nearly 20 to 50 tourists are visiting this place in a day. Varies places like Salher fort, Haranbari Project, Mangi-Tungi Temples, Antapur etc are there

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places of interest. These areas are not properly advertised so the number of tourists is less as compared to the areas having less potentials than Mulhar. If the government agencies like ITDC and MTDC, forest department will promote and propagate this area for as a tourists destination, which will help to increase the number of tourist arrival. Which will help to increase the economic condition of local tribal community?

Land Use:

In the study area, 50.39% area is under forest only 34.72% land is used for cultivation out of which only 2.22% land comes under irrigation through wells and canals. Subsistence farming is practice here. Animal grazing is also practice in small scale but this is not permitted in the protected forest area. So the people are not economically developed. If ecotourism is properly propagated and advertise which increase the number of tourist which will provide job and business opportunities to local people.

Infrastructure:

This area is well connected with Nasik and neighboring Gujarat state by tar road. In the study area every village is connected by tar road. State highway No. 16 is an important road along with Mousam river passes east to west which provides accessibility to the tribal people. M.S.R.T.C buses run frequently in the study area, private jeeps also provide transportation.

The accommodation facilities are not fully developed there is lack of good hotels and restaurants. Accommodation is provided by Trust of Mangi-Tungi Temple trust nearly 100 rooms are there at Bhilwad.

Primary health centers are located at Mulher, Antapur, Salher which provide medical facilities for rural population.

CONCLUSION:

The study area has tremendous potential for the ecotourism and Religious tourism development but the rural tribal community is not aware about the ecotourism. Villagers are in their traditional functioning. Cattle and Goat grazing is considered as an economical activity which does not have any scope due to protected forest. So the economical condition of peoples is not changing. If the government agencies as ITDC and MTDC, forest department will promote and propagate such area for selling as tourists destination, which will attract people all around the world and number of tourist will definitely increase. To promote this side for tourism well planned infrastructure should be created. Construction of good hotels and restaurants is necessary so as homely cottages with local impact in food and building material should be consider. Boost in number of tourist will provide the job opportunities which will be beneficial to increase the economic condition of local tribal community.

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Appendix

Population & Land-Use Pattern in The Study Area							
Village	Population	Tot area hectare	Area und forests (%)	Irrigat-ed (%)	Non irriga land(%)	Cultural wa land (%)	Area not available for cultivation (%)
Golwad	2396	3407.00	68.71	2.35	24.80	1.61	2.52
Mohalangi	1052	502.00	61.35	1.20	32.27	1.59	3.59
Borhate	499	652.00	66.10	0.77	16.87	1.53	14.72
Jaitpur	721	248.00	48.79	4.84	18.55	23.79	4.03
Maliwade	1314	773.00	44.11	0.65	47.99	1.68	5.56
Devthan-dongar	406	343.00	0.00	30.61	40.52	8.16	20.70
Shevare	842	1387.00	29.27	1.44	53.86	2.81	12.62
Vade-digar	707	132.00	0.00	15.15	66.67	9.85	8.33
Hatnoor	288	216.00	0.00	1.39	26.85	58.80	12.96
Kharad	470	138.00	0.00	3.62	47.10	36.96	12.32
Jad	1539	1827.00	78.49	1.92	7.61	9.63	2.35
Babhulane	1172	1358.00	82.33	2.95	11.86	1.69	1.18
Aliyabad	1671	1886.00	3.82	1.64	22.96	19.72	51.86
Ajande	327	290.00	31.38	0.56	61.72	2.07	4.27
Jamoti	1582	1001.00	57.94	2.50	31.17	1.80	6.59
Mulher	3356	935.00	64.49	1.71	23.64	4.92	5.24
Bordaiwat	1502	1177.00	71.88	0.00	24.47	0.85	2.80
Bhimkhet	1001	959.00	56.20	1.43	36.08	0.00	6.28
Waghambe	982	877.00	26.68	0.09	55.64	0.91	16.67
Mannur	2243	2950.00	51.86	0.68	28.81	16.95	1.69
Salher	2228	2400.00	33.17	0.83	58.33	2.04	5.63
Bhilwad	1548	1817.63	73.48	0.31	21.66	0.34	4.22
Antapur	4962	1439.00	23.35	8.55	58.44	1.11	8.55
Total	32808	26714.63	50.39	2.22	32.50	6.11	8.77