

ENVIRONMENTAL TOURISM AND ECOTOURISM

TRIBHUWAN M SHUKLA^{*}, VIVEK MEHTA^{**}, DEVENDRA MUZALDA^{***}

ABSTRACT

Ecotourism is the environment sustainable tourism which is the fast growing concepts. It involves the tourism activity in which relatively undisturbed natural areas are travelled. It deals with living parts of the natural environment and thus focuses on environmental sustainability. It offers small scale alternative to commercial tourism. Management of natural resources can be taken as a special tool for the development of ecotourism. In recent time the improper utilization of natural resources results destruction of biodiversity and hence floral and faunal species are becoming extinct. Ecotourism programmes may be introduced for the conservation of these natural resources. Thus the ecotourism involves effective sustainability planning, maximum social and economic benefits for local communities, minimum negative impacts on cultured heritage and minimum negative impact on the environment.

KEYWORDS: Environmental Tourism, Ecotourism Etc.

INTRODUCTION

The environment sustainable tourism or the ecotourism have become popular concepts since the mid-1980s, and ecotourism has been the fastest growth of all sub-sectors in the tourism industry. The popularity of ecotourism show a change in tourist perceptions, increased environmental awareness and desire to know the natural environments. Ecotourism is a new type of tourism activity in which relatively undisturbed natural areas are involved thus minimizes the negative aspects of conventional tourism on the environment. It deals with living parts of the natural environment and thus focuses on environmental sustainability. It offers small scale alternative to commercial tourism. The advantage of this is to educate the traveler gain of financial assistance for ecological conservation

and support the economic development of that particular area. In ecotourism since focus is on natural environment and hence where flora fauna and cultural heritage are the main attractions, travelling to that destination is involved.

NEED OF LOCAL MANAGEMENT

The tourism industry is dominated by multinational corporations that control ecotourism resources. These multinational corporations' fiancés and get profit from the development of large scale ecotourism those results in unrecoverable environmental degradation, loss of traditional culture and way of life, and exploitation of local labour.

* Department of Geography, Dr. H S Gour University, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh.

** Department of Criminology, Dr. H S Gour University, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh.

*** Department of Geography, Madhav University, Pindwara, Rajasthan.

Correspondence E-mail Id: editor@eurekajournals.com

These schemes are environmentally destructive, economically exploitative, and culturally insensitive. They are also morally disconcerting because they often mislead tourists and manipulate their concerns at the cost of environment. The development and success of such large scale energy intensive, and ecologically unsustainable schemes are a testament to the tremendous profits associated with being labeled as ecotourism.

The lack of environmental sustainability represents the need for small scale, show growth and locally based ecotourism. Local people's shows high interest for the goodness of their community, and are therefore can be hold more responsible for environmental protection than multinational corporations. The lack of control, negative impacts on the environment loss of culture and traditions neutralizes the benefits of establishing large scale ecotourism.

The benefits of the increased contribution of locally managed communities to ecotourism affects economic opportunities including high level management positions, and hence reduces environmental issues linked with poverty and unemployment in the area. There is a greater positive effect on the economy because local products materials, and local labour are used and thus profits are limited locally with the result import leakages are reduced. The benefits of using increased contributions of locally managed communities to ecotourism is seen in great Barrier Reef Park in Australia which earned over half of a billion dollar of indirect income in the area and added thousands of indirect jobs between 2014 and 2015. But in initial stage to promote this form of tourism, foreign investment is required. In this type of tourism, since the economy starts off with unused resources of that area and by increasing demand in the economy it is then possible to boost production which creates increases in consumer spending which occur due to the increased incomes.

MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Management of natural resources can be taken as a special tool for the development of ecotourism. In recent time the improper utilization of natural resources results in destruction of biodiversity and hence floral and faunal species are becoming extinct. Ecotourism programmes may be introduced for the conservation of these natural resources. The ecotourism involves effective sustainability planning, maximum social and economic benefits for local communities, minimum negative impacts on cultural heritage. Biodiversity makes preservation and minimum negative impacts on the environment. The tourism industry and governments, take interest more on the product aspect, and thus treat ecotourism as the type of tourism based in nature Government should made plans and proper management programmes so that these resources remain untouched.

NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF ECOTOURISM

The ecotourism has seen the fastest growth of all sub-sectors in the tourism industry. But it is a fact that many of the ecotourism projects are not up to the mark and the local communities are still facing some negative effects which include forced people deployment, gross violations of fundamental rights, and environmental hazards neutralizes economic benefits obtained from ecotourism, establishment of protected areas local people have illegally lost their homes and most often with minimum compensation Pushing people on to marginal lands with harsh climates, poor soils lack of water and infested with live stock and disease does little to enhance livelihoods even when a proportion of ecotourism profits are directed back into the community. The establishment of parks can create harsh survival realities and deprive the people of their traditional use of land and natural resources. Ethnic groups are increasingly being seen as a "back drop" to the scenery and wildlife. The local

people struggle for cultural survival and freedom of cultural expression while being “observed” by tourists. In the beginning a large sum of money is being spent and human resources are continually used for ecotourism however the desired success is not met.

At the local level, ecotourism has become a reason of conflict over control of natural resources i.e. land, resources, and tourism profits. In this way ecotourism has a negative effect on the environment and local people, and has led to conflicts over profit distribution among local people.

DIRECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The conversion of natural and to such tourism infrastructure results in deforestation and habitat deterioration and the environment bears all these negative effects because local communities are unable to meet the infrastructure demands of ecotourism, population pressures due to arrival of tourists from ecotourism also results in garbage and pollution associated with the new lifestyle. Ecotourism activities results in negative environmental impact because they may disturb fauna and flora, but even activities that is looking harmless such as nature hikes can be ecologically destructive such as where the ecotourism activity involves wildlife viewing, it can scare away wild animals.

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

It included deforestation, disruption of ecological life systems and various forms of pollution, all of which contribute to environmental degradation, the dissatisfaction among local people results also in environmental degradation. The wealthy eco tourists encourage the development of destructive markets in wildlife souvenirs as the

infamous case of a film actor Salman Khan. Ecotourism as with other activities also demands better educated workers and since in the area are not local and have not purr profits back into local economy and thus it can be said that ecotourism exploits and depletes.

CONCLUSION

Every system has some advantages and naturally some disadvantages also. The government bodies often lack the commitment or capability to manage ecotourism sites effectively. The regulations for environmental protection should be strictly followed but they are costly to implement, hard to enforce and uncertain in effective also. Government regulatory agencies as political bodies, are responsible for making decisions that are politically beneficial but environmentally unproductive projects. Management of ecotourism sites by private ecotourism companies can be a alternate idea but this may also not prove right as tourists will pay more for environments which translates to higher profit.

REFERENCES

- [1]. Holloway. J.C. (1994): *The Business Tourism*. Longman. London. pp49-50.
- [2]. Lea. J. (1988): *Tourism and development in the Third World* Routledge London.
- [3]. Singh. T.V. (1982); “Tourism wild Life Parks Conservation”, Metropoliton Book Company Ltd. New Delhi.
- [4]. Sharma S.P. (2004): *Tourism Education Principles Theories and practices*, Kamishka New Delhi.
- [5]. UNESCO. (2005): *Training Module on GIS Module A-3.P 1*.