



Sustainable development of eco-Tourism in India

Daravath Roopsingh

Department of Tourism Management, Kakatiya University, Warangal, Telangana, India

Abstract

Eco tourism is a small segment of the overall tourism sector in India. It is one of the fastest growing tourism segments and further rapid growth is expected in the future. Tourism is an activity where the consumer (tourist) travels to the producer and the product, which leads to a special relationship between consumers (visitors), the industry, the environment and local communities. On the positive side, tourism can provide a growing source of opportunities for enterprise development and employment creation as well as stimulating investment and support for local services, even in quite remote communities. Tourism can bring tangible economic value to natural and cultural resources. This can result in direct income from visitor spending for their conservation, and an increase in support for conservation from local communities. It can be a force for inter-cultural understanding and peace. Eco-tourism is a new concept in tourism, creating a different path towards the conservation of nature under the umbrella of sustainable development. In developing countries, eco-tourism has an exhilarating potential for economic development and environmental protection.

Keywords: eco-tourism, environmental protection, sustainable development

Introduction

Today, the whole world is confronting a profound emergency and is in the peril of being ill-fated and heading towards the 6th mass annihilation. The rich woodland regions and natural varieties have been savagely stripped to raise substantial wildernesses has prompted A worldwide temperature alteration and Nursery Impacts. Development in tourism should not only benefit the environment, but also benefit local residents socially and economically. Tourism industry constitutes 11% to GDP, employs 200 million directly and supports 215 million jobs indirectly, and transport nearly 700 million international travelers per year only in India. But according to WTTC tourism contributes 10.4% for global GDP and generates 319 million jobs worldwide. Luckily, this has prompted some understanding, and presently the world has stirred for fresh starts about human obligation towards nature. Feasible advancement has turned into the worldwide subject in all the global meetings and highest points. Strategy makers and improvement experts trust Ecotourism as an ideal monetary action to underwrite both manageability and advancement. Tourism and the tourism industry is one of the biggest and quickest developing monetary areas on the planet. It has become happiness in worldwide monetary force to be reckoned with, not just contributing a great deal to the worldwide Gross domestic product. The tourism industry alone represents 10% worldwide Gross domestic product and represented 1 of every 11 positions around the world. The tourism industry is an indispensable part of economy of a country. For nations like Macau, Seychelles, Bahamas and so on it is the direct kind of revenue contributing a gigantic offer in their nations' Gross domestic product. Nature based the tourism industry is a significant the tourism industry area, offering over 25% of the worldwide tourism market. Eco-the tourism industry is arising as a new impression in the tourism industry. The Worldwide Eco-the tourism industry Society (TIES) has characterized Eco-the tourism industry as "dependable tourism to normal regions that preserves the climate, supports the prosperity of the nearby individuals, and includes understanding and education".

Various human activities have triggered an increase in the population of invasive species which make the survival of other species difficult. This directly hampers the food chain along with the habitat and leads to vulnerable existences in the eco system. Today, mother earth is screaming for protection and man is single handed responsible for having put her in such a trouble. There is still time to put a full stop to this destruction by those responsible for this vulnerable position. Statistics confirm that an increasing member of tourists will be reaching remote eco-tourism destinations with greater ease at less cost and faster than even before, indicating that some ecotourism destination may become vulnerable. Many responsible eco tour operations are working successfully today, around the globe to create well planned, interactive learning experiences that introduce small groups of tourists to new environment and cultures, while minimizing negative environmental impacts and supporting conservation efforts. Tour operators have been hesitant to develop their own reporting system, making it difficult to statistically document eco-tourism overall performance.

Sustainable tourism–Indian scenario

Ministry of Tourism has recognized the immense potential of sustainable tourism in becoming a source of sustainable livelihoods in a high population scenario, and has given a special focus on promoting 'Incredible India' brand to attract tourists, not only to major cities and heritage attractions, but also to rural India where

through correctly aligned policy mechanisms, the problems of disguised unemployment in agriculture as well as migration to urban areas can be mitigated through community based tourism models mentored by the industry.

Moreover, tourism is one of the few service sectors operating in rural areas and other fragile ecosystems, where the conservation of cultural heritage also becomes an important facet apart from the natural heritage. Recognizing this challenge to create a sustainable balance between visitor numbers and heritage conservation, the Ministry of Tourism is working to provide policy mechanisms to guide the industry towards sustainable use of resources and mitigating negative impacts on environment and society.

As we stepped into the 21st century, the impacts of global warming and climate change started exacerbating through frequent natural calamities not only causing damage to life and property, but also proving detrimental to tourism industry globally, including many developing and under developed regions where tourism constituted a major share of the GDP.

Sustainability has emerged as an important issue for some of the fast-growing tourism destinations around the world, especially in developing countries which already support large native populations. One parameter highlighting this fact is the number of international visitors compared to the local population, which provides an indication of the impact tourism may have on the destination.

Link between green tourism and sustainable development

The Earth Summit (1992) has grown a pressure for the tourism industry to lift its environmental performance in common with other economic sectors, mobility towards green tourism development in every corner of the world. In order to develop sustainable tourism, in addition to the three principles of sustainability *viz.*, environment, economic and social, cultural sustainability is an important issue, particularly when the tourism practices in a certain location are based on local or indigenous culture and tradition. Although sustainable tourism development on a global scale remains a telic concept, the journey toward the goal of sustainability is vital for current and future economic, ecological, and socio-cultural well-being and should be integrated with community-based economics, conservation with equity, and integration of the environment with the economy.

Ecotourism is totally another methodology in the tourism industry. Eco the tourism industry is a protecting tourism to regular regions to see the value in the social and normal history of the climate, taking consideration not to upset the uprightness of the eco framework, while setting out monetary open doors that make preservation and security of normal assets beneficial to the neighborhood individuals. Since ages, nature love and the preservation morals have been an indistinguishable piece of Indian idea and customs. Follows return to antiquated civilizations of India, when individuals used to support the reasoning of the unity of life. Unfortunately, since most recent couple of many years, the frantic mission for the material end and prudent advancement in India and abroad has become indistinguishable with the double-dealing of nature in the entirety of its appearances. Today, the whole world is confronting a profound emergency and is in the risk of being ill-fated. The rich timberland regions and natural varieties have been determinedly stripped to raise substantial walls. The constant baring of woodland saves has prompted worldwide warming and nursery impacts. Luckily, this has prompted some acknowledgment, and presently the world has stirred for fresh starts about human obligation towards nature.

Importance of sustainable tourism

Resource efficiency and environment protection

This helps to support the protection of nature, culture and environment of local areas, sustainability allows us to use natural and cultural resources to gain profit and on the other hand it assures that these resources should not be destroyed. The fundamentals of reduce, reuse and recycle embrace sustainable tourism.

Inclusive and sustainable economic growth

Enhancing the wellbeing of communities, sustainable tourism development supports and ensures the economic growth where tourism takes place. Product quality and tourist satisfaction offered by a region is the key factor for the economic success of tourism and purchasing local products helps in ensuring that the financial benefits stay with the local people.

Heritage (cultural and natural diversity)

It shows respect for the communities who live there, as well as their traditional cultures and customs. Sustainable tourism is sharing of cultures (without imposing them), and ending stereotypes about different cultures and religions. Thus, sustainable tourism helps to preserve heritage both culturally and naturally for future generations.

Recently, the Tourism-Ministry has taken many steps to give a hike to the tourism industry like, launch of new schemes such as Swadesh-Darshan and Prasad, and update of existing schemes such as hunar-se-rozgar tak, continuing E-tourist Visas to many nations, also they developed a mobile application for tourists, launched an Incredible Indian Tourists helpline.

Developing the best tourism framework or infrastructures

Swadesh-Darshan plan was initiated by the Govt for making theme related tourism. All projects aim to develop world class facilities to benefit the cultural heritage and aim to increase tourist allure, 27 or more projects for Rs 2261cr allocated for 21 States. The Prasad project launched by Govt for the development of pilgrimage/spiritual sites.

Development of mobile applications

The Ministry has developed a mobile application known as Swachh- Paryatan in February 2016, which allows people to report any hygiene issues at various tourist places.

Tourism-Mart

To promote the North Eastern states a International Tourism Mart is organized every year with the objective to highlight the tourism potential in these regions.

Conclusion

Eco tourism has to be about ecology not economy. If it's going to be about economy only, then it will create problems. The environmental impact of tourism development can be serious if it exceeds the carrying capacity of nature. It can lead the damage of natural attractions due to overcrowding and unreasonable activities. Building resorts and hotels can lead to environment degradation and deforestation. Such type of activities can create pollution, generate waste and non- biodegradable waste will damage the fragile ecosystem and natural wildlife. Ecotourism, when practiced correctly, is an important economic and educational activity. It has the scope to link to a wider constituency and build conservation support while raising awareness about the worth and fragility of such ecosystems in the public at large. It also promotes the non consumptive use of wilderness areas, for the benefit of local communities living around, and dependent on these fragile landscapes. It involves tourism to natural destinations which gives escapism from the hyper tensed artificial world and a short-term relief from the pollution of the metropolitan cities. It builds an environmental awareness among the visitors, when people personally experience the connection with the nature it generates a sense for its conservation on individual basis and creates an environmental awareness. It highlights the local and tribal cultures and engenders a respect for these untold cultures. Eco-tourism not only generates employment but also provides financial aid benefits and it empowers the local people. For a developing country like India ecotourism creates a lot of opportunities in environmental issues, empowering local tribes, generating employments and sustainable development.

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