



**A GEOGRAPHICAL STUDY OF BAHUBALI RELIGIOUS
TOURIST CENTER IN HATKANANGLE TAHSIL**

K. H. Majalekar

*Research Students
Department of Geography,
Shivaji University, Kolhapur, Maharashtra*

S. S. Mane

G. S. Ubale

*Assistant Professor,
Department of Geography,
D.K.A.S.C. College,
Ichalkaranji, Maharashtra*

ABSTRACT:

Today's the most important and fast growing industry is Tourism. Tourism represents the largest segment of international trade, earning, foreign currency and income source. Some countries and states economy totally depends upon tourism. In India the importance of religious tourism in ancient period as well as modern period. The diversity in physical, social, cultural, historical and also religious factors is main attractions of the tourist's centers. In India as well as Maharashtra major scope for religious tourism because, India has various religious background, history, magnificent culture and religious places as well as the geographical condition is favorable for development of tourism. There are some problems face by tourist, present study has review the real situation, condition, facilities and services related problems and its solution by the view of geographical perspective.

Key Words: *Tourism Industry, Religious tourism, Socio-Culture-Historic aspects.*

INTRODUCTION:

Kolhapur district is rich in socio-cultural establishment and religious historical background also. It is also bounded by religious centers; such as, Mahalaxmi, Jotiba, Kattyayani, Bahubali and Nrisinhwadi. Bahubali religious center is very most important place for Jain religion in Maharashtra. It is also popular religious place in Maharashtra as well as India. People from different states in India are visiting to this place due to religious purpose. Bahubali station has excellent connected with Roads and Rail in Maharashtra. It is surrounded by hills and plane also. Bahubali religious center is located in beautiful natural condition such as, hilly region, valleys, greenery and cool and fresh

environment. There are also performed various festivals such as, every pournima and amavasya, 12th years Abhisheka of Bahubali statue etc. Requested Puja/ Abhisheka will be arranged on the specified date in the name of the devotee.

STUDY AREA:

Bahubali religious center is located near Hatkanangle tahsil in the beautiful natural surrounding environment of the western Maharashtra. It is located in the sub-hills of the Sahyadri Mountain range. Bahubali is around 7 km from Hatkanangle, around 35 km from Kihapur, about 37 km from Sangli and near about 15 km from Ichalkaranji. Its lat-long extent is 16°48' North and 74°25' East. The total area of this center is 400 sq. Acers. Mean monthly temperature is 24°c. Annual rainfall is 150 cm.

There are three large specific Jain temples i.e. 40 feet Lord Bahubali statue and its temple, Lord Mahavir Digambar-Shwetambar temple and Jahaz temple. Now a days major tourist's attraction is Jahaz temple.

OBJECTIVE:

- 1) To study the Geographical and Religious conditions.
- 2) To study the available facilities and services in the study area.
- 3) To highlight the problems faced by tourist.

METHODOLOGY:

The present research paper is based on primary and secondary data. The primary data collected through questionnaire, interviews, spot observation also. The secondary data collected from Kolhapur Gazetteer, Journals, Books and Internet are also referred to get secondary information. The collected data analyzed with simple statistical methods and represent with suitable cartographic techniques.

DISCUSSION:

Bahubali religious center is most important for tourism and religious point of view. There are very well situation are attracted to the tourist. Present study highlighted to the real condition, potentiality of the religious tourism in the study region. The detail analysis of the same is given below.

Table No.1: Tourist Visited at Bahubali from Different Part of India

| Sr.No. | State | District | Tourist | Percentage |
|--------|-------------|--------------|---------|------------|
| 1 | Maharashtra | Kolhapur | 38 | 61.29 |
| 2 | Maharashtra | Sangli | 14 | 22.58 |
| 3 | Maharashtra | Satara | 04 | 6.45 |
| 4 | Maharashtra | Solapur | 02 | 3.22 |
| 5 | Gujrat | Surat | 02 | 3.22 |
| 6 | Rajasthan | Jaipur | 02 | 3.22 |
| | | Total | 62 | 100 |

Source- Field Work

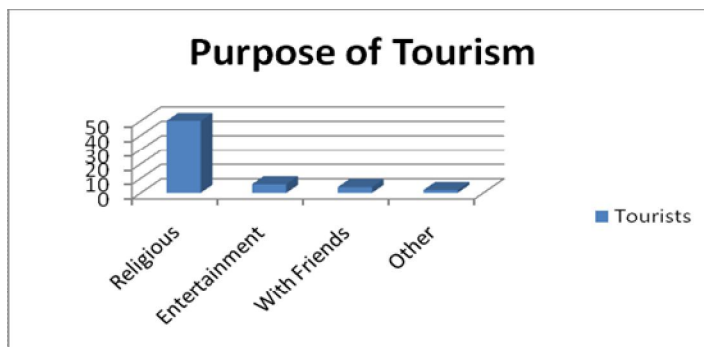


From the above table, we have observed that, the 61.29% tourist visited from the Kolhapur district due to more Jain religious people live in this region. Then second one district is Sangli represented 14% tourists visited to Bahubali center. 3.22% tourists from Rajasthan and Gujrat also, it is popular Jain religious center in India. In festivals many tourists from all districts of Maharashtra and also from all over the India visit Bahubali center.

Table No.2: Purpose Wise Classification of Tourists

| Sr. No. | Purpose | Tourist | Percentage |
|---------|---------------|---------|------------|
| 1 | Religious | 50 | 80.64 |
| 2 | Educational | 00 | 00 |
| 3 | Entertainment | 06 | 9.67 |
| 4 | With Friends | 02 | 3.22 |
| 5 | Other | 04 | 6.45 |
| | Total | 62 | 100 |

Source- Field Work

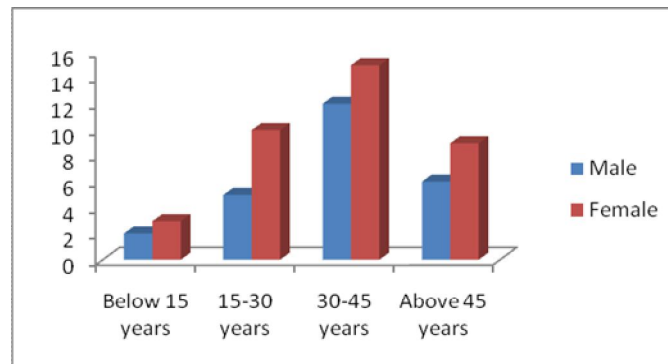


The table no. 2 shows that, the purpose of tourist to visit Bahubali. It is observed that 80.64% tourists come to Bahubali for religious purpose. Near about 9.67% tourists coming for entertainment, while remaining visitors are coming for other purpose. We have observed that there are more peoples visit to Bahubali for religious purpose only.

Table No.3 : Age-Group Wise Classification of Tourists

| Sr. No. | Age-Group | Male | Female | Total | Percentage |
|---------|----------------|------|--------|-------|------------|
| 1 | Below-15 years | 02 | 03 | 05 | 8.06 |
| 2 | 15-30 years | 05 | 10 | 15 | 24.19 |
| 3 | 30-45 years | 12 | 15 | 27 | 43.54 |
| 4 | Above 45years | 06 | 09 | 15 | 24.19 |
| Total | | 25 | 37 | 62 | 100 |

Source-Field Work



From the above table shows the age-group of the tourist who visited to Bahubali. It is observed that most of the tourists visited to Bahubali belong to the age-group 30-45 years (43.54%). Near about 24.19% tourists are belonging in the age group of 15-30 years and above 45 years. According to the table minimum tourists visited to Bahubali belong to the age-group below 15 years.

Table No.4: Income Wise Classification of Tourists

| Sr. No. | Monthly Income group | Tourist | Percentage |
|---------|----------------------|---------|------------|
| 1 | Employees | 08 | 12.90 |
| 2 | Below 5000 | 20 | 32.25 |
| 3 | 5000-10000 | 12 | 19.35 |
| 4 | 10000-15000 | 07 | 11.90 |
| 5 | More than 15000 | 15 | 24.19 |
| Total | | 62 | 100 |

Source- Field Work

According to this analysis we have observed that a positive relationship between economical condition and tourism. Money is very important factor of development of tourist center and tourism also because without money tourism is impossible. Table no. 4 shows that 32.25% of tourists are belonging to the below 5000 rupees income group. More than 20 % of tourists are belonging to the higher income group i.e. more than 15000 rupees monthly income. Near about 12% of tourists are belonging to the 10000-15000 rupees income group.

Table No.5: Problems of Tourists in Bahubali

| Sr. No. | Problems | Tourist | Percentage |
|---------|-----------------------------|---------|------------|
| 1 | Transport and communication | 56 | 90.32 |
| 2 | Lodging | 26 | 41.93 |
| 3 | Food/ Meal | 40 | 64.51 |
| 4 | Other | 05 | 8.06 |

Source- Field Work

We have observed that so many facilities provide by Bahubali trust and other private agencies for tourists but there are some problems have exist. Many tourists have to face various problems in this center. There are most important problem is related to transport and communication. Near about 90.32% tourists have been facing the problem of transportation because of lack of transport mode and vehicles and road is very poor form so there are many difficulties for driving. About 41.93% tourists are facing the problem of lodging, the trust have providing Nivasivyvस्था but it is very small form and no other private lodging facility in this area. Near about 64.51% tourist have faced the problem of food. Their available facilities are not adequate to needs of tourists in Bahubali center.

CONCLUSION:

Bahubali is one of the Jain religious temple in Kolhapur district. It is can become a famous tourist place of Maharashtra as well as India, because of the Jain religious background, greenery and small hilly region. It is observed that, there are most of the tourists visited from whole Maharashtra and India also. Most of the tourists visited to Bahubali for religious purpose. Most of the tourists who visited to Bahubali are belonging to working age-group. There are some problems like, transportation, accommodation, road, health, sanitation, security etc. There are some facilities are available but these are cannot satisfied to

K. H. Majalekar, S. S. Mane & G. S. Ubale

tourists. If these problems will overcome and solved, this place can be developed very much and become world famous place in India.

REFERENCES :

1. S.M.Kamble., D.J.Vhandare,; A Geographical Study of Aravade Religious Tourist Center in Sangli District. Maharashtra Bhugolshatra Sanshodhan Patrika Vol.XXVII No 1 Jan-June 2011.
2. Gazetter of Kolhapur District.ss
3. Gharpure Vitthal (2001): Geography of Tourism, Pimpalapur and Co. Publication, Nagpur.
4. Pravin R. Talekar Dr. M. B. Potdar 2011 Religious Tourism in Kolhapur District: A Geographical Analysis Lokavishkar Vol 1 No. II Interdisciplinary Research Institute, Kolhapur
5. Khatib K.A.: Geography of Tourism, Mehta Publications, Kolhapur .
6. Patil M. A., Gophane B.N. (2012): Tourism, and Women Empowerment: A Study of Solapur District, M.B.P., Sanshodhan Patrica, Vol-XXXIX(1), Jan-July 2012 PP46-49.
7. R.M. Kendre (2012): A Geographical Study of Shri Manudevi Religious and Natural Tourist Centre in Jalgaon District.Maharashtra Bhugolshatra Parishad, Pune's 29th National Conference – Sovineer.ISBN:978-93-81354-40-7, PP02-06.
8. Jagdale. U. G. and Dushing A. G. (2012): A Geographical Study of Tourist Centers in Junnar Tahsil –With special reference to Ozar. Maharashtra Bhugolshatra Parishad, Pune's 29th National Conference – Sovineer.ISBN:978-93-81354-40-7, PP07-10.