CONSERVATION OF FORTS IN MAHARASHTRA THROUGH TOURISM DEVELOPMENT POLICY

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Abstract-

The present research paper has given an emphasis on the study of the problems and conservation of forts in Maharashtra .The forts are Famous for heritage tourism in Maharashtra. Now a day's tourism has become important concern economic activity at the national as well as international level. Forts of destination of attraction for adventure tourists. The most of foreign tourists come in India adventure tourism. Researcher also collected the secondary data from the concerned government office. The observation of authors concludes theforts in Maharashtra essential for conservation as well as tourism development. This study important for adventure tourism industry in Maharashtra

Key Words: Tourism Development, Adventure tourism, Fort, Conservation.

Introduction

Tourism in the form of activity influences the regions where it is developed and received with economic, social, cultural, and environmental dimensions. In most of the development programmes and studies, focus is given only on the economic and social dimensions whereas environmental dimension is under estimated or ignored. Therefore, it is essential to maintain the balance between tourism and the environment which helps to develop the policy for tourism development of an area and imposition of the special limits. Thus, the tourism does not lead to the degradation of the environment and in long terms to the tourist disdain of an area, but it helps in its protection or its conservation. In other words, the environment influences the tourism and vice versa. The environment of the region is negatively influenced most times by the increase of tourism, whereas the growth of tourism depends on the quality and characteristics of the environment. Thus it becomes necessary to conserve and preserve the forts in Maharashtra which would not only develop tourism but also raise the economic, social, cultural, and environmental dimensions of the Maharashtra state. Maharashtra is the third largest state of India, both in area and population. It is located on the west coast line along the lush green Konkan region. Nestled in the Western Ghats and the Sahyadri mountain range are several hill stations and water reservoirs with semi-

evergreen and deciduous forests.The Vidharba region of Maharashtra, with its dense forests, is home to 350 odd forts, beaten by the sea waves, lashed at by the torrential Deccan rains, or scorched in the blazing sun, stand imposing.

Aims And Objectives:-

1) To identify potential for adventure tourism in Satara District

2) To identify problems in development of adventure tourism and suggest remedies and recommendations

Data Collection:-

The importance of the present study lies in the fact that due consideration is given to the primary data. Maximum data is collected through visits and surveys of destinations. Interviews of tourists, villagers, NGO's, RFO's and support service providers, agents, give meaningful and plenty of data important tools used for data collection. The data which is basic tool of the research has been collected from differentsources such as published and unpublished works.

Research Methodology:-

Adventure Tourism Development Index is computed by taking into consideration 'Ten Pillars" of bench-marking. Adventure Travel Trade Association, The George Washington University and XolaConsultives first time introduced ATDT. I have adopted modified methodology for the study. This modification is certainly based on my own convenience. As with any modified methodology bench-marking system, potential defining system quantitative measurement have limitations posed by data availability and consistency of measurement across the countries The ten pillars represent key elements of adventure tourism competitiveness.

1)Government policy and Sustainability. 2) Safely. 3) Natural Resources.4) Health 5) Adventure Resource.6) Entrepreneurship.7) Humanitarian 8) Infrastructure. 9) Cultural 10) Adventure Image .

 Potential For Tourism Development:- Tourism development and management is closely related to the study of potential of tourism. Tourism has become a fiercely competitive business and a labour intensive business. It creates enormous employment opportunities for semi-skilled workers and skilled workers too, though the tourism development in India has largely been a missed opportunity.

Tourism Development: According to the Oxford Dictionary, the meaning of the word "TOURISM" is a Business of providing accommodation and services for Tourist who visits a

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place for pleasure. There are a number of reasons why carrying capacity can benefit Maharashtra,

1. The tourist destinations absorb the tourism growth before the negative results become perceptibility by host community.

2. Visitors will experience the quality service in the form of food, accommodation and transport.

3. It helps to plan the tourism in such a way that it is not a burden to any part of the area.

4. Material and technical infrastructure helps to save the energy, the guaranteed cleaning of waste and the taking of remedial measures for the protection of local environment and

5. It helps the management to plan the strategy which reflect a predetermined set of environmentally and socially.

Popular Forts In Maharashtra

Ahmednagar Fort: Ahmednagar Fort is one of the best designed forts in the entire state of Maharashtra. At the same time, it is also counted amongst the impregnable forts of India. The fort is situated in the Ahmednagar district and dates back to the year 1559.

Daulata bad Fort: Daulatabad Fort is a magnificent fort situated in Maharashtra, at a distance of around 13 km from the Aurangabad city. It forms a part of the Daulatabad city, which was earlier known as 'Devigiri'. The fort, perched at a height of approximately 60 ft and dates back to the 12th century.

Panhala Fort: Panhala Fort is situated at a distance of approximately 19 km from the Kolhapur city of Maharashtra. Counted amongst the largest as well as most significant forts of the Deccan region of India, it stands perched at an altitude of around 850 m above the sea level.

Janjira Fort: Janjira Fort is situated in the Murud town of Maharashtra. Infact, the Island Fort serves as one of the major attractions of the town. Murud served as the erstwhile capital of the Siddi rulers of Janjira in the earlier times. Today, Janjira is counted amongst the few sea forts of India and lies 2 km inside the town.

Raigad Fort: Raigad Fort is a magnificent hill fortress, situated in the Raigad district of Maharashtra. It lies approximately 125 km away from Pune and serves as one of the major excursion of the city. The fort once served as the capital of ChhatrapatiShivaji, the Great Maratha king,in the 1674.

Shivneri Fort: Shivneri Fort is one of the most magnificent as well as historically rich forts of India. It is situated at a distance of approximately 90 km from the Pune city of

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Maharashtra. The fort dates back to the time period when Shivaji was not born yet. Shivneri Fort was built under the aegis of Sahaji.

Sinhagad Fort: Adding to the attraction of the Pune city is the Sinhagad Fort, which lies in the vicinity of the city. The fort stands perched on a hill, at an altitude of approximately 700 m above the landscape that surrounds it. The height at which the fort stands has made it very popular.

Sindhudurg Fort: Maharashtra is known for its rich historical legacy. The land has been a silent witness to some of the most gruesome battles that have been fought in India. One such symbol of the rich historical past is the mighty Sindhudurg fort. It is situated in the Sindhudurg district.

 Ethics in Conservation:

i. The structural condition of the building, before any intervention and all methods and the material used during the treatment must be fully documented intervention.

ii. Historic evidence must not be destroyed, falsified or removed for authenticity.

iii. Any intervention must be the minimum necessary.

iv. Any intervention must be governed by unswerving respect for the aesthetic, historical and physical integrity of the cultural property.

vi. Should sufficiently be qualified in various aspects and thus it becomes multidisciplinary.

Conclusion

Tourism, if it is to be a vehicle of culture, prosperity and peace, must conserve without damaging, protect without plundering, and create without destroying. Carrying capacity in eco-tourism provides local benefitsenvironmentally, culturally and economically. Ecotourism is "responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and sustains the well-being of local people." Our goal is to enable people to enjoy and learn about the natural, historical & cultural characteristics of the various forts in Maharashtra while preserving the integrity of the forts and stimulating the economic development opportunities in local communities.

The following implemented will improve the face of tourism in the coming years:

1. Development of infrastructure at the forts: Various tourism facilities such as accommodation facilities, eateries, toilets, information centres, etc. could be developed at all destinations. For this, the incentive policy proposed will encourage private partnership in tourism related activities and infrastructure development.

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2. Accessibility to the forts and wayside amenities: Approach roads could be identified to various forts in Maharashtra. The roads should be assessed for suitability (carrying capacity, quality, etc.) and could be considered for further development. Wayside amenities should also be planned while developing roads.

3. Development Control Regulation at destinations: 'Development Control Regulations' could be prepared to work as guidelines for development at and around the forts.

4. Strengthening of Bed and Breakfast scheme: The Bed and Breakfast scheme creates facilities for travelers at remote region forts (where hotel accommodation is not available) and could provide income to the local people. Withthe increasing interest in the ruralway of life and the advent of rural tourism, the Bed and Breakfast Scheme would offers excellent potential for the mutual benefit of the tourists and the local population. This Scheme could be strengthened to form a part of rural micro-financing projects.

5. Recreational facilities at forts: Entertainment facilities such as children's sports, horse rides, light and sound shows (based on feasibility) could be arranged at selected forts. Providing recreation and entertainment at the various forts could convert day tourists into staying tourists.

6. Public-Private-Partnership: Specific forts could be identified where public-private partnership is possible. Conservation plans could be prepared for the identified these forts.

7. Cultural Tourism: Distinctive aspects of Maharashtra's rich culture and tradition could be identified and promoted as an integral part of Maharashtra's tourism. Identifying and promoting the State's folk arts and organize folk dance and music programmers' at the forts could be arranged.

8. Crafts: Since Maharashtra has a number of exclusive handicrafts; the government could undertake the availability of the handicraft products at the various forts, which could promote the handicrafts industry in the state:

9. Information Kiosks: Government of Maharashtra could create kiosks at important airports, railway stations, bus stations and important forts to provide tourism information on an interactive basis with links to the tourism portal and on-line booking systems.

10. Creating Awareness: Create awareness among people about the importance of tourism, how to identify and plan tour options and on how to be an enlightened tourist. This could also include creating awareness about safety and environmental awareness.

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Suggestions & Discussions:

Information with respect to tourism experience, environmental impact and the need of carrying capacity.

The findings are explained below:

Tourism Experience: It is observed that most of the respondentsenjoyed visiting all the differenttourists' destinations of Maharashtra.They have visited these places duringweekends and vacations. Somerespondents had been to these placesduring weekdays also. Tourist's placesare always crowded as they aremore popular.

Accommodation Facilities: Since the entire tourist places are so popular that they are always crowded. So it is difficult to get accommodation during the peak season. In a survey, it was found that most of the tourists (98%) book the accommodation well in advance. Though it is done in advance but the tourists are not happy with the room layout of the hotel. To accommodate more people in a limited place the hotel owners provide less amenities as compared to the required standards. So it makes the place congested and crowded causing inconvenience to the tourists. Due to this, majority of tourists (86%) are unhappy about it where as only few people are happy with accommodation as the stay is in the bungalows or farm houses.

Transport problems: During the survey, it was found thatall the buses and trains were crowded(79%), especially during weekends and majority of the tourists arranged their own vehicles to reach to the sites, so this creates the traffic problem at the tourist places and they do not get enough place to park their vehicles.

Environmental Impact: Most of the surveyed respondents(89%)experienced that there would be maximumnegative impact on the environmentas a result of developing tourism.They experienced that forests degradation degradation might take place in and around because of tremendous demands for area of hotels and restaurants. The degradation of surrounding environment and forests might lead to the loss of energy, wild life and beauty of the area. They further emphasized that ignorance and lack of awareness at these sites may lead to increased accumulation of solid waste, increased level of air and water pollution etc.

Specialty is a tourism policy; law and development and a number of unique services on Tourism could include:

 Laws& Legal Frameworks • Reviewing existing laws

1. Benchmarking against international best practice and model laws

2. Drafting new legislation and regulations

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3. Consultation with stakeholders and assistance with enactment

4. Establishing and reviewing legal frameworks

5. International convention review and ratification

6. Arbitration, mediation, negotiation and dispute resolution

Compliance, Security & Risk Management

1. Legal and regulatory compliance audits, plans and programs

2. Tourism security reviews, plans and advice

3. Risk management reviews, plans and advice

4. Stakeholder, social and environmental concerns

5. Lobbying and advocacy on law and regulation changes

6. Due diligence

7. Troubleshooting

G overnance, institutions & Administrative Systems

1. Strengthening governance and institutions in the public and private sectors

2. Funding arrangements for National Tourism Administrations

3. Registration, licensing and accreditation

4. Self regulation including trade associations and codes of conduct

5. Safety, security and risk management

6. Quality assurance systems including hotel classification

7. Assuring sustainability and environmental protection

Policy, Planning & Development

1. Formulating and implementing tourism policies and plans

2. Planning and development facilitation and standards

3. Implementing tourism.

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