



PROBLEMS OF TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN SINDHUDURG DISTRICT

Dr. Ashish Naik
Arts & Commerce College
Phanasgaon, Tal. Devgad
Dist. Sindhudurg

ABSTRACT:

Sindhudurg district has been announced as Tourism District by Central Government in 1997. Since then funds were made available by central and state Govt. for the development of tourism infrastructure but, the development was not at desired rate. The intention of research paper was to find out the reasons behind slow development of tourism in the district. The researcher has studied the unique features of Sindhudurg district as well as historical background of the district and status of tourism in Sindhudurg.

The water sports like scuba diving and snorkeling has commercialised very fastly due to deep sea driving. Due to very high demand for seafood in domestic market and market at abroad, the mechanized fishing on large scale is conducted. The conservation of this natural resource is very important for the development of tourism in the district. The tourist industry in the district must have to be developed eco-friendly bases like South States. It requires code of conduct for the tourists. For the purpose there must have to be ban on plastic, prohibition on lequire drinking, protection of historical places, conservation of wild life and rare vegetation, conservation of local culture and conservation on sea world.

There is lack of direction boards indicating tourist spots. The best infrastructure facilities are the backbone of the tourism industry. The important infrastructure facilities like all weather roads, fast access to metro cities through rail and air transport, affordable accommodation facilities, drinking water supply, health facilities, public sanitation facilities on each tourist spot, facilitating center on main tourist spots should be developed. Uniqueness of the tourist spots is the main attraction of the tourists. This uniqueness may be in the form of hot spring water, big waterfalls, hill stations, temple heritage, Royal heritage, unique food, adventure, historic heritage and clean beaches. These entirefeature are present in Sindhudurg district. But this hidden beauty must have to be given proper publicity in media and internet which will boost the tourism sector of the district.

Introduction

Tourism has become the key factor and the valuable attributes to the economic prosperity of the most of the developing nations. In recent days



tourism has been a rising industry and proving itself as the pivot of vehicle for economic development in a number of countries. Economic development of the nation's runs parallel to the development of tourism. Recently, a major portion of the world trade is constituted by tourism industry. Growth rate of tourism is faster than any other trade or good or services in the world economy. It has taken the strong shape of highly organized service sector and industry. Visionary political leaders and business tycoons have been exploiting maximum potentialities of the tourism industry for the development of their economy for the years. Various developing countries are designing their economic planning to exploit the opportunities of tourism. The economy of many countries is depending on tourism. It has become the most reliable economic source for prosperity. Availability of communication means and fast transportation added a kind of splendour to the tourist industry.

Sindhudurg district is known as the second paradise in the nation. It is always compared with divine beauty of Kashmir. It has diverse aspects of tourism i.e. temples, caves, forests, forts, rivers and mountain ranges, creeks, lagoons, orchards of coconut, betel nut, mango, cashew, paddy, wild fruits like blackberry, jamun etc. The district has contributes a lot to the Maratha history and national history. The coastal line of the district is embellished with various historical places including forts. The district covers a number of well-known temples and religious sacred monuments. Rich cultural heritage is preserved in the families. The best vocal artists, writers, poets, musicians belong to the lands of Sindhudurg. It is land of Alphanso Mango; well-known international brand in fruit market. But yet the overall development of the district is lagging behind.

Definition :

According to L. J. Lickorish "Tourism embraces all movement of people outside their community for all purpose except migration or regular daily work. The most frequent reason for movement on sporadic or in infrequent business purposes". Bukart and Medik provide the following conceptual definition – Tourism denotes the temporary and short-term movement of people to destinations outside the places where they normally live and work and their activities at those destinations.

Objectives :

1. To review to rural development through tourism development in Sindhudurg district.
2. To study the employment opportunities and future potential through tourism in the district.
3. To study the selected destinations of tourism and types of tourism.
4. To understand tourism industry in the district.



5. To study the contribution of tourism in rural development.
6. To study the overall development of the Sindhudurg district.

Present Situation of Tourism in Sindhudurg District :

In 1997, it is declared as First Tourism District in India. But Sindhudurga district suffers of a number of problems such as social indiscrimination, unemployment, undeveloped agricultural sector, lack of marketing for agro products, unemployment and so on. It is recorded as the Lowest Population Density district in the state. Unemployment drives the poor people to the metropolitan cities for livelihood. Migration of the people to the cities has almost vacated the small villages. Inadequate infrastructure is the common problem for the district. Lack of connecting roads, narrow roads, transportation facilities, lack of medical facilities, sand sanitation problems are so common in the district. Government administration tries its best to provide solutions to these diverse hurdles and problems. Development of tourism is closely associated with eradication of problems of the district.

There is favourable atmosphere for the development of tourism in the district. District needs tourism for its own development.

Sindhudurg at A Glance :

1) Devgad Taluka :

Devgad is the tahasil place which situated 40 km. away from Mumbai-Goa National Highway. The world famous 'Devgad Alphanso' mangoes are available here during the season. Devgad is famous for its temples, forts, clean beaches, fisheries etc.

2) Malvan Taluka :

Malvan is a compact town situated on the coast of Western India. The Faomus Sindhudurg sea-fort which lends it's name to this District, constructed by Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj- a place of pride, is located in Malvan. There are several tourist attractions such as Sarjekot, Padmadurg, Moryacha Dhonda, Tarkarli, Kolamb creek, Dhamapur, Ojhar, Kasartaka, Tondawali, Anganewadi, Malvan rock garden and Jai Ganesh temple. The typical malvani dialect spoken all over Sindhudurg district, known for it's special crispness and creek in tongue quotes has carried the name of Malvan even abroad. The surrounding sea has rich biodiversity and recently the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation has provided the snorkeling facility which can be availed by anyone and get a first hand experience of the under sea world. Malvan is also famous for its special slightly spicy tangy cuisine and has several eateries around the cater sea food.



3) Vengurla Taluka :

It is really a love at the first sight experience for any tourist coming to Vengurle for the first time. Located towards the south of Sindhudurg district, Vengurle with its silver sands, sparkling blue sea and bountiful nature is a poet's dreams come true. The very name of Vengurle conjures up the beautiful Public Works Department (PWD) rest house situated on a hilltop on the beach and picturesque lighthouse located behind it. Mansishwar temple, Narayan lake, the beautiful beach of Sagreshwar are some of the sights worth seeing in Vengurle. There are several eateries catering typical Malvani spicy cuisine.

The view of Vengurle town however, differs from the places from one sees from different direction, for instance, if viewed from the Dabholi Ghats one sees the half-moon shaped sea beach from Sagareshwar to the port with the prominent rest house and the lighthouse behind it. It almost appears that mighty sea has embraced this beautiful town in its arms.

There are several other tourist locations close by such as Mochamad beach Shiroda, Vetoba of Aravali, Redi, Terekohl, Vaingani beach, Bhogawe, Nivati fort, etc. Which can be easily accessed from Vengurle. The nearest railway station is Sawantwadi or Kudal and the place is easily accessible by road as well. The 'Balasaheb Sawant Agricultural University' fruit research center in Vengurle camp area is also worth visiting.

4) Sawantwadi Taluka :

Once recognized by the name Sunderwadi as a tribute to its scenic beauty, the small township has developed into a taluka place known as Sawantwadi. The city is well known for its colorful wood craft. Sawantwadi was under the rule of KhemSawant family. The city is blessed with the presence of beautiful lake known as the Moti Lake around which the township has developed. A tour of Sawantwadi would be incomplete without visiting the palace, Jagannath Bhosale Garden, the Shilpgram and the adjacent hill station Amboli.

Moti Lake is a well maintained tourist attraction. A tour of the Lake is a must, giving the tourist a prime view of the surrounding city. The city corporation has renovated the lake with spacious pathways, attractive luminaries and its surroundings. Tourist can avail of the boating, water scooters, paddle boats or the Kashmir type Shikara's at very affordable cost. One should not miss a rambling walk on the pathways around the Lake to enjoy the scenic beauty.

5) Kudal Taluka :

Kudal was chosen as the capital place of Sindhudurg district at the time of its inception in 1981. However due to administrative convenience the District office to the newly formed Sindhunagari in 1994. Located strategically on the Mumbai Goa highway, Kudal is a historic place. The Raul Maharaj Math at Pingoli, the beautiful Mansantoshgad at Shivapur, Datta temple and Yakshini temple at



Mangaon, the penance site of Saint Tembhe Swami, Ranganaged, historic Ghodebav of Kudal, Devdongar on the banks of Bhansali river, Rameshwar temple of Akeri, Rawalnath temple of Oros are some of the place of tourists attraction, Kudal is also a station for the konkan Railway.

6) Kankavli Taluka :

Kankavali town, an important business center and a taluka place, is located centrally in Sindhudurg district, on the Mumbai-Goa highway. The place is also connected through Konkan Railway. The town is on the cultural literary, social and religious forefront. The Gopuri Ashram of 'Konkan Gandhi' Appasaheb Patwardhan, Bhalchandra Maharaj Ashram, Rainy season waterfall of Savdav, historic Kharepatan town, Mhadkadevi Temple of Kasardé and Gangeshwar temple of Talere are some of the tourist attractions in this taluka.

7) Vaibhavwadi Taluka :

Vaibhavwadi Taluka is located in the realm of Karul Ghat which joins the Sindhudurg district and Kolhapur district. This is slightly isolated taluka and is very quiet and a place away from crowds. The Napane Waterfall which is flowing all over the year. The beautiful Karul Ghat, the Gagangiri Maharaj Muth on the historic Gagangad and the recently discovered Inari caves are major tourist attractions.

8) Dodamarg Taluka :

Dodamarg is the southern end of Sindhudurg District. Located on the boundary of Karnataka and Goa, this taluka was formed by the bifurcation of the Sawantwadi Taluka. The combined Maharashtra - Goa Govt.'s Tilari dam project is housed in this taluka. The backwaters of Tilari dam and the flowing Tilari river has contributed to the lush greenery, and at times one finds wild elephants in groups coming here from the adjacent Karnataka state for food. Unneyi dam - a part of the Tilari project with its developed garden, Hanumantgad, Pargad and Kasainath are the major tourist attractions. One can experience the typical rural life amidst the evergreen jungles. The Kasainath mountain is located near the Dodamarg town.

Future Scope for Tourism in Sindhudurg District

The concept of "Quality Tourism" becomes indispensable for the planning for Sustainable Tourism Development. It is connected with attracting the tourists, facilities and services offering "good value for money", protecting tourism resources and protecting high esteem of the local environment and society.

Sindhudurg has enough potentialities for tourist attractions; Dense forests, adventure sports, excellent waterfalls, caves, ancient pilgrim places, historical monuments, Archaeological sites, cultural and religious festivals, and



many others. The concept involves the maximum exploitations of these potentials for development of tourism, observations of the gaps and limitations at the local sites, recommendations for overcoming of the limitations as well as interactions with the local people. The basic idea is to enhance the visitor's experience to the place.

Broad Classification of the scope based on Theme of Tourism: Nature – Eco Tourism, Ethnic Cultural and Heritage Tourism, Leisure Tourism, Corporate Tourism, Health Tourism, Religious Tourism, Agro Tourism, Special Interest Tourism, Mega Projects and Development of Gateway.

Problems of Tourism in Sindhudurg District :

- a) Lack of star and international facilities of accommodations and lack of continental foods.
- b) Narrow and bad conditions of roads.
- c) Non-availability of currency exchange facility.
- d) There is no Airport in Sindhudurg district.
- e) Non-availability of Guide Service.
- f) Lack of tourism literature.
- g) Non availability of Direction Boards indicating Tourist Spots.

Conclusions :

- 1) The Sindhudurg district has 120 kms. Sea shore of Arabian Sea with white and clean sand. There are many forts, many old Hindu temples in the districts. The district is beautiful with natural scenes.
- 2) Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation has developed basic infrastructure and resorts of important tourism centers like Ganapatipule, Tarkarli, Amboli, Vijaydurg and Kunkeshwar.
- 3) The Konkan railway has started in the year 1998. This was big push to tourism industry of the Sindhudurg district. The domestic and foreign tourists attracted to the tourism of Sindhudurg.
- 4) The unique food culture of the Sindhudurg district is also attracting the tourists in the district. It is based on sea food and processed fruits like Mango, Cashew and Jackfruit. The unique local cold drinks like Kokum Sarbat, Solkadhi, various fry fishes and unique dry fruit like cashew nut is playing an important role in the tourism development.
- 5) The water sports like scuba diving snorkeling, sea paragliding, Dolphin suffer, boating has started by local entrepreneurs. This movement has also attracted the tourists to the Sindhudurg district.

Suggestions :

- 1) Prohibition on use of Plastic



- 2) Protection of Wild Life
- 3) Prohibition on Deforestation
- 4) Protection of old Hindu Temple Heritage
- 5) Conservation of Fort Heritage
- 6) Conservation of Local Food Culture & Cultural Heritage
- 7) Conservation of Coral and Sea World
- 8) Ban on excess and unseasonal fishing
- 9) Conservation and Development of Horticultural Products
- 10) Development of Sea-coast and Creeks Tourism
- 11) Adventure Tourism in Rainy Season
- 12) Direction Boards indicating Tourist Spots
- 13) Prohibition on Mining
- 14) Hospitability Trainings
- 15) Organisation Tourist Festivals
- 16) Publicity of unique tourist features of the District
- 17) Positive Political Approach

References :

- 1) Journal published at UGC sponsored national level seminar on Tourism Development organized by S. K. Patil Mahavidyalaya, Malvan on 28th and 29th Jan. 2011.
- 2) Aima A. Chavan V. (2011) Emerging Trends in tourism New Delhi Excel Books.
- 3) America's Global Cities. Janet L. Abu-Lughod; The Tourist City, Dennis R. Judd and Susan S. Fainstein, editors
- 4) Ader Herman J. (Editor), Mellenbergh Gideon J. (Editor), Research Methodology in the Social, Behavioural and Life Sciences (Aug. 1999)
- 5) Dinanath, R'Chala Sindhudurg Pahu (2010) 'Sindhudurg Zilha Paryatan Mahiti Pustika', Publication- Shri. Dinanath Raoji Bandekar, Sindhudurg, First edition.
- 6) Directorate of Economic and Statistics, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai. Socio-Economic Review and District Statistical Abstract – Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg.
- 7) 'Sindhudurg Zilla Vikas Pustika' (2010) (Marathi), District Information Office, Sindhudurg.
- 8) Bergeman Cindy S. (Editor), Boker Steven M. (Editor), Methodological Issues in Aging Research (March 2005) :

Websites :

www.agritourismworld.com
www.enviro-arch.com
www.kokanonline.com



www.maharashtratorism.gov.in
www.shodganga.inflibnet.ac.in
www.sindhudurg.gov.in
www.sindhudurg.nic.in