



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Social Science

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF TOURISM IN CHAMARAJANAGAR DISTRICT

KEY WORDS: Environment, protection, pollution, tourism, natural resources

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ABSTRACT

Environmental around us both natural and man made plays an important role in defining our life. The rivers, mountains, forests, waterfalls, dams, parks are the natural and man made attracts tourists. The more number of footfalls in the region leads to the development of the tourism in the same time which leads to the destruction of the environment in terms of air pollution, water pollution, sound pollution . Tourism puts enormous stress on local land use, and can lead to soil erosion, increased pollution, natural habitat loss, and more pressure on endangered species. These effects can gradually destroy the environmental resources on which tourism itself depends.

The conservation of the environment whether it is man made or natural is subject to the proper usage. Tourism development involves development infrastructure , providing facilities to the tourists. Tourism development leads to increased consumption of the natural resources which are scare which may lead to loss of biodiversity.

INTRODUCTION:

Tourism is one of the largest and fastest growing industries in the world. It is an increasingly important source of income, employment and wealth in many countries. However, its rapid expansion has also had detrimental environmental impact in many regions. there is always a conflict between environment and tourism. The local residents always feel that more people visit will destroy the biodiversity of their region. Chamarjanagar is located 60kms away from mysore which is rich in natural resources such as water, hills, temples , forests. The tourist places considered for the study includes

1. Bandipur National park
2. Himavad Gopaldaswami Hill
3. Bara Chukki
4. Gundal Reservoir Dam
5. MM Hills
6. BR Hills
7. Shimsha Power Station
8. Suvarnavathi Dam
9. Hogenekal Falls
10. Kanakagiri Jain Shrine

Literature Review:

The Following are the studies conducted in the area of tourism and environment across the world.

Frederico Neto (2003), examined, main economic benefits and environmental impact of tourism, and review the development of the international sustainable tourism agenda. While much of international tourism activity takes place within the developed world, this paper will focus on the (economic) development of the industry in developing countries. I conclude that new approaches to sustainable tourism development in these countries should not only seek to minimize local environmental impact, but also give greater priority to community participation and poverty reduction. I argue, in particular, that more emphasis should be given to a 'pro-poor tourism' approach at both national and international levels.

Dr. P K Manoj While the prospects of tourism development appear to be quite promising in India in general and Kerala state in particular, there growing apprehensions regarding the sustainability of the same because of such varied reasons as adverse impacts on culture and environment, bottlenecks because of the paucity of adequate infrastructure and the like. In the above context, this paper seeks to (i) study the problems and prospects of Indian tourism sector, from a global perspective, (ii) analyze the case of tourism in Kerala state in more detail, and (iii) to suggest pragmatic and realistic strategies for meaningful tourism development in India, with due respect to the long-term sustainability of such initiatives.

Al-Balm (2005) in his study entitled "Migrated Lands and

Coastal Areas Birds of Aden Governorate" states that the migration of birds to Aden is very beneficial for the tourism industry and for tourism development. Moreover, **Al-Tha'labi (2005)** highlights the importance of the wet lands of Aden as a tourist spot which attracts many local visitors to watch its beauty and environmental biodiversity.

Kuvan and Akan's (2005) have found that residents' evaluation of economic, socio-cultural and environmental impacts is significant and diverse depending on demographic characteristics. The study also shows that there is a relation between attitudes and some characteristics like education, family income and birthplace. This results in different attitudes towards tourism in general and in forest in particular, regarding positive and negative perceived impacts.

The study of **Bestard and Nadal (2007)** has aimed to analyse the relationship between the density of hotel beds in Balearic Islands and local residents' perceptions of negative environmental impacts of tourism. The authors state that Balearic Islands (Spain) have 1 million in population and it is visited by 10 million tourists annually. This means that the islands have a ratio of 0.48 beds per inhabitant. A survey has been conducted to collect data about residents' opinions and their perceptions of tourism. The researchers have found out that a higher density of tourist accommodation implies more tolerance by the local residents. Results show, however, that there is a general perception that tourism was responsible for high prices level, and residents do not have support for construction of more hotels with 50 beds. Yet, when he asked about further creation of hotels in rural areas, there was widespread support for the idea.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

A combination of exploratory and descriptive research design will be used for conducting this study. The study research requires both primary and secondary data. Primary data is collected through 300 local residents. To analyze the data collected from respondents, various statistical tools and techniques are applied for the study. The data collected from respondents is analyzed with the help of the latest version of SPSS.

Findings and analysis:

Demography of the Respondents :

Particular	Sub-Category	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	154	51.3%
	Female	146	48.7%
	Total	300	100.0%
Age	18 Yrs -30 Yrs	186	62.0%
	31 Yrs -40 Yrs	61	20.3%

Qualification	41 Yrs -50 Yrs	36	12.0%
	51 Yrs -60 Yrs	14	4.7%
	61 Yrs & Above	3	1.0%
	Total	300	100.0%
	School	18	6.0%
	College	50	16.7%
	Degree	95	31.7%
Occupation	Master Degree	126	42.0%
	No Formal Education	11	3.6%
	Total	300	100.0%
	Owens Business	21	7.0%
	Govt. Employee	56	18.7%
	Private Employee	60	20.0%
	NGO	3	1.0%
Income	Unemployed	13	4.3%
	Agriculture	147	49.0%
	Total	300	100.0%
	Rs.10,000- Rs 20,000	137	45.7%
	Rs 20,000- Rs 30,000	91	30.3%
	Rs 30,000- Rs 40,000	46	15.3%
	Rs 40,000- Rs 50,000	16	5.3%
Rs 50,000 +	10	3.3%	
Total	300	100.0%	

The following statements with likert scale ranging from strongly disagree to strongly agree are used to elicit response from the local residents and these statements are analysed below.

Natural environment influences your decision to come to Chamarajanagar								
Particulars		SD	SWD	CS	SWA	SA	Total	
Gender	Male	F	11	33	25	60	41	170
		%	3.7%	11.0%	8.3%	20.0%	13.7%	56.7%
	Female	F	10	27	29	45	19	130
		%	3.3%	9.0%	9.7%	15.0%	6.3%	43.3%
Total		F	21	60	54	105	60	300
		%	7.0%	20.0%	18.0%	35.0%	20.0%	100.0%
Chi Square		CC	0.139					
		P Value	0.205					

In the above table of 300 respondents of tourists with respect to Gender, more than half of the respondents i.e., 165 (55%) agree that the natural environment influences their decision to trip to Chamarajanagar. Males are the higher respondents than females which consist of 170 male tourist respondents and 130 who are females. Out of 170 male respondents, 101 agree and among the females out of 130 respondents, 64 agree to the above statement. Both the gender of individuals agrees that the natural environment influences their decision to trip to Chamarajanagar. So the table clearly indicates that both males and females often prefer going to visit Chamarajanagar District for taking pleasure in the natural environment.

The responses are found to be significantly associated which is supported by the significant contingency co-efficient [CC = 0.139, PValue = 0.205].

Therefore the association among the responses towards the natural environment that influences respondent's decision to trip to Chamarajanagar with respect to their Gender is significantly associated.

Tourism has provided an encouragement and support for the conservation of natural atmosphere and wildlife sanctuaries								
Particulars		SD	SWD	CS	SWA	SA	Total	
Edu	School	F	4	6	3	4	1	18
		%	1.3%	2.0%	1.0%	1.3%	0.3%	6.0%
	College	F	5	16	14	11	4	50
		%	1.7%	5.3%	4.7%	3.7%	1.3%	16.7%
	Degree	F	8	10	26	19	32	95
		%	2.7%	3.3%	8.7%	6.3%	10.7%	31.7%
Total		F	23	40	67	76	94	300
		%	7.7%	13.3%	22.3%	25.3%	31.3%	100.0%
Chi Square		CC	0.413					
		P Value	0.000					

	%	2.7%	3.3%	8.7%	6.3%	10.7%	31.7%	
Master Degree	F	6	8	23	40	49	126	
	%	2.0%	2.7%	7.7%	13.3%	16.3%	42.0%	
No Formal Education	F	0	0	1	2	8	11	
	%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.7%	2.6%	3.6%	
Total		F	23	40	67	76	94	300
		%	7.7%	13.3%	22.3%	25.3%	31.3%	100.0%
Chi Square		CC	0.413					
		P Value	0.000					

In the above table of 300 respondents, more than half of the respondents i.e., 170 respondents (56.6%) agree with the statement that tourism has provided an encouragement and support for the conservation of natural atmosphere and wildlife sanctuaries. There are 67 respondents (22.3%) who cannot provide their response on this statement and the remaining respondents of 63 disagree with the above statement. So it is found from the study that according to the local residents of Chamarajanagar, tourism has provided an encouragement and support for the conservation of natural atmosphere and wildlife sanctuaries.

The responses are found to be significantly associated which is supported by the significant contingency co-efficient [CC = 0.413, PValue = 0.000].

Therefore the association among the responses towards the tourism has provided an encouragement and support for the conservation of natural atmosphere and wildlife sanctuaries with educational qualification is significantly associated. The association towards the encouragement and support for the conservation of natural atmosphere and wildlife sanctuaries with educational qualification is found to be insignificant amongst the residents in chosen in the areas of Chamarajanagar.

Construction of road ways and buildings for the benefit of tourists has destroyed the natural environment in Chamarajanagar								
Particulars		SD	SWD	CS	SWA	SA	Total	
Edu	School	F	2	5	6	3	2	18
		%	0.7%	1.7%	2.0%	1.0%	0.7%	6.0%
	College	F	9	15	7	10	9	50
		%	3.0%	5.0%	2.3%	3.3%	3.0%	16.7%
	Degree	F	16	21	14	23	21	95
		%	5.3%	7.0%	4.7%	7.7%	7.0%	31.7%
	Master Degree	F	24	15	26	32	29	126
		%	8.0%	5.0%	8.7%	10.7%	9.7%	42.0%
	No Formal Education	F	1	0	4	2	4	11
		%	0.3%	0.0%	1.3%	0.7%	1.3%	3.6%
Total		F	52	56	57	70	65	300
		%	17.3%	18.7%	19.0%	23.3%	21.7%	100.0%
Chi Square		CC	0.266					
		P Value	0.292					

In the above table, almost half of the respondents i.e., 135 respondents (45.0%) out of 300 respondents agree with the statement that the construction of road ways and buildings for the benefit of tourists has destroyed the natural environment in Chamarajanagar. 57 respondents (19.0%) are in a situation where they cannot give their idea on this statement and the remaining which is of a good figures i.e., 87 respondents disagree with the above statement. So it is found from the study that according to almost half of the Chamarajanagar local residents, construction of road ways and buildings for the benefit of tourists has destroyed the natural environment in Chamarajanagar.

The responses are found to be significantly associated which is supported by the significant contingency co-efficient [CC = 0.266, PValue = 0.292].

Therefore the association among the responses towards the construction of road ways and buildings for the benefit of

tourists has destroyed the natural environment in ChamaraJanagar with educational qualification is significantly associated. The association towards destroying the natural environment with educational qualification is found to be insignificant amongst the residents in chosen in the areas of ChamaraJanagar.

Tourism has increased pollution in ChamaraJanagar							
Particulars		SD	SWD	CS	SWA	SA	Total
Edu	School	F 2	5	4	4	3	18
		% 0.7%	1.7%	1.3%	1.3%	1.0%	6.0%
	College	F 5	9	17	15	4	50
		% 1.7%	3.0%	5.7%	5.0%	1.3%	16.7%
	Degree	F 9	17	26	23	20	95
		% 3.0%	5.7%	8.7%	7.7%	6.7%	31.7%
Master Degree	F 5	13	20	44	44	126	
	% 1.7%	4.3%	6.7%	14.7%	14.7%	42.0%	
No Formal Education	F 2	2	4	1	2	11	
	% 0.7%	0.7%	1.3%	0.3%	0.7%	3.6%	
Total		F 23	46	71	87	73	300
		% 7.7%	15.3%	23.7%	29.0%	24.3%	100.0%
Chi Square		CC		0.325			
		P Value		0.018			

In the above table of 300 respondents, more than half of the respondents i.e., 160 respondents (53.3%) agree with the statement that **tourism has increased pollution in ChamaraJanagar**. There are 71 respondents (23.7%) who cannot provide their response on this statement and the remaining respondents of 69 disagree with the above statement. So it is found from the study that according to the local residents of ChamaraJanagar, tourism has increased pollution in ChamaraJanagar.

The responses are found to be significantly associated which is supported by the significant contingency co-efficient [CC = 0.325, P Value = 0.018].

Therefore the association among the responses towards the **tourism has increased pollution in ChamaraJanagar with educational qualification** is significantly associated. The association towards the **tourism has increased pollution with educational qualification** is found to be insignificant amongst the residents in chosen in the areas of ChamaraJanagar.

There is more garbage/waste in ChamaraJanagar because of tourism							
Particulars		SD	SWD	CS	SWA	SA	Total
Edu	School	F 4	5	3	3	3	18
		% 1.3%	1.7%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	6.0%
	College	F 5	10	11	8	16	50
		% 1.7%	3.3%	3.7%	2.7%	5.3%	16.7%
	Degree	F 9	19	21	24	22	95
		% 3.0%	6.3%	7.0%	8.0%	7.3%	31.7%
Master Degree	F 12	16	29	27	42	126	
	% 4.0%	5.3%	9.7%	9.0%	14.0%	42.0%	
No Formal Education	F 1	2	4	0	4	11	
	% 0.3%	0.7%	1.3%	0.0%	1.3%	3.6%	
Total		F 31	52	68	62	87	300
		% 10.3%	17.3%	22.7%	20.7%	29.0%	100.0%
Chi Square		CC		0.230			
		P Value		0.665			

In the above table of 300 respondents, very nearly to half of the respondents i.e., 149 respondents (49.7%) agree with the statement that **there is more garbage/waste in ChamaraJanagar because of tourism**. There are 68 respondents (22.7%) who are in a situation where they can't make out whether the tourism has created more recreational opportunities or not and the remaining which is of a good figures i.e., 83 disagree with the above statement. So it is found from the study that according to the local residents of

ChamaraJanagar, there is more garbage/waste in ChamaraJanagar because of tourism.

The responses are found to be significantly associated which is supported by the significant contingency co-efficient [CC = 0.230, P Value = 0.665].

Therefore the association among the responses towards the **garbage/waste in ChamaraJanagar is more because of tourism with educational qualification** are significantly associated. The association towards the **garbage/waste is more because of tourism with educational qualification** is found to be insignificant among the residents in chosen in the areas of ChamaraJanagar.

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CONCLUSION:

It is found that, the natural environment influences the tourist to visit tourist places in chamaraJanagar. But no measures have taken for the conservation of the natural atmosphere and wild life sanctuaries which is destroying the natural environment and increased the pollution by dumping more garbage/waste because of tourism in chamaraJanagar district. Government and dept of tourism need to take measures to protect the environment.

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