Preface

The ancient Indian texts, the Puranas had declared, "In the thousand ages of the gods, I could not tell you of the wonders of the Himalayas." Therefore since ages Himalayas are the major destination for the tourists. During the 19th century with the involvement of the British, Himalayas becomes important destination as a health resort. After independence, tourism has increased manifold in Himalayan region and became a major source of employment and income for the people.

Among the Himalayan states of India, Himachal Pradesh is an established tourist destination whose true potential has yet to be fully explored. The need is to consolidate and reposition tourism related activities, so that a diversified infrastructure generates sustainable tourism that would both enhance and protect the excellent environs. The global awakening of the tourists, majesty of the land is an answer to the development of the economy and employment generation in the state through a perspective plan for tourism as an industry which is eco-friendly and in harmony with the natural environment of the state. A state like Himachal Pradesh has to ensure rapid and continuous development of international and domestic tourism to be economically at par with many other states, countries where tourism receipts account for upto 60% of total export of goods.

Once it is Himachal Pradesh, people have regarded it with different names like the land of mystic mountains, valley of gods, abode of lord Shiva, trekker's paradise, land of innocent people, land of Buddhist culture, glider's resort and mountains with powder for helicopter skiers. Himachal Pradesh is the safest land on the earth for any visitor and the love and hospitality one gets here is simply incredible. For a foreign tourist, it has everything in deed. It has thousands of years old Buddhist monasteries and culture, simultaneously the living legend HH Dalai Lama with Tibetan Government in Exile in Dharamsala and which is sometimes called as "little Tibet", about 70 mountain peaks for climbers, more than 200 identified trekking routes, rapids of different grades for the rafters and kayakers, beautiful trails for bikers, matchless slopes for gliding and awesome powder snow on high ranges of Himalayas always luring people for helicopter skiing. The state has unique places for the anglers offering both trout and mahsheer and charming
pastures for campers. The tribal areas of Lahaul- Spiti and Kinnaur are the amazing forbidden lands which make Himachal Pradesh a totally different destination.

Tourism has paved its importance to the economy of Himachal in the last decade because of the militancy in Kashmir valley. The disturbance caused by the militant out fists in Jammu & Kashmir changed the tourist inflow towards the hilly sate. The then government of India established tourism information centre in Shimla. An independent tourism department was established in 1966 and later in 1972 tourism development corporation has created. To attract more tourists a new scheme has been notified for the private sector to construct aerial ropeways at the important tourist places of the state. Keeping in view all these development programmes initiated by the state government of tourism and its various impacts on the tribal districts of Himachal Pradesh. The state government has recognized tourism as an industry and offering various concessions like loan facilities and subsidies to promote tourism in the state, further the government also making more budget provision to boost tourism and to exploit its potential for future growth. Thus an attempted has been made for future through this study to find out how much the tourism has benefited the tribal districts of Kinnaur and Lahaul Spiti. The need of the study also rose to know the shortcomings of tourism development so that these shortcomings can be highlighted through this study to make further improvements in the present system.

The present study has been divided into eleven chapters. The growth and concept of tourism has been discussed in the First Chapter. Topics like Global scenario of tourism, why we need tourism and overview of the tourism industry, what are various impacts of tourism and why there is a need to study these impacts are taken in the first chapter. This is done because the main objective of this study is to assess the impacts of tourism on the tribal area of Himachal Pradesh and the issues related with it.

The Second Chapter deals with some prior studies upon tourism, leisure, impacts of tourism and on related topics. A review of studies on Himachal perspectives has been undertaken in this chapter. A detailed list of related studies has been given in the end of chapter, which may be very useful for the tourism
researchers. There are now evidences demonstrating the successes as well as failures of tourism as an entry point to social and economic development. With careful planning, positive partnerships between private and public sectors, concern for social, economic, and environmental impacts and a clear view of responsible tourism, countries can use tourism strategies as an important development tool. There is also a growing awareness that many countries and their communities have not achieved those social and economic objectives due to environmental degradation, social disruption, unanticipated costs to local governments and rising costs to residents. Distressingly the local people often do not receive the benefit of tourism development for a number of reasons, which are explored in this study.

The Third Chapter focuses on the research design, objective, needs, scope of study, tools of data collection and methodology adopted for the completion of this study. The Fourth Chapter analyses the conceptual basis of tourism impacts. The Fifth Chapter presents a detail of the scope of tourism in Himachal, while sixth chapter takes a note of the present status of tourism in tribal areas.

Seventh chapter deals with the role of government in the development of tourism in Himachal in general and tribal area in particular and made an extensive examination of tourism policy has been undertaken, while eight chapter deals with the analysis of primary survey conducted to find out the profile of tourists visiting study area. The ninth chapter is an outcome of primary survey of various stakeholders in tourism industry for finding the impact of tourism on the quality of life, society and other related aspects.

Tenth chapter undertakes an SWOT analysis of tourism in the tribal districts of Himachal. The eleventh chapter presents the future implications of the study, with presenting some applicatory recommendations as result of the detailed study.

It is noted that tourism has now taken the shape of a social phenomenon. Due to change in the life styles and economic patterns of people, tourism has become an essential part of their lives and an important economic indicator. That is why many countries are trying to develop tourism in a proper manner. It is, therefore, prerequisite to understand why people travel and what they want? And what we can offer to them. It is a fact that the development of tourism is not possible
without providing benefits to the host community. Hence the need of the hour is to study these factors and various other constraints for development of tourism on sustainable basis so that we can develop marketing plans for successful tourism development.

The present study will be helpful in evaluating Tribal Tourism in Himachal Pradesh and identifying measures for sustainable development with the help of synergistic relationship tourism, biodiversity, locals and management.

The study presented some concrete plan for the tourism growth development and its impact in tribal districts; hence this will be helpful for the policymakers to plan for sustainable development.