

PREFACE

Himachal Pradesh since ages has attracted people from all over. Initially it was the Pandavas, who hides themselves in the deep forests of the state during their exile or it was the saints and sages, who made Himalayas their home ground, while they tried to seek blessings of God, or it was the British, who got attracted by the climate of Himachal and made Himachal their sojourn during prominent Indian summers. Or it is the place where people tried to seek refuge during summers, or experience snowfall during winters or climbing some mountains or meeting H.H. Dalai Lama or getting enlightened in millennium old monasteries and centuries old temples or improving karmas by visiting Shakti Peeth places and other temples or crossing the state via its tribal region while moving towards Leh. Himachal no doubt a truly incredible state of “incredible” India even Lonely Planet – the bible for tourists, introduces Himachal as state with incredible diversity.

The main objective of the research is to study the impacts of tourism on environment in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh. The study has also attempted to probe the role of various stakeholders to make this largest service industry of the state, more sustainable. Sustainability and growth has also been probed in the study.

Present study has been divided into 11 Chapters. Chapter I is divided into two parts. First part deals with the status of global, Indian and Himachal tourism, while second part discusses the conceptual basis of tourism. This chapter has undertaken an analysis of tourism on the basis of published data. Further this Chapter talks about the tourism phenomenon, typology of tourist and why do people travel? This Chapter has taken an account of definitions of tourists which is adopted by Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. Chapter has identified some of the basic factors, which are needed for the study, since this study is to know about the impacts of tourism on environment in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh.

Chapter 2 sets forward the background of study. This Chapter takes a note of the previous studies and guides this doctoral dissertation. This Chapter is an outcome of the survey of related literature. This Chapter highlights researches made by scholars of different fields like Economics, Sociology Geography, Environment Science etc. This Chapter gives a direction for the research methodology and in the development of conceptual basis for the study. The Chapter serves as the foundation

for the study. In the end of Chapter a conclusion has been drawn to have an insight on the research gap.

Chapter 3 deals with the research designing for the study. Chapter commences with a description statement of problem, the need of study, nature of study, scope of study and objectives of study. This Chapter also takes a note of hypotheses and the most important is methodology used like data collection techniques, sample designing, sampling and analysis and interpretation of data with description of various tools and techniques. The Chapter finishes with visualization of methodological roadmaps for the study and limitations of the study.

Chapter 4 is divided in two parts. First part deals with general introduction of Kangra, its history, administrative set up, demographic profile, physiography, climate, minerals, forest- resources, land use pattern etc., while second part discusses the various attractive places related to religious/heritage tourism including Tibetan learning centers, adventure tourism, lesser- sight seeing, ecotourism etc. of Kangra Difference of its geographical feature, from the plains, acts as an centripetal force to attracts tourists from different parts of the country and the world.

Chapter 5 is about Ecotourism in Himachal Pradesh. With a rapid growth it is no wonder that the impact of unplanned tourism development has been felt deeply to environ ecology and on the people so there is a need for the alternate tourism eco-tourism so that tourism can be presumed for the next generation. Various features of new tourism policy of the state have been discussed in detailed in the Chapter.

Chapter 6 goes ahead with conceptual framework of impact of tourism on environment in general. Tourism's negative and positive impacts on economy, society, and physical environment with data and examples from India and Himachal Pradesh.

Chapter 7 has been divided into two parts. The first part of the Chapter deals with socio-economic profile of Himachal Pradesh by exploring sectoral contribution in economic growth and state income. While second part deals with the demographic variables of the tourists and the local residents of the Kangra district like nationality, family size, purpose of visit, mode of travelling, accommodations preferred during their stay etc. to determine the level of tourists.

Chapter 8 is about the economic impact of tourism in the economy of Himachal in general and Kangra in particular. The first part deals with economic development through tourism and is based on secondary data while in the second part

of the Chapter analytical study has been made from the primary data collected through questionnaires from the tourists like expenditure made by the tourists, employment to the local youth.

Chapter 9 about socio-cultural impacts of tourism. Himachal culture is rich in its tradition, it assimilates the exotic culture and updates itself with new values but some negative impacts infuse in it. All these things are analyzed in this chapter through collected primary information.

Fragile ecosystem of the state, is vulnerable to the mass tourism, which is studied in detailed in the chapter 10 by collecting relevant primary information from tourists and local resident of Kangra through questionnaires.

Last Chapter is the concluding Chapter and has framed some recommendations. This Chapter has been divided into three parts. Part one deals with the literature and observations based conclusions, while the second part takes an account of survey based recommendations. The last part of Chapter consists of some practical recommendations and strategies to the stakeholders, Government, NGO's, Community etc. Areas of further research has also been suggested.

The Study reaches on the conclusion that Himachal must select any punch line suitable to the background of the state. For example, "Atithi Devo Bhava" or "Himachal - The Himalayan Country", "Mystical Himalayas", "The incredible Himalayas", "Himachal, land for all season and all reasons" or "unforgettable Himachal". Now just make sure that this slogan reaches to everyone in the state who is directly or indirectly has related with tourism. If everyone understands the deep philosophy of this motto, the tourists will feel similar warmth and hospitality in entire state. The same spirit must be reflected throughout the state in almost all aspects. Tourism should be planned in such a way that it should meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

Moreover, study will help researchers to enhance knowledge, will help planners in planning process and also be useful to incorporate the findings which will be required in future by scholars.