CHAPTER VI
FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

6.1 Findings
6.2 Conclusion
6.3 Suggestions
6.4 Scope for further research
6.1 FINDINGS

On the basis of analysis of data, observations and discussions major findings of the present study are as below-

1. Maximum numbers of natural tourist centers are concentrated in the western part of the district, particularly in Akole tehsil due to hilly region and historical tourist centers are found in Nagar tehsil.

2. Shirdi, Shani Shinganapur, Mohatadivi and Madhi are the main attractions of the tourists as religious tourist centers in the district.

3. Bhandardara and Randha are the main attraction of tourists as a natural tourist center, which are overcrowded in the month of August every year.

4. The forest is another main attraction of the tourists in the Ahmednagar district. There is a great diversity found in the forest in the district. Black bucks are found in the Rehekuri sanctuary in Karjat tehsil and Leopards are found in Kalsubai Harishchandragad sanctuary in Akole tehsil. These sanctuaries are under the control and supervision of the forest department of Karjat and Akole tehsil. These two sanctuaries are the main attraction of nature lovers.

5. Ahmednagar fort and tank museum are the main historical tourist centers which, are overcrowded on Independence Day every year.

6. Shirdi and Shani Shinganapur are changing rapidly. Accommodation facilities, private and public transportation, hotel facilities, entertainment, retailing are improved at these centers.

7. It is observed that the majority of the domestic tourists prefer to visit tourist centers in Maharashtra in the month of May and December while foreign tourists prefer month of November.

8. Majority of the foreign tourists visit to religious tourist places in the district such as Meharabad and Shirdi.

9. According to 2011 census the distribution of population is very uneven in the district, due to variation in the relief features, natural resources and human activities. Urban and rural population is also unevenly spread all over the district.

10. It is found that the transportation network is good with 3971.54 km district roads in the district and maximum tourists centers are connected by district roads.
11. Daund – Ahmednagar- Manmad railway and Kalyan – Ahmednagar – Vishakhapatnam national highway - 222 also helps to increase the number of tourist.

12. Kakadi airport near Shirdi which is under construction will helpful to attract national and international tourists and will play important role in the development of tourism in the district.

13. It is observed that majority of the tourists (67.90%) are male and 36 % tourists are between the age group of 30 – 45, married tourists are 78.48 % and out of total tourists Hindu tourists are 62.28 % followed by Muslim, Buddhist and Christian.

14. It is found that 93.52 % tourists are literate and 44.57 % tourists are in the category of higher educated followed by secondary, higher secondary and primary education while 33.81 % tourists were engaged in government and private service followed by agriculture and business.

15. Most of the tourists (95.05 %) came from within the Maharashtra state, 4.28 % tourists came from other states of India and 0.67 % foreigner tourists visited to tourist places in the district.

16. Majority of tourists (21.52 %) belonged to an annual income group of ₹ 2 lac to ₹4 lac followed by ₹ 1 lac to ₹2 lac.

17. A large number of tourists (31.33 %) got information about tourist places from their friends followed by relatives, 27.23 % tourists visited to the tourist centers for the purpose of sight-seeing, followed by religious, entertainment, visit to relatives and friends and get together.

18. Majority of tourists (39.71 %) are visited tourist centers with their family members followed by friends and relatives and the majority of tourists (35.24%) travelled by car, jeep and rickshaw followed by bus and two wheelers.

19. It is observed that about 78.95 % tourists prefer one day visit followed by stay one day, two day and more than two days and more than 45 % tourists visited more than two times to the tourist centers.

20. With respect to the satisfaction of the tourists it is found that majority of sample tourists had given top rank to road condition in the study area followed by safety of tourists, transportation and cleanliness whereas last rank to guide facilities at the religious tourist centers.
21. It is observed at natural tourist centers with respect to satisfaction of tourists that large number of sample tourists had given top rank to road condition followed by cleanliness, safety of tourists and transportation while last rank to shopping facilities.

22. It is found at the historical tourist centers regarding satisfaction of tourists that majority of sample tourists had given top rank to road condition followed by safety of tourists, cleanliness and transportation whereas last rank to shopping facilities.

23. It is observed at the agro based tourist centers with respect to satisfaction of tourists that most of the sample tourists had given top rank to guide followed by information center, cleanliness and road condition and last rank to shopping facilities.

24. It is found that residents of near religious tourist centers agreed regarding social impact that there are overcrowd and increase in number of beggars. But they are disagree and deny the social impact such as i) Increased in crime rate ii) Strain on police protection iii) Increased in activities in prostitution iv) Increase in the activities of drug abuse v) Increase in mental stress and vi) Spreading of epidemics.

25. It is found that residents of near natural, historical and agro based tourist centers agreed only one social impact that there is overcrowd. But they are disagree and deny the social impact such as i) Increased in crime rate ii) Strain on police protection iii) Increased in activities in prostitution iv) Increase in the activities of drug abuse v) Increase in mental stress and vi) Spreading of epidemics and vii) increase in number of beggars.

26. It is found that residents of near religious tourist centers expressed their opinion that there is some positive economic impact of tourism on i) Opportunity for jobs ii) Change in occupational structure iii) Rise in income iv) Increased in payment of workers v) Increased cost of land and housing and they deny i) Demand for female labour ii) Rental houses as a source of income iii) Improvement in standard of living iv) Increase in general prices of goods and services and v) Scarcity of essential goods during season.

27. It is found that residents of near natural, historical and agro based tourist centers expressed their opinion that there is no positive economic impact of tourism on them. On the other hand they deny economic impact such as i)
Opportunity for jobs ii) Change in occupational structure iii) Rise in income iv) Increased in payment of workers v) Demand for female labour vi) Increased cost of land and housing vii) Rental houses as a source of income viii) Improvement in standard of living ix) Increase in general prices of goods and services and x) Scarcity of essential goods during season.

28. From the Garrett’s ranking technique various problems were analyzed and it is observed that first rank was given by the tourists to the problem of over crowd and descending order ranks were given to plastic garbage, water pollution and air pollution, the last rank is given to deforestation at the religious tourist centers.

29. At the natural tourist centers it is observed that large number of sample tourists had given top rank to the problem of over crowd followed by plastic garbage, degradation of nature and water pollution while last rank give to beggars.

30. At the historical tourist centers it is found that majority of sample tourists had given top rank to the problem related to damage of local attraction followed by over crowd, plastic garbage and degradation of nature whereas last rank is given to beggars.

31. At the agro based tourist centers it is observed that most of the sample tourists had given top rank to the problem of over crowd followed by plastic garbage, water pollution, and degradation of nature while last rank is given to beggar. Majority of the tourists and local people did not have experience of any problem of pollution at natural tourist centers.

6.2 CONCLUSION

The fundamental attractions of tourism are pleasant weather, scenic attractions, historical and cultural factors, accessibility, amenities and accommodation. The tourists attract towards these components. India has a diversified landscape, rich cultural heritage and panorama of history are closely related with the development of tourism. Tourism industry is an important industry emerged in India. Today, tourism is a major source of foreign exchange earnings and employment. Foreign tourist arrival in India has a continuous growth which is 10.2% in 2014 over the previous year and foreign exchange earnings had shown increasing trend which
increased 14.5% in 2014 over the previous year. USA, Bangladesh, UK, Sri Lanka, Russian Federation, Canada, Malaysia, France, Australia and Germany are the top 10 countries from which majority of the foreign tourists (61.54%) visited to India in 2014. In case of domestic tourists, there has been an increase of 12.9% in 2014 over the previous year. It is observed that Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Kerala, Bihar, Karnataka and Haryana are the top 10 states in India preferred to visit by 88.8% foreign tourists in 2014 while Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Jharkhand are the top 10 states in India from which majority of the domestic tourists (82.8%) visited to the tourist places in the country in 2014.

Maharashtra has a tremendous potential of tourism. Sahyadri Mountain is the backbone of tourism of the state. Maharashtra is a land of natural beauty, ancient caves, historical monuments and forts, beaches, hill stations, forest and wild life, temples, art and culture, customs and tradition and fairs and festivals. Therefore, there is a large scope for the development of tourism in Maharashtra. The government of Maharashtra took lead to promote tourism activities in the state. As a result, Maharashtra is the first state which declared Sindhudurg District as a ‘Tourism District’.

Ahmednagar district has immense tourism potential. This study reveals that religious, natural, historical and agro based tourist centers attracts tourists to Ahmednagar district. Religious tourism plays an important role in the development of tourism in district. Historical tourist places are neglected but recently government took initiative to improve historical development at some historical tourist centers like Patta fort, Ahmednagar fort, Chondhi and Historical museum. Tourists are satisfied with the facilities and services available in the district such as road condition, transportation, Parking, cleanliness and safety of tourists, but in some cases like guide, information center, accommodation, public toilet, shopping and medical facilities; tourists are not satisfied. The age and gender of tourists are the major factors in choosing tourist centers. Out of the total tourists who visited to tourist centers, near about half of the tourists visited Ahmednagar district more than two times. The respondents at religious tourist centers felt that tourism causes some positive economic impact on them like opportunity for jobs, change in occupational structure, rise in income, increased in payment of workers and rental houses as a source of income. The residents of all tourist centers deny the social impact like
increased in crime rate, strain on police protection, increased in activities in prostitution, increase in the activities of drug abuse, increase in mental stress, spreading of epidemics and increase in number of beggars. The numbers of tourist’s arrival to all tourist places in Ahmednagar district are increasing day by day. But the facilities at that tourist centers are not increased at the proportion of tourist.

The conditions of historical places in the district are very poor. Therefore, the government or archeological department or local body must take initiative for the preservation of historical places. The behavior of the people at all tourist centers is helpful and co-operative. The behavior of the people is very important because it leads to good relationship between tourist and local people. Therefore, tourist felt safety at tourist destinations. The safety at tourist place increase the status of tourist centers and helps to develop the tourist centers rapidly. Some people feel that the police security is not sufficient at the time of peak point of overcrowd at some religious and natural tourist centers like Shirdi, Shani Shinganapur, Deogad, Randha, Bhandardara and Harishchandragad. Therefore, there is need to increase police security at these tourist places. Tourist places in the district are well connected by road to other part of the state. In the season of tourism there is heavy rush of tourists. Therefore, there is need to improve the road condition as well as transportation networks. The tourism development is rapidly growing found in Shirdi and Shani Shinganapur. The accommodation facilities, private and public transportation, architectural style, hotel facilities, entertainment, retailing are improved.

The major problems associated with tourism in Ahmednagar district are causes negative changes in the attitude of tourist and level of satisfaction of tourist includes plastic garbage at tourist centers, pollution due to tourism, overcrowd at tourist centers, degradation of nature and local attraction etc. Therefore, it is suggested that government or responsible authorities should take immediate steps to solve the problems at the tourist centers. So it will be helpful to increase the number of tourists to visit to the tourist places in the Ahmednagar district. There is no any control on the rate of hotels and prices of good of worship’s at the religious tourist centers. The owner charged the rate according to the face value of the customers. It is noticed that the rock at natural places, walls of historical monuments and even temples in the study region are defaced with the ugly writings and careless handling. A few boards at historical places erected and have been erased and defaced. There is an urgent need for erecting new boards prominently displaying with details about the monument in
multi languages and preserved carefully as much as the monuments itself. This will be helpful to the tourist to know the information regarding history of such places. Nature tourism occupies the place next to the religious tourism in Ahmednagar district.

The data analysis related with physical landscapes, climate and socio-cultural aspects of Ahmednagar district in previous chapters proves the hypothesis that Ahmednagar district has significant tourism potential.

6.3 SUGGESTIONS

On the basis of analysis and interpretation of data, the personal discussion with the tourist and the observations of tourist centers, following suggestions for tourism development have been made.

1. Ahmednagar district has great tourism potential for development of tourism but more efforts to be required for the development. MTDC as well as local people should take initiative for development of tourism.

2. PWD, MTDC and local leaders should take lead for repairing and maintenance of the roads properly and regularly.

3. Due to limited parking facility at Shirdi, the traffic jam problem is frequent. Therefore, more space should be provided for parking.

4. Harishchandragad and Patta fort are in the hilly area, so it becomes difficult for children, females and senior citizen to visit these tourist centers. Therefore, ropeway should be developed at these tourist centers.

5. Lack of print media and publicity, tourist doesn’t know about some of the tourist centers in the district. Therefore, it is suggested that the publicity should be given to attract the tourist towards the district. The marketing and advertising of the tourist centers should be done through T.V., radio, newspapers and other media.

6. A documentary show should be arranged on historical and religious importance of the district, tourist spots, bio diversities, festivals and tribal culture of the district for promoting tourism in the district.

7. Nagar Darshan bus services should be arranged by MTDC or Municipal corporations for the tourist.

8. To attract more tourists ‘Nagar Tourism Festival’ should be arranged every year at different tourist centers in the district.
9. To attract the tourist with their family, garden should be developed for the children in the campus of Chandbibi Mahal, Dongargan, Sidhatek, Takali Dhokeshwar caves and Mula Dams.

10. MTDC as well as local people should take initiative for the supervision and conservation of Chandbibi Mahal, Takali Dhokeshwar caves, Kharda Fort, Historical Museum, Chondhi and Palashi.

11. Religious tourist centers like Shirdi and Shani Shinganapur are always very crowded; it creates stress on the local environment. Therefore, the extra flow of tourists should be diverted towards nearby existing and potential tourist places through proper planning.

12. The strict action should be taken against alcoholism, hooliganism, deceiving and misbehavior tourists at every tourist places especially natural and religious tourist centers.

13. In the season of tourism there is heavy rush of tourists. Therefore, the conditions of internal road should be improved; transportation networks should be developed especially to connect natural and historical tourist centers.

14. Many express trains are running on Daund – Manamad railway line via Ahmednagar, but very few trains take halt at Nagar railway station. Therefore, it is suggested that every train including express trains should take halt at Nagar station during the tourism season which becomes beneficial to the outsider tourists.

15. Due to overcrowd at Shirdi, Shani Shinganapur, Deogad, Mohatadevi and Madhi, emergency healthcare centers should be opened at these religious tourist centers.

16. The government, tourism department or archeological departments should provide funds for the maintenances of historical places like Ahmednagar fort, Chandbibi Mahal, Palashi, Historical Museum, Patta fort, Kharda fort and Chondhi for conservation of these existing historical tourist places as well as new places of historical importance in the study region.

17. It is essential to take extra care of Historical museum.

18. For the cleanliness of tourist centers the volunteers from nearby schools and colleges should take lead during the season of tourism.
19. Safety measures and rescue operation teams with proper training should be arranged especially at Bhandardara, Randha Fall, Harishchandragad and Mula dam.

20. Information centers should be opened at Ahmednagar district headquarter place as well as all tehsil places for giving information of tourist spots of Ahmednagar district.

21. The road maps of tourist centers with direction and distance should be displayed at certain locations on the highways, near Ahmednagar railway station and bus stands of all tehsils in the district.

22. To attract more tourist Water sports facilities should be started at Bhandardara and Mula dam.

23. Parking facilities should be developed at Harishchandragad, Sidhatek, Shrigonda, Mula dam, Nighoj, Rehekuri, Takali Dholeswar, Chondhi, Patta Fort and Palashi.

24. Shopping facilities should be increased at famous and crowded tourist places.

25. Basic facilities like food and safe drinking water should make available at every tourist destinations so that creation of junk, empty mineral water bottles pouches, paper dishes etc. are minimized.

26. The public toilet facilities should be provided by the local bodies at every tourist destinations in the district.

27. Accommodation facilities should be developed at Harishchandragad, Patta fort, Bhandardara, Vruddheshwar and Rehekuri.

28. There is a scope to develop adventure tourism activities like rock climbing, trekking, water sports, air sports and allied activities in various locations in Akole tehsil. That can be started in collaboration with training institutes.

29. There is also a scope to develop agro tourism around the every tehsil place which can creates employment to the local people.

30. Tourist guides should be available with proper training at famous tourist centers like Shirdi, Bhandardara, Randha, Harishchandragad and all historical places in the district. The guide should be appointed by Government or local authority.

31. Website should be created with incorporating detailed information about tourism and tourist places in the district.
32. The local residents can play an important role in the development of tourism. Therefore, they should be involved and took lead for the development of tourist centers.

33. There should be ban or control on the polythene and other wastes in the area of tourist places especially natural and historical tourist centers.

34. Proper signboards and information regarding tourist places should be displayed at every tourist centers especially historical and natural tourist centers.

35. There should be strictly ban on the use of pressure horns and unnecessary blowing of horn, loud music and speakers in the area of Rehekuri and Kalsubai Harishchandragad wild life sanctuaries. The signboard indicating the sanctuary area and horn and noise prohibited area should be indicated at the specific distances along the roadside near wildlife sanctuaries.

36. The forest department should provide jeeps with guide to the tourist for watching the birds and animals at the Rehekuri and Kalsubai Harishchandragad wild life sanctuaries.

37. There should be a setup of sufficient observation towers on specific distance at Rehekuri and Kalsubai Harishchandragad wild life sanctuaries.

38. The major reason of the tourist visited to the natural tourist centers like Bhandardara, Dongargan, Mula dam, Wadgaon Darya, Takali Dhokeshwar caves and Harishchandragad are to take experience of calm, cool and serene environment and scenic beauty. So the local residents and government should take initiative to preserve it at these natural tourist places.

39. Tourist satisfaction level should be assessed by conducting survey periodically of all tourist centers in the district to understand the status of tourist place.

40. Proper and effective garbage disposal system should be encouraged especially at religious places. The garbage should be removed daily and should not be allowed to throw it in the open area.

41. The state government may take sincere efforts to provide better road connectivity to all tourist centers in Ahmednagar district.

42. More buses may be operated for connecting tourism centers of the district like Patta fort, Harishchandragad, Palashi, Bhandardara, Nighoj, Wadgaon Darya and Chandbibhi Mahal.
43. In order to increase the arrival in the district, the factors which have negative impact on the tourism should be improved.

44. Eco-tourism should develop in the Akole tehsil.

45. To prevent the abuse and misbehavior at the important and crowded tourist places closed circuit cameras should be installed and monitored.

46. There is a need to cultivate awareness among the tourist that they should not throw away the used packets, polythene bags, water bottles and other waste materials carelessly at and around the tourist places. Dustbins and waste disposal receptacles should be provided at every tourist centers.

6.4 - SCOPE FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

The present study has found that there are some possibilities for conducting further studies in the following areas –

1. Potential of Eco – Tourism - A Study with special reference to Ahmednagar District.
2. Problems and Prospects of Tourism Development in Ahmednagar District.
3. A study on Growth of Rural Tourism in Ahmednagar District.
4. Ahmednagar City – A Study in Historical Tourism.
5. Shirdi – A Geographical Study in Pilgrimage Tourism.
6. Opportunities and Challenges for Adventure and Sports Tourism in Ahmednagar District.