Preface

Tourism is a socio-economic phenomenon comprising of the activities and experiences of tourists and visitors away from their home, serviced by the travel and tourism industry and host destinations. The sum total of this activity, experience and services can be seen as the tourism products. Understanding the interrelationships between several parts of the system enables all tourism stakeholders to improve planning and management effectiveness and enhance the likelihood of success. Emergence of tourism as a major industry is one of the most remarkable changes that have taken place in the economic activity in the post-world war era.

Mass tourism started in Europe in the late 19th century, which acquired a worldwide recognition today. Tourism comprises the biggest component of the tertiary sector. It constitutes a major item in the worldwide trade, which is growing at a faster rate than the trade in tangible goods. Tourism as a sector of economic significance received the widest recognition, after the Second World War and has been given special place in the planning process in India.

In India tourism has been recognized as a very vital force in terms of economic restructuring and providing a unique recognition for the country on the global map. The importance of tourism has strengthened over through the Five Year Plans of the nation, which over the years have lead to building a strong infrastructure for the development of tourism. This development on a large scale has lead to increase in tourist receipts to India. But as the number of tourist arrivals increased negative impacts have also felt on the life of the people and on the environment. Today most of the famous destinations have reached at their saturation point which forced the Government to think about development of alternatives of mass tourism. This has given birth to the emergence of Alternative tourism at the global level as well as in India.
Nature has blessed Himachal Pradesh the State of Himachal Pradesh an immense geographic diversity. The terrain is mostly mountainous with thick forests and high Himalayan ranges as well as cultivated valleys. This bestows upon state’s beauty, its architectural and cultural wonders, its tourist potential and its strengths as an all seasons and multi dimensional destination.

Himachal Pradesh is divided into twelve districts for administrative convenience. Out of these twelve districts three district comprise the tribal districts of Himachal Pradesh. Studded with snowy ranges, lush green forests, singing streams, verdant vales, shimmering lakes, the tribal areas of Himachal are the paradise for development and promotion of Alternative forms tourism in the state. The less known explored areas have been attracting curious tourists to these places. Unfortunately, in developing countries in general and in Indian and Himachal particular, the tribal areas are backward and devoid of economic development.

The present study has been carried out for development and potential of Alternative tourism with special reference to Kinnaur, Lahaul- Spiti and Chamba district which comprise the tribal belt of Himachal Pradesh. Opinions of local community and tourists have been taken to study the impacts of tourism and potential of Alternative tourism in the tribal areas.

The present study has been divided into seven chapters. Chapter 1 focuses on general concept of tourism and emergence of Alternative tourism at global and national level. The chapter also explains the alternate tourism in the tribal areas of India as well as of Himachal Pradesh. Besides this, the trends and growth in the global tourism have also been analysed in this chapter.

Chapter 2 finds out reviews and extract of various researchers in the field of tourism impacts at global, national and regional level. The chapter also discusses reviews of the various researchers on the emergence of alternative tourism around the world as well as India and in Himachal Pradesh.
Chapter 3 explains the whole process of research. It discusses the need, scope, objectives, research questions and various research methods used in the analysis of the primary survey.

Chapter 4 explains the brief history, geography and other features of Himachal Pradesh. It also discusses the various alternative tourist resources of the tribal areas of the State. Further the chapter studies the existing facilities and infrastructure provide by the government and its policies for the development of alternative tourism in the tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh.

Chapter 5 analyses the primary survey collected from the tourists. The chapter studies the profile of the tourists visiting the tribal areas and their opinions about the potential of alternative tourism and their activity preferences under Alternative tourism in the tribal areas.

Chapter 6 studies the local community perception about various tourism impacts in Kinnaur, Lahaul-Spiti and Chamba districts of Himachal Pradesh. The chapter further studies the opinion of local community about the role of tourism in the development of community in Kinnaur, Lahaul-Spiti and chamba district.

Chapter 7 concludes and gives some practical suggestions and recommendations based upon the findings of primary as well as secondary data and informal group discussions. These suggestion and recommendations are of prime importance for the tourism planners and policy makers and other stakeholders engaged in tourism development in the tribal areas of Himachal. The tourism should be developed in such a way that local people are benefited from it with minimum negative impacts on them as well as on natural environment. This will help in the conservation of natual environment and will promote Himachal Pradesh as a major tourist destination in the world.

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