

ABSTRACT

The research work entitled “A critical study of Tourism development in Sindhudurg District (1997 to 2010)” is an evaluation of tourism development in Sindhudurg district. The study is based on Primary and Secondary data. The district has been announced as Tourism District by Central Government in 1997. Since then funds were made available by central and state Govt. for the development of tourism infrastructure but, the development was not at desired rate. The intention of research was to find out the reasons behind slow development of tourism in the district.

For the said purpose the researcher has reviewed the efforts taken by Govt. for the tourism development of the district. The researcher has attempted to find out the problems in Sindhudurg district. For the said purpose researcher has used primary data as well as secondary data. For the analysis of primary and secondary data he has used various statistical tools.

In his research has studied the unique features of Sindhudurg district. The researcher has studied the historical background of the district. The researcher has reviewed 68 books & journals. The researcher has studied present status of tourism in Sindhudurg. For the said purpose he has visited tourism destination in the district, conducted interviews.

After regenuous analysis the findings are due to the natural, historical background the Govt. has announced this district as tourism district.

The water sports like scuba diving and snorkeling has commercialised very fastly due to deep sea driving. Adventure tourist comes only for attraction of such deep sea world. But such activity is hazards to natural coral and sea anatomy. There must have to be code of conduct to tourists for the conservation of such sea world.

Due to very high demand for seafood in domestic market and market at abroad, the mechanized fishing on large scale is conducted not only in the fishing season but also it is conducted in breeding season during June to August. Such excess, mechanized and breeding season fishing activity advbrosly affects on the yield of the fish. The conservation of this natural resource is very important for the development of tourism in the district.

There are many wild fruits, which are only seen in the Sindhudurg district, known as Karvand, Kokum, Jamun, Avala, Charoli, Chafade, and Atake etc. The main and famous horticultural fruits are Alphanso Mango, Cashewnuts, Jackfruits, Coconut, various Spices, Bitternuts, various medicinal plants, Aroma plants; wild flowers like Surangi are seen in the district. The Alphanso Mango is a speciality of the district. Many tourists attracts only in the mango season. The fruit products like jam, juice, jelly, pulp, pickles, and canned fruits have also emence scope in the district. The special attention must have to be given on the development orchards of local fruits.

The tourist industry in the district must have to be developed eco-friendly bases like South States. It requires code of conduct for the tourists. For the purpose there must have to be ban on plastic, prohibition on lequire drinking, protection of historical places, conservation of wild life and rare vegetation, conservation of local culture and conservation on sea world.

The sea-coast and creek tourism through big boats along with sea food and local entertainment with lighting and local music like Goa creek tourism. The Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation has to give special attention and take lead to start such tourism.

Some of the entrepreneurs in the district has to initiate such new concepts of tourism in the district. There is an emence scope for hiking, jungle safari and adventure tourism and rafting in Sindhudurg district. The Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation has to give special attention on introduction and development of such activities.

There is very heavy rainfall in the Sindhudurg district during June to October. The waterfalls, rivers and creeks are over flooded. The sea water is also tidal with big waves. Such big waterfalls, flooded rivers and tidal sea have great potential to adventure tourism like rafting on the basis of Bhutan rafting tourism.

There is lack of direction boards indicating tourist spots. Such direction boards should be enhanced on the national and state highways, on the district roads and approach roads of the tourist spots. Such master plan and direction board has to be prepared and installed by district Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation office.

The best infrastructure facilities are the backbone of the tourism industry. The important infrastructure facilities like all weather roads, fast access to metro cities through rail and

air transport, affordable accommodation facilities, drinking water supply, health facilities, public sanitation facilities on each tourist spot, facilitating center on main tourist spots should be developed.

The provision of Sindhudurg Darshan Bus Service every day must have to be started from every block level. Such bus must have to be covering all the important tourist spots. Such service will attract domestic tourists from other parts of Maharashtra and other states.

All the accommodation facility according to income level should be made available on internet for booking purpose. Such survey has to be conducted by Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation and must have to be made available on the internet. The railway, air transport and bus transport (MSRTC) and private travel service with their time tables must have to be made available for booking on internet. If some tourist requires Guide facility such contact numbers with names of Guides must have to be made available on internet.

The Sindhudurg district is pollution free district and also absence of big industries. In future there must have not the big industries in the district which will affect on delicate tourism industry. The Govt. of Maharashtra has to be kept this district free from polluting industries.

There is iron mining in Sawantwadi taluka and silica mines in Kankavli taluka. There are also boxite mines, literate stone mine in the district. The Madhav Gadgil Committee recommended that all the minor mineral mines should be banned. The precious eco-friendly bio-diversity should be preserved. Such preservation will boost the tourism industry of the district.

The local accommodation known as Nyahari Nivas Yojana was introduced by Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation. It is run by local people. They are highly in need of hospitality trainings. Such training centers have to be introduced in the district.

Tourists festivals like Sindhu Mahotsav, Kankavli tourist festival, Devgad beach festivals, Malvan & Vengurla beach festival, Sawantwadi tourist festivals has to be organized. It has to be proper publicity on media and internet. Such publicity will attract tourists from all class.

Uniqueness of the tourist spots is the main attraction of the tourists. This uniqueness may be in the form of hot spring water, big waterfalls, hill stations, temple heritage, Royal heritage, unique food, adventure, historic heritage and clean beaches. These entire feature are present in Sindhudurg district. But this hidden beauty must have to be given proper publicity in media and internet which will boost the tourism sector of the district.

The all above suggestion must have to be supported by political will and it has to be converted in the form reality. It must have to be financially supported by the State and the Central Govt. Apart from all above the local leaders and local Government has to take initiatives to develop tourism industry.