CHAPTER V

FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION
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In the era of the globalization, privatization and modernization, Travel and Tourism has been growing rapidly across the globe. In one way, it gives several positive impacts on tourism development, such as foreign exchange earnings, employment opportunities, economic multiplier effects, destination development etc. On the other hand, there are several negative impacts at the destinations, such as overcrowding and congestion, pollution, deforestation and parking problem, visual pollution etc.

Hence, it is the need of the hour to manage the impacts by taking carrying capacity and community participation as the two dimensions to dig out much of the irresponsible practices leading to unsustainable tourism. Thus, carrying capacity is a tool for measuring the maximum limit of accommodating tourist arrivals without decreasing the quality of visitor’s satisfaction and causing any negative physical, environmental, socio-cultural and economic impacts. Carrying capacity not only deals with the numerical calculation of the crowd and congestion but also ensures the quality of destination.

Community participation is an important dimension of the study with in-depth analysis on the socio-economic background and the valued opinions of the community respondents on the practices of nature-based tourism in Ooty. The inclusion of the community in the study has offered two benefits of approaching the study. The first benefit is to find the prevailing socio-economic and cultural conditions of the local population who are directly and indirectly associated with the tourism development. The second benefit is to understand the attitude of the community towards the prevailing tourism practices.
Sustainable nature-based tourism development aims for minimum environmental impact and maximum respect for host cultures, importance for economic benefits and scope for recreational satisfaction to visitors. The study has analyzed the current condition of Ooty and its varied issues of tourism by eliciting the degree of agreements of the three important stakeholders: tourists, community members and service providers on the various items representing the sustainable nature-based tourism.

The study has suggested for implementing strategies to realize the prospects of sustainable nature tourism model for ensuring equity in development. The scope of the study is only confined to tourist, community and service providers, because these stockholders are directly interdependent and complementary to each other. The study has revealed some genuine findings which are presented in a logical way. The first part of the findings is based on the secondary data analysis and the second part covers the findings from the analysis of the primary data.

5.1. Major Findings

5.1.1 Unprecedented Tourist Inflows

It is reported that the DTAs in Ooty showed a three-fold increase in between 2002 and 2010, whereas the FTAs is almost doubled during the same period. Ooty, being a most preferred hill station in South India, the highest foreign and domestic tourist arrivals is reported as compared to other hill stations in Tamil Nadu. It is ascertained from the analysis that Ooty has already faced the heat of the unprecedented tourism inflows and it all appears to be one of the mass tourism destinations in the near future (Table 3.2). However,
Ooty is no longer regarded as a special interest destination to attract niche tourism, as it is evident from the tourist statistics.

5.1.2. Sustained Growth of FTAs from the Top Ten Source Countries

Malaysia, UK, Australia and Sri Lank remain to be the leading source countries for foreign tourists to Tamil Nadu. The growth of tourist arrivals from Malaysian and Sri Lank has witnessed a sustained rate of increase from 2000 to 2010. Visiting Friends and Relatives (VFR) would be the significant motivation for the nationals of these countries to visit Tamil Nadu since there sizable Tamil speaking population in these two countries in the (Table 3.3).

5.1.3. Sustained Growth of DTAs from Top Ten Source States

Tamil Nadu attracts more domestic tourists from Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Karnataka due to its cultural proximity and the remaining other seven ranked states were Maharashtra, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Gujarat in the rank order from the fourth to the tenth in terms of domestic tourists in Tamil Nadu (Table 3.4).

5.1.4. Tourist Arrivals at Top Ten Tourist Attractions

Out of the top ten tourist attractions, such as monuments, geological garden, fort and palaces, boathouse, memorials, dams, pilgrimage centers, museums, hill stations and paintings, the historical and cultural monuments across the State have attracted the highest numbers of visitors from 2001 to 2010. However, the visitor arrivals in the hill stations of Tamil Nadu are reported to be almost six times more between 2001 and 2010. Thus, the
growth of tourist arrivals has witnessed manifold increase of tourism (mass tourism) for all categories of attractions, particularly hill stations like Ooty (Table 3.5).

5.1.5. Tourist Arrivals in the Ecotourism Sites in Tamil Nadu

Out of the six ecotourism sites, such as Ooty, Kodaikanal, Yercaud, Elagiri, Coonoor and Mudumalai, Ooty has maintained the position as the first hill station or nature-based tourism site with 55, 48,012 and 2, 44,185 domestic and foreign tourist arrivals from 2000 to 2010, excepting the year 2005 due to drought in Ooty (Table 3.6). Ecotourism and nature-based tourism as its two principal forms of attractions in Ooty have been alluring the tourists in large number. Thus, the increase in tourist arrivals to Ooty has thrown many challenges such as carrying capacity, community participation, and socio-cultural impacts.

5.1.6. Decline in Native Tribal Population in Ooty

Todas, Irulas, Paniyas, Kurumbas, Koatas and Kattunaikkas are the native tribes or indigenous tribal communities of the Nilgiri Mountain. As per the 2011 Census, the population of Ooty and its surroundings areas had increased from 3000 in 1821 to 735,071 in 2011 due to the heavy immigration of people from the backward district of the surrounding states (Table 3.7). At the same time, the population of each tribe is diminishing as per the latest Census 2011.

5.1.7. Mass Tourist Arrivals in Ooty

Ooty with its original beauty, connectivity and facilities has qualified to become a year-round destination attracting hundred thousands of visitors from all over the world. The annual growth domestic and foreign tourist is 5.02 per cent and 9.73 per cent in 2010.
With all predictions, Ooty as a popular hill station will reach at the stagnation stage in the Butler’s product lifecycle (Table 3.8).

5.1.8. Mushrooming Unapproved Hotel/ Guest House/ Boarding and Lodging

The widespread commercialization of Ooty as a hill station without corresponding improvements in hotel infrastructure and amenities has a direct fall out on the carrying capacity. With the mushrooming growth of the hotels, guesthouses and boarding and lodging during late 1980s (Table 3.9). Ooty started facing the serious problems of sewerage, deforestation, crowd and congestion, air pollution, aesthetic pollution, host-guest conflicts and erosion of socio-cultural values (Venugopal, 2005).

5.1.9. Growing Number of Unregistered Eatery Places

In order to cater to the growing number of tourists in Ooty, food stalls, restaurants, bakeries, sweet stalls and coffee shops have come up across the places of tourist interest. Majority of the eatery places are not registered as per the rules of local administration. As a result, the quality of the food items is not maintained and the cost of the food items is unreasonable to all categories of tourists (Table 3.10).

5.1.10. Insufficient Road Network and Its Impact

The present requirement of the road network is insufficient to cater to the growing tourist transports in Ooty. It leads to crating a congestion and traffic block regularly and it becomes worse during the summer. The construction of road network can provide a kind of temporary solution to the growing tourism business and on the other hand, it will further complicate the preservation of ecosystem (Collector (Dev.) / Project Officer, DRDA, 2006) (Table 3.11).
5.1.11. Carrying Capacity and Mass Tourism

Carrying capacity is one the sophisticated tools for measuring the impact of the tourism destination. The overall result shows that three tourist spots such as the Botanical Garden, The Rose Garden and the Boat House have exceeded its PCC, RCC & ECC carrying capacity limits in an unacceptable manner.

5.1.12. Major Landslides in Ooty

Landslide is a common occurrence in Ooty and it has become severe in the recent years. The rapid growth of urbanization and commercial plantations coupled with increasing pressure on land for agriculture and monoculture plantations has displaced an alarmingly high proportion of natural forests and grasslands leading to an extensive loss of biodiversity. Further, lack of tree covers on the steep slopes, cultivation of annual crops and tea on the steeper slopes has become the genuine reason for the landslides. Lack of proper drainage system (for surface and sub-surface in the water), extension of Cultivation Right into the natural drainage way and constriction of houses in valley near drainage way and long wet spells are the main causes of landslide/ slips in the district (Table 3.12).

5.1.13. Uncontrolled Entry of Vehicles and Increasing Carbon Emission

Environmental degradation due to heavy usage of road transport system has gone unnoticed. As per the observation of the researcher, it is found that more vehicle movements were found during the weekends than on the weekdays (3.13). Therefore, the carbon emissions have become a major threat to serene of Ooty.
5.2. Findings from the Primary Data Analysis

5.2.1. Factors Representing Tourist Attractions in Ooty

The study has found five key factors such as Hard-Core Nature-Based Tourism, Soft-Core Nature-Based Tourism, Guest-Host Interactions, Specific Purposes and In-Depth Interaction. All the five factors with eigen values equal to or greater than one explained almost 71.47 per cent of variance in the dataset (Table 4.13).

- Majority of tourists who visit to Ooty are engaged in hard-core nature-based tourism activities. It is the first factor with highest number of indicators along with eigenvalue and variance.
- The soft-core nature-based tourism in Ooty is equally important in providing ample outdoor recreational activities to the visitors as it includes visiting parks, botanical garden, rose garden and herbarium, nature walk, cycling and photography.
- Tourists have love and respect for socio-cultural understanding of the local people and it is also one of the elements for sustainable nature-based tourism in Ooty. This comprises visiting the local community, socio cultural understanding and community interaction.
- In-Depth Interactions is the last factor with historical visit, business purpose and knowing the native people traditions as the major constituents for the special interest of the visitors.

5.2.2. Unique Attractive Features of Tourist Places of Interest

Each attractive feature is unique in its own way in alluring the visitors. As such Ooty is notably known for the hill station and its activity-based tourism. Each one of the striking place of interest is endowed with the nature-gifted element to offer to the visitors. Even though there are variations and differences across the places of interest in offering the attractions, but the common character of Ooty is to present leisure and pleasure activities to
the vacationers. All the sixteen identified tourist spots are independent and attracted the tourists very much (Table 4.7).

5.2.3. Tourist Visitation and Disturbing Factors

Out of the sixteen sub-factors identified, tourists are worried and disturbed about the fellow tourists. The narrow roads and walking paths generally cause much disturbances to the tourists. Tourists get a lot of irritation from the street vendors and their business activities on the roadside and other areas. Road incidents are very common in the crowed tourist spots during the peak tourist season (Table 4.8).

5.2.4. Educational Qualification and Tourist Motivation of Visit to Ooty

With the various motivational factors such as rest and relaxation, enjoyment of the natural beauty, study, business, VFRs, conservation, and preservation of nature, tourists have all the options open to get involved in those activities. It reveals that there are differences in the level of educational qualifications and motivational factors to visit Ooty (Table 4.10).

5.3. Findings from the Primary Data Analysis of Community Respondents

5.3.1. Factors Representing Community Participation

The four factors include negative influence of tourism on community, positive influence of tourism on community, community participation and stakeholder’s participation. All four factors with eigen values equal to or greater than 1 explain almost about 58.94 per cent of variance in the dataset (Table 4.28).

- The negative tourism impact on community is found to be the main obstacle for developing sustainable nature-based tourism activities in Ooty.

- The Positive influence of tourism on the community-based tourism at Ooty.
• “Tourism generates substantial tax revenue for the government” has secured the highest loading of 704. It depicts that the community participation on sustainable nature-based tourism in Ooty is not so wholehearted.

• The results of the three items suggest that stakeholder’s participation will further improve sustainable nature-based tourism in Ooty.

5.3.2. Ecological and Environmental Damage due to Mass Tourism in Ooty.

The direct interventions of mass tourism and its quantum of demand lead to creating massive impacts on the existing civic amenities. Public sanitation was rated as the first rank, transport facilities as the second factor and ration through public distribution is the third rank, (Table 4.20). Each factor is independent of influencing the quality of civic amenities.

The vegetation in Ooty is grossly damaged due to massive construction of roads, buildings, bridges and other touristic facilities. The extensive use of fertilizers and pesticides for ensuring bumper crop to meet the unprecedented demand of tourism industry has become grave threat to the ecology of the hill Station (Table 4.21). It is ascertained that the mean ranks are different and each one is independent in minimizing the environmental damages in the future. All these six factors are very pertinent and critical in jeopardizing the backbone of the hill station environment and each individual factor can alone cause much damage to the environment.

5.3.3. Promotion of Tourism in Ooty

Community members are well aware about the type of tourism activities that take place in Ooty and nearby areas. It is quite astonishing to note that mass tourism has been well embraced by the community members for their economic development. However, community members might not be aware about the negative impacts of mass tourism in the
long run. At the same time, the nature-based tourism has also gained community support from the local community (Table 4.23).

5.3.4. Local Community Participation in Nature-Based Tourism

One-third of the community respondents have completed graduation. Therefore, there is a close association of locality of the villages and the impacts of tourism. The community members can better explain the impacts than any other tourism stakeholders can as for as nature-based tourism concern (Table 4.24).

5.3.5. Proximity to Destination for Environmental Conservation

Irrespective of their location of villages, community respondents endorsed for the initiatives of group of individuals to take lead role in the preservation of environment. Therefore, there is an existing association among the group of community members for the tourism destination and environmental conservation (Table 4.25).

5.4. Findings from the Test of Hypotheses (Tourism Service Providers)

5.4.1. Direct and Indirect Community Participation

Local community participation is an important dimension of sustainable tourism development whether it is a mass tourism or alternative tourism destination. Thus, there is significant association between male and female service providers on the local community participation in tourism activities (Table 4.36)

5.4.2. Eco-friendly Facilities

Majority of the tourism service providers did not express their willingness to provide the eco-friendly facilities to the tourists. Facilities like solar water heater in the
hotel rooms, degradable bags and covers for shopping, battery-operated vehicle for local sightseeing, minimizing the usage of firewood in the hotels will be the best way of sustainable nature-based tourism practice in Ooty. Hence, the tourism service providers extend eco-friendly facilities to the tourists irrespective of their nature of services (Table 4.37).

5.4.3. Involvement in Sustainable Tourism Activity

There were differences in level of service provider’s contribution on sustainable nature-based tourism and service types of providers in Ooty. Tourism service provider’s involvement in tourism industry by adopting the sustainable tourism plan for the immediate future has shown differences according to various types of tourism service providers (Table 4.38 & 4.39).

5.5. Suggestive Measures and Strategic Initiatives for Policy Implementation

After having examined the major findings of the study, a sincere attempt was made to deal with the several long-standing issues affecting the preservation of pristine beauty of Ooty as an enchanting nature-based tourism. These are the following suggestive measures to be taken up in the future to help preserve the salubrious climate of Ooty.

5.5.1. To Check Unprecedented Tourism Inflows

With a three-fold and two-fold increase in the arrivals of domestic and foreign tourists respectively for a period of almost one decade, Ooty has reached at the threshold limit of physical, psychological aesthetic and social carrying capacity to bear the onslaught of mass tourism anymore. Thus, the study has strongly suggested to the Government of Tamil Nadu to take cognizance of unprecedented growth of tourist inflows into Ooty. It is
suggested that tourist arrivals should be regulated to maintain the carrying capacity before Ooty is found in the decline stage of the destination lifecycle.

5.5.2. Preservation of Tribal Population

The indigenous tribes are in a state of endanger due to the massive development followed by the large scale migrated population from other parts of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka. Thus, it is suggested that migration should be regulated with the stringent law not because of discouraging the outsiders to acquire the land but because of stopping the local non-tribal people from the sale of land. As these endangered tribes are the integral part of the Nilgiri biodiversity and its ecosystem, the inhabitation of the six tribal groups should not be disturbed and the primitive life of these tribes should be preserved.

5.5.3. Enforcement of Mandatory Registration for Accommodation Operators

In order to bring the unapproved hotels, guest houses, lodgings, etc under the ambit of law, the local municipal administration should insist in the registration of hotels providing rooms and food services and put in practice the stringent regulations to impose heavy penalty for the violators of the law. It is also suggested to publish a Hotel Manual depicting the do’s and do not’s for the accommodation operators to abide by the guidelines and respect for the preservation of ecosystem.

5.5.4. Regulations for Unregistered Eatery Places

The study has suggested for strict law for the eatery places since majority of them do not have proper hygienic conditions to prepare the food. The local administration should bring these eatery places under the purview of law.
5.5.5. Construction of Connecting Road

Since Ooty has been facing the problem of traffic congestion during the peak season, the District Administration should take up the construction of new roads with a minimum damage to land and trees. However, the existing roads in the hill town need to be expanded with pedestrian facility, rest shed, signage and purified drinking water facility. The study has suggested for the tourist traffic regulation in the future in minimizing the traffic and parking problem.

5.5.6. Implementation of Carrying Capacity Limits

Since the study has presented the maximum limit of the Botanical Garden, the Rose Garden and the Boat House to accommodate the tourists, a combined effort is suggested to streamline the movement of tourists for ensuring maximum visitor satisfaction and preservation of natural beauty, sanitation and hygienic condition of each place.

5.5.7. Regulation of Vehicular Traffic

It is suggested to impose heavy entry fees on the tourist transports during the weekend since the weekend traffic to Ooty during the peak season is growing alarmingly. Vehicles should be allowed to enter into Ooty before 12.00 noon every day during the weekend and 2.00 P.M on other weekdays. The study has also suggested that the local municipal administration should introduce the online payment of entry fees and e-pass to facilitate the vehicle entry and should also put a threshold limit of the number of vehicles entry into Ooty per day taking the parking capacity into consideration.

The study has found out the five-key factors that largely entice the visitors to Ooty. Hard-Core Nature-Based Tourism, Soft-Core Nature-Based Tourism, Guest-Host
Interactions, Specific Purposes and In-Depth Interaction have been the principal activities. It is suggested that the Department of Tourism may be guided by this particular finding and should take all possible steps to help preserve the attractions. Since many attractive features fall under the Hard-Core Nature-Based Tourism, Soft-Core Nature-Based Tourism and Guest-Host Interaction, the places of interest with all these three attractions will certainly face the problem of carrying capacity limit. Moreover, the Guest-Host interaction is the third factor that offers a memorable experience. The experience could be in the form of visiting the villages, interacting with villages, understanding their culture, etc. This is primarily the principle of sustainable tourism that fosters the direct interface between the visitors and community members. Thus, the District Administration along with the Department of Tourism and Tour Operators should take the note of this finding for the economic benefits. The study has gone one step ahead in suggesting that community members should be entrusted the work of cleanliness of the places of tourist interest.

5.5.8. Maintaining Unique Attractive Features of Tourist Places of Interest

All the sixteen identified tourist places of interest are independent in luring the tourists very much to Ooty. The natural beauty of each attraction should be maintained in such a manner that visitors can enjoy the natural scenic and learn the ecosystem.

5.5.9. Minimizing the Disturbing Elements

Out of the sixteen factors disturbing the tourists during their sojourn in Ooty, the fellow tourists as it is the first mean rank factor attested by the sample tourist respondents have become a biggest irritation to the tourists at the places of tourist interest. This is evident from the fact that tourists get irritated with the movement of vehicles along with upsetting horns and noise. This explains that Ooty has become a direct casualty of water,
air, noise and visual pollution. It is becoming a biggest menace for the sustainable tourism development in Ooty. Thus, the District Administration should enforce the stringent action to control these pollutions.

5.5.10. Aiming for Balanced Tourism Development

It is high time to reinforce the steps in ensuring balanced development that minimizes the negative impacts of tourism on community and maximizes the positive impacts. It is drawn from the finding that community participation should be given top priority in achieving the balanced development. There are different types of community participation and one such participation can be either spontaneous or induced.

5.5.11. Preservation of Vegetation

Since community members weighed the maximum value to the vegetation that is under grave dangerous due to tourism development, maximum precaution should be taken to save the vegetation from the destruction. It is the natural landscape that captivates the tourist very much.

5.5.12. Curbing the Menace of Mass Tourism

Community members are perturbed with the sporadic mass tourism activities that have serious negative effects on the community life. As found from the analysis that community members are suffocated and disturbed with heavy inflow of tourist traffic during the summer months and they expressed their concern from the mass tourism as it might not be yielding benefits for them.
5.5.13. Maximum Care for Environmental Conservation

There is an association between the groups of community members for environmental conservation. It is suggested that community members should be involved in the conservation of trees, soil, animal and other species in the ecosystem. Further, there is significant association between male and female service providers on the local community participation in tourism activities. Hence, it would be easy on the part of the Government to seek community support for enforcing the principles of sustainable tourism when both male and female community members vouch for the community participation for combating several environmental and ecological issues.


Since there are no such established eco-friendly practices by the service providers in Ooty, solar water heater, biodegradable bags and covers, battery-operated vehicle, vermi-compost, recycling of used water, rain water harvesting, biogas, sensory toilets and wash basins, etc should be used to save the energy. As such, Tamil Nadu has been facing the acute power shortage in the summer months, it is fundamentally necessary to resort to the eco-friendly way of meeting the energy needs and making optimum use of the resources.

5.5.15. Establishment of Green Club

The study has strongly recommended for an establishment of several eco-club or green club with membership from the service providers and community members to promote the green and environment friendly tourism. It is suggested that the service
providers which are consuming the maximum energy and resources of Ooty should be generous in spending for afforestation programme and soil conservation. Though community members are the passive beneficiaries of tourism development, service providers should form an innovative concept namely “Community Development Fund” to take care of the need of primary education, health, sanitation and other basic facilities.

5.6. Model for Sustainable Nature-Based Tourism

An integrated model can guide the planners, policymakers, hoteliers, park managers, forest officials, city development authority, municipality, HADP and tour company managers, etc to achieve sustainable nature-based tourism. The increasing inflow of tourist may use huge pressures on fragile ecosystems leading to their degradation with a consequent loss of biodiversity. Such problems have already appeared at Botanical Garden, Rose Garden and Boat House. It is advisable to suggest measures to avoid excess carrying capacity by evolving balanced approach based on a theoretical and practical understanding of the issues. Therefore, the method of estimating the carrying capacity recommended by Maldonado et al., (1992) may be adopted to help regulate physical, real, perceptual and social carrying capacity. However, there may be some difficulties of adopting this model in curbing the mass tourism destination.

At the same time, community participation is an important dimension of sustainable nature-based tourism. When more crowd and congestion takes place at the tourist sites, many social, cultural, political and environmental problems may arise. It is pertinent to explain that sustainable tourism development can help support the preservation of art and culture of destinations because art and cultural objects are the primary motivators of tourists. The recent development of community tourism and ecotourism intends to preserve
the ancient art, festivals and cuisine for the benefits of local community and other stakeholders of tourism.

Tourists are one of the key stakeholders of tourism development. Tourist expenditures directly and indirectly create income and employment, infrastructure development, host-guest interaction, fund for conservation and preservation of art, culture and natural areas. Finally, visitor satisfaction is the core point of achieving sustainable nature-based tourism in Ooty.

Tourist service providers are the direct users and consumers of natural resources. Their responsible behaviour can minimize the negative impacts and maximize the positive impacts that can directly contribute to the effective management of resources. Most of their contributions include the sustainable tourism practices, such as recycling of use water, solid waste management, water harvesting and ground water recharging, biogas, CFL bulb, solar light, etc. As a result, all these accommodation operators can overcome the power shortage, sewerage, solid waste, etc.

Finally, this model explains about the carrying capacity management, which includes creation of zone, regulation of entry of visitors, rational use of resources and establishment of interpretation centre for effective visitor management at the tourism sites. Visitor management can also be promoted with information and interpretation centre, accessibilities, amenities and service quality. This model has given high priority to the role and participation of the tourists, local community and tourist service providers for achieving sustainable nature-based tourism. Hence, the fundamental objectives of all the
stakeholders are to practice the principles of sustainable tourism. Thus, FIGURE 5.1 illustrates the model for sustainable nature-based tourism in Ooty..

FIGURE 5.1
Suggested Model for Sustainable Nature-Based Tourism in Ooty

5.6. Conclusion

Ooty has been alluring the nature lovers and health seekers for its natural scenic beauty, salubrious climatic conditions, outdoor recreational activities, wild orchids, indigenous cultural practices, road and rail connectivity facilities and amenities and friendly people. The Queen of Hill Station has occupied a premier position in the hill-
tourism map in Tamil Nadu in particular and India in general. Over the decades of its development as a well-established hill station, Ooty has not only attracted the highest number of tourists, but also faced the negative consequences of mass tourist arrivals during the peak season. Even though some selected studies were undertaken from the ecological, environmental, agricultural and soil conservation perspectives, there was hardly a single study of Ooty from the perspectives of tourism.

Thus, there was tremendous interest to study the nature-based attractions and their impacts on the carrying capacity and community participation as two key variables contributing towards the sustainable tourism in Ooty. At the same time, the review of literature has uncovered a theoretical gap that no study has so far been carried out on the nature-based tourism by taking carrying capacity and community participation.

Having been guided by the existing gap in the theory and practices, the study was undertaken with an argument that Ooty’s nature-based tourism needs to be sustainable for future by assessing the present state of carrying capacity conditions and community participation. As such, Ooty has already faced a huge setback from the point view of carrying capacity at the Botanical Garden, Rose Garden and Boat House.

As far as Ooty is concerned, spreading the monoculture and rapidly growing urbanization have posed serious threats to the ecological and environmental sustainability. It is concluded that the district administration should divide the hill station into various zones, such as interactive zone, buffer zone, core zone and recreational zone.
Thus, “sustainable nature-based tourism guidelines and management practices are applicable to all forms of tourism in all types of destinations, including mass tourism and the various niche tourism segments. The tourism stakeholder in Tamil Nadu should adhere to the sustainability principles and practice religiously. The principles of sustainable tourism development refer to the environmental, economic, and socio-cultural aspects of tourism development, and a suitable balance must be established among these three dimensions to guarantee its long-term sustainability. Finally, the stakeholders of tourism should also ensure viable, long-term economic operations, providing socioeconomic benefits to all stakeholders that are fairly distributed, including stable employment and income-earning opportunities and social services to host communities, and contributing to poverty eradication.

5.7. Scope for Future Research

The findings of the study have given out an exposure for undertaking further research on varied themes pertaining to the alternative tourism. The research work has laid much emphasis on the understandings of tourist, local community and service providers as stakeholders to examine and analyze issues related to community participation and carrying capacity as two important elements for studying on the sustainable nature-based tourism.

Hence, the future researchers should take up the study on Ooty from the perspectives of responsible tourism, ecotourism and hill tourism. The future research work should also undertake more micro study on the destinations. Thus is the study on “Carrying Capacity and Community Participation for Sustainable Nature-Based Tourism in Ooty-An Evaluative Study.