CHAPTER 8

Conclusions
Problems
and
Suggestions
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CONCLUSIONS, PROBLEMS AND SUGGESTIONS

The physical environment coupled with cultural and economic factors has been responsible for evolving different patterns of tourist centres in Maharashtra.

It is observed that in the present spatial distribution and pattern of tourist centres in Maharashtra physical factors like height, temperature and rainfall play significant role collectively and in some individually.

Socio-economic and cultural factors have also their stamp on the spatial patterns of tourist centres in Maharashtra. Urbanisation, literacy, density of population and road-length are some of the factors which show greater cohesion and association with tourist activity.

This study in question is also concerned with the significance of tourism, analysis of tourists arrivals and some selected case studies with a view to evaluate and analyse the influence of all the factors on tourism in Maharashtra. The approach is mainly explanatory and analytical.

In the present study an integrated plan of tourism has been prepared for Maharashtra and applied to Tadoba National Park.

The present study seek to establish the relationship between tourism and all the physio-cultural factors.

A detailed study of these factors reveals that tourism in Maharashtra is not dominated by physical factors only but it is the end product of cumulative effects of physio-Socio-cultural entities.
8.1 CONCLUSIONS

(1) The author is able to perceive the tourism activity in purely geographical perspective. The trinity of people, place and work if connected with movement gives spatial approach to tourism activity.

The purely geographic model based on above elements has been devised by the author.

(2) It is found that the concentration of various tourist centres is along the Western Ghats where regional development took place on micro-level and subregional level. All these centres are generative types.

(3) It is seen that socio-cultural resources act as a positive elements for the growth of tourism in the study area. Literacy, density of population rate of urbanization, road length are some of the factors influencing the tourism activity in Maharashtra.

(4) It is ascertained that on the basis of independent physical variables (height, rainfall and temperature) "Perfect estimation" isolines encircle the tourist centres located on the sea coast, Western Ghats and leeward side of Western Ghat areas which is drought prone.

(5) The demarcation of tourism zones on cultural attributes of Maharashtra (roadlength, density of population and literacy) represent much homogeneity and cohesion, compared to physical attributes.

(6) The demarcation of tourism zone on the basis of two independent variables of height and temperature coincides to a large extent, while independent variable of rainfall shows some deviation.
(7) Spatial distribution of tourist centres in Maharashtra is uneven. Few areas are completely devoid of attractions. One such huge tract is found in the central part of Maharashtra, with Lonar lake at the centre. This zone touches Wardha in the east and Ahmednagar in the west. This zone has Wardha, Shegaon, Ajanta caves, Ahmednagar and Nanded on its periphery. Another such zone without tourist centre is around Paranda. This has a rectangular shape and spreads south-east to North-east. There is a small such zone without any distinct centre along the north-eastern part of the state. Dhule and Trimbakeshwar are located on the periphery of this zone (Map 4.1).

(8) It is found that the number of tourist spots are concentrated in Mumbai and Pune tourism zones in the proportion of the concentration of population. Mumbai-Pune industrial belt is a stress and strain zone of Maharashtra. Therefore there is a wider scope for new spots to be developed as tourist centres to cope up with the rate of increase of population in this zone. (Map 4.2)

(9) (a) Calculated result of hypothesis testing indicate that height as an independent physical variable and tourist centres as a dependent variable show high degree of correlation in the population.

(b) Hypothesis testing of literacy as a independent cultural variable and tourist centres as a dependent variable also shows high degree of correlation in the population.

(c) Remaining physical (temperature and rainfall) and cultural variables (urbanization, density of population, road length) show negative correlation in the population.

10) The mean centre of distribution of tourist centres which is a fulcrum (gravity point) is located near Poona. Spatial distribution of tourist centres in Maharashtra is extremely lopsided, as it is confirmed by the location of mean centre in the distribution. It shows that
heavy concentration of literate and urban population and higher concentration of tourist centres coincides with each other.

11) It is observed that historical places are mostly concentrated in Pune, Kolhapur and Aurangabad zone. It has a close association with high elevation, rugged and bold configuration of Maharashtra. (Map 4.10)

12) It is a surprise that most of the religious centres are located in the semi dry areas of Maharashtra, and the devotees are attracted from wet zones of comparatively even distribution of rainfall. (map 4.11)

13) It is found that Archaeological places are located on the mid-altitude off shoots of Shahyadri, penetrating into the flat table land as a tongue known as Ajanta, Balaghat and Harishchandra ranges.

14) It is observed that the places of scenic beauty has a regional orientation in Maharashtra. Vidarbha region has locations of forest scenic beauty, and in konkan zone they are related to coastal topography. The rest are related to water bodies and water falls.

15) It is noticed that health resorts are located mostly on Western Ghats due to typical subterranean structure of the Deccan trap. The remaining three are found on the foot zones of Satpuda and Ajanta ranges. The hot and cold water springs found juxtaposed in Salbardi is a unique feature of tourism interest in Maharashtra.

16) The volume of foreign tourist is very sensitive to the safety and security conditions in the destination country. Declining rate of foreign tourist arrivals in 1984 is an ample testimony to this phenomena in India.

17) The comparision of variability indices of 1991 for India and Maharashtra- provide a proof that Maharashtra will attract greater share of foreign tourist in future.
18) The composition of foreign tourists in India shows that block of west European countries occupy a major chunk. The same pattern prevails for Maharashtra also from 1956 onwards with exception in 1995. In this year the share of East Asian Countries show a phenomenal rise for Maharashtra State. The reasons for this can be attributed to the religion.

(a) In Maharashtra most of the caves are Buddhist in origin and (b) the tourist from East Asian countries desires to observe the revival of Buddhism in Maharashtra.

19) It is observed that private tourist agencies are very few in Vidarbha region compared to Western Maharashtra. Particularly railway tours are not organised by the agencies in Vidarbha region.

20) The efficiency of space of tourist interest is concentrated in Chikhaldara. (case study no. 1) Nowhere in Maharashtra such a compact expression of tourist spots is found. Space efficiency of tourism in time and cost is extremely minimised at Chikhaldara only. It is a marvel in tourism.

21) It is observed that the facility of trained guides is extremely necessary, particularly at the places of historical, archaeological and cultural importance. The tourists spend large amount for the visit but return with a glimpse without getting insight into the importance of the place.

22) (a) After exhaustive study the author suggested four phases of planning for the all-round development of tourism activity in Maharashtra. If these phases of planning are applied to different tourist centres in Maharashtra this will give a boost to tourism activity in the future.

22) (b) The geographical matrix is a pioneer and novel approach to the study of Geography of tourism. In this connection it is advised that a matrix for each tourist centre be
prepared to accelerate the tourism activity in Maharashtra. The author has provided a ready reckoner in the form of matrix which can be applied to all tourist centres in Maharashtra.

8.2 PROBLEMS

Tourism in Maharashtra suffers from multiple of problems. Some of the problems are enumerated below.

1) It is common habit of tourists to smoke in public places. While travelling by car through the forests they throw burning cigarette butts outside causing forest fires.

2) Secondly, the domestic tourists visit spots of historical and archaeological interest they write their names on the walls, disfigure the monuments and statues. They throw away pieces of used papers, skins of fruits causing severe pollution to the tourist places.

3) Similarly, they spoil the beauty of parks and gardens as a matter of habits. Many tourists offend the local people through their obnoxious behaviour, entering areas leading to excitement of local male population. Excessive drinking at place of tourist interest also leads to such situations.

4) The problem of preservation of ecosystem is extremely vital. In this context tourist activity can damage the ecosystem. The forest fires, excessive hunting, encroachment of hill resorts by settlements and construction of new roads through forest areas causes damage to ecosystem. The sprawling of settlement leads to increasing demands for wood which in turn results into fast deforestation. It is extremely vital not only to check these hazards but a constant care is needed to (i) monitor the change in the ecosystem and (ii) to improve the quality of ecosystem through appropriate methods.

5) The parking facilities for vehicles are generally poor in large cities that causes
considerable inconvenience to tourists as in Mumbai and Pune particularly during the rush hours.

6) The main difficulty experienced by tourists particularly during the peak season is of accommodation and boarding facilities.

8.3 SUGGESTIONS

1) In the absence of basic facilities and amenities tourism activity at the resort or tourist centre can not be undertaken. Therefore, there must be roads, harbours, railways, airports, water, electricity and other utilities to serve local and foreign tourist influx.

2) In tourist activity every attempt should be made to attract the tourist from within the country and other countries of the world.

3) Tourism activity puts stress and strain on environment. Therefore ecology conservation movement is needed in Maharashtra.

4) The local resources like water, forests and grazingland should be utilized for the establishment of cottage industries at different tourist centres on this handicraft industries can be started. Thus, tourist activity can solve unemployment problem.

5) The tourists coming to visit the different places of tourist interest be well informed about the personality of the particular places.

It is therefore essential that new leaflets with introduction of delicate and sensitive ecosystem of the area should be given to tourist.

Every tourist centre has its own tourist carrying capacity. If it is over utilised the infrastructural facilities are strained and environment will be disturbed. So extra flux of tourist should be diverted to other nearby tourist centre.
7) Tourism activity is to be organised in such a way that points, lines, and areas of tourism activity should be given different treatment of management.

8) All major centres of tourist interest in Maharashtra should be connected to website so that people are acquainted and interest in particular place can be created.

9) Tourist activity can not be flourished without guide. Therefore university should undertake short duration tourism courses, regular training classes and refresher courses for guides.

10) The composition of tourist by age, sex, economic status, education, occupation and origin for individual or groups of tourist with month of visit should be collected and recorded at each tourist centre.

11) Video cassettes of tourist centres should be shown to foreign and domestic tourists in MTDC offices, which help tourist select the tourist centres.

12) There are various hill stations where the suitable Geographical location exists in introducing a cable car. This new facility will attract regional tourists, for example at Chikhaldara and Lonar lake.