# CONTENT

## CHAPTER-1

### INTRODUCTION

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CHAPTER- I
INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction:

Tourism, in simple words means visiting places and regions of interest essentially for pleasure and recreational purpose. Presently, it is realised that tourism has become a great potential industry for socio-economic development of local people and plays significant role in balanced regional development. Therefore, government and other agencies promote tourism with the perspective of overall development in the potential areas of the country. Geographers considered tourism as the activity based on resources. Accordingly, tourism is one of the claimants of natural resources. The importance of tourism lies in its way of exploiting resources. According to classification of resources put forth by Zimmerman and other geographers the resources required for tourism have been classified as non-contaminated resources. However, present scenario of tourism has been dominated by mass tourism, which has raised serious issues regarding depletion of resources on which tourism activity is based. This kind of phenomenal growth of tourism has been observed at the famous tourist places all over the world. The western ghat region is not an exception to this phenomenon. The crowding at some specific tourist destinations has created ecological and environmental problems leading to destruction of vulnerable natural resources. Therefore it is necessary to investigate issues of present tourism and to find out proper planning strategy with the perspective of ecotourism. With this view in mind a geographical study of feasibility of ecotourism and its role in regional development has been undertaken by selecting the area from the western ghat. Therefore the study entitled, “Environmental management for sustainable development of ecotourism in the western part of Pune district, Maharashtra.” Following lines have been devoted to discuss origin of the concept and issues cropped due to present tourism scenario.

1.1 Evolution of concept:

In 1811 the Oxford English Dictionary first published the word tourism, describing travel as a leisure activity. It is very difficult to define tourism phenomenon as universally accepted definition mainly because tourism is multifaceted field (Smith 1989). However, different authors have defined it in different ways.
One of the earliest definitions of tourism was given by the Austrian economist, Hermann V. Schuallerd, in the year 1910 who defined it as, "... the sum total of operators, mainly of an economic nature, which directly relate to the entry, stay and movement of foreigners inside and outside a certain country, city or region." In 1942, Swiss professors Hunziker and Krapf stated "tourism is the totality of the relationship and phenomenon arising from the travel and stay of strangers, provided to stay does not imply the establishment of a permanent residence and is not connected with a remunerated activity (Bhatia, 2003).

In 1991 World Tourism Organisation (WTO) has defined tourist “A person who travels to a place other than his usual place of residence and stays at hotels or other accommodation establishments run on a commercial basis for duration of not less 24 hours and more than six months at a time; for any of the following purposes”.

i) Pleasure (holiday, leisure, sports),
ii) Pilgrimage, religious or social functions,
iii) Study and health,
iv) Meetings,
v) Business

This definition has challenged traditional meaning of tourism, according to which it is mainly concerned with recreation or leisure. Davidson (1993) considered all above purposes and besides recognizing leisure or recreation as the main purpose of tourism draws attention to the point that people also travel for business, education, religious and health purposes.

Recently tourism has been defined comprehensively involving all purposes relating to the activity of tourism. Tourism involves the activity of human being travelling to and staying in a place outside their usual environment for the purpose of pleasure through education, experience, enrichment and recreational activity etc.

1.1.1 Importance:

Tourism is currently the world's largest industry ($3.4 trillion annually) and ecotourism represents the fastest growing sector of this market. At the beginning of this century, there are over 650 million people travelling internationally on an annual basis, which is expected to rise to 1,600 million in twenty years time (Holden, 2000). For people in the advanced countries tourism has become a necessity of life. Tourism is already the
largest source of foreign exchanges in countries like Costa Rica, Belize, Nepal, Thailand, etc.

According to India 2001, WTTC (World Travel Tourism Council) has stated that Indian government has given very low allocation for tourism (0.11%). It places India at 153rd position out of 160 countries. In contrast China spends 3.8%, Singapore 9.0%, Malaysia 7.2%, Thailand 6.8% and Nepal 14% of budget on travel and tourism. Even after low ranking and lowest investment by the government as compared to surrounding countries still India remarkably performing in the tourism sector. According to 1998-99 data direct employments in tourism are 14.8 million and total employment was estimated around 34.9 million. Foreign exchange earning from tourism is Rs.13,042 crore, which is reached as the second largest net foreign exchange earning profession in the country. In 1999 about 175 million tourists made visit outside their places of residence.

After realising these facts it has been proved that tourism has emerged as an instrument for employment generation, poverty alleviation and sustainable human development.

Tourism is money earning and job creating venture. Apart from that it helps in development of botanical gardens, maintaining zoo, growing and keeping up sanctuaries and national parks with understanding of conservation of natural resources and tourism development.

Shantha and Pavendar (2003) have stated that in this computer era, people from all economic and social levels prefer to spend a sizeable amount of their time and money towards recreation and relaxation. They further noticed that the high rate of urbanisation has changed the old traditional attitude of inhabitants and has made them materialistic. This changing attitude of people has created various environmental problems and has threatened the livelihood and security of the area.

This changing attitude of people leading to mass tourism has created problem of over exploitation of natural resources at the tourist places. According to Holden (1999) mass tourism has become a one of the major economic activity of the world. It has brought vast ecological, cultural and physical environmental changes, either positive or negative.

Over exploitation of the tourist site in a particular environment may cause adverse effect. Sometime at a tourist place development exceeds the carrying capacity by way of township development, buildings construction, excessive deforestation for construction of roads and other amenities, to provide facilities for mass tourism. It may lead to biodiversity loss. Manickavasagam (2003) has mentioned that tourism has caused irreversible
damage to historic places, monuments and wildlife. The coastline has been altered, tourist overcrowd the picturesque countryside. There is overcrowding in streets and roads of pilgrim centres, tourist interest places, holiday resorts. Consequently, the fragile ecosystem is affected. Air, water and noise pollution have become the order of the day. Therefore there is urgent need to find out the correct system to maintain the harmony between tourism and environment. Cater Erlet (1995) has rightly suggested that there is need to develop tourism in a sustainable fashion to ensure the positive links between environment and development result in environmental improvement at the same time as the promotion of income growth.

With this background, eco-tourism could be regarded as the best way to achieve sustainable tourism for it looks into the protection of natural and cultural integrity and contributes to conservation while promoting tourism (Vijayakumar, 2003). The Ecotourism Society (TES) defines ecotourism as "responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and sustains the well-being of local people. According to this definition, ecotourism is the tourism contributing to the economic, social and environmental development of a region and local community, rather than destroying the resource on which it is based. At the same time it gives economic justification for the conservation of natural environment.

Thus, a management and planning for tourism development must consider business interests, environmental conservation and social concern among the all stakeholders, beneficiaries and local communities for optimum returns from the tourism. Therefore there is urgent need to reconsider present tourism activity and suggest sustainable plan for development of ecotourism.

The concepts like Environmental management, Sustainable development and Ecotourism have been considered for the approach for the present work. Following lines are devoted to discuss these concepts with geographical perspective.

1.1.2 Environmental management:

The present study aims at understanding the management of tourism activity with environmental bias. Therefore it may be proper to study the concept of Environmental management put forth by various scholars. According to Riordan (1971) Management implies a conscious choice from a variety of alternative proposals and furthermore that such a choice involves purposeful commitment to recognize and desired objectives. Wherever possible, management implies to the deliberate adoption of the strategy or
number of strategies designed to meet realistically short-term objectives, yet specifically providing sufficient flexibility for the preservation of long-term options (cf. Sing, 2000).

Singh (2000) has mentioned the difficulty for defining the concept of environmental management, as the term environment in itself is complex. Different workers from various fields have put forth the different views regarding environment management. Riordan has explained preservative and conservative as the major approaches of Environmental management. According to him preservative approach pleads for non-interference in physico-biotic world and complete adaptation by man to it. Adaptation is treated here in the more restricted sense, meaning thereby acceptance with no alteration to an existing way of life. The conservative approach, on the other hand, leaves room for man’s adjustment with physico-biotic environment. Adjustment involves some kind of positive and deliberate reaction usually aimed at reducing the impact of the noxious element and is therefore, homeostatic in nature. (cf. Singh, 1992).

Karlekar et al. (1987) have explained the three aspects related to the conservative approach of environmental management. The first is the careful and planned co-existence of man with the environment. The second deals with conservation of environment for limited benefits. This means that judicious utilization of natural resources should concern with reorganization of human activity to prohibit further deterioration of the natural environment. The third aspect mainly deals with the prevention and control of the environmental degradation by taking suitable measures. Environmental management, thus, is related to the rational adjustment of man with nature involving judicious exploitation and utilization of natural resources without disturbing the ecological balance and ecosystem equilibrium. (Singh, 2000). Singh Beena (1992) has advocated that environmental management should be based on optimum use of environmental resources so that it may last for indefinite future to satisfy basic human needs.

There is no unique model of environmental management. The best would be to consider the various components of environment and relate them through development process to achieve the certain objectives. It gives explicit recognition to environmental resources and their ways of utilization to promote ecological balance and quality of human society.

Considering the opinions observed in previous studies, environmental management could be successful if it adopts twofold strategy. The first aims at developing man and environment relationship for the benefit of man without disturbing the environment.
Secondly, it should give emphasis to check on destructive activities of man through regulation, protection, conservation and restoration of nature.

Recognising that environmental excellence is a good business strategy and a source of new opportunities many organisations are implementing environmental management systems (EMS) to improve economic and environmental performance on the guidelines like ISO 14001. Such guidelines are quite close to the approaches mentioned in preceding paragraphs. The model follows the principles of total quality management (TQM) and plan-do-check-act cycle leading to continued improvements. According to Purohit and Agrawal (2004), the principles of the EMS model are based on the ISO 14001 standard and ISO 14004 guidance, which includes environmental excellence as corporate priorities, pollution prevention, communication within the organisation and constituents, management and employee commitment to environmental protection, environmental planning throughout the life cycle process and proper auditing and review procedure. These principles are very close to development of tourism with perspective to ecotourism.

1.1.3 Sustainable development:

The concept of ‘sustainable development’ was crystallized in the 1987 in the Brundtland commission report of the UN World commission on Environment and Development. The commission suggested that sustainable development means ‘development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their own needs’ (UNEP, 2000). While giving priority to present needs emphasis should be on satisfaction of human basic needs and eradication of poverty. The rationale behind it to raise the standard of living of the least advantaged in society while at the same time avoiding uncompensated future costs. The concept has focused attention on finding strategies to promote economic and social development in ways that avoid environment degradation, over exploitation of resources sideling debate about whether to prioritise development or conserve the environment.

Williams (2004) has mentioned that the issue of development or environment could be resolved with the help of sustainable development. According to him reduction in societal demand of earth resources and increase in supply of the required resources can be achieved in such way that the gap between supply and demand of the resources be bridged to some extent. On the basis of the principle, he has suggested different ways to achieve sustainability.
The first way is to expand and increase of the earth resources. It is known as weak sustainability. This can be done by developing renewable resources, creating substitutes for non-renewable resources, making more effective use of existing resources, and by searching for technological solutions to the problems like resource depletion and pollution. The second way is to reduction in over utilisation of the resources. This can be achieved by less consumption of the resources and man’s rational adjustment with nature. It is known as strong sustainability. A third way combines elements of the weak and strong approaches of sustainability called ‘moderate sustainability’. It emphasises on expanding stock of the resources and simultaneously reducing demand of the resources. Thus, the availability and utilisation of the resources reaches to the optimum level, without loosing benefits of the future generation.

Economic development, social development and environmental protection are the three major components of sustainable development. All these components are mutually reinforcing and interdependent. The objectives of sustainable development are poverty eradication, optimum production and consumption patterns and protection and management of the natural resources. Good governance, sound economic policies, solid democratic institution, people need based approach and respect for human right are also essential to achieve the objectives of sustainable development.

The impact of mass tourism on natural environment and interference in ecosystem has affected and disturbed the ecological balance. The famous economic analyst and futurologist, Herman Khan, described the rapidly expanding tourism as ‘next only to atomic power in its potential’ has resulted into environmental destruction (Bhatia, 2003). Therefore, there is urgent need to apply concept of ‘sustainable development’ for tourism activity and the concept of ecotourism is based on principle of intergeneration equity.

Healy (1994a) has observed that there is certainly considerable evidence that the global tourism industry is becoming more concerned with its relationship with the environment. Recently many efforts have been taken to promote sustainability in tourism development at different levels. These are viz. United Nations conference of Environment and Development at Rio de Janeiro in 1992, on achieving sustainable development, World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, United Nations declared Year 2002 as an International Year of Eco-tourism, the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage in 2002, the World Eco-tourism Summit 2002 and its Quebec Declaration, and the Global Code of Ethics. The main intention of all these world wide efforts are to promote sustainable tourism development in order to increase the benefits from tourism resources for the
population in host communities and the same time to maintain their cultural and environmental integrity by assuring protection of ecologically sensitive areas and natural heritages. Boo (1990) has mentioned that countries like Belize, Cost Rica, Galapagos Island, Rawanda, Monatana have shown that ecotourism can be major sources of economic growth.

This would also include following 1) Enhance cooperation and partnerships at all levels with both private and public sectors, 2) education and training programmes along with technical assistance to local communities, 3) Promote the diversification of economic activities that encourage people to participate in eco-tourism. Such actions may enable local communities to develop and benefit from eco-tourism. Further, it enhances stakeholder cooperation in tourism development and heritage preservation, in order to improve the protection of the environment, natural resources and cultural heritage. Thus, if this is applied to tourism, it is necessary to achieve equitable development of local people and other stakeholders. For this, it is set necessary to set positive linkage between nature and human being.

1.1.4 Ecotourism:

In last few decades, tourism has become one of the major cultural and economic forces in the world today, specifically a recent but widely hailed tourism alternative known as ecotourism. It is considered as a potential instrument for rural economic development and environmental conservation. Ecotourism came into prominence in the late eighties as a strategy for reconciling conservation with development in ecologically rich areas. After a review of the literature concerning ecotourism, most accepted definitions and its nature might be narrated as follow.

Ecotourism is responsible travels to natural areas that conserves the environment and sustain the well being of local people.

- The International Ecotourism Society

Environmentally responsible travel and visitation to relatively undisturbed natural areas, in order to appreciate nature (and any cultural features –both past and present) that promote conservation, has low visitor impact, and provides for beneficially active socio-economic involvement of local population.

-Hector Ceballos Lascurian
Tourism that involves travelling to relatively undisturbed areas with the specified object of studying admiring and enjoying the scenery and its wild plants and animals, as well as any existing cultural aspects (both of the past or the present) found in the areas.

- World Tourism Organization

Ecotourism is relatively low impact group travel package or tours to destination in nature necessarily environmentally sensitive or ecologically sound.

- Marcus L. Endicoff

Travel to fragile, pristine and usually protected areas that strive to be low impact and usually small scale. It helps educate the traveller, provides funds for conservation, directly benefits the economic development and political empowerment of local communities and fosters respect for different cultures and for human rights.

- Honey, Martha S

Workshop held at Mussoorie on "Developing Strategies for Ecotourism in India" in June 2001, expounded following important aspect for eco-tourism:

- Make positive contribution to conservation of natural and cultural resources and stimulate private conservation efforts.
- Promote local development and sharing of economic benefits in a fair manner at national, regional and local levels.
- Increase environmental awareness of hosts and visitors such that it results in a clean, green environment.
- Empower local communities to manage ecotourism and generate incentives.
- Provide visitors with a personal experience of nature and culture in ways that lead to greater understanding and appreciation.

On the basis of above definitions and its characteristics following are the basic objectives of ecotourism

- Conserve biological diversity.
- Promote the sustainable use of environmental resources by generating income, employment, and business opportunities in ecotourism and related business network.
- The benefits of ecotourism developments share equitably with local communities and indigenous people.
- Respect and empowerment of local culture for greater understanding among hosts and visitors.
• Educate all stakeholders mainly the local community, government, industry and tourists.

1.2 Hypothesis:

The larger part of the study region lies in the western ghat, which is rich in biodiversity. Hence it is recognised as one of the world heritage site but it needs conservation. However, the present tourism has threatened the heritage as neither local communities nor visitors are aware of it. Due to mountainous terrain and forest area, infrastructural development is low. The physiographic constraints impedes to raise the standard of living of the local people through a weak economic system based on mostly subsistence or semi subsistence type of agriculture and forestry. This means that there is need to develop tertiary activities like tourism. If tourism is developed according to the principles of ecotourism there is possibility that both local communities and visitors can be benefited. With this view in mind the present study has formulated following hypothesis.

“**It is hypothesised that there is good potential for ecotourism practices in the western part of the Pune district of Maharashtra. Such practices may be useful to achieve sustainable development by conservation of rich biodiversity along with the well being of local people. This requires proper participatory planning strategy to be designed with the principles environmental management by taking into account the stakeholders.”**

1.3 Objectives:

The major objective of the present work is to carry out the assessment of the present tourist centres in the study region and to find out geographical feasibility of potential tourist sites. Following specific objectives may be considered in the present study:

1. To study the present tourist places in the study area and to assess their status in the context of principles of ecotourism.
2. To identify and examine various potential tourist sites with the perspective of ecotourism.
3. To assess potential and geographical feasibility of the selected potential tourist sites
4. To understand the socio-cultural and economic status of the surrounding areas of the potential site.
5. To find out the strengths and initiatives of the local peoples for the participation and development of the Ecotourism.
6. To suggest a sustainable plan for development of ecotourism in the western part of the Pune district.

1.4 Study area:

The western part of Pune district has selected for the present study. The western part of the district covers 9 tahsils (Fig. No.1.2). The study about development of ecotourism in the study area has been concentrated in certain circles of each tahsils. The details about the study area and choice of the study area have been discussed below.

1.4.1 Location of the study area:

The Pune district lies in the Bhima and Nira river basin. It is located between 17°34' and 19°24' North latitudes and between 73°19' and 75°10' East longitude. The district has the shape of a triangle with the Sahyadri mountains on the west and its tip in the extreme southeast corner near the point of confluence of the Bhima and Nira river. The district is surrounded by borders of the Ahmadnagar district to the north and northeast, the Solapur district to the east and southeast, the Satara district to the south, the Raigarh district to the west and the Thane district to the northwest.

Bronger (1986) has emphasized on the micro level study as the district level, even more relevant down to the tahsil or circlewise studies can be useful for socio-economic, agricultural, educational and industrial planning. For the present work the study area has been chosen as the western tahsils of the district. The location of the tahsils included in the study area and the revenue circles has been shown in the map (Fig. No.1.2).

These tahsils have been classified as the hilly tahsils of the districts comprising total. From these tahsils, 20 revenue circles have been selected for the present work to investigate geographical feasibility of ecotourism (Table No.1.1). These circles have been constantly posing the problem of backward economy due to the physiographic set up. However, the same features may be converted into an asset for ecotourism that may cause the development of the local communities.
Fig. No. 1.1

LOCATION OF THE STUDY AREA

[Map showing the location of the study area in Maharastra, India.]
STUDY AREA

Fig. No. 1.2

STUDY-CIRCLES
TAHSIL
TAHSIL
REVENUE-FINAL
PUNE-URBAN
RESERVOIR

0 5 10 Kilometers
Table No.1.1
Study Area of the Present Work

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<td>1) Rajur and 2) Dingore.</td>
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<td>Ambegoan</td>
<td>3) Ambegoan</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Khed</td>
<td>4) Wada and 5) Pait.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Mulshi</td>
<td>10) Paud, 11) Ghotavade and 12) Muthe</td>
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<td>Velhe</td>
<td>13) Kuran, 14) Velhe, 15) Mangdari</td>
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<td>16) Khedshivapur.</td>
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<td>Bhor</td>
<td>17) Bholawade, 18) Hirdoshi, 19) Bhor, 20) Kikvi, 21) Nasrapur,</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Saswad</td>
<td>22) Parinche.</td>
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1.4.2 Choice of the study area:

The study area is a part of the western ghat, one of the natural heritage sites in the world. The western part of Pune district has an important location with respect to the large variations in the topography and climate. The western part of the district covered by 'Sahyadries' a part of western ghats characterised by mountains, hill ranges, escarpment, flat-topped interflues and heavy rainfall in monsoon. The western part of the district has good potentials for tourist location with respects to relief features, geology, climate, drainage, flora, fauna and cultural phenomena. Thus, the study of the development of ecotourism in the western part of the Pune district may help to understand practice and potentials of ecotourism to some extent. The choice of the study area may be based on these facts. In addition to its advantageous physiographic set up the study area lies between the major Pune-Mumbai urban corridor. The famous tourist places in the study area are always flooded with tourists from the urban corridor. This mass tourism has been damaging the local environment to a significant extent. Therefore diversification of the tourists to other potential tourist places has become necessary to reduce further threat to environment. There are ample potential for diversifications in the study region.
Selection of the study area is based on the administrative boundaries mainly because of two reasons mentioned below:

1. Secondary data are available on the basis of administrative divisions.
2. Effective infrastructural development requires proper planning and coordination amongst the various implementation agencies. Such agencies, mainly government departments, implement their development programmes according to administrative divisions.

The famous tourist places in the region have become congested during weekly and annual holidays and incidences of environmental pollution and misbehaviour of the tourist have been reported frequently. Such tourist places have been in limelight for such kind of reputation. Various NGOs concerning with environmental issues have attempted to redress such issues related to sensitive tourist places. Therefore such area should be considered on priority with the perspective of conservation of local environment and culture.

Many tourist sites in the study region are historically, religiously famous, rich with variety of flora and fauna but potentially underutilised from tourism point of view. If these resources are properly utilised it may be possible to reduce tourist pressure on certain famous sites. This may be achieved if planning is carried out with the perspective of ecotourism.

Majority of local people of the study region are engaged in subsistence type of agriculture. The standard of living is low. The physiographic factors have put forth the limitations for further expansion of agricultural and increasing productivity. Therefore considering present and potential tourist sites in the study region tourism is one of the best alternatives for raising standard of living of the study region.

According to experts and stakeholders regular contact with the tourists having urban background have been creating cultural dilemma amongst villagers nearby famous tourist places. Therefore there is immediate need to promote ethical values.

Conventional tourist places and potential tourist site in the study region are accessible to tourist from the urban centres.

The problem of scale is fundamental in geographic studies. In tourism geography data are collected and generalization made most often at various levels of surveillance. A district, tahsil, circle or village level study would helps to understand a phenomenon at micro level on which further research can be based. With this perspective, the western part of the Pune district was selected as an area of research. However, the present study has concentrated mainly on the villages around the present and potential tourist places.
Some work has been done to understand physical and cultural set up of the study area in the field of geomorphology (Dixit 1971, Jog 2002, Kale2000), climatology (Gadgil 1998), Economic Geography (Malshe 1995, Saptarshi, 1987.), social geography (Ugale, 2006, Bhagat, 2005) etc. However, the significance of various factors with respect to tourism development has not been pointed out. It is realised that such study at micro level would provide a practical approach to get a more complete understanding of the tourism development in the region. With all these considerations study have led to the selection of the western part of the Pune district as the study region in an attempt to comprehend ecotourism development.

1.5 Methodology:

The present work has adopted geographical approach to understand significance of ecotourism in the context of regional development. It is therefore necessary to incorporate views of tourists as well as local people. For this, attempt has been made to collect multivariate data and analysis of the same to investigate feasibility of ecotourism in the selected region. The methodology adopted in the present work may be outlined in brief in the following paragraphs.

1.5.1 Database:

It is obvious that any geographical study has to handle variety of data. The present investigation has created a quantities database using both primary and secondary sources. The qualitative data have also been collected to understand views of local people. The details of parameters and sources of data are discussed below.

The present investigation is mainly based on the field data and secondary information. Understanding of geographical characteristics such as the physiographic, climatic and socio-economic environment of the study area have been attempted through the secondary sources such as text books, reference books, Gazetteers, Encyclopaedia, Survey of India (SOI) Toposheets, climate and weather data available from the India Metrological Department (IMD), District census handbooks etc.

General information about the present and potential tourist places have been summarised from the textbooks, reference books, MTDC broachers, research papers, news papers and reports published by the Governmental departments.

Preparing a plan for effective participation and well being of the local people could be possible only when the socio-economic conditions of the local people would be
understood in depth. Therefore socio-economic data of the study area have been collected from the census 2001 and Annual Socio–Economic review of Pune district (2003-04). The census data regarding general population structure such as literacy rate, SC and ST population, types of worker, types of economy etc. have been collected. In addition data on area under forest, land use cover, area under irrigation and various amenities have also been used for the analysis. The secondary data have also been collected from nongovernmental agencies like private tourist institutes and trekking club, etc. The investigation has excluded the information about Pune city, tahsil headquarter and other places, which are identified as urban in character in the census 2001.

Extensive fieldwork has been carried out in the study region to collect data regarding present tourist places, potential tourist places and all the stakeholders. In the fieldwork assessment of the present tourism at the tourist places and potential tourist places have been traced by interviewing with local people, tourist, hotel owner / manager, tour operators. Basic questions have been asked about their attitude towards present tourism, expectation from tourism development, awareness about local environment and culture, problems due to tourism activity, condition of infrastructure information related to the hotel activity and activities of tour operators.

1.5.2 Analysis:

The scores have been assigned to the respective factors for obtaining most of the results, required to evolve rational guidelines for the development of ecotourism in the study area. Satisfaction index has been calculated to understand the basic condition of the present basic infrastructure and other necessary facilities. Similarly, tourist expectation has been tried to find out priorities of facilities to be provided for tourism development on the basis of their preferences. Policies and practices of environmental management have been traced out in their present way of functioning by interviewing and questionnaire method with hotel owner / manager and tour operator.

Another important aspect of the study is to find out the potential tourist places of the similar characteristics vis-à-vis present tourist places. It has been done on the basis of primary and secondary data. The primary data have been collected through discussion with experts, tour operator, professional tourist and secondary data from reference book, newspaper, etc. The villages in the vicinity of potential tourist places have been identified and locational features and accessibility have been studied. The random sampling method has been adopted for the site selection for in depth survey. For this, 45 villages have been
selected from the study region. A continuous dialogue process has been applied for the sustainable interaction with the villagers. This has found quite useful to understand ways and means for promoting and developing the sites for ecotourism. The questionnaire method has also been applied for the collection of the data to understand the socio-cultural and economic profile of the villages surrounding the tourist places. The working pattern, strengths and weakness of the local people and infrastructure facilities have been understood. Another important aspect of diversification of tourists is travel-circuit approach. Such circuits have been designed on the basis of connectivity and adjacency of the present and potential tourist places.

The following techniques have been employed for the proposed study.

1. Survey Techniques:
   a) RRA Technique:
      Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA) technique has been employed to understand the impact of tourism in the selected areas.
   b) Questionnaire method:
      Questionnaire method has been helpful to collect quantitative data.
   c) PRA technique:
      Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) technique has been useful to understand positive and negative effects of tourism in the villages around the tourist centres. This has also been necessary to identify the problems and prospects of tourism.

2. Dialogue process:
   The main purpose of the method is to understand and identify the strengths and initiatives of the local community. The method has been used to evolve principles of tourism planning in the region by incorporating views of local people.

3. Computer Technique:
   Usual computer technique has been employed for compilation, analysis and presentation of data collected in the field and from the secondary sources.

4. GIS Technique:
   The GIS technique has been used for analysis and mapping.

5. Statistical Techniques:
   Simple statistical techniques like percentage, mean, variability, score etc. have been used to summaries the quantitative data.
1.7 Previous literature:

The related literature has been useful not only to understand the concepts related to ecotourism and sustainable development but also to get the guidance for making the present work methodologically sound. The survey of literature has also been useful to avoid overlapping areas of the present work and making it precise to the original work. Although numbers of geographical studies have been carried out by selecting study region as state of Maharashtra or Pune districts of which the study area of present investigation is the part, the work on the present theme has not been carried out for the selected study area. A cursory survey of previous literature has been in brief in this part of the report. The presentation has been systematically divided into paragraphs according to different aspect of study.

1.7.1 Need of Ecotourism:

Tourism activity has been observed since ancient times. The rivers and mountains have been a powerful tourist magnet from the remote past. The riverbanks and sea coasts were more attractive for their simplicity and convenient atmosphere conditions were popular as vacation areas to those who wished to escape for a while from urban environment (Shukla, 1992). In the oxford dictionary, tourism means travel for pleasure and leisure. It is depends upon natural and cultural factors. According to Arul (1980) tourist potential of a country or a place mainly depends on its climate, scenery, historical monuments, arts, tradition, festivals and people. Singh Tej (1980) has observed that the twentieth century has ushered in a new age, qualitatively different from the preceding one, where people by necessity are on the move in search of environment having cleaner air, lesser noise, healthier food, better feel, cultural stimulants, autonomy and to satisfying their self-actualisation needs.

The increase of tourism activity in the present scenario has shown some reasons. According to Malshe and Sonule (1982), rise of tourism activity in India in the modern era is due to industrialisation and urbanisation during the present century. Birundha and et. al. (2003) have advocated that deteriorating environment and loss of natural resources represent one of the main ways in which present generation is creating uncompensated future costs, hence the conservation of natural resources and the environment is crucial to achieving sustainable. Malshe (1981) has stated that since the idea of tourism has percolated to the lower middle as well as the rural classes during
recent times the result has been rush to local tourist is ever on the increase. According to Kerst and et. al. (1999) the recent surge in rural tourism has come about through increased automobile and weekend travel market, economic hardship, a mature travel market and changing tastes and preference.

The unprecedented spurt of tourism has created some issues related to sustainability of resources. Alavalapati and Adamowicz (2000) have stated that tourism is considered an endogenous activity and modeled as a function of prices and environmental damage. Jain (1981) has mentioned that tourism is becoming an impotence activity of man for his increasing demands on leisure and recreation. Huges and Davis (1995) and Mason and Stephen (2000) have warned about increase in number of tourists to Antarctica and stated that it may damage to at historic sites and more impacts on the fragile environment and greater demands for access to historic sites. Grigg (1999) has warned that growing population pressure and a diminishing resources base has threatened to harmony of life in the coming century. Same thought has put forward by Pearce David (1993), according to him deteriorating environment and loss of natural resources represent one of the main ways in which present generation is creating uncompensated future costs. Hence the conservation of natural resources and the environment is crucial to achieving sustainable.

Krishanan (2001) has wisely put forth the thought that a golden mean between these two extreme is a concept of sustainable development. The wheel of development must move on but it should advance within supportive capacity of an ecosystem. Hence the real issue is not of containing development to save ecology but of managing ecology to promote development. Ross and Wall (1999a) have suggested that ecotourism can contribute to both conservation and development and involve as a minimum positive synergistic relationship between tourism biodiversity and local people facilitated by appropriate management.

1.7.2 Geography and Tourism:

Geography includes the scientific study of natural and cultural environment. Tourism in simple word means interest of people, visiting places and regions essentially for a pleasure and recreational activity. The places and regions are related to three major elements of tourism i.e. location, transport and accommodation. These three major elements are part of the natural and cultural environment. Visitor’s interaction with these elements and its socio-economic and environmental impact on the natural and cultural environment are closely related to the study of geography.
Geographers have rightly identified close relationship between geography and tourism. According to Smith (1989), the movement of people in space means that tourism is fundamentally a geographic phenomenon. Also an understanding of the role and impact of tourism in each locale require an appreciate of the differences in the geographic situation of each. The differences include locale customs, climate, level of economic development and the tourism infrastructure, types of attraction, and the area’s previous experience with tourism. According to Robinson (1976), the tourism is very much concerned with spatial conditions, the location of tourist areas and the movement of people between places. Therefore geography has a fundamental role to play in examining the spatial interplay of tourist demand and satisfaction. Comprehensively, he explained the phenomenon of tourism, it is closely related to the structure, form, use and conservation of the landscape. The expansion of tourism has many ramifications which are of concern to the geographer, migrations of people, changes in transport, increased accessibility, changes in landuse, urban development, cultural diffusion, etc. (Smith, 1989). A pioneer in this field was, of course, Professor E. W. Gilbert and recently J.A. Patmore. They have made a notable contribution in his study of land use and leisure activities. As Christaller has said, tourism by its very nature favours peripheral regions and is “a branch of the economy which avoids central places and the agglomerations of industry.” Such economic and demographic changes have long engaged the attention of geographers (Robinson, 1976). Dutt (1981) has mentioned that environment has been a vast real necessitating participation of expert of various disciplines to comprehend it fully. In such interdisciplinary ventures geographers can make their distinctive contribution by co-coordinating information that originates from the observation made by expert of different disciplines. Krishna (1981) has stated that geographic scrutiny of public policies can be crucial for understanding of regional disparities in the level and rate of development, uneven transformation of rural habitat and variation in functional morphology of towns and cities.

1.7.3 Perspectives on sustainable tourism:

The problems of development or environment have come in focus in the 20th century due to sustainability of resources seem more explicitly in threat. Ritchie (1998) has opined on the preservation versus human use dilemma. Aspect of human presence felt to be of concern are the impact of the broad range of activity behaviours and experience which humans pursue, and the development of the infrastructure to support those
activities. The numbers of scholars have focused on the issues with their ideology to achieve the balance between them.

Gole (1995) has mentioned that history of man is nothing but a struggle to promote and maintain disequilibrium in nature for his own advantage. Profit emerge due to inequalities simply because part of the cost is borne by some one else many times by natural surrounding. What is therefore necessary is to improve the nature quality complexity of the physical stock, which is the basis of all human activity. But this is only possible if there are limits to production and consumption. According to Basu (1994), to cope with increased demand of the basic requirements of life and the limited supply of the natural resources, along with the consideration of environmental degradation and ecological balance, we need to emphasise on optimal management of land, water, minerals and other natural resources. Munsi (1990) has focused on importance of environment management. According to him environment management has to be taken as an essentially social questions in which technology provide only the concrete means of practical management. He has further emphasised on social well being as a condition in which the needs and wants of a given population are satisfied. According Daily and Ehrlich (1992) the term carrying capacity is borrowed from wildlife ecology, with a rather precise use the ‘maximal population size of a given species that an area can support without reducing its ability to support the same species in the future.’ Chakraborty (1983) has acknowledged that environmental management is not only a technical problem but the basic socio-political one. Therefore he has reinforced on landscape approach for proper understanding of the relationship between man-environments in the content of environment management. The objective of environment management shall be to monitor and control the misbehaviour of man within the crowded of society and have environment education to run concurrently with the perspective of environment management.

The reviews on sustainable development have defined a conceptual approach to sustainability and identifying particular area for sustainable tourism development. Garcia and Medina (1999) in their research paper have attempted to present a strategic planning methodology for drawing up strategic issue for tourism development from the point of view of sustainability. Sustainable development is recognised as an essential requirement for achieving economic goals without degrading the environment. Socio cultural aspect, the environment and the economy with particular emphasis on tourism are examined in order to identify major strategic issue for sustainable development. Desai (1998) has put forth that the present day concern for human development is based on human right, equity
and sustainable life. The main aim of the study carried out by Brown et al., (1997) has been to provide insight into current development process, socio-cultural issue and strategy of resolving the issues for the sustainable development and eco-tourism as it includes some aspects of conservation or enhancement of environment, a strong commitment to nature and a sense of social responsibility, which combines the tourism, conservation and culture. Goodall (1995) in his article has examined the tourism industry from the point of view of sustainable tourism. He has mentioned that existing and new patterns of production and consumption comply with the criteria for sustainable development, which will help to break the negative links between tourism development and the environment and build on the positive ones to enable a move toward a more sustainably win-win situation as defined as environmental, socio-cultural and economic sustainability. Goodland and et al (1992) have mentioned that EIAs identify ways of improving projects environmentally, and preventing, minimising, mitigating or compensating for adverse impacts. EIA is the major operational tool to approach sustainability at the project level currently available.

1.7.4 Methodology and Approach:

Tourism activity is a complex phenomenon and the comprehensive understanding of the subject requires interdisciplinary approach. Thus, the research on various issues related to tourism has been carried with the help respective methodology. Krishna (1981) has mentioned that data are to be collected initially from the government record and subsequently from the field of a park, in Canada. Li. (2000) has done analysis of the ethnic tourism practice. The analysis is based on semi structured and unstructured interviews with individual from the nation–state, the tourism business and the featured ethnic groups. Further, field notes and printed documents were used as supplementary data sources to provide insight into the sustainable development of the park. The work carried out by Singh Harinder (1980) on development pole theory has dealt with selective locations of functions in the development centres to reduce spatio–functional gaps and creating integration in the regional economy. It refers to the integration of all economic and social functions over the space, which influences the life of the people.

Zutshi and Mandhira (1988) have conducted a primary survey of hotel workers in the Lidder valley (pahalgam), on the basis of secondary data such as toposheets, reports of various government departments to understand participation of locals and share of income through tourism industry. According to them the major gains of tourism seem to be
reaching to the richer section mainly from the urban area and very little to the poor and the rural area.

Mahadev and Thangamani. (1979) have carried out the cost-benefit analysis for comparing alternative development programmer designed to maximize the benefits at minimum cost. On the basis of analysis they have envisaged that regional development has its inputs on the quality of environment so this paper emphasizes the need for pressuring the quality of environment and causing minimal damage to it. Navale, Desmukh and Pardeshi (2000) have taken efforts to know the view of pilgrims about various facilities provide to them at Pandharpur, a religious destination. The level of satisfaction of pilgrim is calculated with the help of satisfaction index. It is based on sample survey through questionnaire and few pilgrims are interviewed.

The primary concern of work of Assiedu (2003) has been to investigate the factors that explain recreational satisfaction at a botanic growth in Ghana. The responses gathered were analysed to provide information on visitors’ socio-economic and demographic profiles travelling characteristics and on site experiences. Jeet Singh and Rawat (1980) have studied the high transport connectivity support maximum concentration of amenities, population and high level of economic well being. To measure the transport connectivity two methods of beta index have been used. Also the correlation analysis between transport connectivity and influencing factors has been used. The work of Wayne (1987) has observed that there is great potential for improved analysis of the environment and for advancing the state of knowledge of environmental processes.

Along with traditional methods, new techniques Like GIS, Remote sensing and various quantitative techniques are prevailing in geographical inquiry. Geographical Information Systems (GIS) can be regarded as providing a box of technique and technologies of wide applicability to the achievement of sustainable tourism development and have considered complexity of decision making in tourism development and planning on the line of sustainable development.

Shaw and Xin (2003) have stated that we are now equipped with better research tools to tackle complex geographic processes. The processes often exhibit properties of spatial dependency and spatial heterogeneity our challenge is to identify the spatio–temporal patterns of tourism activity with understanding complex geographic variations. Lee and others (1998) have analysed growth management policies with geographical information system and mentioned that as a spatial decision support system the GIS is found to be an efficient tool to stimulate the form and process of development for detailed
assessment and planning. Saptarshi, (1996) has suggested that these techniques have helped to understand the distribution of nature as well as human resources of micro-level.

Prideaux (2000) has studied a transport cost model for destination development as well as in the selection of destination with the intention of tourism. The model is tested by examining the effect of distance, transport access cost and competing destination. GIS databases provide a foundation for the development of saptio-temporal analysis function to systematically explore tourist activity with all respect. Bahaire and Elliott (1999) in their paper have examined the progress of tourism related organisations are making towards the utilisation of GIS and integration with the principles of sustainable development in the UK. According to Wilken and et al. (1992) GIS as a technology to integrate social, economic and environmental information for decision making process. Almost similar thoughts have been put forward by Kumar (1994), Desai and Lodhia (1998).

Timothy (1999) has applied a normative model of participatory planning principles to investigate what actually being done in tourism planning in one developing destination and examines the local constrains and traced that local socio-cultural and economic conditions are constrains in the principles recommended in the models. Vasiliadis and Kolotis (1999) have applied nearest neighbour analysis to analysis the distressing of tourist attractions in a case study of Macedonia and from the result, they have suggested about how to develop best tourism in the area. The paper of Schuler, Aberdeen and Dyer (1999) have evaluated the process of devising a research design to investigate tourism and the Djabugay, an Australian indigenous group. In particular it argues that sensitivity and responsiveness to contingency are vital ingredients in the research design in order to accommodate the concern of the researched. Tyler and Dangerfield (1999) have attempted a philosophical debate on the role of holistic resources management played in ecotourism development. They proposed that credible ecotourism must be firmly based in scientific ecological principles that define ecosystem integrity and introduced the term “ecosystem tourism to summaries this agenda to define truly sustainable ecotourism development”.

Ross and Wall (1999b) have carried out Site level evaluation of ecotourism in three protected area were performed to illustrate the application and to assess the status of tourism in North Sulawesi. The approach and framework used to arrive at these conclusions have wide applicability for assessing the achievement of ecotourism at specific sites and for directing appropriate management strategic for ecotourism in protected areas. Manete and Turizam (1999) have discussed about methodology suggested for destination system analysis. This methodology has been applied to the specific case of
the region of the Aosta valley (Italy). Destination management and marketing, by using a system approach is a possible solution to the need for increased competitiveness on the global markets.

Thus, the methodological discussion observed in the previous literature has been useful to outline the methodology for the present work. The concept of sustainability and environmental management, application of GIS, fieldwork technique etc. have been used in the present study.

1.7.5 Tourism in India and Maharashtra:

The various studies have been carried out to understand the tourism activity in India and Maharashtra many facet of the tourism have been discussed by the scholars. Ramlingam (1981a) has highlighted potential of tourism, as India possesses the entire ingredient the make up the recipe for a tourist visit, these are historical monuments, temples, mountains, beaches wildlife and cultural tradition. The diversity of the people and the place are unique by themselves making the country a good attraction for foreigners. He has worked to define all tourist places of Tamilnadu on the basis of criteria of natural scenery, recreational spots, historical and cultural monuments. Thakur (1981) has pointed out about under utilisation of the potential. He stated that although India has rich tourism potential not much has been done to develop it. The Himalayas, sea coasts and the sandy desert with variety of scenic beauty and wildlife have great potential for tourism development. The study has also quoted the opinion of Mr. Michael Peters that there is need to make an inventory of all the natural tourism assets so that their potential value to the economy can be taken into accounts. Devkule (1989) has studied the facilities available to tourist, tourist place and psychology of tourist approach of geography of tourism. Khanka and Jalal (1983) have studied month wise arrival of tourist and purpose of tourist. They found that, majority of tourist from India and foreign prefer to arrive here in summer. The main purpose of tourist is to see scenic beauty and get happiness. The other reasons are health, educational tours and government or private institutions meeting and seminars.

Similarly, research on tourism activity in Maharashtra has been carried out on various aspects. Rao (1993) has noted that Vidharbha occupies an importance position in the eastern part of the state on the tourist map of Maharashtra. Sonule (1983) has studied the analysis of the tourist geography of Maharashtra and takes into account the past,
present and future trends of the tourist in India and Maharashtra as to related geographical factors. Along with nature history and impact of tourism he has focused on spatio temporal analysis of tourist arrivals in India and Maharashtra and distribution of tourist centre according to their types. He has also analyses in a systematic manner with special emphasis on the prospect and problem of tourism in Maharashtra. Malshe and Ghode (1989) have attempted to examine the influence of religion on structure function and landuse of Pandhapur and the spatial influence of this most celebrated religious centre in Maharashtra. Gole (1995) has mentioned about number of places in Pune district, which have beautiful scenic places, thrilling panoramas of Sahyadris, rich wild life, variety of vegetation, historical places and forts, hill station, centre of famous cultural eminence and religious places. Similarly he has highlight the present environmental and socio-economic condition and their proper management as the region is under pressure of large number tourist, characterized by deforestation, non bio-degradable garbage, vehicular pollution and soil erosion. The study of Hardikar and Talwde (1982) would help to the regional planners and development authorities in understanding the potential of Sangli district. They have studied the potential tourist places of Sangli District and found ignored potentialities of the tourist places was a main reason that the district at present is devoid of any well developed tourist centres.

Kurkute (2001) has studied the importance of ghats in sahyadri. However, among them he has taken historical account of Nanaghat, it was the most important ghats which connected Kalyan and Junnar. Uke (2001) has pointed out that Aurangabad is one of the major historical and cultural centres in India and has great potential for foreign tourist attraction. Ha studied the problem of the Aurangabad as a tourist centre and suggested to develop it as per international standard by developing infrastructure facilities. Johnsingh (1983) has focused on potential of job in tourism related field for Kuruba tribal. Patil vilas and Dhake (2000) have conducted field visit and interview with local people regarding the degradation of the ecosystem of Lonar lake area and analysis put forth that deforestation, hunting of animals, agricultural expansion, slum, drainage water, wastage from tourist are major causative factors for deterioration. On this scenario Vaid (1992) has correctly suggested that development of potential tourist places require proper planning and professionalism in Maharashtra.
1.7.6 Problems:

After realizing socio-economic importance of tourism activity, promotion of the tourism has been carried out at potential places through various levels. Most of the time attention has been given on economic benefit, but situation of the local environment and culture are almost ignored. Hence, the result of mass tourism at most of the tourist places is devastating on local environment and culture. The various scholars have taken account of problems due to tourism. Dev (1982) has studied on meaning of environment, development, environmental degradation, pollution, and conservation. He has noticed that due to modernisation environmental and cultural problems are arisen. Environment of developing area getting polluted and people are losing social cultural and ethical value. Chakraborty (1983) has stated that pollution is manifestation of misbehaviour of an individual or of an organization upon the rest of the society and once the values are degraded harmonies in the region gets disturb. Holden (1999) has traced the development of tourism in mountain areas can have profound influence on both the local economy and physical environment.

Tershey and et al. (1999) have taken detail account of the more than 150 island in north western Mexico, which are relatively pristine, but may easily be damaged by unregulated human use and reported that none of development fund went directly to the protection and management of the islands. Singh Surendra (1988) has studied land use of Budrinath puri and in his study he has founded that the large number of pilgrimage visits during yatra season. They create pollution because of accumulation of so much rubbish, discarded and miscellaneous non-biodegradable material. He also observed that high number of visitors exert considerable pressure over the services and amenities. Similar problem reported by Sing Kurma (1988) in the study of Varanasi, a religious centre facing the problem of solid waste due to increasing different function and population in city and tourist visits on special days. The study has also suggested some measures for the management of solid waste and its proper handling through designing and selecting the processing and disposal methods. Trali Hanifa Banu (1982) has studied on systematic analysis of the problem of Dal lake due to sanitary wastage discharged by houseboat and suggested remedial measure. Khotari and Kohil (2002) put forth that the health implications of pollution show most of the major Indian cities have crossed the minimal limit of suspended Particulate matter (SPM). Similar study carried out by Pawar and Joshi (2000).
Erdkunde (1999) has studied Bali's tourism industry and observed that even tourism makes a major contribution to Bali’s economy, the Balinese's intact environment and the Balinese culture is increasingly affected by mass tourism. He has proposed a solution on protection of ecological and cultural resources is possible if the Balinese can get major share in benefits generated by tourism. According to Singh Somorjit (1988) changing land use pattern causes indiscriminate felling of forest and subsequent adverse impact on climatic condition and soil and equilibrium of environment. Many researchers have carried out similar type of studies Chaku (1988), Khan and singh Satnam (1989). Thus, various studies have clearly pointed out that environmental issues ought to be cropped up due to mass tourism. The present study has also attempted to understand the problems at popular tourist destinations in the study area. Such problems have been sensed by conducting primary survey of the stakeholders.

1.7.6 Ecotourism and rural development:

Development of ecotourism means development of tourism in natural areas, it is obviously rural in nature. Therefore understanding of socio-economic condition of rural part of the India is indispensable. Banerjee (1982) reiterated that understanding of socio-economic and environmental problems and the prerequisite for development in rural part of the country some measures needed to taken. Singh Abha (1987) has explained that the socio economic development of any region depends on the number of persons who are economically active, the quality of their work and regularity of their employment. Similarly the judicious use of resources can bring immense benefits to mankind and help development in standard of living of the people. Without proper utilization of resources progress of rural India, is impossible. The migration of people from rural to urban have caused problematic situation at rural area. There are number of reasons for the migration. Green (1999) has also studied the national level immigration policy and put forth economic motives behind migration. According to the study differences in wages, per capita income, employment characteristics, food availability etc have been the main economic reasons. Folasade (1984) has remarked that the provision of health and pure water supply facility would increase the economic viability and productivity of the rural area and also reduce migration. The socio-economic and environmental problems of urban and rural part could be resolved by control on population growth in both the areas and development of number of employment opportunities in rural areas to control rural to
urban migration. This will help to control the problem of urban sprawling and judicious utilisation of local resources by permanent availability of active person in rural areas.

Along with the various options, tourism with harmony with local environment have been emphasized by many scholar. According to Goswami and Raveendaran (2003a) the chief advantage of rural tourism in rural development that it spread the economic benefits of tourism far and wild important of tourism. In the article of Sindiga (1999), he has examined alternative tourism in the form of ecotourism and assess its prospect for sustainable development in Kenya. The finding shows that biodiversity conservation encourages and supports tourism which, in turns, provides money for conservation efforts and local development programmes.

A cursory survey of the literature has revealed that ecotourism act as an instrument of rural development. The present study has also adopted this kind of approach. Therefore the present work includes the study of socio-economic profile of the region at micro level i.e. village level.

1.7.7 Tourism and Infrastructure:

According to Pathak the Development of regional infrastructure is a pre- requisite for the development of agriculture, industry and urban centres (cf Mahto, 1982). On the same line development of infrastructure for tourism development in the form of road, accommodation, transport, availability of drinking water, various communication facilities are essential. Many scholars have emphasized on importance of basic infrastructure for tourism development. Singh (1988) has described in his paper that the spatial distribution of socio-economic infrastructural and their impact on the socio-economic development of the region and put forth that a region having better and more complete system of infrastructure may carry on the economic growth and development more effectively. Singh Jagdish (1966) has postulated that no regional economic scheme can be consider complete or can be properly evaluated if it does not provide for transport links and does not envisage a transport network necessary to achieve the planned development. Jain (1970) has studied through field survey and spot investigation on the role of transport and to identify various factors, which shape the change for tourism development for case study of pachmarhi. He put forward an approach that efficient and well-developed system of transport is essential for the success of plan of tourism development. Rogerson (2004) has traced the tourism development of Livingstone and its surrounding region in Africa played critically important role for eco-development and resources diversification through employment opportunities in tourism and upgrading of the local tourism infrastructure.
Vedder and Webber, (1990) have found out that the revenue received by the local people has played a major role in stopping poaching and gorilla population showed their first sign of increase in Africa.

If proper infrastructure can be created and the resources are tapped on a planned basic, the gains of development will help in the upliftment of local population. With this view in mind the present work has attempted to design the strategic planning for the region under study.

1.7.8 Sustainability in Tourism:

It has been realized that if the tourism activity promoted to achieve economic benefits without considering local culture and environment, consequent is disastrous to local ecosystem and cultural fabric. There have been many studies carried out to take account of the impact and suggested measures to mitigate it.

Srivastava (1994) has suggested solution to environmental problem need a clear understanding of perception and behaviour of the people and environmental education, which generate awareness about the nature of problem and environmental protection as a value system. She further advocated that environmental planning require a co-ordinated highly decentralised approach involving the co-operation and active participation of every segment of society. The research work of Trousdale (1999) has given thrust on incorporate community input to mitigate against the adverse effects of tourism development while maximizing benefits. Similar suggestion put forwarded by Prof. De k.n. (1994). According to Bist and Singh (1982) the eco balance can be achieved through the balanced eco development and integration of all the ecological activities and its management. Singh S.D. (1988) has studied on resolve resources management problems and analysis of the geographical base of the area, which have used by the tourism activity. On the basis of the study, he suggested that the planned development of tourism resources should ensure protection and restoration of resources including heritage of culture and also preservation of historical monuments. The paper of Ross and Wall (1999a) have examined the gap between ecotourism theory as revealed in the literature by its on site application. They have suggested a framework for appropriates management to achieve a balance between conservation and development through the promotion of synergistic relationships between natural area, local population and tourism.

According to Prasad (1980) the validity of integrated area planning is to be established in relation to four type of efficiency namely spatial, productive, social and
environmental. Singh Ram Bali (1988) He has attempted to identify essential element of an integrated development strategy that may ensure growth with equity and environment sustenance. According to him the production of wealth and protection of environment are equally relevant for improving the quality of human life more so when one consider vulnerable groups depressed region and fragile ecosystem. Robinson and Redford (1991) have made attention on the one of the major problems faced by wildlife conservation in India and other developing countries is traditional rights of grazing and firewood collection due to the creation of protected areas and suggested a stake for the local people in the conservation of wildlife and their habitats. Thilagavathi and Parameswari (2003) have given thrust on the professional training of art of hostmanship, awareness regarding local environment to the locals, improving accessibility to various places of interest and promoting local traditional and modern art. Improvement in all these aspects will help to attract and convince tourist for longest day.

Uysal and et al. (2000) have highlighted that the destination promotional activities focus on differentiating feature of places in a regional context so that complementary tourism products within the region can also be developed. Singh R.P. (1988) has suggested a detailed plan for the balanced development of the region through utilization of the local resources, labourers and their skill without producing any serious ecological problems. According to Anssari (1988) an analysis of the existing services to fulfil the essential demands of the needy areas. It will help to authority for implementation of services effectively. Deforestation is major consequences of mass tourism, which degrade the harmony of the tourist place. Therefore Sheo prakash (1994) advocated afforestation as it will be the productive usage of the land use and simultaneously it will add the organic content into the soil and improve the nitrogen states. Yohana (1981) has recommended social forestry as assumed considerable importance increasing the tree wealth. Mings (1978) has mentioned that there are three traditional responses by government when faced with the conflict of tourism costs and benefits and suggested the wisest courses of action is to balance environmental, business management & social concerns so that tourism is recognized as potentially dangerous but also potentially valuable resource.

Hassan (2000) have stated about the development of nature destination must be guided by effective and efficient management with a focus on sustainable customer base and economic viability. The paper of Wilkie and Carpenter (1999) has reviewed the evidences for ecotourism capacity to generate revenue for protected–area management appraise the financial viability of nature tourism. Dharmarathe and Brathwaite (1998) have
carried study on tourism in the coastal environment of Barbados and focused on substantial value of beaches, expected user fee and obtaining compensation from litigation due to man-made disasters for efficient beach management. Pantin (1999) has explained the case of Panama about benefit from a carefully planned ecotourism program and he suggested that it is very important to take the politics of the country and communities into consideration, make sure the project is scaled to the carrying capacity of the natural resources and community involved, proper use of existing infrastructure, train a skilled local work force and maintain monitoring programs for successful planning. Similar conclusion have drawn by Heritier (1999) on tourism potential in the Welland Canals area and Victurine (2000) has worked on the recuperation of tourism in Uganda. The present study has also adopted the approach based on sustainability. It may be remark here that the present work may be one of the rare attempts by geographers to understand issues of tourism at micro level and to design planning strategy with action plan for redressing environmental, ecological, economic and social issues.

1.8 Arrangement Text:

The report present investigation has been organised in eight chapters. The report begins with introduction to concept of ecotourism and study area. Followed by brief explanation of methodology, techniques, objectives etc. in the first chapter. The review of literature has also been included in the same chapter. The second chapter has been devoted to present physiographic characteristic of the western tahsils of Pune district. This chapter provides the appraisal of the present and potential tourist sites in the study area. The third chapter includes information about socio-economic set up of the region at tahsil and circle level. With this background based on the secondary data, the analysis of primary data has been carried out and the results have been presented in next two chapters. The fourth chapters has focused on the aspect like nature of present tourism on the basis of perspective of tourist and local people. The fifth chapter has been kept for presenting the result of analysis of primary data collected mainly to understand the awareness regarding practices of ecotourism amongst the stakeholders. The chapters also presented reviews of government policies on tourism and constitutional provisions with respect to principle of ecotourism. The sixth chapter deals with diversification of tourist on the line of travel-circuit concepts and identification of potential tourist places and near by villages. In the seventh chapters planning strategy has been designed to provide guideline for
development of ecotourism in the study region. The final chapter has been concluded the outcome of the analysed data in the preceding chapters.

1.9 Résumé:

The objectives, hypothesis of the study, methodology and technique used in the present research and review of the previous literature have been discussed in this chapter. A brief introduction of the study region has also been made. The present investigation has been designed in such way that it would ultimately evaluate the available tourism potential and evolve sustainable development of ecotourism by promoting conservation of resources along with well being of local people. Environmental Management for sustainable development of ecotourism is the central theme of the study. Development of ecotourism is based on the availability of natural and cultural resources of the study area. Therefore it is necessary to understand physiographic and socio-economic profile in the context of the development of potential tourism. The introduction to the physiography features of the study area has been given in the next chapter.
Various aspects of Ecotourism

Plate No.1.1: Walk in Fog (Sinhgarh)
Plate No.1.2: Trekking (Bhimshankar)
Plate No.1.3: Seasonal Flower
Plate No.1.4: Flower Cover (Lohgarh)
Plate No.1.5: Local Food
Plate No.1.6: Communication with Locals