CHAPTER VI

DEVELOPMENT OF POTENTIAL AREA OF TOURISM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic No.</th>
<th>Page Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.0 Introduction:</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1 Development of potential area:</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1.1 Travel-circuit:</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1.2 Travel circuit in the study area:</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2 Development of potential villages:</td>
<td>198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2.1 Geographical condition of the villages and need of tourism development.</td>
<td>198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2.2 Attitude:</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2.3 Socio-cultural potential of tourism:</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2.4 Economic condition of local people:</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.3 Strength of local people:</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.3.1 Status of women:</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.3.2 Willingness for development of tourism:</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.3.3 Co-operative activities:</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.3.4 Geographical knowledge:</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.3.5 Basic facility for the tourists:</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.3.6 Traditional knowledge:</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.3.7 Handicraft:</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.4 Infrastructural facility:</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.4a Role of government and NGOs:</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.5 Weakness of tourism development:</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.6 Problems related to attitude of the local people:</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.7 Problems related to forest:</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.8 Résumé:</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER VI
DEVELOPMENT OF POTENTIAL AREA OF TOURISM

6.0 Introduction:

The study of nature of tourism has been understood with the views and functioning of stakeholders in the previous chapters. The study denotes that there is urgent need to develop tourism activity with perspective of ecotourism in the potential areas of the study region. It will not only diversify the tourists from the crowded sites but also help in economic development of the potential areas. The present chapter attempt to design the strategic plan for diversification of tourist on the basis of comprehensive and practical study. There can be two ways to achieve the diversification. The first is promoting various travel circuit and second to develop and promote potential tourist sites and associated potential villages in the study region. In the first part of the chapter the information has been provided on available and potential travel circuits. The second part has discussed development of potential villages associated to potential tourist site in the study region. The study has been carried out by understanding strength of local people, working pattern, socio-economic structure, level of co-operation and infrastructure.

Most of the tourists in the state have been largely confined to certain selected tourist destinations. In Maharashtra state, tourist places like Pachgani-Mahabaleshwar, Alibaug coasts are facing the problem of mass tourism. In Pune district tourist places like, Lonavala-Khandala, Sinhgarh, Bhimashankar are experiencing the problem of mass tourism. The tourist traffic of such centres have been exceeded the carrying capacity. The large number of visitors exerts considerable pressure over the public services and amenities available at this remotely located small town or villages. As a result, these centres are facing problems of congestion and scarcity of facilities during peak season. This further creates problems like accumulation of non-degradable garbage, untreated sewage, and noise and air pollution due to heavy vehicular traffic.

If proper precaution would not be taken on number, activity and behaviour of the tourists while implementing the project of ecotourism, the impact of mass eco-tourism will be highly detrimental than the mass tourism, as ecotourism is mainly related to visit in natural areas. Therefore mass eco-tourism will accelerate the rate of depletion of the fragile eco-system and endangered species in the forests and mountains.
Due to increasing trend of rural to urban population migration and higher population growth rate are causing increasing population in urban areas. There is also tremendous stress and pressure specifically in urban areas to maintain standard of living and upgrading themselves to compete in modern globalisation era. Similarly there is exposer to westernised weekend holiday’s life style through media. According to the several studies recent surge in rural tourism has come up through increased automobile and weekend travel market, economic hardship, a nature travel market, and changing tastes and preference (Kerst D.L 1999).

This kind of changing socio-economic situation has been responsible for increasing the large number of tourists visiting the tourist places near to the major cities on weekend holiday. For example on weekend holiday or on some specific festivals, tourists from Mumbai-Pune cities visits lakhs in number to the places like Matheran, Pachgani-Mahabaleshwar, Alibaug, Lonavala-Khandala, Sinhgarh, Bhimashankar. Conlin and Balim (1995) specify that urbanisation has also played a role in the development of rural tourism. Due to increasing urbanization and subsequently number of tourists, it is very difficult to restrict tourist flow to the crowded tourist places. As a result these places are loosing their importance as tourist place. e.g. Lonavala-Khandala have almost lost their status as hill station. The study area has number tourist places having variety of tourism attractions. However, these places are underutilised from tourism point of view. Therefore there is urgent need to consider the situation of the crowded tourist places and underutilise tourist places and find out the strategy for sustainable development of ecotourism.

The Ecotourism Policy and guidelines of India (1998) has stated that the local community should be involved in the economic development of the area. The new tourism policy of 2002 has also given special thrust on rural tourism and tourism in small settlements where sizable assets of cultural and natural wealth exist. The guidelines of the policies would be useful for finding solution with ecotourism perspective on mass tourism.

In democratic set up of our country, it is very difficult to restrict the tourist number at each and every tourist place. At the time of finding any solution on the problems of mass tourism and development of ecotourism, fallowing measures may be suggested.

- Wherever possible, restrict tourist number
- Wherever possible, develop overcrowded tourist places on the line of ecotourism.
- Efforts should be taken on diversification of tourist towards underutilised and potential tourist places.
• The development of underutilised and potential tourist places and associated villages with ecotourism perspective.

Implementations of the first two measures are corrective measures, which will help to reduce the problem of mass tourism. The remaining two measures are preventive measures, which will help to develop underutilised and potential tourist places with ecotourism perspective for sustainable development tourist places.

6.1 Development of Potential area:

The potentials of an area are dependent upon the availability of natural and cultural features. The potentials of the study area is underutilised from tourism point of view. In the policy document of Ecotourism in India-Policy and guidelines (1998) envisaged the wealth of ecosystems consisting of biosphere reserves, mangroves, coral reefs, deserts, mountains and forest along with the flora and fauna provide enormous potential for Ecotourism. Shepherd (1994): stated that tourist potential of a country or a place mainly depends on its climate, scenery, historical monuments, arts tradition and festivals people. Here it is clear that development of ecotourism depends on availability of biodiversity and rich traditional culture. He also advised that the hill stations during the British Raj, have been over exposed, over exploited by over urbanised. It would be advisable to direct and divert tourist towards lesser known, smaller hill stations and rural areas in the hills which still retain their pristine charm of glory.

As mentioned in the geographical review that the study region falls to the west of Pune district and has the enormous potential tourist places. This area is the hilly region of Pune district, covered by Sahyadri mountain ranges and receives heavy rainfall. Therefore most of the area is covered with forest and rich in flora and fauna. There are around 10 to 15 dams in the study region, which have created numerous beautiful scenic places near the backwater of the dams. It also has rich traditions and culture. Thus, the concept of travel circuit have been emphasised to optimum utilisation of the tourist potential in the study region.

6.1.1 Travel-circuit:

The first principle of ecotourism is conservation of natural resources. Initially, it has been dealt here by preventive measures through diversification of tourists at the potential sites and restrictions on tourist number to reduce the pressure of the tourist at the tourist places. The promotion of travel-circuit concept and development of associated
potential tourist villages could help resolve the issues related to problem of mass tourism and welling of local people. In the tenth plan emphasis has been given on the search of new or less prominent tourist sites would be bringing in limelight for diversification of tourists and its promotion could be achieved by implementation of travel-circuit concept.

The circuit approach result in concentrated and focused attention on a region identified for its potential. As such result, the increase of tourist traffic to the circuit area may help development in a shorter time frame than in the case with dispersed and haphazard development and promotion. The first ever tourism policy of the country was announced during 1982, which specified the development objective and provided an action plan based on travel circuit concept. The concept of ‘travel circuit’ for tourism development was first attempted during the sixth plan to maximize the benefits of tourism through provision of tourism infrastructure to achieve intensive development of selected centres, encourage the diversification of tourists and opening up economically backward areas which hold many tourist attraction. Special emphasis has been given on the development of selected beaches, mountain resorts, wildlife and cultural tourism, training and overseas promotion. Clark and et al (1994) have mentioned that a number of strands of policy and practice have woven a diverse web of what might be termed the ‘new rural tourism’, in which the range of tourist destinations, recreational activities and associated journey patterns has become more varied and complex, bringing the impacts of additional road traffic to more rural locations and environments.

Goswami and Raveendran (2005) have not only discussed the concept of travel circuit but also put forward certain prerequisite for successful development of the concept. Firstly, they have emphasized on development of essential infrastructures in the identified circuits. Government should encourage talented artesian, street performer, musician and dancer from the region for preservation of ethnicity. The operators of various tourist facilities and services and their employees need to have adequate knowledge and training regarding regional development cultural and environmental issues. Lastly, effective planning requires all interested parties should participate or consulted in their capacities in its preparation.

6.1.2 Travel Circuit in the study area:
The existing and potential travel circuits have been narrated here with help of secondary sources and fieldwork to understand the potential for diversification of tourist.
Travel Circuits in the Study Area:
There are 23 travel circuits that may be complete visit in one day and about 12 travel circuits may be in two days.

8. Pune- Kamshet- Pwana Dam - Dhudhvire -Lonavala- Pune.
17. Pune-Baneshwar-Gunjawane-Rajgarh- Pabe ghat-Pune.
20. Pune- Baneshwar-Bhor- Bhatghar Dam- Varandh Ghat – Shivthirth Ghal- Pune.

The travel circuits of the study area, which may cover in the two days as follows-

31. Pune-Paud-Mulshi Dam-Tung-Tikona -Pune.
33. Pune-Baneshwar- Rajgarh /Torna - Pabe ghat- Panshet –Pune.

6.2 Development of potential Villages:

Chang and et al. (1996) has stated that tourism must be viewed as a transaction process incorporating the exogenous forces of global markets and multinational corporations as well as the endogenous powers of local residents and entrepreneurs. The aspect of endogenous power has been emphasised in the present study. The study region covers parts of Junner, Ambegoan, Khed, Mawal, Haveli, Purander, Bhor tahsil and complete area of Mulshi, and Velhe tahsil. This area lies in the western part of Pune district. As mentioned earlier, the area of the study region already famous for various tourist places. All these places can be visits by tourist as per their interest. According to The Ecotourism Society’s definition responsible travel in ‘natural areas’, it means that development of ecotourism can be done mainly in natural areas. As mentioned earlier, western part of the Pune district includes 8 to 9 tahsils, but ecotourism development point of view potential areas are restricted to certain revenue circles. It includes Ambegoan circle in Ambegoan tahsil; Vadgaon, Khadale, Lonavala and Kale circles in Mawal tahsil; Wada and Pait circles in Khed tahsil; Kuran, Velhe and Mangdari circles in Velhe tahsil; Rajur and Dingore circles in Junnar tahsil; Khedshivapur circle in Haveli tahsil; Nasrapur, Bholawade, Bhor and Hirdoshi circles in Bhor tahsil.

6.2.1 Geographical condition of the villages and need of tourism development.

Grekin and Milne (1996) also argue that ecotourism is an industry where the physical isolation of a destination may work to its economic advantage by providing a taste of the unknown and the untouched. Physiographically most of aforesaid study area is mountainous. The forest department controls major part of the study region. The region is one of the highest rainfall areas of the country but at other hand drinking water is not
available in summer season. Due to geographical and geological conditions water flows speedily and water percolation is less. As a result irrigation facilities are negligible. Soil is less to medium quality. Even the economy of the study region is agriculture based but due to all these constraint the agriculture is economically not viable or subsistence type.

Main agriculture production of the study region is taken in the rainy season. Rice cultivated in comparatively low-lying area and Nachani, Sav, Khurasni, ragi are taken in hilly region. Tur, Til, groundnuts are also taken in meagre proportion. Some areas under the backwater of the dam get open in the summer season, which is available for cultivation. Production at such area is wheat, Jawar, Maize at subsistence scale. It shows that agriculture is predominantly rain fed, subsistence type agriculture. Production is mainly millet and cash crops are negligible. After harvesting of kharif season less work available for the people.

The government policy has to provide employment to specifically non worker through different scheme i.e. Employment Guarantee scheme. Some NGO's also is providing employment on same ground. Their thrust area is watershed management, soil conservation, afforestation, agriculture land development etc. it gives certain relief to non workers in off-season. In month of May and June people from western hilly revenue circles of Ambegaon and Junnar tahsils collect Hirda from forest and their premises. This gives good economic returns to the community.

On the geographical and socio-economic background, it is clear that overall development of the study region is difficult by only concentrating on agriculture development. Hence agriculture and allied economic activities and other alternative based on available resources would be the option for development of the region and raising standard of living of the local community.

Mountainous area, geologically features like Deccan trap, steep escarpment at western side, patches of dense forest, variety of wildlife, picturesque dam sites, number of heritage buildings i.e. forts, temples, hill stations etc are tremendous potentials of the study region. Understanding difficulties and limitations of the main economic activity agriculture and realising tremendous potentials of tourist sites; development of tourism is one of the best options for regional development through infrastructure development and raising standard of living of the local community through participation and direct benefit to them.

Mass tourism, negligence attitude of stakeholders towards environment dominance of profit making outsider businessmen has destroyed local environment and create
disturbance in socio-economic fabric of the local community on the name tourism development. Therefore implementation of ecotourism is one of the best options for conservation of environment and traditional socio-economic fabric of the society.

Development of villages has been one of the major objectives of Indian planning system since independence. According to Bharmabe and Nehete (1993) around 90% of rural population has directly and indirectly related with agriculture. The level of agriculture practices has been mainly subsistence type. There are also many socio-economic problems of the rural India. Spengen (1985) also has pointed out that over population in any part of the region causes problem of low standard living of society, socio-economic inequality and unemployment in the society. Ahirrao (1998) has envisaged that increasing population in rural part of the country has been led to problems of unemployment, lack of educational facility, poverty and paucity of natural resources, child labour and migration. According to Kayastha (1993) poverty has degraded both man and environment.

Migration of people from rural to urban have caused problematic situation at rural as well as urban areas of the country. Kumbhar (1989) has observed that some reasons likes drought, unemployment, attraction of urban life, etc are causes of rural-urban migration. Similar type of thinking has been mentioned by Gross Man and Gan (1974). Migration towards urban area aggravates the problem of overpopulation and urban sprawling (Phadke and Sita, 1981). The process of urbanization has been associated with increase in density of population and growth rate, selective immigration structure and changes in the landuse pattern. Ramachandraiah (1996) has stated that overpopulation has been associated with the sense alienation hostility, crime, delinquency, alcoholism physical and mental illness and mental retardation. Chib,(1990) has stated as ecological destabilization and environmental degradation have been mainly caused by poverty and prosperity.

On the basis of above studies, it may be assumed that overpopulation in urban areas create socio-economic and environmental problems. 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 check rural to urban migration. This will help to resolve the problem of urban sprawling and judicious utilisation of local resources. There are various options to promote employment opportunities according to Ganpule (1991) small-scale industries could be a great source of employment and economic support in the rural areas. The crucial issue in
village development is to raise the employment level eliminating underemployment. This can be achieved by expanding the tertiary sector of village (Mamata Mayee, 1988). In the tourism policy of 2002, it has been mentioned that rural tourism can spread the economic benefits in rural sector. According to the policy, craftsmen, small cultivators producing vegetable and rural youth, may be engaged in tourism and related services.

For designing plan for such kind of tourism it necessary to know strengths and weakness of participatory local community. The development of tourism industry needs specialized skills, which may be discussed in the following paragraphs.

6.2.2 Attitude:

The field study including discussion with local people and different stakeholders has attempted to identify strengths of the local people for their effective participation in ecotourism. Most of the villages in the study region have remote location, surrounded by forest and hills and some have additional advantage of backwater of dam. The geographical location compelled them for their day to day life, based on vagaries of nature. This natural setting has cultivated basic behavioural qualities like hard work, perseverance and endurance. The local culture has been quite visible with honesty, cooperativeness, humbleness and hospitality. Simultaneously they have strong will to achieve any objective, if they decide it. All these can be useful qualities for the development of tourism industry.

There has been a common complaint from government authorities and educated people that such communities have been reluctant to change in their traditional life style. During the fieldwork, discussion with N G O personnel from ‘Shashwat’, ‘Maharashtra Aryogya Mandal’ and ‘Gomukh’ and dedicated government officers has revealed that they are ready to accept new ideas in their life style, if these people properly trained and convinced. These qualities need to be utilised rationally for their development by introducing opportunities of ecotourism.

6.2.3 Socio-cultural potential of tourism:

It has been already discussed that well-being of local people means not only to cover economic but socio-culture aspect also. The study of Colvin (1994) on growing networks of Quicha villages involved in ecotourism has observed that there is a need for varied tourist programmes and a wider range of sustainable activities. Hence, the cultural richness of society is essential aspect for tourism development. Cultural background of the
study region has been narrated here on the basis of discussion with the local during the field work. According to them they have rich heritage of cultural tradition. "Bail pola, Rang Panchmi, Holi, are still celebrated more enthusiastically. After the end of agricultural season normally in the month March-April i.e. ‘Chaitra’ according to Indian calendar, most of villages have annual fair called ‘Jatra’, famous for wrestling competition, bullock cart competition and cultural programme such as drama, Marathi folk drama called ‘Tamasha’ and religious discourses like Kirtan, Bharud. These months are normally off season for cultivators. Events like Jatra and above mentioned festivals have been potential attraction to the tourist during this season. It may helps in revival of these traditions and understanding between the tourist and host community about respective cultures. Rainy season is also attractive season for tourist in the study region. The season is famous for tourist influx due to various tourist attractions like viewing scenic beauty, cascading waterfall, foggy climate and walk in rain. This is also a season of beginning of the agricultural practices in the study region. Observation or participation in such practices and listening to folk songs is also good option for enjoyment and understanding rural life. The participation of tourist in activities like Jatra, festivals, agricultural practices, not only help in cultural understanding between the tourist and host but also to create class of responsible tourist.

6.2.4 Economic condition of local people:

The socio-economic condition of the local people of potential villages have discussed in the previous paragraphs. The economic condition of the local people of potential villages has been understood with the help of the census (2001) data given in the table number 6.1. The zero (0) figure in the table indicate unavailability of the data. The data have shown in the table includes factors like income of the villages (in Rs.00'), percentage of number of worker in agriculture activity, area under cultivation and irrigation, literacy rate and work participation rate.

The data clearly shows that income of the majority villages are either below 1 lakh or around 1 lakh per annum. The low proportion of income could be easily understood with help of remaining factors given in the table. The more than 75% of the villages have area under agriculture is less than 50% e.g. Ahupe (17.3%), Tamhini Bk (22.5%), Tail Baila (42.9%). Due to the mountainous region and area under forest area under agriculture is low. Area under irrigation is nil except two villages have negligible irrigated area e.g.
### Table No. 6.1
Economic situation of the potential villages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Village Name</th>
<th>T Inc.(00')</th>
<th>% CLA</th>
<th>% T IRR</th>
<th>% CL+AL</th>
<th>W P R</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Junnar</td>
<td>1267</td>
<td>39.3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>93.2</td>
<td>76.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ghatghar</td>
<td>1541</td>
<td>63.8</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>90.9</td>
<td>58.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ambegaon</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>97.5</td>
<td>59.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Panchale Bk.</td>
<td>422</td>
<td>66.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>81.5</td>
<td>63.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Panchale Kh.</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>70.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>96.3</td>
<td>65.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Vachape</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>67.2</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>88.9</td>
<td>68.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Kondhaval</td>
<td>632</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>92.0</td>
<td>63.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Nigdale</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>29.9</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>64.6</td>
<td>61.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Khed</td>
<td>1546</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>68.5</td>
<td>44.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mawal</td>
<td>4014</td>
<td>33.8</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>84.2</td>
<td>51.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Khand</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>64.6</td>
<td>31.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Kambare Andar Mawal</td>
<td>1018</td>
<td>44.1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>98.6</td>
<td>57.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Borivali</td>
<td>1018</td>
<td>29.2</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>93.1</td>
<td>58.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Udhewadi</td>
<td>1010</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>79.8</td>
<td>60.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Aundholi</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>50.6</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>19.8</td>
<td>44.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Dudhihare</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>42.6</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>52.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Lohagad</td>
<td>855</td>
<td>33.9</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>55.5</td>
<td>34.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Shingaon</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>64.6</td>
<td>31.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Ambegaon</td>
<td>2401</td>
<td>74.7</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>47.6</td>
<td>49.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Tung</td>
<td>2770</td>
<td>51.6</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>69.9</td>
<td>43.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Tikona</td>
<td>1705</td>
<td>59.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>83.5</td>
<td>42.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Morave</td>
<td>2225</td>
<td>75.6</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>82.7</td>
<td>56.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Mulshi</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>42.9</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>98.7</td>
<td>50.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Bhambarde</td>
<td>2529</td>
<td>56.1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>82.8</td>
<td>57.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Pimpri</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>41.1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>88.1</td>
<td>51.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Vandre</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>86.6</td>
<td>56.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Nive</td>
<td>1145</td>
<td>51.4</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>75.4</td>
<td>59.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Tamhini Bk.</td>
<td>1420</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>71.4</td>
<td>50.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Ahirwadi</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Sarole</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Adharwadi</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Dongarwadi</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Haveli</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td>38.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Purander</td>
<td>954</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>50.1</td>
<td>79.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Narayanpeth</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Velhe</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>43.7</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>84.8</td>
<td>47.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Varasgaon</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>78.2</td>
<td>40.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Pal Kh.</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>75.2</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>98.6</td>
<td>55.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Kelad</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>62.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>80.4</td>
<td>61.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Gunjavane</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>55.7</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>90.1</td>
<td>55.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Bhor</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>68.4</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>94.1</td>
<td>60.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Velvand</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>74.5</td>
<td>47.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Shirgaon</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>46.5</td>
<td>54.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>Durgadi</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>79.9</td>
<td>52.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Korle</td>
<td>1894</td>
<td>49.2</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>96.9</td>
<td>64.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>Bajarwadi</td>
<td>925</td>
<td>41.1</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>88.6</td>
<td>52.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ghatghar (3.6%) and Bajarwadi (0.3 %). The low percentage of area under agriculture and unavailability of irrigation revealed that agriculture is subsistence type and subsequently income of the villages is low.

The work participation rate is in majority of the villages is around 50%, it means that around 50% of the population of the related villages is non worker. Among the worker category around 75% of the potential villages have more than 75% of the worker are engaged in agricultural related activities such as cultivator and agricultural labourer. It means that majority of the workers are engaged in agriculture related activities, even though area under agriculture is low and irrigation is almost unavailable. It may reveal that agriculture is subsistence type and low standard of living of the local people, as most of the villages are have low income.

Thus, there is need to find out employment opportunities through development of agriculture and alternative employment on the basis of local resources. Due to physical constraint development of agriculture have some limitation. The alternative employment on the basis of local resources may be possible, as most of the tourist places are located in the study area and the potential villages are located vicinity to the tourist places. Considering need of alternative employment, well being of the local people and excellence in environment and cultural promotion, development of ecotourism is one of the best alternatives for the development of the area. The effective participation of the local people could be possible with encouragement to the strength of local people.

6.3 Strength of local people:

Development of tourism in potential area essentially requires support of government and initiative of the other stakeholder. Wight (1995b) has identified divisions or subsets within the ecotourism market. She categories ecotourists as having a range of interests in nature that varies from specialist to generalist and engages in activities that require a high to low degree of physical effort. The most important stakeholder in the ecotourism is local people. The study of the local people have been attempted here to understand the basic strength and weakness of the local people. It may helps to design proper strategy to promote ecotourism with ground realities.

The 10 questions related to the strength of the local people have been asked seeking answer in the form of YES or NO and assigned the score value 1 and 0 respectively. The data have been collected from about 450 sample points well distributed in 45 potential villages at least 10 samples from the each village. The strength has been
Fig. No.6.2

STUDY AREA WITH POTENTIAL VILLAGES

Khireshwar
Bhatghar
Ahupe
Kondhwa
Nigdale
Bhogiri

Udhewa

TAHSIL
TAHSIL
REVENUE-FINAL
WATER BODIES

Shirgaoan
Durgwadi

0 6 12 Kilometers

Page no. 204a
sensed by calculating percentage of the positive response for each village. To understand
the strength of the potential villages the score of the total 45 selected village has been
calculated for each factor. The percentage for each factor has been calculated by dividing
maximum possible score of total of each factor to the actual total of the each factor. The
bar chart (Figure no. 6.1) shows that the selected villages have a good strength in terms of
willingness for tourism development, women participation, co-operative institute,
geographical knowledge, co-operative tradition, traditional knowledge, communication
with tourist, tourist facilities, handicraft production and handicraft sale.

Figure no. 6.1

However, the point of weakness may be communication with tourists facilities, production
and sale of handicrafts. Following paragraphs present the discussion on each of the
aspects.

6.3.1 Status of Women:

The participation of women in the developmental process is important aspect. It is
observed in the fieldwork that women participation in economic activities has been quite
significant (99.7 %). some of the families have shown that it is more than that of male
participation. The women have been found to carry out activities like agricultural operations and collection of forest product.

It has been mentioned in the third chapter that women share 45% to 50% part of the total human resources. The census data (2001) have revealed that about 50% to 56% women's are non-worker, and only 30% to 40% women's are main worker. It shows that women are economically less active compared to men. At the time of fieldwork it has been observed that women are more significantly busy in work as compared to men in the study region. The social status of the women on work participation has been remarkable. Participation and benefit of local people and gender justice are objectives of the ecotourism, hence study women participation and their status is essential.

Housework is the main work of the women in addition to economic activities like agricultural practices, animal rearing and dairy, labour work at government and NGO's development activities. Similarly, they are engaged in collection of forest goods like honey, hirda and wood. With the help of initiatives through Bachat group (SHG) women are learning skills like sewing machine operations, preparation of organic manure etc. as observed at village Vachpe.

Participation of women in democratic process is also important part of involvement of women in planning and decision making regarding developmental activities in a village. According to government decision 33% of seats are reserved for women in Panchyat Raj system and implementation has been successfully done. It has been observed in the field study the women member and office bearers have been doing ell in the region. Thus, it may be remarked here that women participation in initiating ecotourism in the region may be quite feasible.

6.3.2 Willingness for development of tourism:

The opinion of the local people about tourism development is quite positive (99.3%). It has shown that majority of the people have agreed upon it. Most of the locals are aware about their potentials and impact of tourism in the area. More than 90% of interviewed locals have shown positive response for development of tourism in their areas, but they have some reservation in mind. According to them, tourism should not create garbage and any harm to flora and fauna of the area. Similarly, all the people favouring tourism development have expectation that tourism should ensure active participation of villagers so that benefits of tourism should reach to villagers. They are ready to participate in the tourism activity by providing facilities like accommodation, food, guide and other.
They have suggested that for such services the professional training in related field and support have been necessary and the activity need to be undertaken by government agencies. The government can also promote tourism by taking initiative to improve infrastructure. Conclusively, it may be stated that the local people have opined that development of tourism should have priority like environmental conservation with participation of local people.

6.3.3 Co-operative activities:

Well being of local people is a core objective of ecotourism. The well being of the local people depends upon, how local people put their efforts and effective management as the stakeholder. Development of any enterprises in such areas required capital investment, necessary skill and cooperative management. As per economic and social condition of the study region 1st two requirements are inherently not available as per the expectation.

Co-operative activities are important aspect for development of ecotourism in the study region. At government level efforts have been taken about promotion of co-operative activities in the form of Bachat Gat, various local level co-operative societies. Mahila mandal (women group), Bachat group, co-operative dairy, forest security committee (van savarakshan samiti), Gram samiti, tribal co-operative societies in tribal area of the study region, other co-operative societies are running in most of the villages, which are promoted by the government support. It is observed that almost all villagers are having government promoted co-operative activities (99.3 %).

Similarly, traditional norms or values based on co-operative principles have been observed in the study region. Traditions of co-operation traits in the various socio economic activities have been noted significantly (97.1 %). Co-operative attitude towards public life is also one of the important behavioural characteristics of the local community. They have qualities of cooperative management in their way of living, mainly observed in their hunting activity, family programmes, public programme like Jatra, Navratra, Ganesh festival, etc.

The ’Padkai’ is a traditional system of agriculture practices, based on co-operative principle observed in the study area. It has different local name in different part of the study area i.e. Varungal, Handa, Sarkat etc. Agriculture practices like preparation of field and from sowing to harvesting are done accordig to ‘Padkai’ system. As mentioned above there are cooperative activities in all walks of life. Due to all these efforts almost most of local community are inherently aware about cooperative management. This attitude and
necessary qualities and government efforts may help in village planning and provide solution on issues like local problems, management of resources utilisation, financial management and economic development. This foundation may be a great potential for participation of local people in development of ecotourism in the study region.

6.3.4 Geographical knowledge:

McHugh (1996) on the study of manyallaluk has observed that aboriginal guides conduct cultural tours, where tourists gain hands-on experience in making or using traditional artifact learn about bush food and plant medicines and visit ceremonial rock art sites. Geographical knowledge here is reflection of general awareness about surrounding natural environment. It has been observed about 97.5% of the total samples. It includes knowledge about plants and animals and about their life cycle, utilisation or other importance. In addition to this knowledge about relief, rainfall, soil etc. is essential for conservation purpose. The people of the surveyed area have nurtured mainly on surrounding environment. Therefore they have well acquainted with the flora and fauna of the surrounding area.

6.3.5 Basic facility for the tourists.

The surveyed potential villages are occasionally visited by tourists in the season. The facilities for these tourists in the form of food or accommodation at public or private places and communication with these tourists have been asked to understand that at least some awareness about tourist facility and communication, as essential for tourism development. It has been observed that the tourist facilities and communications with tourists have noted insignificant with the low score values as 23.17% and 23.5% respectively.

6.3.6 Traditional Knowledge:

Sustainable development and societal management of the environment has been noted by Taylor (1995). Traditional knowledge base in a village may be understood with norms and practices related to conservation and promotion of environment and culture. Hinch and Butler (1996) have pointed out that ‘appropriately managed tourism is seen as a sustainable activity that is generally consistent with indigenous values about the sanctity of the land and people’s relationship to it. It is very essential to strengthen or cultivate
such practices for effective participation of people. If such practices are used for environmental conservation, it may help to maintain the dignity of local culture and conservation as well. Such practices have been noticed with the score 88.2% score value for the villages under survey. Such practices as identified in the field study and discussed below.

‘Deorai’ exists in hilly and forest area of the study region, which is known for mixed monsoon vegetation. It means certain area in a village having forest with high biodiversity because it is devoted to god and restricted for cutting. Local people are allowed to collect only fallen dry wood for fuel or other purposes. There is a faith that god is residing in the patch of forest area and if any body tries to destroy the forest, villagers would have to face disastrous impact. During the fieldwork, it has been observed that almost every village has ‘Deorai’ and people are strictly following the tradition. The result is that ‘Deorai’ area has dense forest as compared to forest area. Considering the status of Bhimashankar deorai, Ahupe deorai, Durgadevi deorai etc. It may be remarked that the villagers have protected the forest of Deorai through generations and this can be the traditional strength which may be used for ecotourism practices.

There is also faith that some trees are god’s tree or abode of god. In most of the parts of the study area trees like wad, umber, Pimpal and Varas have religious value, as they are considered as god’s tree. Simultaneously, Amba, Hirda, Jambul and some other trees have economic value. Thus, the local people generally do not cut them. Similarly, local people are aware about life cycles of several trees in the forest. People normally don’t cut trees like ‘Mad’, a kind of palm tree, which can’t sprout again once cut. A practise like ‘Rabni’ is a good example of local wisdom of forest management. The practice is cutting of less than thumb sized branches with 3 or 4 years’ rotation for preparation of land for rice cultivation. The ‘Rabni’ helps in growth of the branches and consequently growth of forest cover.

Rational use of forest goods like fuel wood, fruits, medicine, ‘Deorai’, religious and understand economic value of trees and their protection, ‘Rabni’, understanding about life cycles of trees and its use in forest are the good examples of forest management among the local community. Such practices may help local people for optimum and scientific use of forest to satisfy their day to day need and sustainability of forest for future generation. Thus, the traditional strength lies in the way of interaction between population and forest resources through generations.
6.3.7 Handicraft:

Healy (1994) has revealed that handicrafts provide employment and income locally, have potential to revitalise local craft traditions, and 'offer the possibility of using local materials sustainable manner. Understanding the importance, the two aspects about handicraft have been studied to find out i.e. production and sale. It has been revealed that both the activity are almost absent in the study region. Normally, handicrafts are made either for decoration purpose or fulfil the need of the house and it is produced at home. In the fieldwork, products like Kangai (food grain storage), basket, credle for baby all are made up of cane door, toran, has been observed are some examples of handicraft, which are mainly made for house purposes. According to the local people there are more varieties but did not traced during the fieldwork. Development of tourism may helps in development of handicraft. It will not only an additional of economic source but also helps in revival of cultural tradition.

6.4 Infrastructural facility:

The development of potential villages has been crucial issue as the area in underdeveloped or neglected area, which has tourist potential. Almost 45 villages have been identified and surveyed in the present study.

The seven infrastructural parameters have been asked in the questionnaire to understand their situation. The situation has tried to find out by assigning score to each factor in following manner,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

450 samples have been selected from the 45 villages. Therefore maximum score have shown the infrastructure in unsatisfactory condition. The percentage is calculated from division total of the collected sample by maximum score for the available infrastructure.
On the basis of scores for water source (72%) and phone facility (73.6%) in available villages, it has been observed to be fair and all other factors are observed to be unsatisfactory. Tap water (75%), transport (76.5%), road (78.6%), electricity power (78%), medical facilities (85.3%) have been noted in unsatisfactory condition in ascending manner (figure no. 6.2).

The infrastructural facilities like road, power, natural water source and transport are available in all the villages. Out of 45 villages surveyed, the 12 villages have no tap water supply, 26 have no phone and 35 have no medical facility. This can be considered as the weakness of the villages for developing ecotourism.
The village have been classified on the basis of score for infrastructure. The result has been presented with the bench chart (Fig. No. 6.3). The chart depict that 2 villages can be classified as good category, 23 fair category and 20 as unsatisfactory category.

During the fieldwork, discussions with local people and field observation following facts have been revealed about the unsatisfactory remark. At most of the places road condition is unsatisfactory and at some part of the study area, road are still non-metalled. Poor quality work of the road changed it at previous worst condition after one period of rainy season. Therefore wide and good quality road is necessary. Government and private medical facilities are almost unavailable at the potential tourist places. At some of the places, near potential tourist place primary health centre are available. But there are problems of availability and regularity of the doctors and at the same time availability and quality of medical equipment. Primary medical centres are also available at most of the places, as per the government rule. But lack of interest of medical staff and unavailability of necessary medicine and instrument is the actual situation of the medical facilities.

Transport plays important role in the development tourism. Along with good quality road, frequency of transport vehicle is important. Most part of the potential tourist places is geographically remote. Therefore frequency of public transport is very low. There are maximum 2-3 buses in a day. It is difficult for tourist make to and fro plan according to their convenience. Private transport facilities are available but it is illegal and unreliable. Blake and Becher (1997) have focused on the same problem that a lack of regular public transport remains a problem for villagers and domestic tourists illustrating the vulnerability of remote ecotourism operations to disruptions beyond their control. Phone (at available villages) has problem due to regular disconnection of phone facility and electric power has problem of regular load shading, power cut and delay in their repairing. Due to non-porous rock of the area, even after heavy rain water percolation is low. Therefore in summer water scarcity is major problem of the study region and because of mountainous area it becomes more severe. Tap water facility, wherever available have observed in not working condition. The material used and quality of work has been noticed poor. The result is that lakhs of rupees spent on the project have become worthless.

Development of basic infrastructure is prerequisite for the tourism development specifically in the potential villages. It is responsibility of government to take initiatives as
per the need. Thus, on the basis of fieldwork and discussion with local people, it may be
started that noticed that available infrastructure is not in good condition.

6.4a Role of Government and NGOs:

The roles of the government and NGOs in developmental activities have been
identified through discussion with villagers. Therefore opinions of villagers have been
asked about the role of government and NGOs about promoting developmental activity
related to development of basic public facilities, natural and human resources and
infrastructure in the village and government schemes for supporting employment
generation. Villagers’ views have been rated from 1 to 4 and respective percentage with
value 1 for excellent (25%), 2 for good (25% to 50%), 3 for fair (50% to 75%) and 4 for
poor (>75%) performance. The percentage has been calculated from sum of the actual
rated score value of the all villages divided by maximum score (every one rated 4) Role of
government has been rated poor or unsatisfactory both in developmental activity (92.8%)
and employment generation (93.4%), as almost all the villagers from the surveyed villages
have rated it as 4. The role of NGOs has been recognised in 12 villages’ viz. Ahupe,
Kondhwal, Tamhani, Tungi, Gunjavane, Bhutonde, Tikona Peth etc. Their activities have
been rated fair (74.6%). Both these perception revealed that there is need for enhancing
the role of government and NGOs in the integrated rural development of which ecotourism
can be a component. The study around Keoladeo National Park, India indicated that
people lacked confidence in the government system to capture the benefits of tourism and
transfer them to the villages around the national park and they argued that non-government
organizations (NGOs) should be involved in this process. We fully agree with this point of
view and suggest it needs to be accepted by the government. (Menkhas, 1993)

According to local people, local leaders, local authorities and government officials
who involved in decision making, planning and implementation process in respective area
of the study region are responsible for the non development of the study area. Self centred
attitude of the leaders, bribery practices and lack of the officers are the main reason of the
low development. The result is that most of the developing activities completed on the
paper, practically the work is not done at all or whatever wok is done, its quality is not up
to the mark.
6.5 Weakness of tourism development:

Butler (1992) also argued that ecotourism and alternative tourism simply represent the 'thin end of the wedge' and will eventually lead to large scale, inherently unsustainable, development. During the fieldwork dialog with local people, government officials and experts have been carried out to understand the underutilisation or ignorance of potential tourist places. This may highlight certain aspects that lead to mass ecotourism as stated by Butler. Some reasons have been noticed from outcome of the discussion that is given below. Geographically the majority part of the study region is remote and away from the major road. Most of the potential tourist places away from the urban areas, as compared to aforesaid famous tourist places in the study region. Virtually poor road and transport condition and almost unavailability services like accommodation, public toilets, phone, security and other necessary facilities, have been noticed during the fieldwork in the study region. Government has provided road and medical facilities in entire study area but their condition is unsatisfactory. In addition, lack of publicity and low priority for tourism development at government level has the other reasons.

6.6 Problems related to attitude of the local people:

The following problems have been perceived during the fieldwork through discussed with stakeholders, which may directly or indirectly influence on the issues related to ecotourism development. The problems related to attitude of local people include Inflexible attitude, lack of professionalism and entrepreneurship, ignorant about outside changing world are some inherent behavioural problems of the local community.

At other side mentality of the local community is that whatever government will give it is their duty and we should get free of cost and with less or without efforts. The problems need to be resolved as earliest as quality and management of human resources is important issue for benefit and involvement of local community in the tourism development process.

6.7 Problems related to forest:

Most part of the study region is near or surrounded by area of the forest department. Rules of forest department and their implementation is another crucial problem of the study region. There are three facets to the problem of forest department. 1st problem is related to development work in the forest region, they don’t allow any construction activity like road, water conservation project, and accommodation etc. in forest area on the basis of disturbance to sensitive ecosystem. Second problem related to
traditional forest right of the local community. Collection of minor product, collection of fuel wood, animal rearing in grass zone and some others traditional forest right are under threat because of some forest rule and policy of protected forest. Hence, local people are becoming apathetic towards forest cover and wildlife. The result is that there are cases of forest fire, direct or in direct support of locals to activities like illegal forest cutting and poaching. Third problem is illegal cutting of forest, poaching and support of corrupt officials to such activities.

It is expected that forest department could play an important role for development of ecotourism but due to the aforesaid problems responsibility of forest department is become doubtful. With the development ecotourism local community suppose to be a protector of local resources but if things go in this direction they will be destroyer of the resources and end result will be participation and benefits of local people remain an illusion only.

Résumé:

Issues related to diversification of tourists and development of the potential areas has two sides. The solution on the issues requires holistic view. Thus, the issue of diversification of tourists has been attempted to resolve with the help of travel-circuit approach. The development of potential area requires responsible involvement of all the stakeholders. The suggestion to improve the participation of local people has been discussed in the chapter. It may be useful to improve the role of the stakeholders. The effective participation of local people has been studied by understanding the strengths and weakness of the local people. The geographical feasibility of ecotourism with the help of suggested travel-circuits and potential villages can be based on infrastructure and strength and weakness of local people. The views elaborated in the present chapter may be useful to design strategic plan for development of ecotourism in the next chapter.
Examples of the potential villages for ecotourism.

Plate No.: 6.1 Ahupe
Plate No.: 6.2 Atkarwadi Sinhgarh
Plate No.: 6.3 Chawand
Plate No.: 6.4 Lohgad wadi
Plate No.: 6.5 Khireshwar
Plate No.: 6.6 Ambegaon (Pwana dam)
Strength of women

Plate No.: 6.7 Decision making
Plate No.: 6.8 Fishing
Plate No.: 6.9 Wood collection
Plate No.: 6.10 Self help Group
Plate No.: 6.11 Fuel wood cutting
Plate No.: 6.12 Forest collection
Problems of the potential area

Plate No.: 6.13 Lack of planning
Plate No.: 6.14 Government negligence

Plate No.: 6.15 Shifting cultivation
Plate No.: 6.16 Forest fire

Plate No.: 6.17 Land side (Sinhgarh)
Plate No.: 6.18 Deforestation (Tiger valley)