ABSTRACT

Tourism is an ideological farming of history, nature and tradition. It has the power to reshape culture and nature to its own need. Now a days tourism industry is becoming one of the important economic sector, which helps the growth and development of the region. Present research works have been emphysis the heritage tourism in the Upper Krishna basin of Maharashtra. Districts namely Kolhapur, Sangli and Satara have been included in the Upper Krishna basin of Maharashtra. Heritage tourism is largely concerned with the natural and cultural resources in the study area. Review of the different research papers, articals and books related to tourism have been taken in the second chapter. Geographical personality of the study region have been studied in first chapter, mainly the physiography, Climate, Drainage, Soil, Vegetation, Population in the Upper Krishna basin. These geographical components are very important in the development of tourism activity.

Spatial distribution of different heritage sites have been studied in chapter third. The Krishna basin of south Maharashtra have rich natural Bio-diversity and cultural variety. Mainly natural heritage sites are located in the western hilly area; namely Radhanagari wildlife Santuary, Chandoli National Park, Koyana wildlife Santuary and Kas Plateau. These natural heritage sites have world wide significance. These sites are included in the world’s heritage list. Other heritage sites like Mahabaleshwar, Pachgani, Sagreshwar also plays most important role in the tourism development. The Upper Krishna basin have grate historical and cultural significance. Many historical forts are located in the region. The glorious history of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj the great Massive forts on the hill top.

Religious heritage centers located in the study region plays vital role in the tourism development. Kolhapur is known as ‘Daksin Kashi’ (Kashi of South India). It is a famous religious center in South Maharashtra. Daily thousands of tourists visited Kolhapur. Jotiba, Narsobawadi, Khidrapur, Sangali, Puesgaon, Pal, Pateshwar these other religious heritage centers located in the study region. These all religious centers are plays vital role in the tourism development.

Transport facilities, accomodeation facilities and other tourist facilities are essential elements for tourism development. In the fourth chapter try to find out the transport facilities and accessibility of tourist centers in the Upper Krishna basin.
Physiography of the region affects on the tourist centers. The present research has been attempted that different tourist facilities available at tourist centers and analysis is made that at Kolhapur, Mahableshwar, Panchgani these major tourist centers have all types of facilities are available but at fort sites and centers located in hilly remote area they have low facilities.

Tourist profile of selected tourist centres have been studied in fifth chapter. The statistical information which is collected by field work. Collected data have been analysed and shows with different cartographic technique. It reveals that education of tourist, occupation of tourist, income of tourist, age of tourist these are the important factors in the tourism activity. In this chapter try to find out the tourist satisfication level regarding tourist facilities and tourist perception regarding destination. Impact of tourism on host population have been studied in this chapter. According to this economic, social, environmental impact of tourism has found at Mahableshwar, Panahala and other tourist centers.

Tourism activity creates some environmental problems. Sustainable tourism is most important concept in the 21th century. In sixth chapter consider the different environmental problems found at tourist centers and which type of measures have adopted for the solving these problems. Many NGO and local groups are participated in the different programmes conducted for sustainable tourism. Conclusion and suggestion have been made in seven chapter.