ABSTRACT

Man, ever since creation took place, has been hit by the lust of the “wander bug”. The goodness of nature provided man with the most pleasant and unique sources of enjoyment. Rivers, lakes, waterfalls, Sea beaches, Snow clad peaks, lush green farms and meadows are the natural treasures to be explored. The growth of technology, physical, socio economic and institutional forces is the main catalyst for the growth of activities relating to leisure, relaxation and recreation. Emergence of tourism as a major industry is one of the most remarkable changes that have taken place in the economic activity of the post world war era. Travel was a privilege of a few rich, affluent and adventurous people earlier. During the post independence era, particularly in the past two decades, travel has become a part of life. In the event of manifold increase in transportation facilities and over all development in various walks of life, people have become fond of travelling. Puranas declare Himachal as the Dev Bhoomi, Saints and Rishis too built their Ashrams here to offer numerous places of pilgrimages. Studded with snowy ranges, lush green forests, streams, verdant valleys, shimmering lakes, vibrant land of gods and goddesses, having ancient temples, rocky ravines, having sports like skiing, skating, mountaineering, trekking, golf, fishing, boating and hang gliding. Himachal Pradesh is a tourists’ paradise. The state is well known for its picturesque landscapes, scenic beauty and salubrious climate. Due to all these unique qualities, Himachal Pradesh is fast emerging as the tourists’ destination. The Himalayas can be considered as a “tourism resource potential” area. The Natural environment has been considered as a best Tourism resource for the Himalayas. This hilly region is well endowed with beauties and bounties of nature and culture product.
Therefore whole of the Himalayas is a big attraction for both domestic and foreign tourists.

Tourism brings development in terms of infrastructure, connectivity by road and air, encourages local skills, and helps mobility and better understanding of culture. With these positive benefits, come the negative impacts like ecological disturbances, cultural mix and changes of social structure and physical changes.

Eco-tourism is the segment within the tourism sector. In the general sense, eco-tourism means management of tourism and conservation of nature in a way so as to maintain the fine balance between the requirements of tourism and ecology on one hand and the needs of the local communities for jobs, new skills, income generating employment and better status for women on the other hand. Whereas the Sustainable tourism principle applies to all type of Tourism activities, operations, establishment and projects. The Eco Tourism minimizes negative impacts upon the natural and socio-cultural environment.

The Kangra Valley, where Heritage Village Pragpur is located is panoramic and replete with history. This area has several streams that drain into river Beas with its suitable climate, easy access, safe passage, rich flora and fauna and treasure of architecture. Pragpur and its surroundings offer an ideal location to explore new horizon. The Dhauladhar mountain range raised behind presents a picture of pastoral perfection and needy frame. The study aims to enhance the Tourism and promote the developmental activities by considering the Ecological parameters. The study also aims to evolve a set of plausible guidelines, and prepare a suitable recommendation for sustainable Eco Tourism at the National & local level. This study has been carried out for developing a Eco Tourism in the State with special reference to Paragpur area. Views of the stakeholders have been associated, which
covers types of Eco tourism to be proposed, views for motivating tourist to stay longer in the State, role of the local community for the new Eco tourism projects & infrastructure, problems the State is presently facing for the tourism development and more specific Eco tourism activities have been discussed in detail which should be developed in the State.

Chapter-II, Literature study of Tourism, Sustainable Tourism & Eco Tourism planning & policy at International & National level. The views of the various researchers and scholar have been incorporated. The various agencies working in Eco Tourism at International & National level their efforts and scope have also been discussed. Studies have seen tourism as an important economic activity.

1. It is felt in various studies that tourism can be answer to various upcoming problems like unemployment etc.
2. Mass tourism is responsible for ill impacts of tourism.
3. Tourism has severe impacts on traditional pattern of economic order within local communities.
4. Adverse effects of mass tourism have lead to the development of alternative forms of tourism.
5. There is need of developing tourism on sustainable basis.
6. The goal of sustainable development, that is attaining economic development while protecting natural environment, will remain unachievable if proper attention is not paid for the recognition of negative aspects and the need to manage them. Eco Tourism has often been cited as a framework within which such issues can be considered.
7. For the development of tourism on sustainable basis we have to take local community and other stakeholders into consideration.
8. Sustainable tourism infrastructure maintains the ecology and
environment of the area and plan for future development in a systematic way.

Chapter-III, Profile of Tourism in Himachal Pradesh. In this chapter the profile of the state of Himachal Pradesh various studies done on the tourism of HP has been discussed. It is noted that in the present form of tourism there is participation of a large number of tourists and it leads to uncontrolled growth of tourism in some area. This type of tourism is supposed to be concentrated on a few traditional tourist centres. As the countries have seen tourism as an important economic indicator they also gave due importance to its negative impacts, which resulted in developing the concept of Eco Tourism & Sustainable Tourism Development. Eco Tourism has been seen as an alternative form of tourism, a form of tourism, which can provide various benefits to community and disperse the tourist traffic out of the traditional tourist centres. The concept of tourism carrying capacity holds importance because each place has its limits to accommodate the number of tourists. It can be concluded that there is gap in researches on Ecotourism & Nature based tourism

1. There is dearth of studies on Ecotourism & Nature based tourism
2. Role of various stakeholders and community has been ignored in development and planning process.

In the second part of this chapter tourism infrastructure have been discussed. According to the infrastructure available in the circuits, it has been observed that state has sufficient infrastructure which is available at almost all the main tourist areas in order to cater the needs of the Eco tourists as base camps however, what is required is to control the unplanned infrastructure which may destroy the ecological balance of the area. Therefore, it calls for a better planned, regulated and
environment friendly tourism approach. The carrying capacity, stakeholder's involvement, community participation etc. should be taken care for the sustainable tourism development of the destination.

Chapter-IV, In this chapter the profile of the study Area at the macro and micro level have been discussed. The environmental status of the Kangra district in respect of its land use and the level of development have been analysed. The study area Pragpur has been analysed, considering the various socio-economic, cultural, occupational and other parameters. The impact of increase in the population and the floating population have been taken into consideration. The positive and negative impacts of the tourism have been discussed. Mass tourism development has been associated with the poorly designed, sited and constructed buildings. It is concluded that construction with concrete and glass blocks is not keeping up with the imageability of the town, the materials and construction techniques used are not sustainable. The physical development, deforestation, need for energy food, fodder, fuel and career development are the basic issues causing unsustainability in the region.

Chapter-V, describes the essence about the community participation and critical analysis of the case studies relating to community participation in Himachal of tourism projects. Opinion survey of the local people have also been conducted, their perceptions regarding tourism development have been reflected.

Chapter-VI, a composite viewpoint of the stakeholders has been attempted for analysis of primary survey conducted to find out the suggestions and problems relating to Eco tourism infrastructure development.

Chapter-VII, is devoted to the summary of finding, recommendation and identification of areas for future research.