

A Theoretical Study on Socio Economic, Cultural and Environmental Impacts of Tourism with Sustainability Concept

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Abstract

The paper deals with the impact of tourism on society, economy, culture and environment of the region with its 'sustainability concept' and 'carrying capacity concept'. This theoretical study is purely based on the information collected from different sources like websites, articles published in reputed national and international journals, news papers and reputed reference books related to this field. Phase wise discussion of different aspects relating to socio economic, cultural and environmental impacts of tourism and its sustainable development concept have been done to realise the objectives of the study. Tourism has both positive and negative impact on socio economic and cultural environment of the region. Its negative impact on environment is too much alarming. To ensure the sustainable development of tourism these negative aspects should be controlled keeping in mind the carrying capacity of the environment. At present tourism plays a vital role in economy as a labour intensive industry. No doubt, some negative aspects are associated with the growth of the industry. The study identified these aspects and recommends arresting these factors to ensure sustainable development.

Key Words: Tourism, socio economic, cultural, Environment, Ecosystem, Biodiversity, Pollution, carrying capacity, sustainable development

Introduction

Temporary movement of people from one place to another is termed as tourism. It may be domestic tourism by the movement of people within the country or international tourism in which people move across the country. The word 'tourism' is also defined as "people who travel for pleasure of travelling, out of curiosity and because they have nothing better to do and even for joy of boasting about it afterwards". World Tourism Organization (WTO) has defined a tourist as 'a temporary visitor staying at least 24 hours in a country'. The purpose of journey can be classified under the broad

categories of leisure and business. Travellers' staying for less than 24 hours would be known as 'excursionists'.

The receipt from international tourism provides a valuable source of earnings from many countries both developed as well as developing. The foreign exchange earnings (FEE) from tourism in India shows a basic tendency to growth. In 1998 FEE from tourism was Rs. 12150 core which increased to Rs.15064 core in the year 2002, in 2006 it reached to Rs 39025 core, in 2010 it was Rs. 64889 core, in 2013 it reached to Rs. 107671 core and in the period Jan- June 2014 it stands to Rs. 56760 core. Tourism facilitates such as hotel, public transport, museums, clubs, and sports complexes. It also contributes to tax and indirectly through property profits

and income taxes. The tourist industry is a valuable source of employment to a large number of people from the unskilled to waiter, cooks, managers, executives in hotels, roads, airports, water supply and other public utilities, the basic infrastructures for tourism promotion creates jobs for thousands of skilled and unskilled workers. Another important economic effect of tourism is related to regional development of isolated and economically under developed areas.

Tourism also makes a massive contribution to the social and political understanding. Tourism is thus an important means of promoting cultural exchanges and international co-operation. At the same times, it must be recognized that tourism also contributed to the protection of the natural environment and cultural heritage of people and in particular to the restoration of historic and archaeological and works of art. Nature has been established in the interest of tourism, that protecting landscape, fauna and flora from destruction by modern development.

The survival of traditional handicrafts has been promoted as a tourist attraction and thus contributed to the preservation of the national heritage. Historic buildings have been excavated to attract tourism and many other examples of tourism, as promoter and protector of our National Human Environment come to mind.

The relationship of tourism with the environment is complex. Similarly many activities of tourism have adverse effects. Tourism development gradually destroys the environmental resources on which it depends. On the other hand, tourism has the potential to create beneficial effects on

the environment by contributing to environmental protection and conservation. But quiet unnaturally many of the tourism activities have had negative impacts on the environment. Negative impacts from tourism occur when the level of visitor use is greater than environment's ability to cope with this use within the acceptable limits of change. Uncontrolled conventional tourism poses potential threats to many natural areas around the world. It can put enormous pressure on an area and lead to impacts such as: soil erosion, increased pollution discharges into the sea, natural habitat loss, increased pressure on endangered species and heightened vulnerability to forest fires. It often puts a strain on water resources, and it can force local populations to compete for the use of critical resources.

This article deals with the socio economic, cultural and environmental impacts of tourism on the region with its carrying capacity concept and sustainability concept.

Review of Literature

Tourism is an interesting field of research for the researcher of social sciences. Many experts, scholars, researchers and academicians have induced to conduct their research work on this area. In this phase, an attempt has been taken to highlight some of the existing research work on tourism conducted in different parts of the country and abroad.

Perdue et al. (1990) desires to test a model of the relationships among rural resident perceptions of tourism impacts, support for additional tourism development, restrictions on tourism development, and support for special tourism taxes. It was found that, when controlling for personal

benefits from tourism development, perceptions of its impact were unrelated to socio demographic characteristics and support for additional development was positively or negatively related to the perceived positive or negative impacts of tourism. Support for additional tourism development was also negatively related to the perceived future of the community.

According to Simm (1998) tourism can bring many economic and social benefits, particularly in rural areas and developing countries, but mass tourism is also associated with negative effects. Tourism can only be sustainable if it is carefully managed so that potential negative effects on the host community and the environment are not permitted to outweigh the financial benefits.

The study of Harcombe (1999) concludes that the economic benefits of tourism normally outweigh what negative features there may be. But it also acknowledges that the situation is much less clear-cut when considering environmental and socio-cultural issues as opposed to economic ones.

This study of McGehee and Andereck (2004) examined the factors predicting attitudes toward tourism of residents from a dozen communities in Arizona, generally following the model developed by Perdue, Long, and Allen, using social exchange theory as the foundation. Findings indicated that in general, personal characteristics did not predict attitudes toward tourism, but community dependence on tourism was a predictor. Personal benefit from tourism predicted both positive and negative effects of tourism and support for additional tourism among residents of the Arizona

communities; this was consistent with Perdue, Long, and Allen. Positive effects of tourism, however, did not predict tourism planning. Although support for additional tourism did predict tourism planning, it was a positive rather than a negative relationship as reported by Perdue, Long, and Allen. As expected, support for social exchange theory was mixed; the existence of personal benefit from tourism was not a significant predictor of support for tourism planning.

The analysis of Blackman et al. (2004) identified a number of barriers to successful tourism development including a lack of control over negative impacts, difficulties with finance, community opposition and a lack of infrastructure. The results supported the use of the Tourism Systems Framework for guiding the planning, implementation and control of tourism development in peripheral regions.

According to Kumar (2007) sustainable tourism is a new concept, which says that the tourism development should meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their needs. Tourism industry is one of the major segments of our economy, it contributes major part of foreign exchange and generates employment and helps infrastructure development.

The finding of the study of Russi (2007) shows tourism industry has a great scope to develop. Tourism contributes towards economic development by way of increase in the level of national income, national employment and the increase in the foreign exchange reserves of the nation. Tourism can thrive only in the secure environment. Thus, security systems management in the tourism industry has its own importance.

Das (2011), in his article explains that tourism provides opportunities of job creation directly and indirectly. So this sector should be provided with incentives for sustainable and overall economic growth along with creation of jobs.

Mishra and Padhi (2012) recommends that since tourism is a multi-dimensional activity, and basically a service industry, it would be necessary that all wings of the Central and State governments, private sector and voluntary organizations become active partners in the endeavour to attain sustainable growth in tourism if India is to become a world player in the tourist industry.

Maullick (2012), in his article highlights about the tourism as strategy for rural development. He has given more priority of tourism sector and its contribution to earn foreign exchange and the accelerating trend of this sector towards attracting the foreign tourist arrival in India from 2001 to 2010.

After identifying the negative social aspects of tourism and analyzing the socio economic and cultural impacts of tourism, Chakraborty (2015) concludes in his two research works that to ensure the sustainable development of tourism the negative social factors should be arrested considering the carrying capacity of the environment. The role of 'security systems management process' in this regard is very significant.

Past researches are basically on the issues like tourism-development, its negative impacts, creation of employment opportunity, its economic contribution, relationship with sustainable development etc. But no research has yet been conducted in a compact way to study the

effects of tourism on economy, society, culture and environment with its sustainability aspects. In the present research work the author proposes to study the socio-economic, cultural and environmental impacts of tourism with its carrying capacity concept and sustainability concept.

Objective of the Study

The focus of the present study is on socio economic, cultural and environmental impacts of tourism and its sustainability concept. To fulfil the main objectives the author analyzes the following

1. Negative and positive economic aspects of tourism
2. Negative and positive social aspects of tourism
3. Impacts on the cultural environment
4. Impacts of tourism on natural resources
5. Impacts of tourism on pollution
6. Physical impacts of tourism
7. Impacts on biological diversity
8. Effects of other Industries on Tourism
9. Carrying capacity concept
10. Concept of tourism and sustainable development

The final section summarizes policy suggestion for the successful promotion of tourism as a strategy for sustainable development.

Methodology

This theoretical study is purely based on the information collected from different

sources like websites, articles published in reputed national and international journals, news papers and reputed reference books related to this field. Phase wise discussion of different aspects relating to socio economic, cultural and environmental impacts of tourism and its sustainable development concept have been done to realise the objectives of the study. Finally the author reaches to the conclusion and recommends policy suggestion for the betterment tourism industry.

Discussion

Socio Economic Impacts of Tourism

Tourism can bring many economic and social benefits, particularly in rural areas and developing countries, but mass tourism is also associated with negative effects. Tourism can only be sustainable if it is carefully managed so that potential negative effects on the host community and the environment are not permitted to outweigh the financial benefits.

A. Positive Economic Aspects

Tourism creates jobs, both through direct employment within the tourism industry and indirectly in sectors such as retail and transportation. When these people spend their wages on goods and services, it leads to what is known as the "multiplier effect," creating more jobs. The tourism industry also provides opportunities for small-scale business enterprises, which is especially important in rural communities, and generates extra tax revenues, such as airport and hotel taxes, which can be used for schools, housing and hospitals.

B. Negative Economic Aspects

Successful tourism relies on establishing a basic infrastructure, such as roads, visitor centers and hotels. The cost of this usually

falls on the government, so it has to come out of tax revenues. Jobs created by tourism are often seasonal and poorly paid, yet tourism can push up local property prices and the cost of goods and services. Money generated by tourism does not always benefit the local community, as some of it leaks out to huge international companies, such as hotel chains. Destinations dependent on tourism can be adversely affected by events such as terrorism, natural disasters and economic recession.

C. Positive Social Aspects

The improvements to infrastructure and new leisure amenities that result from tourism also benefit the local community. Tourism encourages the preservation of traditional customs, handicrafts and festivals that might otherwise have been allowed to wane, and it creates civic pride. Interchanges between hosts and guests create a better cultural understanding and can also help raise global awareness of issues such as poverty and human rights abuses.

D. Negative Social Aspects

Visitor behavior can have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of the host community. For example, crowding and congestion, drugs and alcohol problems, prostitution and increased crime levels can occur. Tourism can even infringe on human rights, with locals being displaced from their land to make way for new hotels or barred from beaches. Interaction with tourists can also lead to an erosion of traditional cultures and values.

Impacts on the Cultural Environment

Cultural atmosphere of a tourist spot is largely influenced with the development of

tourism industry, depending on the cultural and religious strengths of that region. The communication between tourists and the host community leads to change the cultural background of the spot, as tourists may not be sensitive to local customs, traditions and standards (Mathieson & Wall, 1982). The lifestyles and practices of the local people may be improved through the demonstration effect of tourists, particularly foreign tourists. To sustain tourism local facilities and infrastructure is being developed which could lead to better education, health care, employment opportunities and income. In the tourist spots more cultural and social events are available for local people such as entertainment, exhibitions etc. Modernised sports and leisure facilities created for the tourists which local people may use, particularly out of the tourist season. Preservation of the local cultural heritage of an area and rebirth of its crafts, architectural traditions and ancestral heritage is being possible through development of tourism industry. Employment is associated with development of tourism industry. Urban areas which may be in decline can be revived and the movement of people from rural areas to urban areas for employment may be reversed as jobs will be available in the tourism industry; Increase in youth exchange programmers, village tourism, home swap programmers and voluntary work overseas.

Environmental Impacts

Tourism is one of the world's largest industries and one of its fastest growing economic sectors. It has a multitude of impacts, both positive and negative, on people's lives and on the environment. The quality of the environment, both natural

and manmade, is essential to tourism. However, tourism's relationship with the environment is complex. Many of these impacts are linked with the construction of general infrastructure such as roads and airports, and of tourism facilities, including resorts, hotels, restaurants, shops, golf courses and marinas. The negative impacts of tourism development can gradually destroy the environment. These are elaborately discussed below:

Depletion of Natural Resources

Tourism development can put pressure on natural resources when it increases consumption in areas where resources are already scarce.

1. Water Resources

Water, and especially fresh water, is one of the most critical natural resources. The tourism industry generally overuses water resources for hotels, swimming pools, golf courses and personal use of water by tourists. This can result in water shortages and degradation of water supplies, as well as generating a greater volume of waste water.

2. Local Resources

Tourism can create great pressure on local resources like energy, food, and other raw materials that may already be in short supply. Greater extraction and transport of these resources exacerbates the physical impacts associated with their exploitation. Because of the seasonal character of the industry, many destinations have ten times more inhabitants in the high season as in the low season. A high demand is placed upon these resources to meet the high expectations tourists often have (proper heating, hot water, etc.).

3. Land Degradation

Important land resources include minerals, fossil fuels, fertile soil, forests, wetland and wildlife. Increased construction of tourism and recreational facilities has increased the pressure on these resources and on scenic landscapes. Direct impact on natural resources, both renewable and non-renewable, in the provision of tourist facilities can be caused by the use of land for accommodation and other infrastructure provision, and the use of building materials.

Pollution

Tourism can cause the same forms of pollution as any other industry: air emissions, noise, solid waste and littering, releases of sewage, oil and chemicals, even architectural/visual pollution.

1. Air Pollution and Noise

Transport by air, road, and rail is continuously increasing in response to the rising number reported that the number of international air passengers worldwide rose from 88 million in 1972 to 344 million in 1994. One consequence of this increase in air transport is that tourism now accounts for more than 60% of air travel and is therefore responsible for an important share of air emissions. One study estimated that a single transatlantic return flight emits almost half the CO₂ emissions produced by all other sources (lighting, heating, car use, etc.) consumed by an average person yearly.

Noise pollution from airplanes, cars, and buses, as well as recreational vehicles such as snowmobiles and jet skis, is an ever-growing problem of modern life. In addition to causing annoyance, stress, and even hearing loss for it humans, it causes

distress to wildlife, especially in sensitive areas. For instance, noise generated by snowmobiles can cause animals to alter their natural activity patterns.

2. Solid Waste and Littering

In areas with high concentrations of tourist activities and appealing natural attractions, waste disposal is a serious problem and improper disposal can be a major despoiler of the natural environment - rivers, scenic areas, and roadsides. For example, cruise ships in the Caribbean are estimated to produce more than 70,000 tons of waste each year. Today some cruise lines are actively working to reduce waste-related impacts. Solid waste and littering can degrade the physical appearance of the water and shoreline and cause the death of marine animals.

In mountain areas, trekking tourists generate a great deal of waste. Tourists on expedition leave behind their garbage, oxygen cylinders and even camping equipment. Such practices degrade the environment with all the detritus typical of the developed world, in remote areas that have few garbage collection or disposal facilities. Some trails in the Peruvian Andes and in Nepal frequently visited by tourists have been nicknamed "Coca-Cola trail" and "Toilet paper trail".

3. Sewage

Construction of hotels, recreation and other facilities often leads to increased sewage pollution. Wastewater has polluted seas and lakes surrounding tourist attractions, damaging the flora and fauna. Sewage runoff causes serious damage to coral reefs because it stimulates the growth of algae, which cover the filter-feeding corals, hindering their ability to survive. Changes in salinity and siltation can have

wide-ranging impacts on coastal environments. And sewage pollution can threaten the health of humans and animals.

4. Aesthetic Pollution

Often tourism fails to integrate its structures with the natural features and indigenous architectural of the destination. Large, dominating resorts of disparate design can look out of place in any natural environment and may clash with the indigenous structural design.

A lack of land-use planning and building regulations in many destinations has facilitated sprawling developments along coastlines, valleys and scenic routes. The sprawl includes tourism facilities themselves and supporting infrastructure such as roads, employee housing, parking, service areas, and waste disposal.

Physical Impacts

Attractive landscape sites, such as sandy beaches, lakes, riversides, and mountain tops and slopes, are often transitional zones, characterized by species-rich ecosystems. Typical physical impacts include the degradation of such ecosystems.

1. Physical Impacts of Tourism Development

- **Construction activities and infrastructure development**

The development of tourism facilities such as accommodation, water supplies, restaurants and recreation facilities can involve sand mining, beach and sand dune erosion, soil erosion and extensive paving. In addition, road and airport construction can lead to land

degradation and loss of wildlife habitats and deterioration of scenery.

- **Deforestation and intensified or unsustainable use of land**

Construction of ski resort accommodation and facilities frequently requires clearing forested land. Coastal wetlands are often drained and filled due to lack of more suitable sites for construction of tourism facilities and infrastructure. These activities can cause severe disturbance and erosion of the local ecosystem, even destruction in the long term.

- **Marina development**

Development of marinas and breakwaters can cause changes in currents and coastlines. Furthermore, extraction of building materials such as sand affects coral reefs, mangroves, and hinterland forests, leading to erosion and destruction of habitats.

2. Physical Impacts from Tourist Activities

- **Trampling**

Tourists using the same trail over and over again trample the vegetation and soil, eventually causing damage that can lead to loss of biodiversity and other impacts. Such damage can be even more extensive when visitors frequently stray off established trails.

Trampling Impacts on Vegetation	Trampling Impacts on Soil
Breakage and bruising of stems	Loss of organic matter
Reduced plant vigour	Reduction in soil macro porosity
Reduced regeneration	Decrease in air and water permeability
Loss of ground cover	Increase in run off
Change in species composition	Accelerated erosion

Source: University of Idaho

• **Anchoring and Other Marine Activities**

In marine areas (around coastal waters, reefs, beach and shoreline, offshore waters, uplands and lagoons) many tourist activities occur in or around fragile ecosystems. Anchoring, snorkeling, sport fishing and scuba diving, yachting, and cruising are some of the activities that can cause direct degradation of marine ecosystems such as coral reefs, and subsequent impacts on coastal protection and fisheries.

• **Alteration of Ecosystems by Tourist Activities**

Habitat can be degraded by tourism leisure activities. For example, wildlife viewing can bring about stress for the animals and alter their natural behavior when tourists come too close. Safaris and wildlife watching activities have a degrading effect on habitat as they often are accompanied by the noise and commotion created by tourists as they chase wild animals in their trucks and aircraft. This puts high pressure on animal habits and behaviors and tends to bring about behavioral changes. In some cases,

as in Kenya, it has led to animals becoming so disturbed that at times they neglect their young or fail to mate.

Loss of Biological Diversity

Biological diversity is the term given to the variety of life on Earth and the natural patterns it forms.

The effects of loss of biodiversity:

- It threatens our food supplies, opportunities for recreation and tourism, and sources of wood, medicines and energy.
- It interferes with essential ecological functions such as species balance, soil formation, and greenhouse gas absorption.
- It reduces the productivity of ecosystems, thereby shrinking nature's basket of goods and services, from which we constantly draw.
- It destabilizes ecosystems and weakens their ability to deal with natural disasters such as floods, droughts, and hurricanes, and with human-caused stresses, such as pollution and climate change.

This loss of biodiversity in fact means loss of tourism potential.

Effects of other Industries on Tourism

Impacts from other industries often have a more dramatic effect on the environment and can seriously affect tourism.

- Oil spills, like the oil tanker disaster that occurred off the Galapagos Islands (Ecuador) in January 2001, can cause severe short-term damage to tourist attractions. In that case, a freight ship loaded with 160,000 gallons of diesel fuel and 80,000 gallons of other petroleum products ran aground on the coast of San Cristobel and spilled nearly all of its load. Unique local marine and land species and the tourism potential of the area were badly affected.
- Agricultural runoff or industrial discharges can cause water pollution and may cause algae blooms like those that occurred in the Adriatic Sea in the early 1990s. In spite of improved control of sewage from tourism developments, the Mediterranean Sea floor is increasingly carpeted with these quick-growing invaders, many rising 30 inches or more above anchoring runners. They appear equally adept at colonizing rock, mud, and sand in a virtually continuous swath that can extend from the beach out to a depth of about 150 feet, smothering coral reefs, fish and other sea flora and fauna in the process.

Destructive practices such as blast fishing, fishing with poisonous chemicals like cyanide, and muro-ami netting (pounding reefs with weighted bags to scare fish out of crevices) directly destroy corals. They can also destroy a major draw for tourists

Carrying Capacity Concept

The degradation and destruction of several resort areas is attributed to overcrowding and heavy pressure of tourist on their fragile environments. The conservationists therefore naturally see tourism as a threat to the survival of treasured landscapes and wild-life and are even more apprehensive of the growth of tourism which many experts forecast. Yet tourism and conservation are linked together in the off quoted assertion that tourists may destroy the very things they come to enjoy. Tourism is largely dependent on using and developing the natural and cultural resources of countries as attractions for visitors. The overall environment is an essential input to tourism and its quality is of fundamental importance to both the visitor and the resident community. However by developing these resources there is a real danger that the basic assets may be changed in character or perhaps destroyed. As tourism increases and pressure grows in tourism areas the negative factors may start to predominate causing the quality of the environment to decline with consequent disadvantages to both the visitors and the residents. This is the saturation point or the carrying capacity of the environment. The concept of carrying capacity is to try and establish in measurable terms the number of visitors and degree of development that can take place without detrimental effects on the resources⁷.

Concept of Tourism and Sustainable Development

Sustainable development has been defined briefly as “that which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. The definition brings out

certain important aspects of sustainable tourism:

- Conservation and enhancement of resources for the future generation.
- Protection of biological diversity.
- Equity within and between generations.
- Integration of environmental, social and economic considerations.

The World Tourism Organization (WTO) defined sustainable tourism development as “that which meets the needs of present tourist and host regions while protecting and enhancing opportunities for the future. It is envisaged as leading to the management of all resources in such a way that economic, social and aesthetic needs can be fulfilled while maintaining cultural integrity, essential for ecological process, biological diversity and life supporting system”. Sustainable tourism in its purest sense is an industry, which attempts to make a low impact on the environment and local culture, while helping to generate income, employment, and the conservation of local ecosystems. It is responsible tourism, which is both ecologically and culturally sensitive.

Sustainable tourism inherits some common features pointed out below:

- It's informative.
- It supports integrity of place.
- It benefits residents.
- It conserves resources.
- It respects local culture and tradition.
- It does not abuse its product.
- It strives for quality, not quantity.

- It means great trips.

Sustainable tourism aims to:

- Improve the quality of life of people.
- Provide good experience to the tourists.
- Maintain the quality of environment that is essential for both tourists and the local community.

Thus tourism has to be environmentally sustainable in both natural and cultural environment. The following are certain guidelines that have to be followed to achieve sustainable tourism:

- A general tourism policy incorporating sustainable tourism objectives at national, regional and local level should be followed.
- Targets established for the planning, development and operation of tourism involving various government departments, public and private sector companies, community groups and experts could provide widest possible safeguards for success.
- Primary consideration should be given to the protection of natural and cultural assets.
- All tourism participants will follow ethical and sound behavioural and conservative rules regarding nature, culture, economy and community value system.
- The distribution of tourism development project should be rationed on the basis of equity.

- Public awareness of benefits tourism and how to mitigate its negative impacts should be pursued.
- Local people would be encouraged to assume leadership roles in planning and development. In the Tourism Policy, 1982 the guidelines in Eco-tourism. It indicates that the key players in the eco-tourism are Central government and State government, local authorities, developers, operators, visitors and local community. Each of them has to be sensitive to the environment and local traditions and follow the guidelines for successfully development of sustainable tourism.

Sustainable tourism development requires the informed participation of all relevant stakeholders, as well as strong political leadership to ensure wide participation and continuous process and ensure a meaningful experience to the tourists, raising their awareness amongst them (WTO, 2004). Sustainable tourism is a new concept, which says that the tourism development should meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their needs⁵.

Conclusion

The study reveals that tourism plays an optimistic role in foreign exchange earnings, regional development, employment creation, promoting cultural exchanges and international co-operation of the region. It also protects the natural environment and cultural heritage of

people and survives traditional handicrafts of the area. Cultural atmosphere such as lifestyles and practices of the local people, education, health care, employment opportunities and income, sports and leisure facilities is improved through the development of tourism industry. It also observed that some adverse impacts are associated the development of tourism on socio economic and cultural environment of the tourist spots. Over crowding and congestion, drugs and alcohol problems, prostitution, increased crime level, erosion of traditional cultures and values, terrorism, natural disasters and economic recession are the examples of some of negative aspects of tourism.

The negative impacts of tourism on environment are a matter of great concern because it can destroy the environment. The study reveals that depletion of natural resources, pollution, degradation of ecosystems, loss of biological diversity are the major negative aspects of tourism development. In devising tourism map a holistic approach is needed which alone can resolve the issue. To ensure the sustainable development of tourism these negative aspects should be controlled keeping in mind the carrying capacity of the environment.

Policy Suggestion

The government, host community and tourists should have to play responsible role to check the growth of negative socio economic, cultural and environmental aspects of tourism so that they can be nipped in the bud. The government may implement the 'Security Systems Management Process' to tackle the negative factors.

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