



Original Research Article

Eco-Tourism a Tool of Livelihood in Madhya Pradesh, India

A. K. Joshi*

Conservator of Forest Indore Division, Indore, India

*Corresponding author

ABSTRACT

Keywords

Madhya Pradesh, Eco-tourism, Livelihood, Conservation

Madhya Pradesh has around 30% of Geographical area as Forest land. It is part of central plateau having Satpura, Vindhya and ravines of Chambal. River like Narmda, Tapti, Chambal and Betwa flows in the state. State is also known as Tiger State with Kanha and Bandhavgarh are being prominent Tiger reserve. Eco-tourism in and around other prominent places like Pachmarhi, Panna, Bandhavgarh, Bhopal played a great role in providing a jobs to hundreds of local villagers. Awareness generation, Conservation and education also enhanced in various Joint Forest Management Committees. Eco-Tourism as an opportunity for Conservation and Livelihood.

Introduction

The Madhya Pradesh houses a diversity of ecosystems including plateaus, ravines, ridges, valleys, riparian areas and flat plains. With four major forest types, nine National Parks and 25 Wildlife Sanctuaries, the Tiger state houses one of the richest floral diversity. With around 5000 plant species (Singh and Upadhyay, 2014), Home to six tribes with distinct customs, practices and diverse cultures, the biological diversity and Eco-tourism sustains livelihoods and ensures food security to two-fifth of the state 73.34 million population.

Tourism in Madhya Pradesh is centered on nature and wildlife. It is in this context that "Eco-tourism" has gained its bearing in Madhya Pradesh. Eco-tourism also had potential to play an important role in creating environmental as well as cultural,

conservation and support of life maintenance awareness amongst all the stakeholders, local communities, tourists, government and the private sector. In the present scenario the Eco-tourism is a grooming sector in developing nations. Nature tourism is the organized viewing of wildlife. Nature tourists pay a considerable amount of money to participate in viewing wildlife in their native countries and in foreign countries that promote nature viewing to attract the revenue of tourists (Moreno, 2005). Eco-tourism is a form of tourism that involves visiting natural areas in the remote wilderness or rural environments. According to the definition and principles of ecotourism established by The International Ecotourism Society (Ties) in 1990, ecotourism is "Responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment

and improves the well-being of local people" (Ties, 1990).

Methodology

The present study is the outcome of exhaustive field and eco-tourist places survey undertaken for the period of one year. The survey was conducted in the government policy makers and non government organization.

Results and Discussion

Ecotourism is a grooming sector in developing nations. However, its impact on wildlife and indigenous people has become a controversial issue (Singh and Upadhyay, 2011). The migratory birds were clearly unaccustomed to the humans and fled at the mere site of humans and cars. A tourism industry needs to be supported by building suitable infrastructure.

The construction of roads, buildings and introduction of electricity can result in fragmentation of wildlife and habitat destruction. The use of vehicles for transportation can disturb wildlife directly through noise and overuse of critical areas such as nesting areas, feeding grounds and water holes. Indirect effects can result in habitat degradation through pollution and alteration through trail cutting (Groom *et al.*, 2000). Conservation efforts to protect valuable wildlife and their forest habitats may conflict with the interests of local communities. Therefore, intentions of conservation can be misunderstood by the local communities (Crouch and Scott, 2003). Such conflicts can result in a lack of trust and cooperation between local communities and conservationists. The development of ecotourism can help save forest lands by encouraging a no consumptive use of wildlife while generating valuable foreign income. However, the development of

ecotourism can create an unequal distribution of income contributing to socio-economic problems, affect wildlife and indigenous people and conflict with conservation efforts (Singh and Upadhyay, 2011).

Awareness generation regarding environment, wild life, climate change, biodiversity conservations, natural trail, jungle safari, and forest tracks among the school going children is essential part of the curriculum. Majority of the good tourism destination are within national parks and reserve forest boundaries. National park, wild life, sanctuaries and reserve forest areas have their rule and regulation to follow and restriction to follow alternatively the private forest are the Lok Vaniki areas provides equally good sites to carry on all ecotourism based activity.

The eco-tourism policy of Madhya Pradesh indicates community involvement in terms of livelihood generation in its objectives and use of resources, where communities in consultation with them traditionally use them.

Today's science is very developed so community work is required for a scientific and certified study and documented to traditional knowledge for tourist. if we have developed many types of expert guide such as archeologist, Birds, Reptiles, Butterflies, Geologist, Taxonomist, History, Mythologist, Zoologist etc. and trend with modern equipment, so eco-tourist satisfy for such information and explore information with his friends circle.

In the scheme of ecotourism on public private partnership (PPP) model developed at Arnika Ecopark Dewas, Beehar Eco-adventure Park Rewa, Ralamandal Ecopark Indore, Bhilatadev Ecopark Hoshangabad

and Kerwa Zip line near Bhopal. It has successfully scheme developed and link

with livelihood by department of forest, government of Madhya Pradesh.

Table.1 National parks of Madhya Pradesh

No.	National park	District of (M.P.)
1	Kanha	Mandla
2	Bandhavgarh	Umariya
3	Panna	Panna
4	Pench	Seoni and Chhindwara
5	Satpura	Hoshangabad
6	Sanjay	Sidhi
7	Madhav	Shivpuri
8	Vanvihar	Bhopal
9	Fossil	Mandla

Table.2 Sanctuaries of Madhya Pradesh

No.	Sanctuaries	District of (M.P.)
1	Bori	Hoshangabad
2	Bogdara	Sidhi
3	Phen	Mandla
4	Ghatigaon	Gwalior
5	Gandhisagar	Mandsour
6	Karera	Shivpuri
7	Ken Ghariyal	Chhatarpur and Panna
8	Kheoni	Dewas and Sihore
9	Narsinghgarh	Rajgarh
10	Nauradehi	Sagar
11	National Chambal ghariyal	Murena
12	Pachmarhi	Hoshangabad
13	Panpatha	Shahdol
14	Kuno Palpur	Murena
15	Pench	Sioni and Chhindwara
16	Ratapani	Raisen
17	Sanjay dubri	Sidhi
18	Singhori	Raisen
19	Son Ghariyal	Sidhi and Shahdol
20	Sardarpur	Dhar
21	Sailana	Ratlam
22	Ralamandal	Indore
23	Orchha	Tikamgarh
24	Gangau	Panna
25	Veerangana Durgawati	Damoh

Table.3 Eco-Tourism Destination in Madhya Pradesh

No.	Eco-tourism destination	Near by
1	Samardha	Bhopal
2	Kerwa	Bhopal
3	Kathotiya	Bhopal
4	Kukru	Betul
5	Bhilatdev	Hoshangabad
6	Tighra	Gwalior
7	Deori	Chambal

An environmental protection strategy must address the issue of eco-tourists removed from the cause-and-effect of their actions on the environment. More initiatives should be carried out to improve their awareness, sensitize them to environmental issues, and care about the places they visit (Tuohino and Hynonen, 2001). Tour guides are an obvious and direct medium to communicate awareness. With the confidence of eco-tourists and intimate knowledge of the environment, they can actively discuss conservation issues. A tour guide training program has helped mitigate negative environmental impacts by providing information and regulating tourists. Set biodiversity priorities that link with conservation goals. Clarify local, national and global bio-diversity conservation priorities. Involve those responsible for implementing conservation action; Government agencies, and local communities.

Give local people economic incentives to protect wildlife ecosystems. Involve government policy makers in conservation efforts to declare protected areas and enforce regulations (Akare and Singh). Conservation efforts to protect valuable wildlife and their forest habitats may conflict with the interests of local communities. Therefore, intentions of conservation can be misunderstood by the local communities (Crouch and Scott, 2003).

References

- Akare, D.S. and Singh, B.P. (2015). Rising Tamia, in the field of Eco-tourism, *Int. J. Curr. Microbiol. App. Sci* 4(2): 706-712
- Bhattachariya, A.K, and Banerjee, Suchitra (2003). Relevance of carrying capacity and eco-developmental linkage for sustainable Ecotourism. *The Indian forester* 129(3)
- Bhattachariya, A.K., Saxena, Vandana and Banerjee, Suchitra. (2006). Environmental auditing in ecotourism: A study on visitor's management in Vanvihar National Park, Bhopal. *The Indian forester* 132 (2)
- Frederic, S. Lee, (2008). "Heterodox economics," *The new Palgrave dictionary of economics*, 2nd Ed., v.4, pp. 1–6.
- Gary, S. Becker (1974). "A Theory of Social Interactions," *Journal of Political Economy*, 82(6), pp.1063-1093.
- Gary, S. Becker and Kevin M. Murphy (2001). *Social Economics: Market Behavior in a Social Environment*. Description and table of contents Harvard University Press.
- Jess, Benhabib, Alberto Bisin, and Matthew Jackson, ed., (2011). *Handbook of Social Economics*, Elsevier: Vol. 1A: Part 1.
- John, B. Davis and Wilfred Dolfsma, (2008). "Social economics: an

- introduction and a view of the field," in John B. Davis and Wilfred Dolfsma, ed., *The Elgar Companion to Social Economics*, pp.1-7.
- John, Eatwell, Murray Milgate and Peter Newman (1987). *Social Economics: The New Palgrave*, p. xii. Topic-preview links, pp 5-6
- Kamauro, O. (1996). *Ecotourism: Suicide or Development? Voices from Africa 6: Sustainable Development*, UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service. United Nations News Service.
- Rawat, R.B.S. and Sharma, Jogmohan (2003). Developing stakeholder based ecotourism in Uttranchal. India. *The Indian forester* 129(3)
- Sadry, B.N. (2009) "Fundamentals of Geotourism: with a special emphasis on Iran", Samt Organization publishers, Tehran.220p.
- Singh, Balendra P. and Upadhyay Ravi. (2011). Ecotourism and its effects on wildlife of Pachmarhi biosphere reserve; *Afr.J.of Env.Sci.and Tech.*5(9), pp. 717-721.
- Tony Lawson, (2006). *The Nature of Heterodox Economics*. Cambridge Journal of Economics, 30(4), pp. 483-505.
- Tuohino, A. and Hynonen, A. (2001). *Ecotourism imagery and reality. Reflections on concepts and practices in Finnish rural tourism*. Nordia Geographical Publications. pp. 30(4):21-34.