

Eco-Tourism in India : Scope and Challenges

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Abstract

Ecotourism is entirely a new approach or a new type of tourism. It focuses on responsible travel to natural places and environmental conservation.

Sustainable tourism is another name for ecotourism. It is a sort of environmentally friendly transportation that supports and improves the local environment rather than depleting its resources and placing stress on it.

Ecotourism, that allows the tourist to live within the capacity of the environment that supports. Ecotourism encourages travellers to spend time in natural areas which respect the cultural and natural history of that areas. In ecotourism, tourists are engaged more in activities that do not disturb the integrity of ecosystem and conserve and protect the natural resources while doing economic opportunities which will make conservation of natural resources advantageous for local people.

Hector Ceballos-Lascurain originally used the phrase "ecotourism" in 1983. He characterised it as travelling in untouched, natural areas with the intention of admiring, learning about, and enjoying the beauty as well as the native wildlife, vegetation, and culture.

The objectives of this paper is to find out the challenges of eco tourism in India; and to analyze the reasons for it. Research is based on secondary data which have been collected from books, magazines and journals, etc.

KEYWORDS : Eco , Tourism , sustainable.

Introduction

According to the World Tourism Organization, tourism is the activity of individuals or groups of individuals travelling to and staying in locations outside of their usual surroundings for a brief period of time with an aim of enjoyment, leisure, entertainment, learning, and exploring, among other things.

One of the global industries with the quickest growth rates is tourism. A significant portion of the nation's economy is generated by tourism. India has huge potential to develop tourism. India is famous for its geographical features such as its beautiful beaches, deserts, forests, mountains and backwaters. Along with its natural features the country has developed large number of man-made sites like monuments, cultural etc. India is also known for its traditional culture. India's culture is more than 5000-year-old, all this makes India a tourism goldmine. However due to lapses in governmental policy, Indian Tourism Industry failed to tap its potential.

Concept of eco-tourism

Introduction

Sustainable tourism is one of the components of sustainable development, which is the catchphrase of the twenty-first century. Ecotourism refers to responsible travel. Ecotourism is ethical travel to natural regions that doesn't interfere with the well-being of locals.

According to the World Tourism Organization, it is defined as "tourism that entails travel to relatively undisturbed natural settings with the specified objective of learning, admiring and enjoying nature and its wild plants and animals as well as exhilarating aspects present in these environments."

Importance of eco-tourism

The main objectives of ecotourism are to educate tourists, fund economic development, help local communities, promote respect for different cultures, and preserve the environment.

Ecotourism refers to visiting places in the natural world where the flora, fauna, and cultural heritage are the main attractions. The major goals of ecotourism are to increase appreciation for nature and to give visitors a better knowledge of how human activity affects the environment.

Ecotourism encourages environmentally responsible development, recycling, energy efficiency, and water conservation. It also opens up job prospects in the tourism industry.

In India, there are over 200 National Parks and 543 wildlife sanctuaries that seek to protect the country's wildlife resources.

Ecotourism aids in raising awareness of social and political challenges in developing nations from a sociocultural perspective.

India has a vast variety of tourism spots, including beaches, religious sites, the Himalayan area, Kerala, northeast India, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and the northeast, all of which offer several possibilities to enjoy mother nature.

Tourists visit any region in the nation that needs new infrastructure, such as sewage treatment plants, accommodation options, etc. Environmental degradation is more severe in vulnerable places.

A huge influx of tourists can also be detrimental to the local community because they rarely spend their money there. Dealing with garbage disposal becomes difficult.

Numerous studies have shown that money made from ecotourism businesses could enhance and streamline India's long-term economic prospects.

Ecotourism promotes greater understanding of the political and social problems facing developing nations.

Challenges Facing Ecotourism

The freedom of cultural expression among the locals may be impacted by an increase in tourists since some of them may feel intimidated. The major goal of ecotourism is to encourage environmental protection, but sadly, this is not always easy to do. Ecotourism travellers occasionally come across areas that have mostly escaped human intervention. A growing population will put more pressure on the environment by increasing the demand for resources like food and water. To go to remote locations, one must use land, sea, or air transportation. These media produce a lot of pollution, particularly in the form of noise, air, and land pollution, which negatively impacts the ecosystem in the area.

Due to inadequate planning, a lack of knowledgeable tour guides, a lack of effective marketing strategies, a lack of infrastructure, etc., the ecotourism sector is facing a number of difficulties.

Large-scale ecotourism development means that hotel demand will rise and that villagers may have to leave their homes in order to build hotels. Locals will lose their land. Large-scale ecotourism development means that hotel demand will rise and that villagers may have to leave their homes in order to build hotels. Locals will lose their land..

Conclusion

Because it can decrease negative environmental effects, travellers should choose ecologically friendly housing. Additionally, it promotes closer relationships with neighbours and leads to more environmentally sound choices overall.

Tourists like to stay at hotels and resorts that employ eco-friendly practises like recycling, reusing, and using renewable energy and biodegradable items. Over traditional vacation resorts and five-star hotels, tourists will prefer local goods, hostels, and guest houses.

They assist surrounding businesses and the neighbourhood as a whole by doing this. In addition to encouraging the nation's general economic and social prosperity by maintaining and protecting our cultural history, the Indian tourist industry is expanding and has enormous potential for creating jobs and generating significant sums of foreign currency.

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