

IMPACT OF TOURISM ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Dr. Lalit Kumar Nagora*
Neelam Nagora**

ABSTRACT

Tourism is world's largest industry without making smoke. It occupies one in nine global jobs and contributes 10 percent to the world GDP. Tourism is one of the largest and fastest expanding economic industries in the world. Because of its climate and heritage cultures, India has become one of the world's most promising tourism destinations, attracting a great number of people each year. The tourism business is inextricably linked to environmental issues. Tourism depends on the quality of the environment, both natural and man-made. Many activities associated with tourism might have negative environmental consequences. Tourism's negative effects can eventually deplete the environmental resources on which it relies. Tourism, on the other hand, has the potential to have a positive impact on environmental values and can be used to fund environmental protection and conservation. As a result, the goal of this research study is to look into the relationship between tourism and natural resources, pollution, and the physical environment. The research also looks at how tourism can help with environmental protection.

Keywords: *Tourism Industry, Foreign Tourist, Environmental Pollution, Environmental Conservation.*

Introduction

Tourism is one of the world's fastest growing industries. The industry has had both beneficial and negative environmental consequences. If the intensity of usage by tourists exceeds the environment's ability to support it, tourism will have a negative impact on the environment. Tourism, on the other hand, has a positive impact if every visitor comprehends the concept of environmental preservation and its long-term viability. This paper aims to examine how the two are related, with a focus on the environmental impact of tourism.

Sustainable tourist development must constantly respect the environment and adhere to recognised sustainability norms. It must be planned to make balanced use of a site's resources, avoiding undesirable consequences such as reduced tourist satisfaction or detrimental effects on the local society, economics, and culture. Limits can be difficult to define at times, but they are necessary for long-term tourism sustainability. Tourism may be a constructive factor for conservation, environmental protection, and economic development if it is properly planned.

Objectives of the Paper

The Specific Objectives of the Research Paper are as Follows:

- To study & understanding about Tourism and Environment.
- To analyze the positive and negative impact of tourism on environment.
- To study how we minimize the negative impact of tourism on environment.

* Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, S.P.C. Government College, Ajmer, Rajasthan, India.

** Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, Government Girls College Ajmer, Rajasthan, India.

Research Methodology

This is a descriptive research article based on secondary data and a literature review. Data was gathered from many websites, books, seminar research papers, taskforce reports, and journals. Researchers utilise simple tables to describe the data and arrive at their conclusions.

Tourism and Environment: An Introduction

Tourism

Tourism has evolved into a phenomenon rather than a basic vacation pastime. It's also worth remembering that tourism and tourist are two different things. Approaches differ in this way, and it can be described in terms of both understandings.

Holden, A. (2008), "It is a human activity which encompasses human behavior, use of resources, and interaction with other people, economies and environments".

According to the above definition, tourism is primarily concerned with natural or social factors, and the author has investigated tourism in terms of environmental qualities.

This definition is more individualised and from the standpoint of a tourist as a solitary entity. In this case, the consumer's personal experience is more important. Travel can be for a variety of reasons, while tourism is more about having an amazing experience than a daily living.

Environment

In the context of tourism, the environment is always defined as the natural or atmospheric characteristics of a tourist destination or location. Mountains, water resources such as seaside, sea, rivers, waterfalls, and so on make up nature. Plants, forests, parks, rainforests, safaris, and other elements of the green environment are included in the wilderness, which also includes wild life, animals, and forest species. Heritage sites or cultural uniqueness are also a part of an ecosystem from a social perspective.

Holden, A. (2008), "In environmental studies it has commonly been assumed that there exists a fundamental connection between a society's management of natural resources and its perception of nature."

Hunter and Green (1995) stated that 'environment can be subdivided into three components as the physical environment or a biotic environment which includes solar energy, soil, water and climate'.

Tourism and Environment are Interdependent

Tourism is founded on the environment; tourism has always devoured natural resources and will continue to do so. Tourism is the most important force affecting the natural environment, both positively and negatively. Even the most basic type of tourism, such as visiting a zoo, depletes natural resources such as animals, birds, and plants. Such a straightforward style of tourism has both positive and negative consequences. The bad consequence scenarios could include collecting animals from their native habitat and holding them in zoos, however the positive element could be that by catching the animals, they are safeguarded from hunters and other potentially harmful environmental circumstances. Tourism has both harmful and beneficial effects on a variety of other smaller or larger scales, but it is more necessary to comprehend the actual devastation or improvements caused by tourism to the environment.

It's logical that human interaction with the environment tends to deplete resources; if it can't help them expand, at the very least it can protect them from future harm through wise human behaviour. The goal of studying the tourism environment is to understand the cause-and-effect relationship and to propose theories to mitigate the environmental damage caused by mass tourism. It is also critical that tourism coexists with improved environmental quality, so that the environment benefits rather than suffers. Tourism is without a doubt one of the most profitable industries in the world, and the relationship between tourism and the environment can be balanced if a portion of the profit is utilised to fund conservation initiatives or environmental sustainability.

Types of Tourism

There are several types of tourists. This could be based on their preferred destinations or activities:

- Beach holidays
- Outdoor adventure
- Cultural/historic
- Ecotourism

This type of tourism is designed to be sustainable tourism.

- **Sustainable tourism** provides visitors with tourism possibilities and residents with jobs while safeguarding the environment and culture from harm. This ensures that people will continue to enjoy and benefit from them in the future.

Impact on Environment

Positive Impacts of Tourism

- **Job Creation**

The generation of jobs is one of the most important advantages of tourism. This industry offers several job chances to people all over the world. According to research conducted over the last few years, the tourist industry is one of the top five job creators in the globe. Tourists bring in more money to the economy. The development of airports, highways, stores, golf courses, restaurants, and hotels is required.

- **Increase Revenue Generation**

Tourism is one of the country's most vital industries, bringing in millions of dollars each year. People opt to vacation in tourist destinations, plan a destination wedding, or participate in a big event or cultural celebration.

In addition, in order to make the tourist attraction more appealing, the government has taken the initiative to plant additional trees, water them, and preserve them so that they appear lovely and enticing to visitors. Tourism stimulates forestation and boosts the nation's economy in this way.

- **Boosts Culture Development**

One of the reasons travellers travel to different tourist spots is to learn about the cultures of different countries. They study how people dress, celebrate festivals, live, learn about their historical and cultural heritage, cuisines, and local customs. Such personal interactions between visitors and hosts promote cultural awareness and give guests with immersive and authentic experiences. National parks and open areas all over the world are excellent places to restore one's soul and body.

- **Socio-Cultural Impacts**

The pursuit of authenticity, or the desire to experience a diverse cultural setting in its natural setting, is an essential part of tourism. Although cultural tourism offers chances for understanding and education, it also has negative consequences. It's not just the amount of tourism at work that matters, but also the types of social interactions that take place between the tourist and the host. At the local level, there are three broad effects: co-modification of culture, demonstrative effect, and acculturation of another culture.

- **Co-modification of Culture**

The utilisation of cultural traditions and artifacts to sell and profit for the local economy is known as co-modification of culture. Authors claim that co-modification is unavoidable as tourism grows. Co-modification has both beneficial and bad socio-cultural effects on a civilization. One advantage is that it generates revenue and jobs for local artisans who can sell their wares to tourists. Rural tourism is viewed as a "cure" for poverty, as it leads to better transportation and telecommunications in a certain area. Co-modification piques tourist interest in traditional arts and social processes.

- **Health Impact**

On the health of the local population, tourism has both beneficial and negative effects. The impact of pleasurable experiences and social interactions with visitors on physical health and longevity can be explained by the beneficial long-term health consequences of tourism arrivals. According to the research, having a broad social network lowers the risk of illness and mortality. Because various interactions between locals and tourists generate good experiences that may have an impact on physical health, tourism growth may have a long-term positive impact on local people's health via positive emotions and social interactions.

Negative Impacts of Tourism

- **Lead to Environmental Destruction**

Political instability, terrorism, natural disasters, and severe weather conditions are all unforeseeable calamities that wreak havoc on any region. For a long time, it has a negative impact on inbound tourism. The open area is created by chopping down trees to build airports, hotels, and bars,

among other things. Animals and birds lose their homes as a result of the lack of trees and forests. The length of time it takes for the environment to recover is determined by the degree of destruction it has suffered.

- **Depletion of Natural Resources**

Another significant negative impact of tourism on the environment is the depletion of natural resources. Due to the rise of the tourism business, one of the most important supplies of living, namely water, has become limited. This is due to the overuse of water that occurs as a result of tourism. Every year, 60,000 rural villagers, 1500 kg of pesticides, herbicides, and chemical fertilisers are used on a modest golf course.

Every year, around one billion individuals around the world participate in tourism. By the end of the year, this figure will have risen by 60%. Overconsumption of natural resources puts a strain on tourism. It's more common in locations with little resources.

- **Causes Pollution**

Water pollution occurs when people throw paper, bottles, food, and other stuff into the water. Air pollution is also a result of the increased usage of automobiles. The natural ecological system has been thrown off. Beaches are being transformed into tourist locations, and dwellings are being depleted for construction, destroying and eliminating these habitats.

Such land commercialization fails to provide people with a meaningful tourist experience or genuine social benefit. It just leads to natural resource depletion, waste problems, and pollution.

- **Other Loss to Nature**

Aside from the numerous negative effects of tourism on the country, it also puts a lot of pressure on the utilisation of local land. Soil erosion, loss of natural habitat, increased pollution, and stress on threatened species are all consequences of tourism. All of these effects deplete the natural resources that support tourism.

- **Change in Climate**

The tourism industry accounts for around 5% of global greenhouse gas emissions. This, combined with transportation, accounts for 90% of all emissions.

- **Health Impacts**

The density of visitor arrivals, transportation congestion, crowding, crime level, and other stressful variables all contribute to short-term unfavourable consequences. Inbound tourism also contributes to the transmission of viruses like SARS, MERS, COVID-19, and other diseases that transfer from person to person, resulting in recent border closures, travel restrictions, and aircraft cancellations, among other things. Visitors and residents are frequently exposed to sexually transmitted illnesses. Because visitors are unaware of local legislation, driving norms, and road conditions, road accidents are another detrimental consequence of tourism development. Tourists also have much higher incidence of alcohol-related crashes.

How can we Conserve Environment from the Negative Effect of Tourism?

"Eco-tourism" is one of the solutions to tourism's detrimental influence. The entire world is looking forward to this sort of tourism because of its good influence. Ecotourism isn't a brand-new concept. In the twentieth century, it was an African-based way of growing tourism. Ecotourism is built on nature, with visitors driven by a desire to appreciate and observe the natural environment as well as the cultural activities accessible in a given place. Ecotourism is also a solution to this problem because it includes educational elements that aid in interpretation as well as raising awareness of a particular environment's natural and cultural ways.

This stage aids in the comprehension of a variety of environmental challenges that have an impact on tourism. Preservation gets easier with knowledge. Ecotourism also considers small groups of people who are structured and sometimes more particular, ensuring that environmental devastation is kept to a minimum. Ecotourism also promotes the preservation of existing natural habitats. It also serves as a tool for the preservation of natural regions. Ecotourism provides a unique opportunity for local people who work in the tourism industry. As a result, it broadens the participation of locals in significant industry decisions.

Conclusion and Suggestion

To summarise, there is a strong link between tourism and the environment. These two variables are intertwined since they might have both good and negative consequences. The negative effects can be mitigated by taking steps to protect natural resources. The collection of income in the form of taxes is one weapon that can be utilised to safeguard the environment. All of these instances, on the other hand, paint a favourable image of how the tourism sector and the environment are mutually dependent on one another. Despite the fact that tourism has many bad characteristics, we can still state that it has the potential to conserve, maintain, and improve natural resources and the environment. It can so contribute to environmental preservation while also regaining the unfavourable image it has acquired over the last few decades. Tourism is undeniably profitable. Even so, caution must be exercised to ensure that the tourism industry's economic expansion contributes to natural environmental processes and the long-term usage of natural resources.

References

1. Deery, M. Jago, L.Fredline, L. (2012), "Rethinking social impacts of tourism research: A new research agenda", *Tourism Management*, 33 (1), PP. 64–73.
2. Holden, A. (2008), "Environment and Tourism (2nd edition)", Routledge, London.
3. Hunter, C. and Green, H. (1995), "Tourism and the Environment: A sustainable relationship?" Routledge, London.
4. Shepherd, R. (2002), "Commodification, Culture and Tourism", *Tourist Studies*, 2 (2), PP. 183–201.
5. Tyrrell, T. J. and Johnston, R. J. (2006), "The Economic Impacts of Tourism: A Special Issue", *Journal of Travel Research*, 45(1), PP. 3–7.
6. UNEP (1995), "Environmental Codes of Conduct for Tourism".
7. UNEP (1997), "Environmental Good Practice in Hotels, Case Studies".
8. UNEP (1998), "How the Hotel and Tourism Can Protect the Ozone Layer".
9. Wagner, J. E. (1997), "Estimating the economic impacts of tourism", *Annals of Tourism Research*, 24(3), PP.592–608.
10. WTO (1994), "National and Regional Tourism Planning".
11. WTO (1998), "Guide for Planner Authorities in Developing Sustainable Tourism".

