

KUMBH OF MARWAR: RAMDEVRA FAIR, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Harjeet Singh*

ABSTRACT

Rajasthan is a land of historic places, art and culture, fair and festivals, lok devta and deviyan. In the western Rajasthan so many lok devta and deviyan are worshiped by so many devotees of Rajasthan. MEERA BAI, TEJAJI, PABUJI, RAMDEVJI, and so many other worshiped by the people. Annual fairs organized by the people. Among the all lok devtas Ramdev ji's fair is celebrated every year by large number of people from all over India especially devotees nabhouring states as Gujrat, Madhya pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Maharastra. Not only hindu and rajput but every section and cast of society comes together. Ramdev ji is also called "RAMSAPEER" by muslim community. The ramdevra fair is also called the kumbh of marwar because devotees above 15 lack per year reached Runicha dham for celebration of this fair. People come by every means of transportation on buses, on train, on bike, on there feet. In the way of "Runicha dham" so many arrangements were willingly organized by all the people of society and administration. various community and departments of government like police, medica, water works ,and tourism provide their services to the devotees of Ramdevra fair. In the 14 - 15 days of this fair the religious tourism on its peek devotees visited all the other places as the historical temple of "OSIAN, PUSHKAR, MEERA BAI and so many other places because people come far from their states. The earnings for whole the year comes by this fair to the businessman, shoppers, tranporter and retailers earn their yearly income in these 14-15 days. The main objectives of doing this type of study are to know the economical communal and historical aspect of the fair. The other objective is to find out religious tourism possibilities for the tourism department for the state.

KEYWORDS: Annual Fair, Communal & Administrative Arrangements, Economical Aspects.

Introduction

Ramdevra lies on route of the Jodhpur to Jaisalmer route at about 120 km short of Jaisalmer near Pokhran. Ramdevra is home to the temple of Baba Ramdev Ji. Devotees from all over world visit the temple all round the year. Ramdevra Fair is held here in the months of August and February and is attended by devotees in large numbers from all over India. Distance from nearby places- Pokhran (22 Km), Khimsar (180 Km), Jodhpur (190 Km), Jaisalmer (118Km), Phalodi (50 Km), Chandan (76 Km), The temple can be reached via nearest railway station of Ramdevra station, NH 1 is the closest Highway which runs from the North West from Temple and from the Northern Part of city. Baba Ramdev Ji, a Tanwar Rajput and a saint took Samadhi in 1459 AD, at the age of 33 years in this village. He was a Rajasthani king who ruled over Pokhran in the 14th C. He was considered to be the incarnation of Lord Krishna. Hindus, Muslims, Jains and Sikhs are his followers. The village is named after the Baba/Saint. A temple was built around the Samadhi by King Ganga Singh of Bikaner in 1931A.D. Baba Ramdev was known to have some magical, gifted powers that spread his fame, far and wide. Slowly and gradually, he became very popular for his powers and gifted traits. Because of this fivesaints reached from Mecca to test and verify his powers and to testify if all that was proclaimed about him were true. After all the possible examination when they were convinced, they indeed paid homage to him.

* Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Government PG College, Phalodi, Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India.

There is also a well in the same area that is supposed to have been built by Baba Ramdev himself. The local villagers consider the water of this well to be sacred and holy. In 1931, the Maharaja of Bikaner constructed a temple around the "Samadhi". Baba Ramdev is a folk deity of Rajasthan. His birth anniversary is celebrated as Baba Ramdev Jayanti. It is the second day of Shukla Paksha of Bhadrapada month. King Ajmal (Ajaishinh) married Queen Minaldevi, the daughter of Pamji Bhati of Chhahan Baru village. For several years, the couple remained childless. The king went to Dwaraka and pleaded with Krishna about his wish to have child like him. They had two sons, Viramdev and the younger Ramdev. Ramdev was born on Bhadarva Shukla dooj in V.S. 1409 at Ramderiya Undu in Kashmir in Barmer district. Baba Ramdev was a very hardworking king who dedicated his life to the people of his kingdom. He took up many welfare measures for his people. He strived hard for the upliftment of the poor and down trodden people. He preached about equality. Though he was a reviver of Hinduism, he treated people of all religions equally. He took Samadhi at the age of 33 on Bhadrapada Shukla Ekadashi.

Objectives of the Study

- To find out the religious tourism possibilities.
- To find out the communal involvement in this fair
- To find out the administrative arrangements and coordination of various department .
- To give suggestion for tourism department and government of rajasthan.

Methodology

The studies of economical and communal development of the society and involvement, the study is based on secondary data collected by various department of government of Rajasthan and various reports by different organization.

Communal Involvement in the Fair

Baba Ramdev Ji is a folk-deity of Rajasthan in India. He was a saint of the 14th C, who devoted his life to the upliftment of the downtrodden. While Hindus regard him as an incarnation of Lord Krishna, Muslims venerate him as Ramshah Pir or Rama Shah Peer. He is said to have had miraculous powers, and his fame reached far and wide. Legend foretells that five Pirs from Mecca came to test Ramdev's powers. Ramdev after initial welcoming requested them to have lunch with him. But Pirs insisted that they eat in their personal utensils, lying in Mecca, hence they could have their meals. On this Ramdev smiled and said, *'Look your utensils are coming'*, and they saw that their eating bowls coming flying in air from Mecca. After being convinced of his abilities and powers, they paid their homage to him and named him Rama Shah Peer. The five Pirs, who came to test his powers, were so overwhelmed by his powers that they decided to stay with him and today the Samadhis of these five are also near the Samadhi of Ramdev.

In Rajasthan, Ramdev is the chief deity of the Meghwal community, worshiped during the Vedwa Punam (August - September). The community's religious leader, Gokuldas, claims that Ramdev was himself a Meghwal, in his 1982 book Meghwal Ithas, which constructs a history of the Meghwal community. However, this is a claim accepted only by the Meghwal community themselves. Other sources, folktales and the Hindu community generally believe Ramdev to have been born in the Tanwar Rajput community. Ramdev believed in the equality of all human beings, high or low, rich or poor. He helped the downtrodden by granting them their wishes. He is often depicted on horseback. His worship crosses the Hindu-Muslim divide as well as the distinctions of caste. His followers are spread across cutting across caste barriers in Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, Mumbai, Delhi and also in Sindh in Pakistan. Several Rajasthani fairs are held to commemorate him. Temples in his name are found in many states of India. So many arrangements done by the people for the devotees or 'Jatru' for their food every 1 and 2 k.m. in the way of "Runicha Dham" a free meal and breakfast station or camp setup by people of every cast and community and these camp open 24 hours and approx 15 days of the fair .

Administrative Arrangements

Every possible arrangement have been made by the various departments of centre and state for the devotees or Jatru above 15 lack every year. As transport departments new buses and special mela trains runs for the fair. As health department a team of doctor's appointed at mela location and other places free ambulance ,free medicine free check up facilities provided to the devotees. Police department appointed the force for easy entrance and exit from "BABA SAMADHI". Every year so many devotees and jatru's visited "RUNICHA DHAM". Some people says "KUMBH OF MARWAR".

Religious Tourism Development

The location of Runicha dham surrounded by historic places and famous temples. Temples like ancient jain temple Osiyan, Pushkar, Meera bai, Kapil muni kolayat, Pokhran, Bhadriya mata and many more attract the devotees. People comes far from the states don't miss the chance to visit nearby places. these all temples and historic places visited by large number of people. The tourism department of rajasthan should development the religious tourist circuit at this place and provides infrastructural facilities.

Economical Aspects of the Fair

Because of large no of devotees comes every year every economic activity increase and increases income for businessman, shoppers, transporter, travel department .People spend money during their visit. Specially at Ramdevra during the fair they spend lots of money to purchase goods, cloths, various item, foods, etc. It is said that the Ramdevra fair provide the whole year income for the local businessman, shoppers and so many other people. The transport department earns the income by running mela special buses and trains. So the economical aspect of the fair is very large and covers almost every economic activity.

Suggestions

- The tourism department of Rajasthan can create more income by the fair by applying some work and policies.
- The department should identify the religious tourist circuit and develop the historical places and temples surrounded by Ramdevra.
- Provide easy access to the places with the help of transport department.
- By provide infrastructural facilities to these places.
- Give wide publicity and information to the tourist.
- The Ramdevra town development plan of 2016 which is constructed by Devsthan department will be implemented quickly.

By applying all the above measures the religious tourism of these places will be definitely increase.

References

- ✧ Different news papers and magazines.
- ✧ Government of Rajasthan website.
- ✧ Website of tourism department.
- ✧ Website of devsthan department.

