

Sustainable Development of Eco-Tourism In North Bihar

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Eco-tourism : An Introduction :

Tourism concept without disturbing natural environment and habitats is known as Eco-tourism. The concept of eco-tourism is a newly emerged concept being started with 1980 decade and includes a tour that helps in balancing the ecosystem. Eco-tourism is tourism to exotic or threatened eco-system to observe the wild-life or to help in preserving nature. Eco-tourism is a travel to fragile, pristine and usually protected areas that strives to be low impact. Eco-tourism is a responsible travel to natural areas supporting to flora, fauna and local economy. Tourism treated as a profitable industry in North Bihar has the immense potentialities to alleviate the extreme pauper economic scenario of the region and will provide a suitable path for sustainable development. The environment is quite fundamental hence plays a vital role in the development of sustainable tourism in the different parts of North Bihar. The relationship between the various forms of tourism and existing environment is mutually dependence between the two described as symbiotic. Tourism benefits from being located in a good quality environment. Tourism has become one of the most significant forces for socio-economic change in the world today. It is considered as the worlds largest industry that prompts regular mass migration of people, exploitation of resources, progress of development and inevitable repercussion on place, economies, societies and environment.

Objectives:

The present research paper aims to identify the environmental impact on the development of sustainable Eco-tourism:

1. To identify the environmental impact on the distributional pattern of existing tourist centers in North Bihar
2. To find out different types of tourist attractions.
3. To examine the responsible factors for the existing low performance and also for their proper development in the coming future.
4. To observe the environmental factor pertaining to it.
5. To analyze the nature of occupation, food intake and social acceptance.

Hypothesis:

As the hypothesis is an untested human inference, the investigator may formulate a few hypothesis regarding potentialities of tourism and sustainable development in North Bihar.

- Tourism industry in North Bihar is not properly developed partly due to lack of infra-structural facility.
- Tourism industry can economically be much fruitful to the people of North Bihar.
- Tourism industry can mitigate the pitiable economic situations and precarious scenario of the region.
- Tourism industry can easily be performed on beneficial ground if the properly trained people are facilitated by the government.
- Tourism industry can provide employment to the people.

Methodology:

The Systematic analytical description of the procured data and information has been discussed. An objective point of view has been followed throughout the work. Statistics concerned has analytically and cartographically been depicted. In order to boost up the idea of sustainable development, a sample survey by the investigator along with a few trained fellows has been conducted on socio economic status of a few families at randomly selected existing tourist places and the places having potentialities for development.

Geographical Personality of Study area:

North Bihar is geographically located within 25⁰15' N. Lat to 27⁰31' N. latitude and 83⁰45' E. Longitude to 87⁰21' E. Longitude. The region extending on 55472 sq. km has been the playground of several rivers like Gandak, Budhi Gandak, Bagmati, Balan, Kamla, Adhwara group of rivers, Kosi and Mahananda river etc. delimited by Nepal and Shiwalik Himalayan foothill region from the north and west to eastward following Ganga river from the south. West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh states delimit the North Bihar region from east and west direction respectively. The Region consists five (5) administrative divisions -

Table – 01 : North Bihar Administrative Set - up

S. N.	Divisions	Districts
1)	Saran	Saran, Siwan, Gopalganj.

2)	Tirhut	Paschimi Champaran, Purba Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi, Sheohar and Vaishali
3)	Darbhanga	Madhubani, Darbhanga, Samastipur, Begusarai.
4)	Kosi	Saharsa, Supaul, Madhepura, Khagaria.
5)	Purnea	Purnea, Araria, Kishanganj and Katihar

Besides twenty one (21) districts, North Bihar has Navgachchiya sub-division of Bhagalpur district. The region has 65398660 persons as its total population in 2011 having 52928 sq. km. as its total geographical area with 1236 persons per sq. km. as its average arithmetic density. North Bihar, a geomorphological plain topography with numerous flood plains formed by several rivers like Gandak, Burhi Gandak, Lakhandei, Kamla, Balan Kosi, Mahananda having numerous tributaries with khadar and banger fertile alluvial soils abounds in water bodies like abandoned river courses known as Ox-bow lake (manes) or chours of varying dimensions. Thousands of ponds and tanks in North Bihar were excavated and remained part of the socio-economic and cultural scenario of the region for centuries and quite suitable to the view of developing tourism. The natural vegetation has already been turned into agricultural fields.

Table – 02 : North Bihar Developed and to be developed tourist centers

S. N.	Divisions	Places of Interests
1)	Saran	Chirand, Amarpur, Bhorey, Jiradei, Dighwara, Ekma, Domaigarh, Don, Siwan, Hathua, Marhowrah, Mirganj, Rfvelganj, Thawe, Tajpur, Gopalganj, Goriakothi, Lakridargah, Maharajganj, Mairwa.
2)	Tirhut	Bagaha, Chakia, Bargaun, Kolhua, Bawangarhi, Bediban, Bettiahraj, Bhikhnathori, Chainpatia, Katra, Chankigarh, Lauria Nandangarh, Muzaffarpur, Bela, Sitamarhi, Bairagania, Sonpur, Jaintpur, Hazara Jandaha, Belsund, Charaut, Motipur, Mahnar, Sahebganj, Nanpur, Sheohar, Kanti, Parsauni, Vaishali, Konharaghat, Lalganj,
3)	Darbhanga	Madhubani, Darbhanga, Samastipur, Begusarai, Basopatti, Asurgarh, Balrajpur, Bisfi, Hayaghat, Jale, Jainagar, Jhanjharpur, Rusera, Singhia, Vidyapatnagar,
4)	Kosi	Saharsa, Supaul, Madhepura, Khagaria, Amritgarh, Chandika Asthan,

		Birpur, Singheswar Asthan, Mahisi, nirmali, Panchgachhia,
5)	Purnea	Purnea, Araria, Kishanganj and Katihar, Banailiraj, Bathnaha, Forbesganj, Jalalgarh, Jogbani, Kasba, Khagra, Kursela, Lalbalu, Manihari, Biratnagar, Nawabganj, Pirpahar, Palasi, Raja Birat, Sarsi.

The above mentioned table indicates the various centers of tourism which have already been either developed or required for proper development in the future. The proper development of tourism is primarily based of infrastructural development. A few examples of tourism centers attracting the number of tourists are as follows--

Table – 3 : North Bihar Tourist Centers and no. of tourists, 2017--18.

(Figure in 000')

Centre of tourism	Tourists	Jan. to Mar	Apr. to June	July to Sept.	Oct to Dec.	Total	Percent
Raxaul	National	35.30	28.50	30.00	41.00	134.80	5.48
	Foreign	0.50	0.20	0.40	0.70	1.80	0.07
Vaishali	National	18.8	100.7	93.5	20.9	233.90	9.51
	Foreign	0.50	1.60	2.10	4.70	8.90	0.36
Muzaffarpur	National	18.10	21.50	18.80	9.90	68.30	2.78
	Foreign	1.50	1.10	0.90	0.30	3.80	0.15
Sonpur	National	0.00	0.00	0.00	2008.30	2008.30	81.62
	Foreign	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.70	0.70	0.03
Total		74.70	153.60	145.70	2086.50	2460.50	100.00
Percent		3.04	6.24	5.92	84.80	100.00	

Source- Economic Survey, Govt. of Bihar, 2017-18, Feb. 2018, P.113

The above mentioned table clearly explains that 84.8% tourists reach during October to December every year while 5% to 16% during the periods of April to September and the lowest number of tourists reach during January to March. Again Sonpur is a seasonal tourist centre where tourists reach during only October to December while in other centers tourists reach more or less all the year round. In these centre national tourists is above 90% while the percentage of foreign tourists are very less or below 10%.. Sonpur of Vaishali district, the animal fair during October to December captures the highest percentage (81.65%) while Vaishali

captures 9.87%, Raxaul captures 5.55% and Muzaffarpur captures only 2.93% of the total incoming tourists. Again, the tourist coming from the country accounts 99.38% while that of abroad accounts only 0.62%.

Sustainable Tourism:-

The concept of sustainability has been defined by the world commission on environment and development as "Development that meets the needs of present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs is called sustainable development."

Sustainable tourism is an industry with a high level of dependence upon "environment" as a basic source of attraction but also one we see with a considerable capacity implicitly recognizes that there are basic human need (e.g. food, clothing, shelter) that processes of development must match and that these need one to be set alongside aspiration (e.g. to high living standard, security and access to discretionary elements such as tourism) that it would be desirable to match. Sustainable tourism needs to --

- Ensure that renewable resources are not consumed at a rate that is faster than rates of natural replacement.
- Maintain biological diversity.
- Recognize and value the aesthetic appeal of environment.
- Follow ethical principles that respect local cultures, livelihoods and customs.
- Involve and consult local people in development process.
- Promote equity in the distribution of both the economic costs and the benefits of activity amongst tourism developers and hosts.

Tourist Attractions:-

The term "tourist attraction" generally brings to our mind a purpose built facilities designated to provide a blend.

- Attraction - often the stimulus for a visit.
- Transportation- both to and within a destination helps insure accessibility for visitors.
- Hospitality- the way in which tourist services are delivered to visitors.
- Infrastructure-the Skelton of road, railways, airways utility services etc around which tourist facilities are developed.
- Accommodation- providing visitors with a place to stay.

- Facilities- extra services for visitors eg guiding, shopping, information etc. of a fun, entertainment, activity, stimulation, or education. Attractions that spring to mind easily include Konhara Ghat on the confluence of river Ganga and Gandak, industrial center of Barauni, center of Maithili culture and handicraft, pilgrim center of Kishanganj, Madhubani painting, litchi orchard and Garib Asthan of Muzaffarpur, Buddhist center of Kesaria and Vaishali, Pilgrim center related to Sita's birth place at Sitamarhi etc.

Heritage Attraction:

The word "Heritage" is often used to describe a particular type of tourist attraction that aims to depict what life was at a particular point of time in the past. Many villages, towns and cities have attached the word: heritage" to their existing museums as a way of promoting themselves more widely and increasing their visitor numbers.

Cultural Attractions:-

Some destination attracts visitors because of their cultural diversity or association with music, the art of famous people. The birth place of Ramdhari Singh Dinkar, Madan Mishra, Deshratna Dr. Rajendra Prasad, and Jai Prakash Narayan is a magnet for visitors from all over the country and abroad.

Theme Parks:-

A theme park is a visitor attraction offering permanent entertainment in a themed setting or range of setting providing something for the whole family. Most theme parks charge one price for unlimited access to all attractions in a fun environment.

Historic monument:-

Monuments have a great appeal to visitors. Darbhanga palace, Jaintpur palace, Bettiah Raj and other such palaces or castles etc. can provide a particular feature of attraction for visitors.

Entertainment:-

Facilities such as nightclub, theatres, arenas etc all provide entertainment opportunities for visitor to an area. The bigger the venue, the greater the attractions which will be the attraction from wide catchments areas. Smaller towns and kasba will also attract day visitors from their own locality to enjoy. Swimming pool, cycling Centre, facilities of hockey, tennis, badminton, football, cricket, Carom, and other indoor games etc will be the best sport entertainment for local people and visitors.

Role of Bihar State Tourism Development Corporation:

Bihar State Tourism Development Corporation (BSTDC) has started functioning since 1981 after its establishment in 1961 of which headquarter is located at Tourist Bhawan, Patna. The Corporation has took several works to initiate for the development of tourism in the state with a priority of commercial activities of tourism like tourist bungalows, aerial ropeways chairlift, accommodation facilities, Cafeteria,, Yatri niwas, youth hostels to tourists etc.

Suggestions for improvement:

In order to improve the conditions of Tourism Development in North Bihar following suggestions are made-

1. To create and expand the infra-structural development properly particularly the road communication and transport, railway transport, cafeteria, restaurants, entertainment and shopping facility,.
2. To develop the operating agencies, tourist guides from the pool of well-trained people etc.,
3. A comprehensive survey of such centers having tourism potentials.
4. Planning for the development of religious spots in order to develop as pilgrimage tourism.
5. To maintain law and order in the region of tourism.
6. A comprehensive tourism policy for the state.
7. Tourism should be designated as separate discipline at graduate and post-graduate level.
8. Adequate publicity of tourism facility at each and every level.

Conclusion:

The case study and examples of tourism centres in North Bihar developed mostly on traditional pattern indicates to provide the new dimensions to the tourism development. Their distributional pattern along with their performance shows the development in a lethargic manner. Many forms of tourism are dependent upon the environment to provide both a context and a focus for tourist activity, yet those activities have marked capacity to devalue and, occasionally, destroy the environmental resources upon which tourism is based. Environmental effects of tourism are broadly experienced in impacts upon ecosystems, landscapes and the built environment, although specific impacts vary spatially - reflecting differences in the nature of the places that tourist visit, the levels and intensity of development, and the skills and expertise of resource managers. As the environmental problems associated with tourism have become more

apparent, greater attention has been focused upon ways of producing sustainable patterns of development and alternative forms of tourism that produce fewer detrimental effects upon the tourist environment. However, truly sustainable tourism has often proven to be elusive, whilst there are evident risks that alternative tourism, in time, develops into mass form of travel, with all the attendant problems that such practices tend to produce. Process of physical economic development is the most visible ways in which tourism affects host areas. These vary from place to place depending upon levels of economic development but it includes a range of impacts upon levels balance of accounts, economic growth, creation of employment etc.

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