

## **Consuming Goa: The Impact of Tourism In North Goa District**

### **With Special Reference to Miramer, Goa, India**

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#### **Abstract**

Tourism in Goa generates number of positive benefits such as increase in income, increase in employment, added revenue, and foreign exchange earnings. However, there are negative socio economic and environmental impact such as loss of mangroves, erosion, reduced fish catch, loss of species and seasonality of employment, growth of prostitution and sex-tourism associated with tourism industry which needs to be considered. These negative impacts are associated with the pattern of growth of tourism in Goa.

*Keywords:* Tourism, Goa, Beaches.

#### **Introduction**

Tourism is very much part of the globalisation process. It is genuinely a powerful and a unique force for change in the community. Therefore Understanding the local basis of tourism is especially important in a globalised situation as it enable to discern the local processes that are consequently affected, causing the stakes to become intensely and actively felt. Thus tourism may have different effects on the social and cultural aspects of life . Tourism has been criticized for having negative impact on many of the destinations which tourists visit. There are considered to be three principal impacts-economic, environmental and sociocultural. This study looks at these impacts and finds that although there are some negative aspects most economic consequences of tourism are beneficial. Tourism sometimes led to the destruction of the social fabric of a community The more tourists coming into a place, the more perceived risk of that place losing its identity. A good example is Goa. From the late 60's the early 80's when the Hippy culture was at height. Goa was a haven for such hippies. Here they came in thousands and changed the whole culture of the state. Tourism can contribute directly to the conservation of sensitive areas and habitat.

#### **Study Area**

The selected six tourist destinations belong to coastal north Goa, beaches of Anjuna, Baga , Calangute, Douna Pauna, Vagator and Miramer have been recently upgraded

to tourist town due to high level of tourism and infrastructure development. Whereas Calangute and Anjuna destination has shown immense scope of tourism, more popular with high ends tourists, especially international tourists. Vagator and Baga are upcoming tourist destinations .

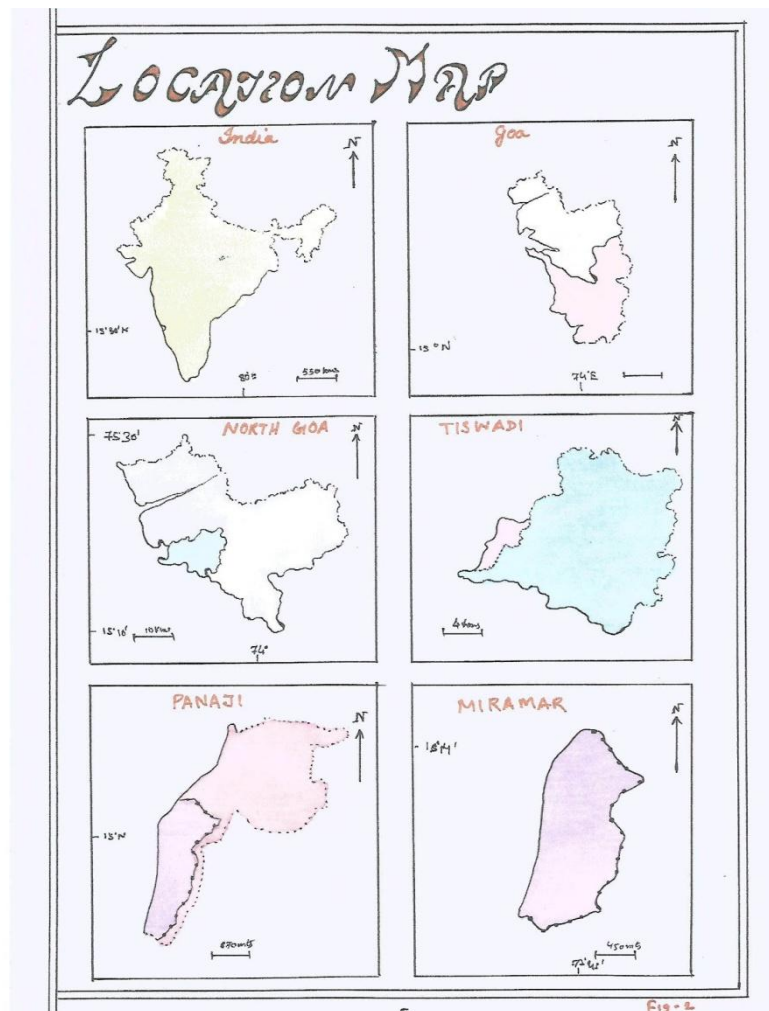


Fig1: Location Map

## **Aims & Objectives**

The main objective is to assess the impacts of tourism on economic, the socio cultural life of the local populace of selected six beach destinations of North Goa District .

## **Methodology**

The reliance of this study is largely on field based survey. Further quantitative methodological approach was chosen for this research by using random sampling. Data was collected from 337 residential respondents living within the one km distance from the beach and have been residing for more than 10 years.

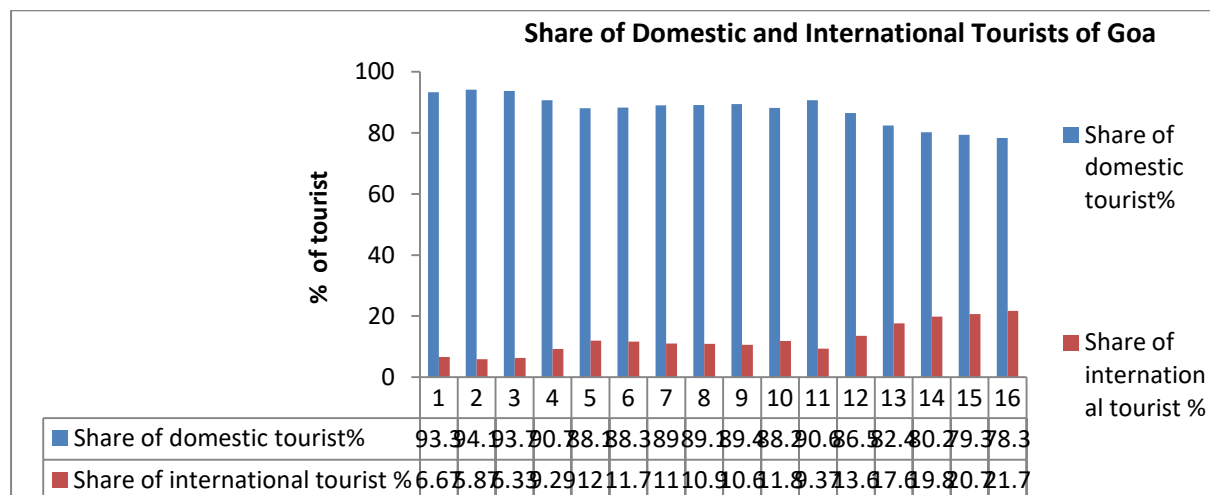
## **Nature and Growth of Tourism in Goa**

Most of the tourism in Goa is concentrated in the coastal stretches of Bardez, Salcete, Tiswadi, miramer and Marmagao. Over 90 percent of domestic tourists and over 99 percent of the international tourists frequent these areas. Goa is visited by two types of tourists with distinct needs which this state satisfies. The first is the domestic tourists, who comprise 80 percent of all tourists. These people come in search of the culture that is "different" from the rest of India. The second is the international tourists who visit Goa purely for the natural environment-sun and beaches.

**Table 1. Share of Domestic and International Tourists of Goa**

Year	Total tourist	Share of domestic tourist%	Share of international tourist %	Year	Total tourist	Share of domestic tourist%	Share of international tourist%
1999	439015	93.33	6.67	2007	862443	89.4	10.6
2000	477165	94.13	5.87	2008	881323	88.16	11.84
2001	530015	93.67	6.33	2009	835067	90.63	9.37
2002	669992	90.71	9.29	2010	896010	86.45	13.55
2003	775212	88.05	11.95	2011	969234	82.39	17.61
2004	834081	88.31	11.69	2012	1059595	80.16	19.84
2005	861448	89.02	10.98	2013	1107705	79.31	20.69
2006	854935	89.11	10.89	2014	1150000	78.26	21.74

Source: India, Government of Goa, Department of Tourism. Personal



**Fig2: Share of domestic & International tourists of Goa**

## Impacts of tourism

Impacts of tourism are as follows:-

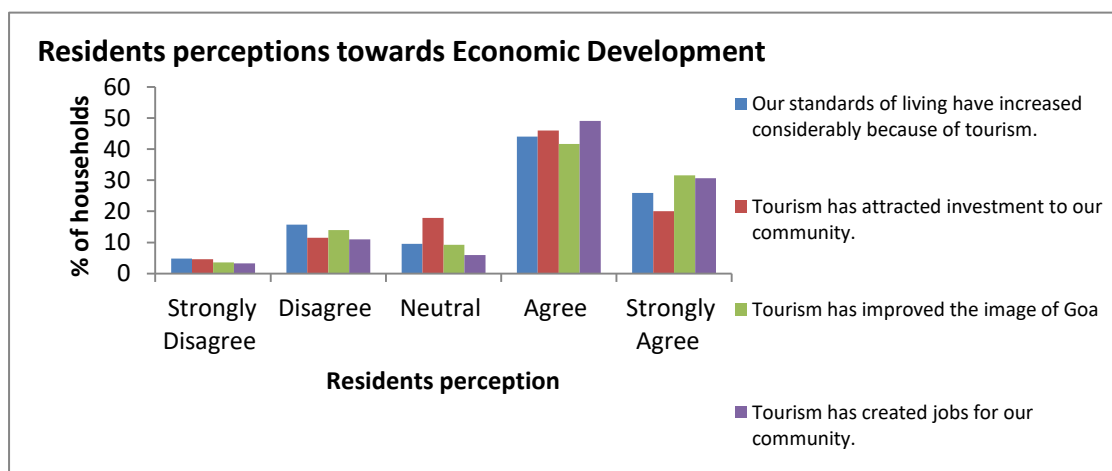
## Economic Aspects

**Economic Development:** Growth of tourism sector especially in the coastal Goa has brought about socio-economic transformation and has been driver for improving the quality of life. This metamorphosis is noticeable by the assets and amenities at their residences. The survey shows that majority of the population involved in tourism activities have amenities like two and four wheel vehicles and modern electronic gadgets etc. Economic Development factor is explaining 9.73% of total variance. From the below table it seen that most respondents are agree that tourism has brought economic development in their life Responses given by respondent are given in below table

**Table 2:** Residents perceptions towards Economic Development

Sl. No	Questions	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean
1	Our standards of living have increased considerably because of tourism.	16 (4.76)	53 (15.77)	32 (9.52)	148 (44.05)	87 (25.89)	3.71
2	Tourism has attracted investment to our community.	15 (4.55)	38 (11.52)	59 (17.88)	152 (46.06)	66 (20.00)	3.59
3	Tourism has improved the image of Goa	12 (3.57)	47 (13.99)	31 (9.23)	140 (41.67)	106 (31.55)	3.82
4	Tourism has created jobs for our community.	11 (3.27)	37 (11.01)	20 (5.95)	165 (49.11)	103 (30.65)	3.93

Source: Field survey.2019



**Fig3:** Residents perceptions towards Economic Development

## Social aspect

Traditionally Goa, has an erstwhile Portuguese colony , has a rich Indo –Portuguese cultural heritage, This is evident from its Cuisine, folkdances, Shigmo Ustav etc. Globalization has given it more impetus, thereby attracting tourists from India as well as abroad to witness unique cultural events like International Film Festivals India (IFFI).

Cultural Enhancement has explained highest variance (21%) of the total variance shown in Table 3.

**Table 3:** Residents Perceptions towards Cultural Enhancement

Sl. No	Questions	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean
1	Tourism has encouraged a variety of cultural activities by the local residents.	45 (13.47)	77 (23.05)	47 (14.07)	109 (32.63)	56 (16.77)	3.15
2	Tourism has resulted more cultural exchange between tourist and residents.	22 (6.61)	89 (26.73)	59 (17.72)	126 (37.84)	37 (11.11)	3.17
3	Tourism increases the level of awareness at Goa	20 (5.99)	49 (14.67)	75 (22.46)	152 (45.51)	38 (11.38)	3.39
4	Tourism has resulted more positive impacts on the cultural identity of our community.	45 (13.51)	113 (33.93)	52 (15.62)	95 (28.53)	28 (8.41)	2.83
5	Tourism made me understand other cultures better	29 (8.66)	88 (26.27)	71 (21.19)	117 (34.93)	30 (8.96)	3.07
Factor Mean : 3.1210 Standard Deviation: 0.81324							

Source: Field survey, 2019

**Adverse Effects** Nearly four lakh foreign tourists visit Goa annually. In last one decade there has been significant rise in budget tourists mainly Russians, Israelis and Nigerians. (source:- vickynanjapa.wordpress.com) they have been involved in drugs trafficking subsequently to attract more international tourists, Goa popularizing Sunburn festivals, casinos, massage center, spa etc. This has brought immoral behaviors' among youth in the form of Alcoholism, involvement in Drugs trade, sex trade, living-in relationship etc.

**Cultural invation** Since only a small portion of money from tourist the locals get they try to get the maximum amount of profit from tourists they are regarded as economic . Relations had become comersialised.

**Problem of Pedophiles:** child sex tourism is the darker side of goa. Many foreign tourist are arrested but they get easy bail as police officers take bribe and release them.

**Child trafficking** is an organised racket where the children of poor families are made taegets.

**Criminalizing of tourism in Goa** the small bars , resorts, medium sized tourist places became home of mafia activities.

### **Environmental Aspects**

Coastal zone environment is particularly fragile and can be divided into two areas: the marine part and the land part.

The following impacts have been observed on the coastal stretches of Goa due to development activities:

**Loss of sand dunes:** Sand dunes have borne the brunt of construction activities along the coastal stretches of Goa. Anjuna and Baga-Calangute-Candolim stretches in North Goa, were the first beaches to lose their dunes.

**Endangered species:** Four species of turtles have been reported to frequent visit the beaches at Morjim, Miramar. The number of sea-turtles visiting their nesting sites on different beaches in Goa particularly in Morjim, is steadily decreasing.

### **Impacts of Recreational Activities**

Recreational facilities affecting the coastal environment are generally, but not limited to, those related to upscale tourist activities. These are:

**Swimming pools:** The water for this is invariably drawn from subsurface aquifers. The withdrawal of large amounts of ground water in a limited area can be detrimental to the water table of the region, particularly since it is a source of drinking water.

**Water sports:** Motor boats used in shallow coastal waters continuously disturb the habitats of endangered species and other marine life. Moreover, they tend to degrade water quality by the discharge of oil and grease.

**Beach driving:** Tourists regularly drive on the beaches during low tide. Concrete ramps have even been constructed to take the vehicles on the beaches such as at Calangute.

**Beach accommodations:** In the initial states of tourism in Goa, beach shacks became popular due to their small numbers, economical rates and simple decor; however, after several decades, these structures crowd the shorelines without any comfortable among them, and they lack ecofriendly toilet facilities and proper refuse collection, all of which often result in waste invariably find its place in the coastal waters.

**Sanitation:** Even the internationally famous beach stretch of Baga-Calangute-Sinquerim, does not have rudimentary toilet facilities. Tourists, locals, shop owners and the hordes of migrant laborers, who are employed by construction companies along the beaches, have no other option than to use the beaches to answer the call of the nature.

**Beach litter:** Plastics are among the very serious problems in a number of Goa's beaches, and an action plan is urgently needed to mitigate the problem.

## **Impacts of Expanded Transport**

Even though tourists in Goa are almost exclusively accommodated in coastal areas, they arrive and depart Goa by some kind of transportation operating in other areas of the state. While the air and sea travel would cause negligible damage to the environment in broad terms, motor vehicles cause air pollution by their uncontrolled exhaust fumes.

## **Conclusions**

Although tourism is concentrated along the coastal zone in Goa, it has had a number of positive benefits in terms of increased incomes, increased employment, added avenues for upward mobility for locals, increased revenue and increased foreign exchange earnings. However, there are also some socioeconomic and environmental impacts such as loss of mangroves, erosion, reduced fish catch, loss of species and seasonality of employment growth of prostitution and sex-tourism associated with tourism industry which needs to be considered. These negative impacts are associated with the pattern of growth of tourism in Goa.

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