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## **CHAPTER I-RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.**

### **1.1 Motivation in research:**

All progress is born in inquiry. Research is the fountain of knowledge for the sake of knowledge and an important source of providing guidelines for solving different business, governmental and social problems. It is a sort of formal training, which enables one to understand the new developments in one's field in a better way.

The real motivation to me for this reach is to get intellectual joy of doing some creative work and efficient efforts for the fulfillment of the dream of "Deccan Odyssey" and fulfill the to be service to society.

### **1.2 Selection of area:**

The selected area for the study of the development is ecotourism in the district of Kolhapur and around places near to, the proxy of approximately 100-125km. with its geographically, natural, historical, ethical cultural aspects for economic development.



AS a district place Kolhapur , is a unique place in Maharashtra, with it's spirit of resilience and chivalry as it is unique inspiring city with interesting monuments like exquisite palaces and forts that bring alive the past. The place is known in the ancient times as a "Karveer Nagari" the place is spiritually alive with ancient temples that attract devotees from all over India, which is rich in biodiversity too....

### **1.3 Sample design:**

Sample design includes the nature of the inquiry and other related features for its developing such as population, resources available, parameters of interest, budgetary constraint etc... and collecting / obtaining detail information, quality data within a specified time.

- **Steps in sample design:**

- 1 Type of universe**

This will include finite universe e.g. the population of the selected area.

**2 Sampling unit:**

This covers geographical, economical, natural historical, ethical, cultural aspects of selected area.

**3 Source list:**

Preparation of comprehensive, corrective, reliable and appropriate source list with the help of sample unit.

**4 Size of sample:**

Selection of optimum number of items from the universe / population to fulfill the requirements, reliability and flexibility.

**5 Parameters of interest:**

This part covers population / subgroups in the population and its proportion or average with some characteristics.

**6 Budgetary constraint:**

It throws light upon cost consideration from the practical point of view.

**7 Sampling procedure:**

This relates to the decision about the technique to be used in selecting the items for the sample and its designing – probability or nonprobability sampling.

#### **1.4 Research Design:**

It includes different parts of designing

E.g. (1) sample design. (2) observational design. (3) statistical design. (4) Operational design. With the help of –

- A clear statement of the research problem
- Procedure and techniques to be used for gathering information
- The population is to be studied
- Methods to be used in processing and analyzing data, a researcher can come to know various facts of development activities.

The procedure will be for the development of given research project which covers-

1. Factual and first hand information collected from historical / previous references.
2. Tour field and talk with the local community.
3. Survey, statistical data.

4. Photography.
5. Group discussions and key informants.
6. Visit to government departments for data to test potentials and carrying capacity and for further investments.
7. practical, useful and effective plan with an excellent ideas for the development of ecotourism around Kolhapur.

### **1.5 Data Collection : Its interpretation and analysis:**

The collection of data is through the two methods-

[A] Primary data collection. [B] Secondary data collection.

Primary data collection contains-

1. Observation method.
2. Interview method.
3. Through questionnaires, schedules.
4. Discussions
5. through correspondents.

Secondary data collection includes

1. Various publications.
2. report of the government departments, commissions

3. Data released by journals, magazines, newspaper, research institutes.

**Data collection possesses following characteristics:**

- Reliability.
- Suitability.
- Adequacy.

This method of data collection covers following important factors-

1. nature, scope and object of inquiry.
2. Availability of funds.
3. Time factor.
4. Precision required.

**1.6 Objectives of the study:**

- 1 To enhance the geographical importance of Kolhapur, this is valuable in view of economy and the development of ecotourism.
- 2 Build environmental and cultural awareness and respect.

- 3 To increase an efficiency of planning and management capabilities which are essential for long run success in ecotourism.

### **1.7 Review of Literature:**

Under the review of literature, the researcher has undertaken extensive literature survey connected with the subject. With the help of various resources like books, websites information is collected and scanned to find out research material available related to the topic .It is helpful to understand the importance of ecotourism and for its development under related area.

#### **1. International scenario-**

Countries like Kenya, Costa Rica, Canada, USA, California, Australia, Japan, Europe, Ecuador, Nepal etc, successfully tap their natural beauty in the form of nature based tourism. The concept of Eco-Tourism has presented the opportunity for an industry, which has left an indelible mark on traditional societies around the world, to create a symbolic relationship between developers and the environment.



Ecotourism in Texas provides an excellent example of how ecotourism is subsumed by nature tourism. In Texas, nature tourism is defined as 'discretionary travel' to natural areas that conserves the environmental, social and cultural values while generating an economic benefit to the community. Task force on Nature tourism states that non-consumptive activities such as bird and wild life watching, nature study and photography, skiing, camping, rafting and hiking have experienced the greatest growth over the past few years. The Great Texas coastal Birding Trail is a key ecotourism attraction in the Lone star state. The goal of this trail is to increase the opportunities for nature tourism in the coastal communities of Texas, in addition to conveying the value of conservation of people living in the region.

The san of Namibia and southern Africa and aboriginal people of Australia, have recently regained management or ownership of traditional national park lands and conservancies, operating ecologies and serving as guides and rangers while maintaining their heritage.



In Australia, the office of National Tourism undertook a market study of eco-tourists in an attempt to understand the eco-tourists market better and target eco-tourism products more effectively (commonwealth of Australia 1997) This research involved a number of focus groups involving eco-tourist (actual and potential) from across the country. In general the study found that eco-tourist are seeking the following-

1. Areas or attractions of natural beauty.
2. Small groups away from crowd.
3. Some level of interaction with environment.
4. Interaction with like-minded people.
5. Some degree of information and learning.
6. Fun and enjoyment.

Conservation international (C I) is a not for profit organization that strives to conserve the earth's biodiversity along with demonstrating that human beings are able to live harmoniously with nature. CI's mission in ecotourism is to develop and support eco-tourism enterprise that contribute to conservation; and influence the broader tourism industry

towards greater ecological sustainability. In order to accomplish these ends, CI is involved in a number of national and regional eco-tourism development initiatives around the world in countries such as Bolivia, Brazil, Peru, Botswana, Madagascar, Indonesia etc. CI uses a capacity building approach in these regions to ensure that ecotourism benefits communities and merges with traditional practices and conservation, through the training of local people via. Ecotourism workshops within the region. Recently CI has developed an Eco -travel centre designed to provide information on eco-tourism destination tour operators and lodging and relevant publications and information.

There are an estimated 600 eco-tourism operators in Australia. Eco-tourism business are estimated to have a annual turnover of some \$250 million and to employ a total staff of around 6500, the equivalent of 4500 fulltime staff (Sport and Tourism Division, Australia government, 1999.)

Nations, rich in biodiversity has taken Eco-Tourism seriously and effectively. So that, it is possible for them to generate job and income at the same time they are able to

conserve the nature, because, they are aware of the pitfalls of unplanned tourism. They have taken strict measures to protect their environment and have made compulsion on all hotels and restaurants to dispose of their garbage by burning, conserve water and recycle waste material, so that for them it is not just route to develop but to survival.

Maldives has acquired itself a special place in the world tourism industry. It has been honored with approved tourism state status by china and thus has become the smallest country to achieve this. Maldives is actually, a poor country compared to India, but they are planning to development and promote their handicrafts in the country.

As a reaction to the devastating effects of conventional mass tourism and a growing environmental awareness, eco-tourism now represents the fastest growing sub sector of the tourism industry, generating billions of dollars annually. Developing nations have taken quickly to the idea of eco-tourism, seeking it as the answer to the problem caused by mass tourism and as a develop their weak economic.

Behind the front desk at Lapas Bios –a 1000- are private rain to rest reserve in Costa Rica’s Osa Peninsula where guests take bird walks, night hikes and boat trips to a botanical garden ; there hinges a plaque that reads ‘sustainable Tourism’ in both English and Spanish . Below the lodge is one of the top-rated hotels under the Costa Rican government’s certification for sustainable tourism (CST) program. A general manager, explains, the building of the lodges with the aim of supporting conservation and the community through, for instance, putting the land they bought under protection, using low impact designs and technologies, hiring and training local people and helping to build and support a community primary school.

On the other side of the globe, a high-speed catamaran operated by Quicksilver in port Douglas, Australia, carries up to 400 to tourists out to a section of the outer Barrier Reef, where it moors at the company’s large permanent diving platform. On board are some dozen certified dive instructors and marine biologists who give lessons on the ecology and biology of the reef and recite the dos and don’ts of diving near

coral. In the glossy brochure that tourists are handed when they queue to get on board, there is a small logo that reads "Eco-Tourism Advanced" Accreditation Quicksilver has been named Australia's best tour operator and, as the Eco logo indicates, has received the highest rating under Australia's internationally respected tourism certification scheme, NEAP – Nature And Eco-Tourism Accreditation program.

Costa Rica's CST and Australia NEAP are two of the best known green certification programs, designed to measure sustainability within the tourism industry. Certification is defined as a procedure that assesses, audits, and gives written assurance that a facility, product, process or service meets specific standards. It awards a marketable logo to those that meet or exceed baseline standards.

The United Nations' (UN) declaration of 2002 as the International Year of Tourism, which included a series of regional workshops that culminated in the World Tourism Summit in May 2002, gave further impetus to the expansion of certification efforts. During the year, several new green certification programs were launched, including the Eco-

Rating system in Kenya, the first program of its kind in Africa, and the Swedish Ecotourism Society's Nature's best. At the world eco-tourism summit itself, held in Quebec City, at least nine new programs, including those in Fiji, Ecuador, and Japan, were announced. In the United States, the boulder based organization; Sustainable Tourism International began to develop what is to be the first green certification program in the country. Currently, the most ambitious and best-financed green certification program is in Brazil, where the Inter-American Development Bank IDB has put up \$1.6 million, and local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO'S) and business are raising matching funds to create and launched an environmentally and socially responsible eco-label for hotels. OECS- Organization of Eastern Caribbean states is the optimal use of natural and cultural resources for national development on an equitable and self-sustaining basis to provide a unique visitor experience and an improved quality of life through partnership among government, the private sector and communities.

**The potential for Eco-Tourism in Mexico:-**

Mexico has many unique natural resources. In a scientific study on biological diversity carried out in 1986 by botanist Russell Mitlemiemier, Mexico was identified as one of six 'mega' diversity countries due to its immense biological diversity. It has over 30000species of flowering plant, 1000 Species of birds, 2500 different species of butterflies the worlds riches flora and fauna boasting 957 species. In addition to this unique wealth in terms of biodiversity, Mexico is a country that has o tropical climate; beautiful white palm fringed sandy beaches, boarded by the Caribbean in the southeast and the pacific in the west. Colonial towns are scattered throughout the country, which furthermore, is rich in architecture and culture. There is also, a tourist infrastructure already in place. It has therefore been suggested that Mexico is ideally suited to ecotourism development, as the most promising ecotourism prospects probably belong to Mexico given its political stability, increasing prosperity, diversity and size, proximity to the USA and the emergence of an environmentally aware middle class.





Therefore, Mexico has considered as area of outstanding natural beauty, however will provide an ideal base for ecotourism development with the help of correct management and development.

In 1988, Mexican government created 'the general law for ecological balance and possible benefits of nature tourism in national parks and biosphere reserves, indicating a government commitment to actively promoting this type of tourism. Moreover, 'the tropical forest action plan (PROAFT) has created by Mexican government of tropical forest but at the same time find a solution to rural underdevelopment of these regions. Its main area is that of ecotourism. All these countries have major foreign income through ecotourism.

The origins of this third leg of certification, sustainability, can be traced directly to the rise of the ecotourism movement. The international ecotourism society estimated that in the year 2000, ecotourism was growing by 20% annually compared with 7% for tourism overall.

In 1999, Hector Ceballos-Lascurain the well-known Mexican architect and conversationalists declared "ecotourism no

“ecotourism no longer a mere concept / subject of wishful thinking. On the contrary, ecotourism has become a global reality. There seem to be very few countries in the world in which some type of ecotourism development or discussion is not presently taking place. More than anything else, this “global reality” was signified by the UN’s declaration 2002 as the international year of ecotourism.

Mexico encompasses a wealth of natural feature varied landscapes, vegetation and wildlife that have enormous tourism potential. Mexico’s popularity as a tourist destination is growing at an overwhelming pace, its annual growth rate exceeding the world average. In the past 10 years, there has been a shift in accordance with changing world trends, towards ecotourism. Mexico, like many other developing countries, has developed its tourists industries in line with the trend of mass tourism and has suffered the adverse effects that this invariably brings. With the growth of environmental awareness during 1960s-1970s and a recognition of the environmental devastating that had occurred in resorts such as Acapulco and Cancun, both the

private and public sectors have recognized the potential for developing projects that aim to conserve the nations assets. Ecotourism has been accepted as one way forward, notwithstanding the afore mentioned definitional difficulties and eco-sell marketing strategies.

**2. Important Earth Summits and Major Institutions/  
Organization for the development of eco-tourism:**

Ecotourism is an increasing popular form of tourism in which tourists seek out wild and scenic areas for an active and educational trip. Ecotourism has also become popular among people interested in both environmental conservation and sustainable development. It has been called a way to save the rain forest and a 'win win development strategy for under developed rural areas.'

The conference on Environmental and development held at Rio-de-Janeiro in June 1992 was the first international conference to deal at the highest political level with global environment and development issues in a comprehensive and foreword looking way.

A world eco-tourism summit in the Philippines in 2002 to assess the global stride in Eco-tourism ,ten years after the earth summit in Rio-de-Janeiro, Brazil provides ..... to a network of worldwide high quality Eco-tourism, professionals for the establishments of high quality tourism, its promotion, environmental protection and development of sustainable tourism.

According to the World Tourism Organization (WTO, QUN affiliate.), tourism is the second largest industry in the world. Through tourism, WTO aims to stimulate economic growth, job creation, and protection of environment and heritage of destination and promote peace and understanding among all nations of the world. NGO's are taking many efforts for the protection of environment. The World Bank has funded a growing member of biodiversity program including Eco-Tourism component.

Eco-tourism has become a green revolution in the third world. Considering the growing of Ecotourism, the united nation celebrated the year 2002 as the International year of Eco-Tourism and mountains.

WTO and U NEP aim at involving all the factors in the field of ecotourism during the International year, with the following object in mind:

- A. Generate greater awareness among public authorities, the private sector, the civil society and consumers regarding eco-tourism capacity to contribute to the conservation of the natural and cultural heritage in natural and rural areas, and the improvement of standard of living in those areas.
- B. Disseminate methods and techniques for the planning, management, regulation and monitoring of eco-tourism to guarantee its long-term sustainability.
- C. Promote exchanges of successful experiences in the field of eco-tourism.
- D. Increase opportunities for the efficient marketing and promotion of ecotourism destinations and products on international market.

In order to reach the above goals, the two organizations envisage to jointly undertaking the following main activities.

1. To publish, jointly with the world conservation union (IUCN), a guide for the sustainable development of tourism in national parks and protected areas, which are prime destinations for ecotourism.
- 2 To facilitate and participate at regional conferences and seminars on specific aspects of ecotourism to take place during 2001, 2002, and 2003 worldwide.
- 3 To dedicate the World Tourism Day of 2003 to the subject of eco-tourism.
- 4 To create a web-based venue to allow various organizations and stakeholders, representatives to access information about activities and events and exchange lessons learned on eco tourism projects.
- 5 The main event of IYE: the world ecotourism summit among the many activities undertaken at the global, national, regional and local levels on the international year of ecotourism throughout the world, this summit was the major landmark and it was held in Quebec, Canada, 19-22 may 2002.

This summit was the principle event to mark 2002 as the international year of ecotourism. The purpose of the summit was to bring together government, international agencies NGOs, tourism enterprises representatives of local and indigenous communities, academic institutions and individuals with an interest in ecotourism, and enable them to learn from each other and identify some agreed principles and priorities for the further development and management of ecotourism.

The main output from the summit is the Quebec declaration on ecotourism. This has been taken forward to the World Summit on sustainable development at Johannesburg in 2002, and has been widely circulated.

### **3. The states and Eco Tourism:**

The concept of ecotourism and eco-friendly tourism has generated very good response in the Indian market also. Said Jag Mohan, Union minister of tourism and cultural, government of India,” focusing on the new aggressively utilized tourism concept of ecotourism globally, the Indian

tourism and hospital industry will be able to compete as well as create a niche for itself in the international tourism market.

The government of India published the ecotourism guidelines and policies in 1998, which are to be followed by planners, tour operators, visitors and other agencies. An important guideline is:

- Public participation and involvement in prevention and control of pollution and provision of necessary technical help.
- Cultivation of clean habits and living among the people.
- Effective implementation and co-ordination of central, state, social policies and programmes.
- Conservation of resources.
- Education and awareness for protection of environment.

A national environmental campaign is conducted every year on a selected theme for enhancing general awareness and a social audit panel (1995) has constituted



to assess and mobilize public awareness of environmental issues.

India is likely to witness a spurt in eco-project as hotel companies are likely to be encouraged by a slew of tax incentives and sops on offer by the various new ecotourism policies of the centre and state governments.

**Andaman and Nicobar:**

Topographically the island is hilly in places, fringed with coconut palm, covered with tropical jungles and interspersed with flat stretches of crescent shaped beaches. In essence, ecotourism is the mainstay of these islands, which have blessed with the best of nature's bounty. The government has also developed and cashed in on the immense potential of adventure sports. Adventure tourism and its related activities like trekking, island camping, snorkeling, scuba diving and other water sports allow a destinations such as Andaman and Nicobar to cash in on their rich and varied natural resources.

- **The mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park:-**

The tourism department has combined the natural beauty of the destination with attractive, modern facilities at several parks around the island. The destination offers a melting pot of eco-tourism, fun and adventure activities. The Andaman tourism authorities have introduced innovative glass bottom boat rides, whereby tourist can take a closer look at the coral colonies.

Marine Park is another significant eco-tourism destination, as it is located right on the sea. To enhance the influence of tourists to the park, amusement rides and toy trains are the added attractions.

There are certain important Eco-Destinations in Nicobar too. The government is also being cautious in its approach, not wanting to tamper with nature's precious resources. Andaman and Nicobar Island have emphatically proved that tourism can almost entirely be sustained by the ecology.

**Andhra Pradesh:**

The state has also bounteously gifted by nature in the form of hills and valleys of the Eastern Ghat, a vast coastline and dry deciduous forests. Making the most of the natural gifts, A.P. tourism has plunged into eco-tourism and has come up with a number of projects. Conscious efforts have been made to preserve the natural beauty and environment while creating infrastructure and facilities for tourists that fit in with the natural surroundings.

- The Eco-initiatives:
  - A. The main activities involved in eco-tourism are non-consumptive like bird watching, trekking, nature trails, river rafting and more importantly mere watching of the scenic beauty of the hills, valleys, meadows, water bodies, and learning to live in sync with nature.
  - B. The government has initiated an action plan to conserve the biodiversity and promote eco-tourism in the state with the participation of the private sector.



The government has also issued orders for the development of eco-tourism in 12 sanctuaries and three zoological parks in the state initially.

C. The 3500 are campus of the international crops Research Institution for the semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) may become an agro-tourism destination in the near future once a feasibility study results are positive

D. Jungle name is the name of the first eco-tourism camp in A.P. at Tyda amidst the Anantgiri Hills of the Eastern Ghat in Visakhapatnam. Jungle Bells is conceived to be an eco-tourism wider ness camp designed on the lines of local tribal architecture and ethnic designs. The basic elements of construction of the cottages in the tribal communities of the locality are thatched or tiled roofs and mud or timber walls.

The eco-tourism projects in A.P. implemented by APFDC. Ltd. Hyderabad are operated on the principle of the design, build, finance and operate (DBFO) model with the participation of private developers are given specific

concessions for the above purpose in the reserve w/o any rights of ownership on the land or other assets created and are allowed to recoup their expenditure before the end of the concession period. In conclusion, one could certainly add that AP tourism is definitely on the eco-trail.

### **Arunachal Pradesh:**

With a combination of a rich bio-diversity and cultural heritage, Arunachal Pradesh has the potential to make the state one of the prime destinations for adventure and eco-tourism in the country. While the state government has not spelt out a definite eco-tourism policy there are a few NGO's like Pragma, which have been working for the development of vulnerable communities and sensitive ecosystems in Arunachal Pradesh for harnessing the benefits of tourism for the indigenous people in the district of the west Kameng and Tawang through rural tourism enterprises. The project includes a survey of tourism assets, resources and community based circuit design and tourism planning. Establishment of community institutions for tourism management and capacity building Pragma has worked

extensively in the area building awareness among the local population, working with them in assessing the potential of area and the communities for rural tourism enterprises and in developing plans for establishing the community based eco-tourism sector in these two districts.

**Chhatisgarh:**

In order to position the state as a unique multi attraction tourism destination, the state has identified eco-tourism since its potential and 'immediate' area for development as 'sustainable tourism' being its mantra. To promote ecotourism, the state will actively identify opportunities to promote nature-based tourism with increased local participation. Wildlife areas, camping grounds and trekking facilities would be few of the prime attraction facilities.

**Delhi:**

An important Eco-initiative activity in Delhi is a solar energy park, which has been set up with the help of ministry of Non-conventional Renewable Energy sources.

This is to bring about awareness in utilization of renewable sources of energy and comprises of a 20km. solar power

plant, which meets the requirements of running the solar park.

**Gujarat:**

The state government of Gujarat also has taken step foreword on welcoming Ecotourism. Gujarat has 21 sanctuaries and 4 national parks, which provides ample scope for not only wildlife viewing but also for bird watching, trekking, scenic beauty, boating etc... Gujarat is probably one of the best states for bird viewing. Largest concentrations of migratory birds come to marine coast of Jamnagar and Kachchh, and at Nalsarovar.

Gujarat has great variety of wild fauna avifauna. Because of different eco climate zones, Gujarat has different ecosystems. The state government has realized and they are planning for there dev elopement as a ecotourism destination.

Gujarat Ambuja cements limited, a large manufacture of premium quality of different types of cements is committed to protect environment and achieves sustainable development through a well-structured environment. Management systems

in all the spheres of our activities at Ambuja cement plant and captive mines.

Therefore, they are striving to –

-Adept ecologically sound mining technologies and practices, while optimizing mineral extraction and to rehabilitate mined out areas.

- Conserve key resources like minerals, coal, petroleum products and water, wherever feasible.

-Ensure safe work practices.

- Comply with applicable local and national environmental legislation and regulation.

-Ensure healthy working environment by institutionalizing preventive and ameliorative action programmed.

-Prevent pollution by adopting environmentally sound technologies.

-Develop and propagate environmental awareness amongst employees, surrounding community and enable them to adept environmentally sound practices.

They commit for continual improvement by setting and reviewing appropriate objective and targets.



**Goa:**

Realizing that ecotourism is imperative both for the ecological sustenance of the destination as well as for presenting Goa in a unique manner to the demanding international tourists, the state tourism board has been aggressively pursuing the cause of eco-tourism. This has lent a completely new flavor to a destination otherwise renowned as India's premium beach retreat. The state suffered a fall of around 20% in inbound tourist numbers post sept 11. Taking quick decision, the state looked to win a new idea and a new mantra 'Go-Goa365 days of the year.' Eco-tourism is an indispensable element of this new approach. This emphasis now, according to Goa's ministry of tourism is on ecotourism with wild life, backwater and the hinterland taking precedence over the beaches. Eco-tourism has received the special attention by way of budgetary provisions and projects for the the development of interior green spots like waterfalls, sanctuaries and lakes. Project for the development of Nanda Lake at curcharem, Alcona fort and Harvalem waterfalls, which have significant tourist value have already be taken

up. The state government itself is keen on ecological reforms. Recently a new law enforced a ban on thin plastic bags in Goa. The result of campaigning by the plastic free Goa campaign, plastic bags below 100 microns will no longer be handed out by shopkeepers. It helps to combat the proliferation of plastic bags that litter the beaches on India's west coast. A solution still needs to find for the problem of the millions of plastic water bottles disposed by tourists.

The state tourism department does not have too worry about as far as its ecotourism resources are concerned, however Goa is steeped in biological diversity. The ministry of environment and forests lays strong emphasis on people participation to conserve the environment. Special programs like social forestry, Eco-clubs Eco-task force, Paryavaran vahinis,(Environmental Brigades.) etc....have been initiated. Eco-task forces of ex-servicemen is a joint venture of the ministry of environment and forests, ministry of defense and the concerned state governments to undertake ecological restoration work in selected environmentally degraded areas, particularly in unapproachable and hostile terrains.

**Himachal Pradesh:**

The states policy is to promote 'eco-tourism' that is ecologically sustainable and culturally sensitive and provides tourists an insight into the natural beauty and cultural richness of the state. A core group on eco-tourism has already formed in the tourism department and an eco-tourism cell has been created. The state forest department is acting as facilitator for implementation of the policy. An eco-tourism advisory committee for policy issues has been set up under the chairmanship of secretary (forest) to the government of Himachal Pradesh. Implementations of programs under this policy has proposed to be through registered ecotourism societies at nature park or eco-trek levels.

The government is going in for public -private partnership to promote tourists resorts offering facilities like skiing, trekking, camping, guiding, water sports etc.... Nature parks are also being developed to provide tourists a nature education experience. These parks have facilitated through eco-tourism societies specially set up for the purpose.



Some noted parks are:-

- Great Himalaya National Park.
- The Himalayan Nature Park.
- Renuka wildlife sanctuary.
- Kufri Nature Park.

**Karnataka:**

Today, the seed has germinated itself into a huge venture, leaving not just the country but also the world at awe. In the form of Jungle Lodges and Resorts (JLR), Karnataka tourism has reserved all rights of eco-tourism development to this government corporation, the only state in the country to do so. In 1999, Jungle Lodges and Resorts received the award for being the best eco-tourism destination in the country from the Prime Minister. Karnataka had already built a strong brand in the JT sector and has now totally turned its attention towards tourism as a crucial driver of its economy. In this pursuit the state has gauged international trends and has accordingly earmarked eco-tourism and health tourism as the two most potent and lucrative of tourism that need to be developed and showcased

to the inbound traffic from both within and out of the country. Several new products and circuits have also identified with a motive of displaying the state's eco-tourism potential. The tourism policy of Karnataka has shown many promising insights into development of eco-tourism. The Karnataka forest department is bringing out an eco-tourism policy with the tourism department. They are also planning to open up more sanctuaries and reserves in the state. Karnataka is one among the few states to bring out an eco-tourism policy. The state has cleverly ensured not to regard eco-tourism as a passing fad or a gimmick but rather as one of the trump cards of tourism, for it has realized that the sector is crucial to the problem of developing a balanced, sustainable and responsible tourism domain.

**Kerala:**

A Kerala developed the first planned Eco-tour destination in India at Thenmala and recently Kerala tourism won the national award for the most eco-friendly organization. TEP-Thenmala Eco-tourism Project is the first planned eco-tourism eco-tourism project in India. They have several eco-

tourism like mangroves, freshwater eco-systems, sanctuaries and national parks. Thenmala is known as familiarization point by acquiring 30 acres of degradable forest. TEP's next investment will be in educational component and human infrastructure. It is discussing with centre for environment, education at Ahamadabad, to develop an excellent Eco-tourism education package at Thenmala.

Kerala government is developing eco-friendly guidelines and certification programmes and publishing eco-friendly guidelines telling how to practice eco-friendliness in various sectors.

Periyar Tiger Reserves in Kerala is an eco-tourism product. This programme was conducted with the participation of the forest department and local people who were once poachers and were engaged in the destructive activities for their livelihood. Later on, they selected as guides for the program because of their excellent knowledge of the forest and campsites, which were once used for their formal occupation. Further, their presence in these areas along with the forest officials and tourist ensures the protection of such

areas from the poacher and other illegal encroachers, an eco-tourism committee has been constituted and a certain portion of the revenue goes to the fund of this committee for the common benefit. The forest department and private tour operators are co-operating in this efforts. This is a very successful program where the conservation of the natural resources takes place. Local people are benefited and authentic Eco-tourism experience is ensured.

**Madhya Pradesh:**

The state of Madhya Pradesh is unique in its tourism offering being one of the most prominent states of India that is topographically landlocked. MP's unique selling point (USP) is its rich and varied forest cover, easily making it one of the most promising ecotourism products of India. The department of ecotourism, government understanding of the importance of ecotourism and the benefits derived from it are well presented in their ecotourism policy. Ecotourism and adventure tourism has been the recent focus of the state and has taken precedence over alleles. MPs tourism policy announced in 1995 highlighted the importance of ecotourism

as an essential component of tourism growth of the state and subsequently the nation.

M.P. formulated its first but progressive ecotourism policy in the year 2001-2002. The policy identified areas and host of districts and region within its fold for eco-promotions, inviting investments and participations from the private sector. Attractions such as national parks and wildlife sanctuaries and activities like canoeing, trekking, jungle safari, white water rafting, rock climbing, mountaineering. Para selling, Para gliding and hot air ballooning have risen to the fore.

The primary philosophy and understanding of ecotourism warrants eco-projects to be ecologically, socially, culturally and economically sustainable. All these fundamentals have been diligently adhered to at both Kanha and Bandhavgarh.

Special revenue generating opportunities and schemes have been provided so that the tribal and locals from the region can benefit from their ecotourism developments in the region. They have been involved in the ecotourism initiatives of the region. Promoting their local handicrafts, providing





jobs within the forest territories have been some of the method undertaken to involve the local work force into ecotourism projects. Conscious efforts have also been made to minimize human intervention in the area. Maintaining ecotourism is the regimental and severe action taken against those who have gone against the prescribed rules and regulations of the forests.

Apart from the facilities, provide by the government, there are a number of private players who have offered living facilities totally in harmony with the ecotourism concepts.

The state has also identified a few areas suitable for the promotion of ecotourism associated with mountain activities such as rock climbing, mountaineering, trekking etc... Pachmari has been identified as one of the promising areas for ecotourism promotion in the area of mountaineering. It is one of the most celebrated hill stations in the Satpura range. Within its ecotourism policy, fort such as the Raisen fort, Gwalior fort, Narwar fort, Asirgarh fort etc... have been identified for further development and protection. The Pachmari escarpment in the district of Hoshangabad is one of

the most ambitious ecotourism initiatives scheduled to be undertaken by the state government.

**Pondichery:**

Ecotourism as the term suggest involves conserving nature in its entirety and undertaking a number of initiatives like focusing on aspects like spirituality and yoga.

- The government also aims to encourage low volume but high value tourism in Pondichery, which could be directed to eco-friendly tourism.
- Pondichery government also has plans to dive the revenue generated at the tourist places for biodiversity conservation.

The Pondichery government will formulate ecotourism policy to encourage eco-frindly practices that focus on harmony with nature and spirituality and to develop the conscious process at all levels. Pondichery has already made its name in spirituality and yoga. For several years, Pondichery has been hosting the international yoga festival in the first week of January. The government plans opening of yoga canters and spirituality centers so that sustainable

tourism could be address Ed and involve local persons without degrading bio-diversity.

### **Tamil Nadu:**

The state tourism budget states, "The eco-tourism wealth of the country lies in Pitchavaram, point calimere in Muthupet famous for its mangrove forests, Udhamadalam, and Gulf of Manner noted for biosphere reserves." The department has proposed to develop an eco-tourism circuit covering pichavaram, point calimere, and Muthupet. Kurusadai, island in Ramanathapuram district is another destination that the government has identified to promote eco-tourism.

### **Uttaranchal**

The state of Uttaranchal has fast emerged as a major tourist destination. This  
Could be attributed to its richly endowed natural splendor. This picturesque state provides tourists a breathtaking panoramic view of the Himalayas. During a meeting of the national committee on Eco-tourism and mountains, the Union tourism minister, Jagmahan announced that

Uttaranchal would be developed as a key eco-tourism destination in the country and in pursuance of this; the government of India is developing four to five eco-tourism centers to project the state as an ideal eco-destination world over. To begin with, Uttaranchal, Leh and Ladakh have been identified for this purpose.

Uttaranchal has a rare diversity of flora and fauna. This makes it an ideal destination for the development of eco-tourism projects and activities like jungle safaris, trekking on mountain and forest trails, nature walks, catch and release angling for Mahaseer and other fish species. All these activities have to be conducted in a manner that promotes awareness of environment and helps to maintain the fragile ecological balance.

Tree plantation as a tourism-linked activity has given special consideration. Action has taken in a planned manner to deal with the problem of non-bio-degradable wastes. Intensive campaigns to regulate plastic waste has also launched with the assistance of the private sector and non-government organization. Special attention given to the

aspect of carrying capacity while preparing tourism development plans.

**West Bengal:**

In its efforts to promote eco-tourism in the state, the department is projecting 'The Dooars' in the northern part of the state as an 'eco-tourism' destination. The Dooars valley is specially noted for its wild life sanctuaries. These sanctuaries around in a fascinating diversity of flora and fauna, vast texture of massive trees giving birth to varieties of orchids and rarest plants and resounded with echoes of birds and wild animals make it a variable paradise for lovers of nature and eco-tourism. The government of West Bangal has signed a Memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Sahara India parivar for a large-scale eco-tourism project at sundarbans.

The states like Uttaranchal, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Himachal Pradesh are famous for the development of Eco-tourism. Among many of the states the Vaishnodevi shrine(J and K) , Ajanta Ellora caves in Maharashtra are other places where ecological preservation and local participation is the primary objectives. After the project of

Konkan Railway, the project like coastal highway development, development of pilgrimage center etc... are in the way of development through tourism potential.

The new project could take advantage of announcements by states like Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Jarkhand and Goa, who have recommended lucrative incentives such as tax holidays to eco-tourism projects for a period of 5-15 years and allotment of government land on 30% concession among various other, ministry sources reveal that seven more states i.e. Kerala, Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Bihar, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamilnadu are also in the process of formulating new eco-tourism policies along the same lines.

Similarly, the North, East states of Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura are expected to take the same route having for the first time proposed a 'Joint Eco-tourism Policy.'

### **The Maharashtra State:**

Located on the western coast of India abutting the

Arabian Sea lays Maharashtra. Replete with Virgin beaches, exotic wildlife, verdant hills, quaint hill stations, scenic villages, coastal forts, caves and cave temples, there is much more to Maharashtra than meets the eye. Apart from the few destinations, which have been high on the popularity charts to the extent of being over-exposed, there are several other interesting regions waiting to take centre stage.

Realizing the potential of eco-tourism as a revenue taker for the state, tourist attraction ranging from forts, caves, hill stations, beaches, pilgrimage centre, forest reserves and wildlife sanctuaries are being developed keeping ecological consideration in mind. The conservation and development around the world heritage sites, Ajanta and Ellora, follows the principles of eco-tourism. Maharashtra is aggressively marketing itself as a premier global eco-tourism destination. The state tourism board with the help of the state government and NGOs has initiated special eco-tourism ventures to develop and promote the eco-potential of the state to an international clientele.

The state has demarcated regions to promote the concept of eco-tourism in the region. Eco-tourism ventures have been introduced in areas such as Vidarbha, Sawantwadi, Aurangabad etc.... wild life protection, nature conservation activities, monument up gradation, heritage property restoration, fort improvement and protection are all part of the states eco-tourism initiative. One of the most prominent initiatives has been at the Ajanta Ellora site in Aurangabad where a number of programmes have been instituted with eco-tourism as the primary focus.

Detailed scientific investigations were carried out by the Geological survey of India at Ajanta and Ellora caves and based on their report a site management plan, which included conservation, was carried out. The conservation work included protection of the rock mass, prevention of water seepage, slope stability, surface water management, landscaping of the adjoining region and development of a circulation plan. The conservation work being carried out at the caves has set standards in cave protection and visitor management system for ancient monuments in the country.



A scenic pathway from the Ajanta view point to the foot of caves was planned which provides a panoramic view of caves to visitors. A forestation work was started immediately after signing the loan the loan agreement. A forestation has provide the largest walkways and nature walks, improved vegetation cover, which prevents the soil erosion, bringing down the No, CO2 and dust particle counts much below the permissible limits, Raising the groundwater level. The water supply scheme for the cave areas and the tourist complexes will be developed-

The benefits from the scheme are as follows:

- Availability of water of international hygiene standard.
- Adequate water supply catered for tourist traffic until 2020
- Water supply available for maintaining the landscaping and gardens.

The state government in a bid to concentrate effectively on eco-tourism, heritage and convention centers, has invited private participation from both domestic and foreign investors. In the same vein, the forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra (FDCM) limited has appointed

the Indian Society for Environment, Art and Culture heritage (Indsearch) to conduct eco-tours in the vicinity of the forests in Maharashtra. There is excellent potential for eco-tourism since Maharashtra has an estimated forest cover of more than 103 sq. km. The Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra along with the forest department of Maharashtra plans to utilize the existing available infrastructure for the development of eco-tourism along with Indsearch, who will conduct guided tours in various forests, sanctuaries and wildlife areas besides organizing nature camps, rural tours, outdoor management development programmes for the corporate sectors.

The Sahyadri range offers plenty of opportunity for trekking, hiking and rock climbing. Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) has taken steps for the promotion of adventure and wildlife tourism in the state, especially in the Nagpur belt. A Jungle lodge has been developed by MTDC at Tadoba, close to Nagpur. The entire ambience there is in tune with spirit of nature and it is a

conscious effort on the part of MTDC to move on the path of wildlife tourism.

MTDC has set out a plan to promote fort tourism in the state. Fort conservation and protection plans are also being conceptualized by some local NGOs in the region.

The tourist place Vasuta near at Satara, new Mahabaleshwar is the best example of eco-tourism development. At Sindhudurga, Gaganbavada, Panhala, Joytiba Rankala at Kolhapur efforts have made to implement eco-tourism plan.

The state has a diverse spread of natural attractions, fauna and flora. The 720kms long Konkan coastal strip extends eastwards from its estuaries and mangroves, across the majestic mountain ranges of the Western Ghats and 900kms inland to the dry, deciduous zones of Vidarbha. The Sahyadri range, a part of these ghats is clothed in evergreen deciduous forests. These picturesque mountain ranges are among the oldest in the world. The Saputara hills along the Northern and the Bhamragad, Chiroli-Gaikhuriranges along the east, serve as natural limits to the state and remain

Virgin as a tourism offering. These hills and mountain ranges offer a number of challenging trekking trails and house abundant wildlife.

The has some wonderful hill stations, such as Matheran, Mahabaleshwar, Lonavala, Amboli near Sawantwadi, on the Goa boarder, Malshej ghat near Mumbai and Panhala near Kolhapur.

#### **Hill Station Protection Plan:-**

The supreme court of India has declared Matheran and Mahabaleshwar as eco-friendly zones and all construction in the area have been put on an in definite standstill to protect the region from further environmental damage.

The Sawantwadi Eco-tourism plan also emphasizes on developing Sawantwadi as a complete eco-tourism zone. Efforts have been taken by the Sawantwadi municipal council, along with the support of Rachana Sansad's institution of Environmental Architecture, government of Maharashtra and MTDC to develop Sawantwadi region as a primary eco zone. The aim is to make the entire Sindhudurga district an eco-village and eco-tourism centre. The local arts

and crafts will be promoted. Ganjifa playing cards and wooden furniture which are painted by natural water colors made up of different variety of soils, mud, leaves, which is the regions specialty, is being promoted. Eco-friendly technology is being incorporated to promote this kind of art. An arts and craft village, shipagram, is yet another concept, which is being developed.

Tarkarli has already evolved as a major destination in the district with Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) setting up a beachfront resort with Konkani style cottages. A new concept of 'houseboat' on the sands with two suits has been introduced.

The tourist resort at Ganpatipule, run by Maharashtra tourism, has built Konkani huts so that the tourists get a taste of the local flavor in accommodation. Another exciting concept introduced by the tourism department is 'Village Tourism'

**Environment Awareness and Nature Interpretation centers:**

In regions that are thick in flora and fauna, predominantly forests and hills, environmental awareness and natural interpretation centers are planned to be set up to study ecological diversities in the region. These centers would cater to the needs of special interest groups such as environmentalists, nature activists, student's locals and others, Vidarbha area, which has around 27 wild life sanctuaries, four national parks along with promising routes for trekking, nature trails etc... would be one of the areas for setting up such a centre. Nature interpretation centers will help to provide information about flora and fauna in the region through posters and audio visuals. The centre for eco-friendly construction technologies as well as for renewable energy, watershed management, water and waste recycling. In the Narendra hills, the members of Sawantwadi eco development council with the support of NGOs along with the forest department would organize area, which is rich in natural flora and fauna, specialized nature trails. The nishi fondage environment awareness centre exhibits photographs and information regarding wildlife.

The ecotourism activity is first started in the western Maharashtra by forest Department Corporation of Maharashtra Ltd. during the year 2000-2001. It is now decided to extend the ecotourism activity in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra particularly in Nagpur and Chandrapur districts. (Two tiger project areas TADOBA-ANDHARI and PENCH, one national park- PENCH and one sanctuary- NAVEGAON) because of rich flora and fauna and sufficient infrastructural facilities like accommodation and good roads. The tourist will be provided essential requirements like adequate accommodation, transport, guided visits in identified trails within the wildlife rich areas.

### **1.8 The statement of the problem:**

Tourism is the important industry which ecotourism is growing at a very fast rate. It has multitude of impacts, both positive and negative, on people, their lives and on the environment. The quality of the environment, both natural and manmade is essential to tourism.

It has been stated "tourism destroys tourism." In other words many tourism activities have adverse

environmental effect. There are certain negative impacts because of the infrastructural development such as roads, airports, tourism facilities- resorts, hotels, restaurants, shops, golf courses etc... are gradually destroying the environmental resources on which we are dependent.

Therefore, to protect the environment at national and international level many efforts have been taken and ideas / opinions have forwarded. It makes to realize that tourism has the potential to create beneficial effects on the environment by contributing to environmental protection and conservation. The concept of ecotourism fulfills both the requirements- tourism development and environmental protection. It is a way to raise awareness of environmental values and it can serve as a too to finance protection of natural areas and increase their economic importance.

Kolhapur has potentials to development of a modern development ideology through the concept of ecotourism. The ecological aspects, rich biodiversity, rare species, dense forest in and around the area, flora and fauna, beautiful sites, captivating nature and picturesque scenery throws light upon



its potential for ecotourism development. The area specializes in soft adventure, cultural and natural experiences.

The study is essential to understand available resources, facilities and its carrying capacity for the development of the place as a ecotourism spot.

Even having all the potentials ample resources the question arises why people go far away from Kolhapur?

Why high spending, nature-loving people prefer Mahabaleshwar, ooty etc...? the district place has resources for efficient tourism industry, that too ecotourism, then the question is why we are not fulfilling the needs / requirement of the “dream train- DECCAN ODDYSSEY.”

Today even with the Deccan Odyssey we are unable to provide the quality and satisfaction to the foreign visitors!

This project is an effort / endeavor and suggestion for protecting the nature / biodiversity available in and around the selected area, which can bring benefits for the economic upliftment, and overall development of the region.

While studying the problem. We see that there are some technical and some manmade problems. These problems

stand as an obstacle in the process of development of ecotourism around the Kolhapur. They are listed below-

**1. Obstacles / problems:**

2. Lack of responsible organization and planned strategy for investment.
3. Lack of awareness and community development.
4. Lack of sense of pride of their own.
5. Lack of management cleaning and conservation of ecological aspects.
6. Adverse effects of technological advances and commercial activities.
7. Lack of full utilization of available resources.
8. Ecotourism projects are not researched and guidelines are not set out.
9. Lack of governmental response to development that threatens conservation of protected areas, at many destinations.
10. Lack qualified personnel and continuity and interest in small scale operations.

11. policy making lies often in the hands of people with limited field business experiences.

12. Rules and regulations are not feasible at the ground level.

These and many more problems are badly affecting environment and local development. Because of these problems following effects persists:

## **2. Effects:**

### **1. Social dislocation:**

Rising population has put unacceptable pressure on our high mountains, rivers, forests and wildlife; therefore, all these treasures have diminished. Above all non- planning and management or any concern shown by government and people, there is existence of environmental degradation due to social dislocation.

### **2. ecological degradation and visitors dissatisfaction:**

The beautiful picnic spots, hill tops, other view points, captivating scenic beauty etc.. Have become overcrowded with shops, hotels and restaurants. Pure and clean hill streams have yielded place of dirty streams of drain water.

Moreover, because of the modern crowd vehicles are parked very near to the rich biodiversity, which are harming environment with its pollutants /effluents. Air is being polluted because of vehicles, noise of audio's shouting and mischievous behavior of the visitors etc..Rather than normal shops and restaurants, people are installing stalls of tobacco, star gutakha, cigarettes liquor shops, etc... Very near to the beautiful nature, picturesque scene one can find a large heap of garbage including wrappers, bottle of liquor, packets of matchbox, cigarettes, polythenes, etc...All these vanishes the beauty of the nature. Lack of management and control of government's security the behavior of the people, hunting and poaching especially by the modern youth has remained beyond control of anyone. Aggressive youths never think of anyone- neither the community nor ecology.

Now a day the concept of enjoyment has changed totally. It led unrest among the community, wild life and biodiversity. So that no new developments of the protection of environment are taking place. Everyone knows, it requires strict ideology of rules and regulation to stop this

deforestation, damages, and pollution of river system and over all degradation. The plans have recorded only on the paper.

These are some of the serious problems over which one has to think carefully and act positively. A single voice cannot work, so there is a need of coming together and fighting against the immoral behavior of the visitors. This is not happening forcefully so that there are problems in developing ecotourism; hence, there exists a problem of visitor's satisfaction.

### **3. Economic Dependency:**

Lack of education, unawareness, and lack of understanding why one has to protect environment / conserve it, people are not taking initiative for its quality improvement. Social dislocation, environmental degradation also leads to economic dependence. Ecotourism can generate many opportunities for employment. But lack of foresighted attitude, planning and management, people have remain dependent on other sources of employment and that to

somewhere else. So that an area and the community remains for away from the development.

#### **4. Loss of cultural heritage:**

Above all, problems lead to the loss of cultural heritage. Lack of knowledge and understanding community remains away from the promotion of their own cultural and its reputation. As they are not having proud for their own, people are not able to revitalize their traditional crafts, arts and rituals. A culture, which is always important to represent something and if we are losing it from our hands then it is the biggest hurdle of all.

If we are not realizing the importance of natural aspects, and not respecting nature, then it is hundred percent sure that we have to learn very hard. Nature will teach us very hard lesson.

The statement o the problem throws light upon the problems in developing ecotourism. However, in corresponding chapters we planned to study starting from the concept of ecotourism to its successful implementation for development in and around the selected area- Kolhapur that

has plentiful potentials and ensures possibility of development of ecotourism. Moreover it can bring for us an environmental and economic benefits too.