



SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 In this dissertation evaluation of tourists attractions and tourism potential centres in Kolhapur district is made through the view point of regional development. The study is oriented towards an assessment of the tourist centres, in which study of religious centres, historical centres and potential tourist centres are included. Though the tourist industry helps to develop the region, certain constraints arise for which remedies are suggested.

6.2.0 Transitional location of the region between Konkan lowland to the west and Deccan plateau lowland towards the east creates a typical geographical environment which enhance the tourism development in the region. Region is characterized by Western Ghats ranges spreading in north-easterly direction and forming river valleys of different width and depth rendering much of the land undulating. Rainfall is very important factor which influences agricultural as well as tourists activities of the region. Western part receives heavy rainfall and it decreases towards east abruptly. The region is very contrast in their character, therefore, it supports the tourism development.

6.2.1 The climate of the region is mild and temperate. The range of temperature is comparatively small. The region experiences cool, hot and rainy season. The western summit of the Sahyadri hill ranges are cool and pleasant in hot season. Except rainy season the climate of the region is quite pleasant. There is diversity in the climate of west and east in the region. The western region is cooler than eastern region.

6.2.2 Rivers of the region are the main water resources.

The Krishna, Warana, Panchganga, Vedganga, Dudhganga and Hiranyakeshi rivers are main attraction of water bodies in the region.

6.2.3 The distribution of the forest in the region is uneven.

The eastern part of the district consists of 1.8 percent forest area while the western part consists of 28.0 percent forest area. The Dajipur Abhayaranya (Radhanagari Abhayaranya), famous for Gava (Bison), is located in Radhanagari tahsil in western part.

6.2.4 Population of the region was 25.06 lakh in 1981. About 75.18 percent of total population lived in rural area. The western and southern hilly areas have low density of population (150). While eastern plain lands have high density of population (573). The region has 12 urban settlements, which are located in eastern part of the district. In western part, Malkapur is only located in Shahuwadi tahsil.

6.2.5 The road transport is most important activity. About 48 percent villages are connected by pakka road, 38.8 percent villages are connected by kaccha road and 16.2 percent villages are lacked by road facility. Road length per 100 square kilometers was 16 kilometers, in 1966, which was increased to 28.5 kilometers in 1978, mainly due to the establishment of sugar factories in the region.

6.3.1 The geographical bases of tourism are important in the development of tourist industry. The geographical bases such as

location of tourism place, physiography, climate, accessibility, scenery, wildlife, settlements are main ingredients of tourism.

6.3.2 The location of the Kolhapur district in the Sahyadrian ranges with ghats, hills, summits, forts increase the attraction of the tourists. The region is accessible easily to Desh and Konkan people. The major tourist centres like Warananagar, Vishalgarh, Panhalgarh, Jotiba hill, Kolhapur, Nrisinhwadi etc. are connected by tar roads. The bus service is available to these centres. The Kolhapur is connected to the cities of outside states by tar road and from Kolhapur to all tourist attractions in the region.

Excellent mountain scenery from all the forts like Panhalgarh, Vishalgarh, Gagangarh, Bhudargarh etc. are located over crest of the Sahyadri mountains tempted to visit those places. The water resources like Rankala, Laxmi tank, Kalamawadi etc. add the pleasure of the tourists. Though the western part of the district covered by vegetative cover, the Dajipur Abhayaranya (Radhanagari Abhayaranya) gives great satisfaction to the tourists, as it is also famous as 'Gava Abhayaranya' and has dense forest cover.

6.3.3 The climate of the region, especially the western part on the summit of the Sahyadri mountain, viz. fort tops, are known for pleasant weather. The period between November to May is season of good weather.

6.3.4 The wild life is found in the western part of the region. Shahuwadi, Gaganbavada, Radhanagari, Bhudargad, Ajara and Chandgad

tahsils are rich in forest cover. The present main attraction to the tourist is only Radhanagari Abhayaranya (former Dajipur Abhayaranya).

6.4.1 Amongst the tourists centres in Kolhapur district, the religious centres have got importance due to the faith in God of people. Jotiba hill, Kolhapur, Kanerimath, Nrisinhwadi, Bahubali, Khidrapur are the important religious centres. All the centres are well connected by tar road except about 10 kilometers of road (kaccha) to the Khidrapur. Except Kolhapur, the water supply is inadequate and unhygienic. Khidrapur has not tap water facility. There is no good sewage system to all the centres except Kolhapur. Except Jotiba hill, there is telephone service to all centres, Khidrapur and Jotiba hill have not telegram facility. Post office service to all centres. There is electricity supply to all religious centres. All the centres have Dharmashalas, but these are not sufficient. There is 3 star hotel facility in Kolhapur. Kanerimath, Khidrapur, Bahubali has no bus stand. Jotiba hill and Nrisinhwadi has small bus stand. Only Kolhapur has good bus stand. The restaurants and boarding facilities are poor in all the religious centres except Kolhapur. Except Kolhapur, there are no recreational and entertainment facilities to all the religious centres. Only Nrisinhwadi and Kolhapur have boating facility to the tourists.

6.4.2 It is suggested that the Gram Panchayats, Municipal corporation should make provision of water supply and good

sewage system and drainage system. Kaccha road to Khidrapur, should be tar road. Telephone, telegram and post facilities should be make available easily to the tourists. There is need of huge buildings for bus stand with all required facilities, in all religious centres. Dharmashalas, good hotels should be constructed. The Deosthan Mandal should take active part in this respect. The contribution to construct Dharmashalas from pilgrims are also welcomed. The recreational and entertainment facilities should be make available to the tourists by Gram Panchayats.

6.4.3 Kolhapur district has panoromic natural beauty. The historical forts are much important for tourism development. It has healthy and pleasant climate, because of its summit tops. Panhalgarh is a hill station in the region, like this Gagangarh, Bhudargarh, Samangarh and Pargarh are important forts centres in the region. The infra-structural facilities ~~are~~ vary from place to place. Except Panhalgarh, all the selected forts are not connected by tar road, about 3 to 10 kilometers are kaccha road. Except Panhalgarh, the bus frequency is not good, all the forts have not tap water facility. Present water facilities to the forts are inadequate, and inhyginic. Except Pargarh, all the selected forts has electricity supply. The telephone, telegram, post facilities are only to the Panhalgarh and Gagangarh (Gagan bavada). There are no bus stands to the forts centres except Gagangarh (Gagan bavada). There are no Dharmashalas on the forts.

Only Panhalgarh has hotel facility to the tourists. Few and minor restaurants are found on the Panhalgarh and Gagangarh (Gagan bavada). Panhalgarh alone has garden facilities to recreation. The entertainment facilities are absent on the Forts.

6.4.4 The infra-structural facilities are essential to develop the fort centres. It is suggested that, there is need of tap water facility to the fort centres, The bus frequency should be increased. The kaccha roads should be make tar road. Telephone, telegram and post facilities should be make available to the tourists. On Panhalgarh, there is provision of accommodation to the rich tourists, but there is no provision for laymen. It is, therefore, essential to construct Dharmashalas on Panhalgarh and other forts also. The municipal council and Gram Panchayats should carry this responsibility. The restaurants, recreation and entertainment facilities should be make available by Gram Panchayats and municipal council.

6.5.1 The Warananagar, Dajipur Abhayaranya, Vishalgarh, Alte (Regional Park) and Skilift (Panhalgarh to Jotiba hill) are the potential tourists centre in the region. The Warananagar, Dajipur, Vishalgarh, Alte and Panhalgarh and Jotiba hill are well connected by tar road. Vishalgarh has only about 8 kilometers kaccha road . Warananagar, Panhalgarh and Jotiba hills have tap water facility. There is no tap water facility to regional park - Alte, Vishalgarh and Dajipur. There is electricity supply to all the centres.

Vishalgarh, Alte Regional Park and Dajipur have no telephone, telegram facilities. All the centres have satisfactory bus services. The supra-structural facilities like Bus Stands, Dharmashalas, restaurants, cafes, bars, recreation, entertainment facilities are absent on Vishalgarh, Alte Regional Park and in Dajipur.

6.5.2 It is suggested that, proper bus stands, Dharmashalas for laymens should be constructed. Hotels for richmen, restaurants, recreation and entertainment facilities to the tourists should be made available. They will be helpful to develop these potential tourist centres rapidly. There is need of communication, tap water facilities to Alte Regional Park, Dajipur Abhayaranya and Vishalgarh. The approaching road to Vishalgarh, near Gajapur village should be tar road. 'Alte to regional park' and Hatkana-gale to Regional Park area road should be tar road. The sewage and drainage system on Vishalgarh should be improved. The Gram Panchayats, Municipal council, Forest Department, Sugar Factory, should take proper care for developing these centres as tourist centres.