

CHAPTER - I
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I N T R O D U C T I O N

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1.0 INTRODUCTION :

1.1 From earliest time all over the world primitive inhabitants were used to collect food as berries and roots for their survival. Hunting and food gathering were main occupations. For this they had to travel for a long distance, but main purpose was to collect food. Before christ, agriculture was practiced in the valleys of the rivers like Taigris, Euphrates, Nile, Indus, etc. but practice of agriculture was shifting cultivation. For some period they stayed at one place, harvest one crop and moved in search of next place for agriculture. So that, the purpose of travel is the search of food.

In earliest historical period travelling was fascination to man. Many people urge to discover the unknown by travelling large distance in the sea and land. Upto end of 16th century most of the world was discovered by man, but that time tourism was known as only travelling from one place to another i.e. exploration.

1.2 In the Sankrit literature there are three terms, for tourism, derived from the root 'atna', which means going or leaving home for some other place. The three terms are :

- a) Parayatna : It means going out for pleasure and knowledge
- b) Desatna : It means going out of the country primarily for economic gains.
- c) Tirthatna : It means going out to the places of religious merits.

From these it reveals that tourism had recognized in those days. After 16th century the world was becoming dynamic. The transportation facilities increased as compared to earliest time, but in 17th century Maharashtra had Maratha power. In that period many forts and religious centres developed by king like Shivaji the Great. The hillocks, knolls, plateaus are used for the defence purposes. Those forts are on elevation where weather is quite good. King and his many sardars, soldiers were living on the fort. In Maharashtra fort like Sinhgarh, Raigarh, Vishalgarh, Pratapgarh, Panhalgarh, Shivneri, etc. developed by the Great Shivaji. Tuljapur, Pandharpur, Kolhapur, Nasik, Shirdi centres were developed as religious centres.

From the beginning of 18th century in India there was a British rule. They had developed ski resorts, hill stations in India, like Simla, Ooty, Darjiling, Nainital, Mahableshwar, Panhala, Panchgani, Matheran, etc. They used to stay there especially during the summer season. Now all these centres become tourists centres in the country.

1.3 Today human life has become too mechanical with the result that the man has turned into a machine. In order to bring the man in close proximity of the nature and to enable him to enjoy natural air and sun. It is necessary to develop nature reserves picnic and religious picnic and pilgrim spots and places of interest by providing necessary facilities for stay and rest.

Kolhapur district, at present has a lack of well developed tourist centres. There are of course a few religious places where devotees pay visits on certain auspicious days. Panhalgarh and Kolhapur have a place on the tourist map of Maharashtra and India. So far, no attention has been paid towards systematic development of natural spots and landscape. Few places can be selected for development, including religious places situated along the banks of river Krishna, Warana, Panchganga, Hiranyakeshi and Gattaprabha.

1.4 The Modern Geography is concerned with spatial interaction and spatial analysis. Tourism is also very much concerned with spatial conditions. Tourist areas are vary from place to place and the movement of people between place to place. The interaction between two tourist places is examined by geography. Geography has a fundamental role to play in examining the spatial interplay of tourist demand and satisfaction.

The concept of tourism is closely related to the structure, form, use and conservation of the landscape. The impact of tourism on the landscape may be destructional, conservational, preservational. Tourism affects the landuse, therefore, geography has an important role to play in the reconciling the tourist activity.

Tourism affects the levels of the formal structure as characteristic changes in demographic composition. Because of tourism people attract towards mountain areas. Such type of economic and demographic changes are studied by geographers.

Tourism is a commercial activity. In many countries large number of people engaged in the accommodation, catering, transport, entertainment and others. The tourism is a key factor in the promotion of economic growth. Thus tourism is patently a topic for geographical study.

The geographical interest relates to the role of tourism in international trade. Tourism may play a very important role in a country's balance of payments.

Tourism has important and far reaching social and cultural effects and these two are of great concern to the geographer. If the area is developed for tourism, the roads, electric supply, hospitals, churches, temples, schools, shops become necessary.

The expansion of tourism has many ramifications. These ramifications are of concern to the geographer. The migration of people, change in transport, increased accessibility, changes in landuse, urban development and cultural landscape are the important ramifications of the tourism expansion.

1.5 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY :

General objective of the study is to make an evaluation of tourism potential for the development of tourist industry in the Kolhapur district. Evaluation is made through the point of view of regional development. The following are the objectives of the study :-

- i) To stress the development of tourist industry in relation to its spatial variation.
- ii) To study the environmental factors which are responsible for the development of tourist industry in the region.
- iii) To study the cultural factors which are responsible for the development of tourist industry in the region.
- iv) To assess the tourism potential in the region.
- v) To make an evaluation of the transport facilities in the region through the point of view of tourist industry,
- vi) Evaluation of determinants of spatial interaction of tourist spots in the region.
- vii) To make the suggestions for future development of tourist industry in the region.

1.6 METHODOLOGY :

The importance of the study lies in the fact that due consideration may be given to the primary data. Author has collected data personally by visiting various tourist attraction centres in the district. Methodology of the study consisted various characteristics and the changes made as per need during investigation stages.

There are more than twenty tourist centres in Kolhapur district. The tourist attraction in the region divided into three categories - i) historical forts, ii) religious places and iii) other cultural places. Criteria used to prepare categories were the present view of the people about the attraction

centres, social conditions and historical importance of the place. Sixteen (16) tourist attraction places were selected for the study. Out of, five places are historical attractions, six places are religious attractions and five are other cultural attraction (potential tourist centres).

A questionnaire was prepared. It included general background of the selected tourist attraction places, information about infra-structural and supra-structural facilities.

Questionnaire was tested by taking interviews of few local people, chief officer of the municipal council and municipal corporation. The needed modifications were made in the questionnaire and a finalised questionnaire was prepared.

Interviews of the local people and officers in the various department were taken and information was collected. Analysis of the data was made.

1.7 SOURCES OF DATA :

Data and information have been collected from various sources. All the relevant published and unpublished materials have been referred. The main secondary data collected from socio-economic reviews and District statistical abstracts, Census handbooks, District gazettiers, Articals on tourism, reports of forest department, sugar factory, Booklets published by Tourism Department of Maharashtra and India, etc.

Various institutions have been visited by the author for collections of data. All Gram Panchayats, Municipal councils and

Municipal corporation which are selected for study in the region were visited and information was collected. Data for vegetative cover collected from the District Forest Department. Similarly, the leading newspapers in the region and other newspapers and periodicals have been scanned for the necessary upto-date data.

1.8 THE APPROACH :

Entire dissertation is divided into six chapters. The first chapter "The Introduction" elaborates an introductory part of the dissertation. It consists of concise account of tourism since past period and place of geography in tourism industry.

The second chapter "The Region - Kolhapur district" deals with presentation of physical and cultural factors of the Kolhapur district which are responsible for the development of tourist industry in the region.

The third chapter "The Geographical Basis of Tourism in Kolhapur District" deals with present geographical basis of tourism in the region. The factors like location, accessibility, scenery, waterbodies, vegetative cover, climate, animal (wild) life, settlements are evaluated in the terms of geographical basis of tourism in the region.

The fourth chapter "The Tourist Attraction in Kolhapur District" is divided into two parts (A) This part deals with the religious tourist attractions in the region. It includes Jotiba Dongar, Nrisinhwadi, Bahubali, Khidrapur, Kolhapur and Kanerimath

tourist attractions. (B) This part deals with the historical fort centres in the region. It includes Panhalgarh, Gagangarh, Bhudargarh, Samangarh and Pargarh tourist attractions.

The fifth chapter "The potential Tourist Centres in Kolhapur District" deals with the potential tourist centres in the region. The author has selected five centres for future development. These are Warananagar, Dajipur Abhayaranya, Skilift (Panhalgarh - Jotiba hill), Alte (Regional Park) and Vishalgarh.

The sixth chapter deal with the summary and conclusion.

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