

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Tourism deals with human beings at every stage. It denotes the temporary short term movement of people to destinations outside the place where they normally stay at these destinations. The prime motive of tourism is 'pleasure and leisure' but normally this is supplemented by business, educational, religious, cultural and social motives. It may be pointed out that the motives vary from person to person in degree and importance.

The religious tourism includes travel for all religious functions and pilgrimages. Pilgrimages are part and parcel of religious tourism. Travel for religious purpose assumed a significant importance and it became a well established custom in many parts of the world. Religion was a great unifying force and pilgrimages strengthened the religious bonds. It also has broken narrow geographical confines. Therefore, religion played and continue to play a crucial part in travel. But religious tourism could not be viewed in isolation though the main aim of travel is purely for religious gain. It is also linked with the visiting of the different places in addition to worship the sacred shrines.

6.2 Tuljapur is one of the religious centres in Maharashtra. It was named Tuljapur because of Goddess Tulja Bhavani. It has a long historical background reaches to

Skand Puranas (Chapter II). In the 17th century, within Maratha empire, it became an inspiring power to the Marathas. In the 18th century Nizam of Hyderabad took over Tuljapur and ruled upto 1948 A.D. Tuljapur town merged under Indian Government after police action in 1948. On the first November, 1956, Tuljapur became a part of Bombay state and on first May 1960, it became a part of Maharashtra State.

Tuljapur, a holy place, is located in Osmanabad district and populated by 23,014 persons (1991). The climate of the town is dry and subject to extreme heat. The rainy season is from middle of June to middle of September. Winter experiences cool temperature. The range of temperature is 24°C during the whole year (1992). May is the hottest month, with 31.8°C mean temperature. Tuljapur gets rainfall from south-west monsoon as well as north-east monsoon. The annual average rainfall is 658 mms. There is also a great fluctuation in rainfall within every year. Tuljapur comes under the shadow zone of Western Ghats and it is called as 'Rainshadow area'.

Landuse plan of the Tuljapur town in the year 1972 and 1988 is given. Proposed landuse plan for 2005 is also presented. It is observed that total developed area to total area was 12.67 percent in 1972, it raised to 23.67 percent in 1988. In proposed plan its increase is shown to 62.72 percent (Table 2.3). This increase is 4.95 times greater than the year

1972. The comparative picture of landuse between 1972 and 1988 gave us changing landuse pattern of Tuljapur town (Chapter II). Occupational structure of Tuljapur gives an idea about the change in functional characteristics. In 1961, working population was 34.2 percent which reduced to 29 percent in 1991 during the span of four decades. Household industries increased in the Tuljapur town mainly due to fairs and festivals which are held throughout the year in faith of Kulswamini Tulja Bhavani of Tuljapur.

6.3 Tuljapur is one of the three and half Shakti Pithas in Maharashtra. About 85 percent of the families in Tuljapur are Hindu families. In Hindu religion, there are two types of Tirthas, Jal Tirthas (Holy Water Places) and Sthal Tirthas (Holy places). Tuljapur town has twelve Jal Tirthas of special significance to religious tourists, especially at the time of Navaratra and Makar Sankranti fairs. The Kallol Tirtha, Gomukh Tirtha, Amrit Kund, Papnashi, Matangi Tirtha and Nagzari Tirthas are more important. These places (Tirthas) are widely used by pilgrims for ablution and make them very dirty. It is observed that there is no control over these places to keep clean hence these places (Tirthas) became inhygeinic. Therefore, it is suggested that 'Deosthan Committee' should provide attention towards these tirthas and try to keep tirthas clean. It is necessary to provide bathing facilities to the pilgrims.

Tuljapur is called as a 'Town of Temples'. There are

27 temples, in which 23 are Hindu temples. Tulja Bhavani temple is very significant temple and pivot of religious tourists. There are two kinds of rites in the temple for puja, daily rites and special rites, performed in Tulja Bhavani temple. The daily rites includes Charan tirth puja, Abhishekpuja, Panchamaritpuja, and Prakshal puja and Shejarti. Special rites are carried on every Tuesday, on full moon day, the day before and after full moon day and in Navaratri. There are also other important temples like Ramvardayinit temple, Matangi temple, Ghatshil temple, Kal Bhairav and Tol Bhairav temple etc.

Fairs have religious, social cultural and economic importance. Today, because of commercial attitude of the people they are losing their importance in general. But in Tuljapur fairs maintained their importance. The religious and cultural aspects of the fairs are remained intact. Festivals are primarily religious in origin. They have also their socio-cultural significance. Most of the festivals in Tuljapur are temple festivals. Navaratra, Dasara and Makar Sankranti are considerable important festivals. Other festivals like Ganesh Chaturthi, birth of Rama, Krishna, Hanuman, Datta and Shivaji, Gokul Ashtami, Mahashivaratri are also celebrated in Tuljapur.

6.4 Facilities available at the centre play very important role in tourism development. There are two types of facilities. The basic facilities provide the primary necessities to the

tourists and secondly the supporting facilities (Chapter IV). Tuljapur is a religious centre, therefore, most of the tourists are religious minded and do not bother much about the facilities. Accommodation and transport is available, but not so satisfactory. Accommodation is available in Dharmashalas (Choultries), Mathas (Monasteries), hotels and in rental houses. Transportation, mainly depends on MSRTC buses.

Transport network for Tuljapur, mainly consists of roads, MSRTC holds the responsibility of transport. Andhra and Karnatak States also share this responsibility. Additional buses arrange by MSRTC at the time of fairs like Dasara, Makar Sankranti etc. Private vehicles are also used by the people. But, still there is a need to improve transport network especially at the time of fairs. It is suggested that MSRTC should make provision to give buses on contract to the pilgrims on concessional rates from nearby villages as well as from a places of long distances. It is observed that since 1986, there is continuous increase in traffic to Tuljapur (Table 4.2). The growth trend shows the increase of tourists to 11.15 lakhs in the year 2001 A.D., which will be 3.19 times greater than the year 1986.

Means of communication helps to get prior information of the destination. Tuljapur has also a network of communication, but it is very poor. Therefore, it is suggested that communication network should be strengthened. It will help to increase tourists flow to Tuljapur.

Accommodation is an important tourists attraction. It plays vital role in promotion of tourism. Accommodation in Tuljapur, depends on Dharmashalas, Mathas, hotels etc. Dharmashalas provide free accommodation or on nominal charges. But it is observed that most of the Dharmashalas are not maintained properly. The basic facilities are also not available there (Chapter IV). Therefore, it is suggested that these Dharmashalas should provide sufficient water, lavatory, W.C. and bathrooms and fulfill other necessary requirements. Municipal council or Deosthan Committee may take possession of these Dharmashalas and improve them properly. For that reasonable charges should be taken from the tourist.

Mathas (Monasteries) in Tuljapur are also the important absorbant of tourists. These are non-profit establishments. But, like Dharmashalas, maintainance and facilities are very poor. Therefore, it is suggested that the organizers of these Mathas should take charges from tourists and improve the conditions of Mathas by providing water, lavatory, W.C., bathrooms etc. to the tourists.

Lodges in Tuljapur accommodate 912 persons per day. As compare to Dharmashalas and Mathas, position of facilities is better in lodges. But still there is need to increase the number of lodges as attitude of the people is to have better facilities. Hence it is suggested that the number of lodges

should be increased. Government of Maharashtra may give impetus to the people by giving different facilities like land, loans for construction of buildings and concessions in rates of interest. Especially the residents of the Tuljapur should be motivated for this purpose.

The devotional goods are the speciality of Tuljapur. The devotional eatable products like pedha, sugar candy, sugar balls etc. are very important to religious tourists. But very small quantity is produced locally. It is suggested that, these products should be produced locally by the residents. The co-operative societies should be established and these products are produced and sold by them. This will help to increase economic status of the residents.

Except two cinema theatres, there is no provision of recreation to tourists as well as residents. There is a small garden namely 'Rani Laxmi Udyan' but it is not properly maintained. It is suggested that, this garden may be properly maintained and additional two gardens, one is near the Dak Bungalow and another on the side of Latur Road may be established.

In this way, by improving tourist facilities in Tuljapur, number of tourists be increased considerably.

6.5 The functional analysis represents the description of temporal cross-sectional properties of phenomenon. It may be noted that functional characteristics may change with varying



attitudes and changing context. In this chapter, attempt has been made to understand the views of tourists, pilgrims, residents, traders and some dignitaries regarding Tuljapur as a whole. It is seen that 83.6 percent tourists arrived to Tuljapur from Maharashtra (Table 5.2). Districtwise distribution of tourists in Maharashtra reveals that higher number of tourists (pilgrims) come from Solapur district (22.1%), followed by Osmanabad district (18.2%) and Beed district (14.6%).

There are different purposes of tourists to visit Tuljapur. It is observed that out of the total visitors 78.6 percent visitors are pilgrims and others are coming here for education, trade and commerce, office work etc. (Table 5.4). Professionwise distribution shows that about 53 percent visitors are in services and in agriculture. Others are engaged in traders, Engineers, Builders, Doctors, Advocates etc. (Table 5.5). It is also observed that tourists between 20 to 40 years old are 59.4 percent (Table 5.6) and in it male percentage is 55 (Table 5.7). The religionwise classification represents that 93.8 percent are Hindu tourists (Table 5.8). Survey analysis also reveals 66.4 percent are married persons (Table 5.9) and 91.5 percent are literate (Table 5.10). It is observed that 37.1 percent tourists related to middle income group and 29.3 percent is high income group; remaining 33.6 percent are from low income group (Table 5.11). Low income group and middle income group tourists prefer to stay in Dharmashalas and Mathas and high

income group tourists prefer to stay in hotels and lodges. Purchase of devotional goods depends on economic status of tourists. From survey it is observed that about 83.6 percent tourists' purchase is below Rs.30/- (Table 5.12). It is seen from Table 5.13 that 78.6 percent tourists visit Tuljapur since twenty years. The mode of travel is mainly MSRTC buses which contribute about 73.1 percent (Table 5.14). Mode of travel in town is mainly by walk (78.17) and 21.9 percent tourists travel by cycle rikshaw and autoriksha (Table 5.15). Tourists stay in Tuljapur for less than two days are 83.2 percent (Table 5.16). It is seen from Table 5.17 that about 86.4 percent tourists stay towards Bhopi (Pujari), friends and relatives, hotels, Dharmashalas and rented houses. About 22.6 percent tourists wear a rosary of Tulsi beads (Table 5.18). 37.6 percent families arrange Jagar (Table 5.19).

Tourists views are collected regarding the accommodation facilities, transport facilities, food facilities, darshan of the Goddess, opinion about the town, behaviour of the citizens. It is observed that about 63.4 percent tourists opined that accommodation facilities are good, where 12.7 percent tourists showed strongly inhappiness about accommodation facilities (Table 5.20). They said that accommodation facilities are very poor. Most of the Dharmashala and Mathas are not properly maintained. There is filthy and unhygienic conditions of rooms in Dharmashalas and Mathas. They complained about poor sanitation facilities, lack of drinking water supply, light arrangement etc. They say that temple trust or

or government of Maharashtra should initiate in this regard and make provision of all these facilities. They also expect construction of new additional Dharmashalas with good facilities. For that they are ready to pay reasonable charges. According to them transport facilities are good (Table 5.21). Tourists views about food facilities (Table 5.22) reveals that food facilities are good in Tuljapur. But they have suggested that the like Shirdi Deosthan, temple trust should provide meals on reasonable rates at least once in a day during fair period. About Darshan facility (Table 5.23) 48.9 percent tourists agree the present system, but 19.1 percent tourists said that it is very bad. There is need of improvement in the system. They said that the bargaining of the Pujari must be stopped and it is necessary to have a easy Darshan of Goddess Tulja Bhavani. Tourists views about town found good. About 65.9 percent tourists have good opinion while 34 percent tourists showed disagreeeness regarding the facilities available in the town (Table 5.24). Tourists feel very good opinion (78.3%) about the behaviour of the citizens (Table 5.25).

The survey analysis reveals that, there is a need to improve the facilities in Tuljapur at the time of fairs. There is a scope for the improvement in these facilities provided that Deosthan Committee or Government of Maharashtra should take interest in it.
