

## **CHAPTER - V**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

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5.1 Summary and Conclusions

5.2 Recommendation

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## 5.1 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS:

International union of office travel organization declared the year 1967 as international tourist year. In early 21<sup>st</sup> century 'tourism industry' may be the top global industry. In this industry, one employment creates 2.57 employments in other related industries. It can act as an agent to holistic development. Tourism industry improves the quality of life of residents. It needs grass root planning based on indepth study of ecology and Socio-cultural profile to maintain resources and minimise the environmental damage.

Geography studies earth and human activities on it under the physical geography and human geography while in tourism geography these two branches intermingled. The geography has also a foundation role to play in examining the spatial interplay of tourist demand and satisfaction.

Earth's bio-diversity is major resource of tourism today, but adverse effect of human interference on bio-diversity is increasing dramatically and threatening the very foundation of sustainable development which compels to give thought to eco-tourism. In eco-tourism the balance of ecology and tourism is expected. This concept emerged in the western industrialized countries. Eco-tourism promises conservation of natural environment.

1 India is the country of rich, cultural and natural heritage endowed with equally rich bio-diversity. The Western Ghats is identified as one of

the eighteen global biodiversity hot spots with its unique ecological spectrum and has Solomon beauty of its own and the Koyana basin is located in the heart land of western ghats. The association of natural and cultural factors attribute the present eco-system of the region.

2 The Koyana basin is famous for its biodiversity and also cultural attractions (resources) which provide bases for tourism development. Mahabaleshwar is fully developed tourist destination, Koyana dam, wild life sanctuary, Tapola, Bamnoli, wind mill zones, Karad etc are the potential tourist places. Topographically the region is divided in to two parts as upper Koyana basin and lower Koyana basin with variety of landscapes. Upper Koyna basin provides many tourist places which can be developed on eco-tourism basis. The climate of the region is suitable throughout the year. The rainfall varies from west to east. The region is flowed by Koyana river and its tributaries Solsi, Kandati, Kera, Morna and Wang.

Physical setting of the Koyana basin reveals a variety of landscapes. On the crestline the rugged topography provides. It converted into hill tops by many historic forts like Pratapgad and many seasonal waterfalls like Ozarda and Chalkewadi. The spurs in the region provide many potential tourist attractions like Agashiv, Gudhe-Panchgani etc. The plateaus of the Koyana basin cover luxurious monsoonal vegetation type increase the beauty of the region. Altitude dominantes ecological set of the region. It provides favorable condition for flora, fauna and other related phenomena. Drainage pattern of the region is

dominated by the Koyana river caused the construction of Koyana dam and production of electricity at Pophali, Alore and Kolkewadi have become major tourist attractions in the Koyana basin.

The climate of the region is agreeable throughout the year. The region has four seasons such as summer, south-west monsoon, post monsoon and cold season. The region lies at the centre of the Sahyadri and identified as good potential of biodiversity in the world. It has dense forest cover but under strain of human interference. Altitude, slope, rainfall, humidity, temperature and human interference govern the vegetation of the region.

The region provides four types of vegetation, semi-evergreen forest, western subtropical hill forest, moist mixed deciduous forest, and dry mixed deciduous forest. The region is full of faunal wealth sheltered in the forest. Wild animals like Tiger, Panther are also found especially in Mahabaleshwar, Upper Koyana valley and Dhebewadi forest. The Koyana basin at present provides dominant agrarian economy but can be supported by tourism industry in the region. It has good cultural setting, historic monument, like forts, buddhist sculpture, religious places, technological development and many others provide good base for tourism development. Transport network of the region, external as well as internal, is good and favourable for the development of the tourism in the region.

In conclusion it is found that Koyana basin is very good region to develop as tourist region. It provides natural attractions, socio-cultural attractions and man made attractions and can be planned as eco-tourism region. ✓

3 Ecology is the scientific study of the interrelationships between living organisms and the environment in which they live. It consists of biotic and abiotic environmental relationships. Eco-system refers to the set of organisms interacting with each other and their set of surrounding physical and chemical factors in a given space. And ecotourism basically means travelling to nature or wilderness areas for admiring and enjoying the biodiversity and cultural heritage. A small development of any tourist spot brings about a change in the biotic and abiotic components of the ecosystem, which finally acts the various balances and flow of energy and nutrients into the ecosystem. A natural ecosystem has an inbuilt capacity to restore the imbalance created by this development. But a threshold level alterations in biotic and abiotic component, beyond a certain limit cannot be looked after by the ecosystem.

Environment means the support system of an organism, community, species or other life system complexes. Now it works in totality and the biotic and abiotic factors of the environment are inseparable. Environment in reference to tourism can be perceived as the "Health of tourism spot", the resource generation at a spot and overall infrastructural development. That is environment is tourism's resource. But now the deterioration of some destinations take place for which need

exists to search out ways to enhance rather than degrade its core product. Now the goals of modern tourism emphasises the importance of both natural and cultural resources in tourism and need for conservation of these resources for the benefit of both tourism and residents of tourism area. It leads to planning at national and regional level. Regional planning provides environmental protection goals through the zoning strategies. It encourages concentration in some areas and/or dispersion in other areas of tourist activity. So the extreme pressures are restricted to resident environments and fragile environments can be given the most rigid protection measures.

Tourism industry covers diverse activities which put pressure on all local resources. It causes many times severe negative impacts on visiting destinations and population in the absence of proper checks and balance. In India, at many destinations such repurations have started.

India is endowed with rich biodiversity. The western ghats provides unique ecological spectrum. The region has unique floral biodiversity; consisting of evergreen forests and variety of flowerings. It also provides medicinal plants and shelter to the wild animals. The region is rich in faunal wealth. It includes rare animals like patta wagh, Bibtya etc. Ruined monuments in the region show culture. Karad is the oldest town in the region. Kshetra Mahabaleshwar is ancient pilgrimage centre. Forts reveal the historic monuments and cultural heritage of 500 years old. The Koyana dam with Shivajisagar reservoir, Nehru Udyan, lake tapping point, Pophali project, Alore, Koklewadi are cultural attractions and gave

greater tourist potentials. The wind mill zones are another attraction to the tourists.

The region provides tremendous tourist potentials and suitable for planning of eco-tourism. The climate is suitable for tourism throughout the year. The floral wealth of the region tempted to tourists to visit this region. The flowering seasons in monsoon and summer months increase the beauty of the region. Faunal wealth of the region is tremendous but need to maintain it from ants to wild animals like tiger are living freely in the region.

In conclusion it reveals that the region provides large spectrum of ecological factors and has greater scope to plan and develop the region through ecotourism point of view. The region has luxurious vegetation cover but at present it reduced a lot. Mahabaleshwar plateau alone has reduced the forest and alters floral and faunal wealth of the region. ✓

4 Koyana basin has large number of tourist attractions. It is divided in to six pockets namely Mahabaleshwar, Bamnoli, Koyana nagar, Patan, Dhebewadi and Karad.

Mahabaleshwar is well known tourist attraction in the region. It has 47 scenic points out of which Arthseat, Bombay point, Kshetra Mahabaleshwar are the famous tourist attractions visited by mostly all the tourists. It also includes Pratapgad, Tapola, Makarand Gad and Uteshwar. At present this destination is under heavy strain of tourists and need exists to divert flow of tourists to other places.

Bamnoli, the potential tourist centre is also important. It consists of Bamnoli, wild life sanctuary, Vasota fort, Nageshwar and Kas lake as major attractions. But at present these are ignored through tourism point of view.

Koyana Nagar is having importance after the construction of dam, becoming an attractive tourist destination, but still it is not considered seriously through tourism point of view. This pocket has many tourist attractions such as Koyana dam, Nehru Udyan, Navja, Ozarda water fall, wildlife sanctuary, Jangli Jaygad, Ramghat water fall etc. But because of lack of infrastructural facilities these centers lagging behind.

Patan, the pocket is still in infant stage of tourism activity. It consists of wind mill zone, Ghanbi water fall, Dategad, Chalkewadi water fall, Urul and Gunvantgad as important tourist points. But because of lack of facilities and even publicity these centres are not developed.

Dhebewadi potential tourist region is still lagging behind through tourism point of view. It consists of Naikaba, Walmiki, Wind mills, Gudhe-Panchagani and Chandoli wild life sanctuary as major tourist attractions. Here is also the same problem of infrastructure and publicity exists.

Karad, a well known place, in India is also having a great potential for tourism. Karad town, Agashiv, Vasantgad, Chafal, Pali etc. are the nearby potential tourist attractions. It can be developed by giving proper attention.

## 5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Mahabaleshwar hill station is now under strain of tourists flow, need to be reduced prominently. Therefore, it is suggested that the Tapola can be developed as 'Satellite tourist Centre' as it has equal status in scenic beauty as Mahabaleshwar.
2. The 'Bamnoli' and tourist points around can be developed by providing infrastructural facilities. It can be also developed as 'Satellite Tourist Centre' to the Mahabaleshwar to reduce pressure on hill station. Therefore, it is suggested that 'Bamnoli' and its around can be given attention towards development at an optimum level.
3. Deforestation is one of the major causes of imbalance between ecology and tourism. Hence it is suggested that deforestation on Mahabaleshwar plateau should be stopped. Aforestation scheme should be strengthened.
4. Koyana nagar is a potential tourist centre, having many tourists attractions such as Koyana dam, Nehru Udyan etc. but less infrastructural facilities. Therefore it is suggested that the infra structural facilities are provided at Koyananagar to the tourists Koyana dam authority (Irrigation Department) should take lead and responsibility to improve the situation by taking security care of the Koyana dam.
5. Irrigation department should make provision of transport facility for the tourists and responsibility to show the tourist attractions around the Koyananagar.

6. Patan town provides central location to the potential tourist attractions, but lacking infrastructural facilities. Therefore, it is suggested that infrastructural facilities should be provided at Patan by Grampanchayat and Maharashtra State Transport (MST) should make transport arrangement for tourists. STM can take lead on their own for tours from Patan to tourist attractions around and back to Patan. It also needs publicity of the tourist area.

7. 'Dhebewadi' another potential area lacking in infrastructural facilities and publicity. Here, it is suggested that infrastructural facilities should be provided at Dhebewadi on at private level by giving incentives to them by Government of Maharashtra. Transportation facility should be provided by Maharashtra State Transport (M.S.T.) can arrange round tours to around attractions. Forest department also can play substantial role in this respect.

8. Karad and tourist centres around can be developed by giving proper attention. It is suggested that Maharashtra State Transport with collaboration of Karad Municipality should arrange round tours to visit tourist centres around.

9. All the pockets in this region have no sufficient publicity. Therefore, it is suggested that the Department of Tourism, Govt. of Maharashtra should take initiative in this and make publicity to develop Koyana basin as 'Tourist region'.

Overall by making investigation of the region, it is observed that the Koyana basin has great potential to develop as tourist region. Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation, Forest Department of Satara Districts, Koyana dam authority, Municipalities in Mahabaleshwar and Karad, Taluka Panchayat of Mahabaleshwar, Joali, Patan and Karad, the sugar factories in the region, together can take lead in this respect by taking support of Maharashtra Government and develop Koyana basin as tourist region. But while doing, it is absolutely necessary to take care to maintain the balance between ecology and tourism. At present, the region is not suffered, except Mahabaleshwar, hence it is suggested that all these works should be done carefully by considering balance between ecology and tourism. That is the 'eco tourism' concept should be significantly cared of. If this is done, no doubt, in future, this region should become one of the best eco-tourism region.