

# IMPACT OF ECO-TOURISM ON THE INDIAN ECONOMY

**Neelam Kumari**

(Research Scholar)  
University of Jammu,  
Jammu and Kashmir, India.  
Neelamjangral077@gmail.com

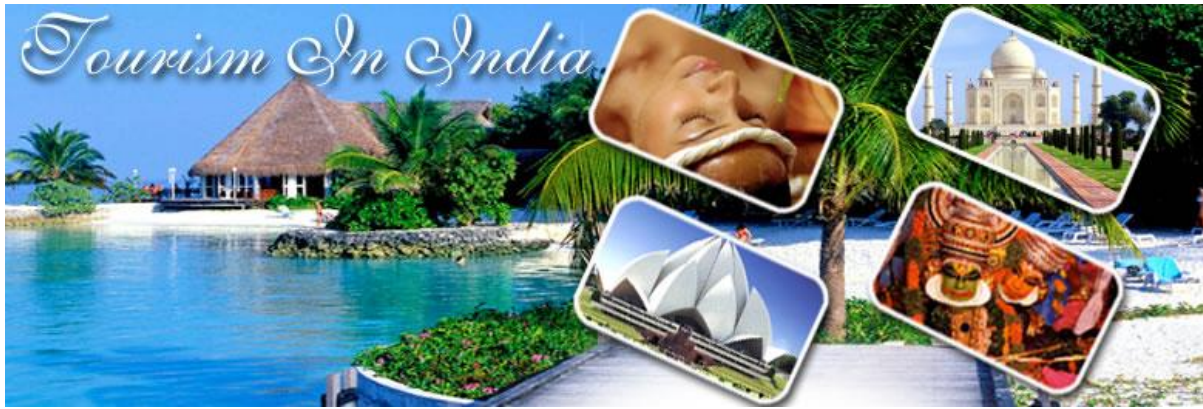
## Abstract

Tourism is important for any country's economy development and progress. The World Travel and Tourism Council reported that tourism generate about 16.91 lakh crore and contribute to about 9.2% of India's Total Gross Domestic Product according to year 2018. And gave employment to about 42.673 million peoples. This sector is growing rapidly worldwide and forecasted to increase at an annual growth rate of 6.9% to 32.05 lakh crore from the year 2028 and also generates about 9% Gross Domestic Product. The sustainable tourism is more responsible tourism because it provides jobs and employment to people and income along with not harm environment in any way. Tourism is known by the government as a sector with high potential for economic development and employment generation among peoples of any country. International agencies like World Tourism Organization have finds that the India is having vast developmental potential of tourism particularly for the developing nations. It is assumed that the nations like India and China have emerged as the superpowers in world tourism by the years 2020. In spite of the enormous growth in tourism over the last few years and the excellent growth prospects of the industry there are growing sustainability of tourism as a development paradigm primarily because of the adverse environmental impacts of tourism. The tourism creates about negative impacts of tourism on environment that affect the carrying capacity of the area, vegetation, air quality, bodies of water, the water table, wildlife, and natural environment. Environment friendly tourism can be sustainable for development in the long run and accordingly the concept of Ecotourism is gaining importance day by day. Ecotourism promises to provide employment and income to local communities and needed foreign exchanges to national governments while allowing the continued existence of the natural resources. The main objectives of the paper are to analysing the problems and prospects of Indian ecotourism and to analyse the impact of eco-tourism on the Indian economy.

**Key words:** Tourism, GDP, Eco-tourism, Sustainable development

## INTRODUCTION

Tourism in India is very important for the country's progress and development. The World Travel and Tourism Council said that tourism creates about 16.91 lakh crore and 9.2% of India's Gross Domestic Product in the year 2018 and generated 42.673 million. The tourism sector is forecasted to grow at an annual rate of 6.9% to 32.05 lakh crore by the year 2028. Tourism is considered as the world's largest and fastest growing industry which has provided about employment of 260 million people and contributes about 9% of world's Gross Domestic Product. Sustainable tourism is more responsible tourism and it generates employment and income along with removes some impact on environment. Around the World tourism is such activity that generates a high potential for economic development and employment generation. The vast emerging economies of like India and China would emerge as the superpowers in world tourism by the years 2020. Tourism is the collection of activities, services and industries that delivers a travel experience, including transportation, accommodation, eating and drinking establishments, retail shops, entertainment business and other hospitality services provided for individuals or groups travelling away from home. In India the growth of the tourism industry has a multiple effect in the economic development of the country. Tourism helps seeing the citizens living life happily because it enhances more chances for country's growth and development through providing vast employment opportunities for their peoples. Also it adds to national wealth. Ecotourism can encourage other sectors to has through its backward and forward linkages and cross sect oral synergies with sectors like agriculture, poultry, horticulture, handicrafts, construction, transport, floriculture etc. Tourism has been creating a very strong and influential impact on the world's economic activities. It has become the world's fastest growing service industry in the country with great potentials for its further expansion and diversification it has direct and indirect chain link with several sector of an economy. Tourism has both positive and negative far reaching impact on economic, social, political and environment face of India.



### POSITIVE IMPACTS OF TOURISM

1. **Income and Employment creation:** Tourism is generated as a employment generation and poverty reduction tool. It adds to about 6.23% to the country's Gross Domestic Product and provides 8.78% of the total employment in India. And about 20 million people are working in the tourism industry in India. It is a great source of Foreign Exchange Earnings as Tourism is an important source of foreign exchange earnings in India. This has favourable impact on the balance of payment of the country. In India the tourism industry contributes about US\$100 billion in 2008 and is expected to increase to US\$275.5 billion by 2018 at a 9.4% annual growth rate.
2. **Tourism helps to Preserve of National Heritage and Natural Environment of any country:** It helps to preserve important places of world importance and historical sites .Like- the Taj Mahal, the Qutub Minar, Ajanta and Ellora temples etc and tourism department always ready to preserve them. Tourism also helps in conserving and protection of the natural habitats of many endangered species.
3. **Tourism helps in the development of Infrastructure facilities of any area:** Tourism encourage the development of multiple infrastructure facilities that helps the host community, including various means of transport and health care facilities and various sports centres in addition to the hotels and high-end restaurants that cater to foreign visitors. The development of infrastructure has in turn the development of other productive activities.
4. **Promoting Peace and Stability:** The tourism industry can also help to promote peace and stability in developing country like India by providing them jobs, creating income, changing the economy, protecting the environment and promoting cross-cultural awareness.

### NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF TOURISM

1. **Unwanted and undesirable Social and Cultural Change:** Tourism can lead to the destruction of the social culture of the community. When more and more tourists coming into a place more the risk of that place to losing its identity. Good example is Goa. From the 60's and to early 80's when the Hippy culture was prevailed in the Goa for such hippies and they came in great numbers and changed the whole lifestyle of the people of the Goa too and increase the whole culture of the state leading to a rise in the use of drugs, prostitution and human trafficking. This lead to increase tensions, hostility, and suspicion between the tourists and the local communities when there is no respect and understanding for each other's culture and way of life they are living. This increase further more chances of violence and other crimes rise which enhance cases against the tourists. The recent crime committed against Russian tourist in Goa is important case in point.
2. **Creating a Sense of Antipathy:** Tourism has brought little benefit to the local community of the country. In most all-inclusive package tours more than 80% of travellers' fees go to the airlines, hotels and other international companies, not to local businessmen and workers. Moreover large hotel chain restaurants often import food to satisfy foreign visitors and rarely employ local staff for senior management positions, preventing local farmers and workers from reaping the benefit of their presence. This has often created a sense of antipathy towards the tourists and the government.
3. **Increase Effects on Environment:** The most important adverse effects of tourism on the environment are increased pressure on the carrying capacity of the ecosystem in each tourist locality. It increased transport and construction activities which led to large scale deforestation of forests while increased tourist flow increased more chances of solid waste dumping and depletion of water and fuel resources. The regular flow of tourists to ecologically areas increase the destruction of rare and endangered species due to their killing, disturbance of breeding habitats. Lots of noise pollution from vehicles and public address meetings,

water pollution, vehicular emissions, untreated sewage, etc has direct effects on bio- diversity, ambient environment and general profile of tourist spots.

## WHAT IS ECOTOURISM?

It means responsible and secure travel to different natural places, protecting and conserving the natural environment in which we live, and improving the well-being of the local people. The purpose of Ecotourism is to be educating the traveller and tourists, to provide various funds for ecological conservation of the natural environment, to directly benefit the economic development and political empowerment of local communities of countries and also develop respect for different cultures and for human rights.



Ecotourism is a socially responsible travel which focuses on protection of natural habitat and development of natural areas and environmental sustainability. Ecotourism involves travel to different destinations around the world which areas are flora and fauna rich and culturally heritage rich areas are the primary attractions for any tourists. Responsible ecotourism programs include those that minimize the negative impact on the environment and enhance the cultural integrity and protection of local people. Ecotourism is the promotion of recycling, energy efficiency, water conservation, and creation of economic opportunities for local communities.



## OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The study is undertaken with the following objectives.

- a) To study the various problems and prospects of Indian ecotourism.
- b) To study the impact of ecotourism on the Indian economy.

## SOME FEATURES OF ECO-TOURISM

- Minimize impact: Ecotourism have very minimal impact and no degradation, no harm to nature or the culture of the locals.
- Local participation in decision making: Local communities should have to indulge in decisions regarding any projects and development plants for the promotion of tourism.
- Environmental Awareness: Ecotourism has a wonderful educational concept both the visitor and the local community is enlightened on positive environment and enhance environmental friendly values in participants. This increase environmental awareness among peoples.

## PRINCIPLES OF ECOTOURISM

1. Minimize impact
2. Build awareness about culture and environment.
3. Increase positivity among visitors and hosts.
4. Provide direct financial benefits for conservation of natural environment.
5. Provide empowerment for local people and provide finance for them.

6. Rise sensitivity towards host countries.

### SOME MORE POINTS ON ECOTOURISM.

- Ecotourism occurs in natural areas and or places of unique ecological or cultural interest.
- Ecotourism create necessary funds to promote protection of Socio-cultural and ecological resources.
- Ecotourism should provide a quality and experience of tourists.
- Ecotourism should minimally negative impacts on the host country's environment.
- Ecotourism can provide cultural education and also environmental awareness.

Ecotourism is a component of sustainable tourism.

Sustainable tourism shows the relation between Ecotourism and Sustainable development. Sustainable tourism will focus on three areas

1. Quality-A great experience for visitors and increased well-being for host communities through cultural identity, poverty reduction and increase environmental quality.
2. Continuity-Ecotourism with sustainability helps in the preservation and regeneration of the natural resources.
3. Balance between the needs of tourism industry, to protect environment and local communities by a distribution of benefits among peoples.

### RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TOURISM AND ECO-TOURISM

There is great potential of India to develop Eco-tourism in India that enhances socio-economic progress and development of local communities and conserve natural habitats. Tourism can contribute about 3.1 to GDP and generates USD 7.6 trillion and 300 million jobs. Tourism generated revenue between USD 7000 to USD 300,000 in 2007-08 from entry fee n 10 national parks in India. According to 2012, the planning commission identified tourism as the second largest provider of employment of lower and semi-skilled labourer and contribute about 6% to the country's GDP. The growth rate for tourism industry at annual rate is forecasted about 8.8% between 2011-2021 by the World Travel and Tourism Council. State and centre have promoted Eco-tourism which can protect and conserve tourism. Eco-tourism aims to conserve, protect natural areas and generate employment and income for local peoples.

### PROBLEMS RELATED TO ECO-TOURISM

- It polluted lakes and oceans, water bodies.
- Overuse of valuable fresh water resources.
- Increase more chances of global warming.
- Destroy natural habitat.
- It reduces biological of natural environment.
- Create market for more use of drugs and increase crime rates.

### CONCLUSION

Tourism in India is very important for the country's progress and development. The World Travel and Tourism Council said that tourism creates about 16.91 lakh crore and 9.2% of India's Gross Domestic Product in the year 2018 and generated 42.673 million. The tourism sector is forecasted to grow at an annual rate of 6.9% to 32.05 lakh crore by the year 2028. Tourism is considered as the world's largest and fastest growing industry which has provided about employment of 260 million people and contributes about 9% of world's Gross Domestic Product. Responsible ecotourism programs include those that minimize the negative impact on the environment and enhance the cultural integrity and protection of local people. Ecotourism is the promotion of recycling, energy efficiency, water conservation, and creation of economic opportunities for local communities.

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