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Research Paper Economics

Impact of Globalisation and Environmental Effects on the Living Condition of Poor in India

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INTRODUCTION

The "Incredible India" campaign is to promote Indian tourism which in one of the world's most unknown paradises and fascinating countries has not been a success. Indians are not respecting its principles have mostly spoiled it and have shot the goose that lays golden eggs.

27th September has been celebrated as the World Tourism Day. Conferences and banquets are usually held on that day not only to promote tourism, but also to evaluate the impact of tourism on nature and society. This year was no exception and representatives of the tourism industry gathered in New Delhi and other places for celebrations.

ECO-TOURISM

This is perhaps the oldest and most common label for tourism with a positive impact. The term was originally coined in Berkeley in 1965 by an academic who then pioneered the first "eco-tours" to Mexico's Yucatan peninsula. "Responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local people" is the most cited definition for Eco-tourism. It came from The International Ecotourism Society in 1990,

GREEN TOURISM

The term "green" in a label can be deceptive. Businesses use "green" as a marketing tool without any plan to substantiate their claim, a ploy known as "green washing." This trick is running rampant in the tourism industry. Rigorous certification systems have developed as ways for businesses to earn their green label. Some of the highest profile certifications are Green Globe in Europe and the Rainforest Alliance in America. They make sure their certified businesses meet a long, dynamic set of environmental and social criteria.

Ecotourism is a form of tourism that involves visiting natural areas — in the remote wilderness or urban environments. According to the definition and principles of ecotourism established by The International Ecotourism Society (TIES) in 1990, ecotourism is "Responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local people." (TIES, 1990). Martha Honey expands on the TIES definition by describing the seven characteristics of ecotourism, which are:

Involves travel to naturalestinations
Minimizes impact
Builds environmental awareness
Provides direct financial benefits for conservation
Provides financial benefits and empowerment for local people
Respects local culture
Supports human rights and democratic movements

such as:

conservation of biological diversity and cultural diversity through ecosystem protection promotion of sustainable use of biodiversity, by providing jobs to local populations sharing of socio-economic benefits with local communities and indigenous peoples by having their informed consent and participation in the management of ecotourism enterprises tourism to unspoiled natural resources, with minimal impact on the environment being a primary concern. minimization of tourism's own environmental impact affordabitity and lack of waste in the form of luxury local culture, flora and fauna being the main attractions local people benefit from this form of tourism economically, often more than mass tourism

PRINCIPLES OF ECOTOURISM

Due to the growing popularity of environmentally related and adventure travel, various types of trips are now being classified as ecotourism. Most of these are not truly ecotourism however because they do not emphasize conservation, education, low impact travel, and social and cultural participation in the locations being visited.

Therefore, to be considered ecotourism, a trip must meet the following principles set forth by the International Ecotourism Society:

Minimize the impact of visiting the location (i.e.- the use of roads)

° Build respect and awareness for the environment and cultural practices

Ensure that the tourism provides positive experiences for both the visitors and the hosts

Provide direct financial aid for conservation

Provide financial aid, empowerment and other benefits for local peoples

Raise the traveller's awareness of the host country's political, environmental and social. climate

EXAMPLES OF ECOTOURISM

Opportunities for ecotourism exist in many different locations worldwide and its activities can vary as widely. Madagascar, for instance, is famous for its eco-tourist activity as it is a biodiversity hotspot, but also has a high priority for environmental conservation and is committed to reducing poverty. Conservation International says that 80% of the country's animals and 90% of its plants are endemic only to the island. Madagascar's lemurs are just one of many species that people visit the island to see, Because the island's government is committed to conservation, ecotourism is allowed in small numbers because education and funds from the travel will make it easier in the future. In addition, this tourist revenue also aids in reducing the country's poverty.

ECO TOURISM EN INDIA



Ecotourism is entirely a new approach in tourism. Ecotourism is a preserving travel to natural areas to appreciate the cultural and: natural history of the environment, taking care not to disturb the integrity of

the ecosystem, while creating economic opportunities that make conservation and protection of natural resourcesAdvantageous to the local people.

In short, ecotourism can be categorised as a tourism programme that is - "Nature based, Ecologically sustainable, Where education and interpretation is a major constituent and where local people are benefited." All this together can be called ecotourism. If a travel does not satisfy any one of these constituents, then it is not called a real ecotourism venture.

India, the land of varied geography offers several tourist destinations that not just de-stress but also rejuvenate you. There are several ways to enjoy Mother Nature in most pristine way. The few places like the Himalayan Region, Kerala, the northeast India, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and the Lakshdweep islands are some of the places, where you can enjoy the treasured wealth of the Mother Nature Thenmala in Kerala is the first planned ecotourism destination in India created to cater to the Eco-tourists and nature lovers.



The India topography boasts an abundant source of flora and fauna. India has numerous rare are numerous Botanical and Zoological Gardens in India, which are working towards the enhancement of the Ecosystem. Poaching has stopped to large extent. Thereand endangered species in its surroundings. The declaration of several wildlife areas and national parks has encouraged the growth of the wildlife resource, which reduced due to the wildlife hunt by several kings in the past. Today, India has many wildlife sanctuaries and protection laws. Currently, there are about 80 national parks and 441 sanctuaries in India, which works for the protection and conservation of wildlife resource in India.

are severe punishments for poachers, hunters and illegal traders of animals and trees. Tree plantations are taking place in several places. There are several animal & plant rights organisation, which fight for the rights of the animals and plants. Numerous organisations and NGOs are coming forward to provide environmental education to the common people at the grass root level.

• Ecotourism, responsible tourism, jungle tourism, and sustainable development have become prevalent concepts since the mid 1980s, and ecotourism has experienced arguably the fastest growth of all subsectors in the tourism industry. The popularity represents a change in tourist perceptions, increased environmental awareness, and a desire to explore natural environments. At times, such changes become as much a statement affirming one's social identity, educational sophistication, and disposable income as it has about preserving the Amazon rainforest or the Caribbean reef for posterity.

However, in the continuum of tourism activities that stretch from conventional tourism to ecotourism proper, there has been a lot of contention to the limit at which biodiversity preservation, local social-economic benefits, and environmental impact can be considered "ecotourism". For this reason, environmentalists, special interest groups, and governments define ecotourism differently. Environmental organizations have generally insisted that ecotourism is nature-based, sustainably managed, conservation supporting, and environmentally educated. The tourist industry and governments, however, focus more on the product aspect, treating ecotourism as equivalent to any sort of tourism based on nature. As a further complication, many terms are used under the rubric of ecotourism. Nature tourism, low impact tourism, green tourism, bio-tourism, ecologically responsible tourism, and others have been used in literature and marketing, although they are not necessary synonymous with ecotourism.

The problems associated with defining ecotourism have led to confusion among tourists and academics. Definitional problems are also subject of considerable public controversy and concern because of green washing, a trend towards the commercialization of tourism schemes disguised as sustainable, nature based, and environmentally friendly ecotourism. According to McLaren these schemes are environmentally destructive, economically exploitative, and culturally insensitive at its worst. They are also morally disconcerting because they mislead tourists and manipulate their concerns for the environment. The development and success of such large scale, energy intensive and ecologically unsustainable schemes are a testament to the tremendous profits associated with being labelled as ecotourism.

.NEGATIVE IMPACT OF TOURISM

Ecotourism has become one of die fastest-growing sectors of the tourism industry, growing annually by 10-15% worldwide (Miller, 2007). One definition of ecotourism is "the practice of low-impact, educational, ecologically and culturally sensitive travel that benefits local communities and host countries" (Honey, 1999). Many of the ecotourism projects are not meeting these standards. Even if some of the guidelines are being executed, the local communities are still facing other negative impacts.

South Africa is one of the countries that are reaping significant economic benefits from ecotourism, but negative effects - including forcing people to leave their homes, gross violations of fundamental rights, and environmental hazards - far outweigh the medium-term economic benefits (Miller, 2007). A tremendous amount of money is being spent and human resources continue to be used for ecotourism despite unsuccessful outcomes, and even more money is put into public relation campaigns to dilute the effects of criticism. Ecotourism channels resources away from other projects that could contribute more sustainable and realistic solutions to pressing social and environmental problems. "The money tourism can generate often ties parks and managements to eco-tourism" (Walpole et al. 2001). But there is a tension in this relationship because eco-tourism often causes conflict and changes in land-use rights, fails to deliver promises of community-level benefits, damages environments, and has plenty of other social impacts. Indeed many argue repeatedly that ecotourism is neither ecologically nor socially beneficial, yet it persists as a strategy for conservation and development (West, 2006). While several studies are being done on ways to improve the ecotourism structure, some argue that these examples provide rationale for stopping it altogether.

The ecotourism system exercises tremendous financial and political influence. The evidence above shows that a strong case exists for restraining such activities in certain locations. Funding could be used for field studies aimed at finding alternative solutions to tourism and the diverse problems Africa faces in result of urbanization, industrialization, and the over exploitation of agriculture (Kamuaro, 2007). At the local level, ecotourism has become a source of conflict over control of land, resources, and tourism profits. In this case, ecotourism has harmed the environment and local people, and has led to conflicts over profit distribution. In a perfect world more efforts would be made towards educating tourists of the environmental and social effects of their travels. Very few regulations or laws stand in place as boundaries for the investors in ecotourism. These should be implemented to prohibit the promotion of unsustainable ecotourism projects and materials which project false images of destinations, demeaning local and indigenous cultures.

DIRECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Ecotourism operations occasionally fail to live up to conservation ideals. It is sometimes overlooked that ecotourism is a highly consumer-centered activity, and that environmental conservation is a means to further economic growth.

Although ecotourism is intended for small groups, even a modest increase in population, however temporary, puts extra pressure on the local environment and necessitates the development of additional infrastructure and amenities. The construction of water treatment plants, sanitation facilities, and lodges come with the exploitation of non-renewable energy sources and the utilization of already limited local resources. The conversion of natural land to such tourist infrastructure

is implicated in deforestation and habitat deterioration of butterflies in Mexico and squirrel monkeys in Costa Rica. In other cases, the environment suffers because local communities are unable to meet the infrastructure demands of ecotourism. The lack of adequate sanitation facilities in many East African parks results in the disposal of camp site sewage in rivers, contaminating the wildlife, livestock, and people who draw drinking water from it

Aside from environmental degradation with tourist infrastructure, population pressures from ecotourism also leaves behind garbage and pollution associated with the Western lifestyle. Although ecotourists claim to be educationally sophisticated and environmentally concerned, they rarely understand the ecological consequences of their visits and how then-day-to-day activities append physical impacts on the environment. As one scientist observes, they "rarely acknowledge how the meals they eat, the toilets they flush, the water they drink, and so on, are all part of broader regional economic and ecological systems they are helping to reconfigure with their very activities." Nor, do ecotourists recognize the great consumption of non-renewable energy required to arrive at their destination, which is typically more remote than conventional tourism destinations. For instance, an exotic journey to a place 10,000 kilometers away consumes about 700 litres of fuel per person.

Ecotourism activities are, in of itself, issues in environmental impact because they disturb fauna and flora. Ecotourists believe that because they are only taking pictures and leaving. footprints, they keep ecotourism sites pristine, but even harmless sounding activities such as a nature hike can be ecologically destructive. In the Annapurna Circuit in Nepal, ecotourists have worn down the marked trails and created alternate routes, contributing to soil impaction, erosion, and plant damage. Where the ecotourism activity involves wildlife viewing, it can scare away animals, disrupt their feeding and nesting sites, or acclimate them to the presence of people. In Kenya, wildlife-observer disruption drives cheetahs off their reserves, increasing the risk of inbreeding and further endangering the species.

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

The industrialization, urbanization, and unsustainable agriculture practices of human society are considered to be having a serious effect on the environment. Ecotourism is now also considered to be playing a role in this depletion. While the term ecotourism may sound relatively benign, one of its most serious impacts is its consumption of virgin territories (Kamuaro, 2007). These invasions often include deforestation, disruption of ecological life systems and various forms of pollution, all of which contribute to environmental degradation. The number of motor vehicles crossing the park increases as tour drivers search for rare species. The number of roads has disrupted the grass cover which has serious effects on plant and animal species.

These areas also have a higher rate of disturbances and invasive species because of all the traffic moving off the beaten path into new undiscovered areas (Kamuaro, 2007). Ecotourism also has an effect on species through the value placed on them. "Certain species have gone from being little known or valued by local people to being highly valued commodities. The commodification of plants may erase their social value and lead to overproduction within protected areas. Local people and their images can also be turned into commodities" (West, 2006).

Kamuaro brings up a relatively obvious contradiction; any commercial venture into unspoiled, pristine land with or without the "eco" prefix as a contradiction in terms. To generate revenue you have to have a high number of traffic, tourists, which inevitably means a higher pressure on the environment.

THE CONCERN FOR ECOTOURISM

Since ages, nature worship and the conservation ethics have been an inseparable part of Indian thought and traditions. Traces go back to ancient civilisations of India, when people used to nurture the philosophy of the oneness of life. The Indian tradition has always taught that, humankind is a part of nature and one should look upon all creation with the eyes of a love and respect.

It is tragic that since last few decades, the mad quest for the material end and economical progress in India and abroad has become identical with the exploitation of nature in all its appearances. Today, the entire world is facing a deep crisis and is in the danger of being doomed. The rich forest areas and biological diversities have been relentlessly divested to erect concrete walls. The continuous denuding of forest reserves has led to Global Warming and Greenhouse Effects. Fortunately, this has led to some realisation, and now the world has awaken for new beginnings about human responsibility towards nature.

ECO-TOURISM POLICY

As reported by the Forest Department of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, there was no scheme of Eco-Tourism during Eight and Ninth Five Year Plan periods. A scheme, namely 'Ecotourism', was included in the 10th and the 11th Five Year Plans.

CONCLUSION

While the 2010 statistics feature very pleasant news regarding the growth of tourism in India, there are many concerns too. Specifically uncontrolled growth and the violation of human rights and minor crime spread are on the list of the vices of tourism growth and the goal of this year's conference was an attempt to put a stop to, these. The Union Minister of Tourism and Housing and Urban Poverty, Ms. Selja Kumari spoke to the visitors and expressed her worries about the lack of tolerance and frequent exploitation of women and children in India. She mentioned the country recorded a significant increase in abuse of foreign women in 2010 and suggested the country adopts a Code of Conduct for Safe and Honourable Tourism. This pledge aims to improve India's profile as a tourist destination and promote sustainable tourism and cultural sensitivity within the service providers and their clientele. The Code was signed by 150 representatives of the tourism sector and will hopefully become an important benchmark for tourism growth in India. The country and its rich cultural heritage and traditions are too great a spectacle to miss on the account of underdeveloped services or lack of tolerance.

Ecotourism benefits the host country, the regional environment and the indigenous people living in the area, while it also enriches the lives of the travellers themselves. According to the International Ecotourism Society (IES), tourism overall is the second biggest source of foreign commerce (after oil) for the 40 poorest countries in the world. In places like Costa Rica, Ecuador, Nepal, Kenya and Madagascar, ecotourism is an important part of their economic stability. The locals -- human, plant and animal ~ benefit as well. Earthwatch Institute, for example, organizes trips to Greece to help scientists to understand the threats to local dolphins, to Kenya to promote the Samburu people's sustainable economy, and to Costa Rica to monitor nesting populations of the endangered leatherback sea turtle.