



Socio- Economic Impacts of Tourism on Selected Historical Tourist Centers in Ahmednagar City

KEYWORDS

Tourism, residents, economic and social impact

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ABSTRACT Ahmednagar city as well as whole district has a great potential of historical tourism. The origin of Nagar city was start from Ahmednagar fort which is a famous tourist historical tourist center. Apart from this there are another many historical tourist places in the city. But there are not proper advertised and developed regarding tourism. There is not a large positive social as well as economic impact on the society due to tourism. Therefore the government of Maharashtra and Municipal Corporation of Ahmednagar must take interest in the development of historical places with tourism approach.

Introduction

Tourism is an old phenomenon. Earlier, it was a need, as people moved in search of livelihood and great achievements. Later, it becomes a hobby and people began to travel for fun. Tourism can be a vehicle for international understanding by way of bringing diverse people face to face. Tourism can greatly enrich and promote friendship and goodwill.

Objectives

1. To study the historical importance of the selected tourist centers.
2. To assess the economic impacts of tourism on selected historical tourist centers.
3. To assess the social impacts of tourism on selected historical tourist centers.

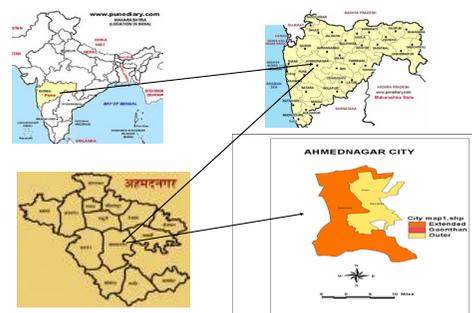
Methodology

The present study is based on primary data, Intensive field visits have been conducted for collecting the primary data through questionnaires. These questionnaires were filled by the local people during the holiday, weekend time. After getting the questionnaire, the measuring the attitude of the tourists and residents has been computed by 'Seven Point Likert Scale' which is ranging from -3 strongly disagree to +3 strongly agree with '0' (zero) no response or undecided (-3, -2, -1, 0, +1, +2, +3). A questionnaire was designed for the assessment of economic impacts consists of 9 questions or indicators. The total 100 questionnaire were filled up by them. The response of each questions or indicators was rated.

Study Area

Ahmednagar district is largest district of state in area and Ahmednagar is largest city in Ahmednagar district in area and population size. Ahmednagar, the head-quarters of the district bearing the same name and a taluka known as Nagar, is located between Latitude of 19° 01' 11" North to 19° 09' 4.7" North and longitudes 74° 40' 37.52" East to 74° 46' 8.28" East. City is situated at the height of 656.54 meters from mean sea level; a contour of 660 meter surrounds the city. Ahmednagar city is situated in the central part of the Deccan plateau, in the upper 'Seena' basin on the east to the Harishchandra hill ranges.

Location of Study Area



Methodology and Data Source

The entire study is based upon the data derived from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data has been collected by visiting, observation, discussion with local people and questionnaire were filled up by the residents at every tourist centers. Secondary data information is collect from historical museum, Z.P. office and socio economic survey abstract of Ahmednagar district.

Historical tourist centers in Ahmednagar city.

Ahmednagar Fort

The Ahmednagar fort is the major attractions in the Ahmednagar. Ahmed Nizam Shah who was the first sultan of Nizamshahi dynasty built this humongous fort in 1490 to commemorate his victory over Jahangir Khan. It is on the eastern side of Ahmednagar city, about half a mile away. There is a great dry ditch eighty five to one hundred feet wide and fourteen to twenty feet deep. The fort is built by stone masonry which is massive throughout. The fort has two entrances, the chief of which is on the western side. At this entrance the moat is crossed by wooden suspension bridge swung on thick iron chains, and the road, skirting the principal bastion, enters the fort through gate, ways placed at right angles with doors studded with large nails to guard against elephant. At the eastern gate, the moat is crossed by a chain suspension bridge. The walls of fort rising about 30 feet from the bottom of the ditch, consist of a number of semicircular bastions eighty five yards apart, connected by curtain s with parapets varying from five to ten feet in height, pierced in most places by loop-holes. Behind the parapet a six feet wide path runs round the top of the wall. The bastions have embrasures. The fort has in all 22 bastions and 24 citadels.

From 1803 to 1817 many Maratha noblemen were kept as prisoners in this fort. In the First World War many German soldiers were kept in this fort as prisoners. In 1947 many Indian patriots like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel, Acharya Narendra Dev, Asif Ali, Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad, were detained in the fort. Jawaharlal Nehru wrote his world famous book 'The Discovery of India' in this fort. Recently a third entrance on the northern side is built and this is now the route in regular use. The army offices occupy the present fort and it is now open to all.

Historical Museum

This museum is located near to district collector office and it is the largest museum in the city. This museum is mainly dedicated to preserving rich Indian and world history. This Historical Museum and Research Centre was developed with the assistance and guidance of the Ahmednagar Palika. Established on Maharashtra Day in the year 1960, the Centre initially started with just two rooms and now has transformed into a full blown museum. Personalities like Shri. Sardar Babasaheb Mirikar, Shri. Munshi Ammid, and Shri N.V. Pathak led the research and assembled a huge number of historic files and artefacts. The Museum currently boasts of astounding 12,000 manuscripts, in excess of 8,000 coins and close to 50,000 historical documents, apart from the numerous other artefacts. A London map of India from 1816 and a 66 m long horoscope are amongst the major attractions in this place.

Bagh Rauza

The Bagh Rauza is a historical monument found in the city of Ahmednagar. Also called the Garden Of Shrine, the Bagh Rauza houses the grave of Ahmed Nizam Shah. The Nizami King was credited with being the founder of Ahmednagar and died in the start of the 16th Century. The monument is built in fine black stone and lies close to the Delhi Gate. Its dome is made in beautiful gold with quotes and teaching from Koran inscribed on it. While you're there, check out the Tomb of Ghulam Ali, a royal elephant who breathed his last fighting a battle against the Raja of Vijaynagar in and around 1565. The Bagh Rauza is easily accessible by road. Visitors can hire a taxi or bus to reach this spot.

Damdi Masjid:

This historical mosque called Damdi Masjid is located near to Ahmednagar fort. It was built in 1568. It is a single structured mosque that bears typical deccan architecture and intricate stone carvings; this single storied structure has an impressive facade of three arches supported on carved piers. In the 16th century this mosque was one of those few mosques in the country that bears deccan architecture and not the typical Mughal or Persian architecture certainly make this mosque an architectural wonder piece. The odd sounding name comes from damdis, the currency of the smallest denomination that was contributed by people building this mosque. So this mosque is called Damdi Masjid.

Socio- economic impacts of tourism

The socio- economic impact was assessed by calculating mean, standard deviation and Likert Method. The response to each questions related on seven point "Likert scale", its range is from -3 (strongly disagree) to +3 (strongly disagree) with 0 (Zero) equalizing undecided or no response or no effective item resulting from tourists. Likert scale is a technique for the measurement of attitude. It contains number of statements with scale giving values for individual reactive attitudes.

Economic impacts of tourism

Indicators	Strongly Disagree	Mod erate ly Disagree	Disagree	Und ecid ed	Agree	Mod erate ly Agree	Stro ngly Agree	Total	Sum	Mean	S. D.
	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3				
Opportunity for Jobs	26	18	27	8	21	0	0	100	-120	-1.2	1.46
Change in Occupational Structure	32	29	14	11	14	0	0	100	-154	-1.54	1.4
Rise in Income	23	19	8	16	34	0	0	100	-81	-0.81	1.62
Increase in Payment of Workers	42	26	17	7	8	0	0	100	-187	-1.87	1.26
Demand for Female Labour	52	14	34	0	0	0	0	100	-218	-2.18	0.91
Increased cost of Land and Housing	11	27	9	13	28	12	0	100	-44	-0.44	1.66
Rental Houses as a Source of Income	33	27	32	8	0	0	0	100	-185	-1.85	0.98
Improved in Standard of living	25	34	16	11	14	0	0	100	-145	-1.45	1.35
Increase in General Prices of Goods and Services	39	23	25	13	0	0	0	100	-188	-1.88	1.07
Scarcity of Essential Goods During Season	42	18	40	0	0	0	0	100	-202	-2.02	0.91

The residents near selected four historical tourist centers in Ahmednagar city felt that there were no positive economic impacts due to tourism. On the other hand residents of these historical tourist centers have refused the economic impacts of tourism on the opportunity for jobs (-1.2), change in occupational structure (-1.54), rise in income (-0.81), increase in payment of workers (-1.87), demand for female labour (-2.18), increased cost of land and housing (-0.44), rental houses is a source of income (-1.85), improved in standard of living (-1.45), increase in general prices of goods and services, (-1.88) and scarcity of essential goods during season (-2.02) in the study area.

Social Impacts of tourism

Indicators	Strongly Disagree	Mod erate ly Disagree	Disagree	Und ecid ed	Agree	Mod erate ly Agree	Stro ngly Agree	Total	Sum	Mean	S. D.
	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3				
Overcrowd	11	14	12	6	19	17	21	100	43	0.43	2.07
Increase in Crime Rate	36	24	24	16	0	0	0	100	-180	-1.8	1.1
Strain on Police Protection	22	37	16	7	18	0	0	100	-138	-1.38	1.38
Increase in Activities in Prostitution	31	42	13	14	0	0	0	100	-190	-1.9	1
Increase in the of Drug Abuse	23	32	10	16	19	0	0	100	-124	-1.24	1.46
Increase in Mental Stress	27	38	22	13	0	0	0	100	-179	-1.79	0.99
Spreading of Epidemics	30	36	23	11	0	0	0	100	-185	-1.85	0.98
Increase in No. of Beggars	22	27	19	14	18	0	0	100	-121	-1.21	1.41

The residents near selected historical tourist centers in Ahmednagar city felt that the tourism causes positive social impacts on overcrowd (+0.43) at the historical places in the city. On the other hand the residents near historical tourist centers have refused social impacts of tourism on some indicators like increased in crime rate (-1.8), strain on police protection (-1.38), increased in activities in prostitution (-1.9), increase in the of drug abuse (-1.24), increase in mental stress (-1.79), spreading of epidemics (-1.85) and increase in number of beggars (-1.21) at the tourist centers.

Conclusion

Ahmednagar city is a historical city because there are a

lot of historical big and small historical memories found at many places in the city. The tourist always visits these places. Therefore these historical centers became a famous tourist centers. The residents near these selected four historical tourist centers in Ahmednagar city felt that there were no positive economic as well as social impacts due to tourism. On the other hand residents near these historical tourist centers have refused the economic as well as social impacts of tourism for some economic and social indicators.

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