

Environmental and Political Dispute on Tourism in Jammu and Kashmir

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Abstract: *The natural environment, on which Tourism depends, is an important economic asset. The relation between tourism and environment is overly complex and both are interrelated and interdependent to each other. Tourism involves various activities which can have positive as well as negative effects on the environment of the concerned area. Tourism has a potential to benefit the environment by directly or indirectly contributing to the environmental conservation and protection. This can be achieved either by financing for the protection and increasing the economic importance of the natural area or by raising the awareness of environmental values among tourists and the local population. Government local bodies collect money directly or indirectly from both, consumer as well as consumer of tourism related services in the form of User fees, taxes on sales or rentals of recreation equipment's, license fees etc. And these funds can be used for further protection, conservation, maintenance, and sustainable development these natural resources. Impact on armed conflict on the tourism of Jammu and Kashmir Tourism which was thought to be the backbone of Jammu and Kashmir has been drastically affected by the evolution of the armed conflict, terrorism. The state which was the favoured situation of the tourists till ninety "s has been deserted of the tourists for an exceptionally long time.*

Keywords: Environment, Political Dispute, Armed Conflict, and Terrorism

I. INTRODUCTION

Being a double-edged sword the unchecked and unregulated rapid growth of tourism also leads to environmental destruction and degradation of local resources. As the number of tourists in J&K has increased manifold (Table) the mounting pressure on environment is leading to destruction of natural environment and fragile ecology of the state. "As long as the tourist traffic was within the carrying capacity of the mountains, no sign of adverse ecological effects was tangible.

However, now with a sea-change in the situation, the mountain environment has been adversely affected by tourist activities and it is already showing signs of virtual collapse"(Sharma 1989, p. 20). Because of unmanaged tourism, mass tourists are being allowed to visit the eco-sensitive destinations of the state which is causing serious threats to the natural environment and ecology of the area.

"Load on natural resources, pollution, waste generation and damage to ecosystem are the main environmental impacts of tourism" (O, 2016). Growing number of tourists and rapidly developing tourism and accommodation activities are posing potential threats to the natural areas and leading to impacts such as: generation of wastes, increased pollutions (Air, Water, Sound etc), deforestation, soil erosion, discharges into the lakes and rivers, loss of natural habitat, pressure on endangered species, tremendous increase in Consumption levels and misuse of local resources which are already scarce and much more and causing immense environmental and ecological destructions.

The main attractions of Jammu and Kashmir are its nature, culture, and its world-famous pilgrimage centres. Therefore, J&K is one of the leading tourist destinations in India and the number of tourist arrivals here is increasing over the period. Which has led to number of environmental problems and issues, for example, industries and ignorance have polluted various lakes, rivers and other water resources, encroachment and logging have destroyed forest. Shri Amaranth ji shrine and Gulmarg are the best examples of how uncontrolled and unmanaged development of tourism has devastated the natural resources and environment.



Such problems can also be seen at other tourist spots such as Dal Lake, Patni top-Sanasar, Bhaderwah valley (which is one of the emerging tourist destinations), Katra (Base camp of Mata Vaishno Devi Ji Shrine) etc. Tourists often litter the places with leftover food and polythene without thinking about its adverse impact on the environment.

The Dal Lake has lost its nature due to the uncontrolled tourist pressure and is now covered with weeds, animal carcasses, and sewage. Due to the growing demand of tourism industry unplanned construction of hotels, restaurants, lodges, and Houseboats in the nearby area is also increasing rapidly. The sewage water of these hotels and houseboats flows into lakes and rivers, causing serious threats to their marine ecosystem.

This is another acute problem found at all the tourist destinations of J&K where tourism related activities are remarkably high. The unmanaged disposal has become a serious threat to the natural environment of rivers, streams, lakes, flora, and fauna etc of the area.

Thousands of ton waste is produced by the tourists and other agents providing tourism related service e.g., hotels, restaurants, shops, etc at Vaishno Devi ji, Dal Lake, Amarnath Ji, Gulmarg and other small and major tourist spots. Pilgrims, trekking tourists and other visitors to these destinations and naturally preserved centuries and lakes produce huge amount of waste which is very harmful to for their natural health of these areas. Spoiling of garbage and other waste by the tourists is a serious matter which is causing environmental decimation.

Tourism development often leads to increased construction of hotels etc this causes a drastic increase in sewage which is the primary agent of degradation of water resources and natural flora and fauna. Urbanization is also a prominent issue that has threatened the natural environment of J&K. Furthermore, development of tourism industry attracts people for the availability of job and other business-related opportunities resulting temporary and permanent settlement of huge population which is also a main reason for rapid urbanization of these areas.

All such activities increase the pressure on the local resources and causing number of serious problems including sewage pollution. This untreated sewage runoff pollutes rivers, streams, and lakes surrounding these tourist destinations and causes considerable damage to their natural ecosystem and coral ranges because it contains lots of nutrients which stimulates the growth of algae, which covers the filter-feeding corals and hindering their survival.

Air pollution is also a serious cause of concern as many studies have found a strong link between water pollution and human health, as pollution give birth to many diseases such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lungs cancer and other respiratory problems (dyspnoea, cough, respiratory tract infections and irritations).

According to the report by The Lancet Commission on pollution and health, there were 6.5 million premature pollution related deaths globally in 2015 and India has ranked No. 1 with 2.51 million deaths. So, every year millions of people are dying prematurely because of pollution. A major source of air pollution in the context of tourism in J&K is associated with Transportation system.

As the number of Tourist arrival is increasing rapidly, the air and road transport is also increasing significantly over the year. This increase in transportation has given rise in the release of carbon dioxide (CO₂), sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and emission of other greenhouse gases, as a result the area has faced the problems like acid rain which has directly affected the natural ecosystem, landscape, human health, vegetation of the area and agro-based industry as well. Agro industry produce especially apple and saffron has affected adversely since past couple of decades.

The Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) installed recently at separate locations in Jammu and Srinagar cities by State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) has revealed that the pollution level in the city has reached a highly alarming level.

Water pollution is another severe problem caused by the tourism in J&K. The rapid tourism growth in J&K has put an immense pressure on water resources at the expense of the needs of the local community. In case of Dal Lake the construction and establishment of considerable number of hotels, restaurants, lodges, Houseboats Houses, etc has not been accompanied wastewater management or water conservation strategies.

As a result, sewage from hundreds of hotels and home on shore empty into the lake causing considerable damage to its fauna and flora. Floating vegetable gardens, some of Kashmir's biggest vegetable-producing areas and a centre of attraction for considerable number of tourists, are also major polluters.

At all the tourist destinations of the state, tourism demands for freshwater and other local resources which are already scarce are exceedingly high, especially during the peak season causing overuse of the freshwater and these resources



which is greater than the average daily demand of a local resident. As a result, there have been increasing pressure on these resources and these resources are reducing at extremely fast rate.

Plants are the basis of life on this heavenly planet Earth and all living organisms, including human being cannot imagine surviving without them. Forests play a vital role in environmental maintenance and damage to the forest may degrade an entire ecosystem.

Forests, on the one hand serve as source of oxygen, wood, food, abode of wildlife, at the same time absorbs pollutants including CO₂. The rapid growth of tourism is one of the main reasons behind uncontrolled destructions of forests, because the growing demand of tourism has led to increasing need for building material viz. construction of hotels, restaurants, lodges, houseboats, houses and for other agricultural activities. And agriculture land is used for construction of building, house, complexes which also effects on cultivation and decreases the resources Increase in tourist arrival has led to increase in the demand for local resources by manifolds and this rise in demand also pushes local communities to harvest more trees to increase agricultural areas. Another important reason of deforestation is that the price of land near the tourist destinations has increased at an excellent rate because of increasing demand of these lands for various business purposes and other tourism related activities which leads to illegal encroachment, logging and cutting down of forest areas.

According to the estimates of forest department in 2010, within past couple of decades approximately 14000 hectares of forest land has been encroached upon by the people in the state including 9496 hectares in Jammu region and 4877 hectares in Kashmir valley. As per the forest policy of India approximately 33% and 60% of the total area of plain and Himalayan regions respectively must be under forest but unfortunately there is only less than 22% of forest area in India and as for as J&K is concerned the state does not have more than 20% of forest area.

But still the growing competition for the usage of forest resources is causing devastation of these precious natural resources at an exceptionally large scale. At the same time deforestation is giving birth to serious problems such as soil erosion, loss of biodiversity, climate change and effecting negatively to overall water cycle and environment of the region.

Rapid increase in construction of tourism and recreational facilities in J&K has increased pressure on the important land resources e.g., forests, wetland and wildlife, fertile soil, minerals resources, scenic landscapes etc. Development in terms of facilities such as accommodations, hotels and restaurants, and other recreational activities involve mining of sand, soil (for making bricks etc) and other crucial mineral resources and leads to soil erosion and extensive concrete.

In addition, construction of roads, airport, railways, golf course, etc can lead to degradation of land, loss of wildlife and wetland and deterioration of scenic beauty. Increase in the number of hotels, restaurants and other facilities often leads to increased sewage and other wastes which has polluted riverslakes, and other water bodies and degraded land surrounding these tourist destinations. Another genuine issue related to tourism development is the sprawling developments at these tourist destinations e.g., construction of tourism supporting infrastructure and facilities, due to the lack of land-use planning and building regulations which also give rise to acute land degradation problems.

Another burning issue concerning tourism development is change of land use and illegal encroachments. This Increasing demand for tourism services and pressure on the local resources has led to the transformation of land which has destroyed ecological habitats. This alteration has also tended to permanent environmental damages.

These rapidly increasing encroachments have threatened to extinct migratory routes and breeding grounds. Furthermore, many orchards, farms and agricultural lands near these destinations has changed into hotels, restaurants, resorts, golf courses, and other tourism facilities. These evaluations of land usage transformation in J&K have decreased the forest and natural coverage. In short, the rapid tourism development has resulted an increase in the rate land transformation and encroachments for more development in tourism industry which are more intense.

Mass tourism results in increase in the population in J&K which has created pressure on the local resources e.g., land, food, water, energy, recreational amenities, and other raw materials which are already scarce in supply.

To fill this widened gap of demand and supply the extraction of these resources is increasing which has adverse impact on these resources and thus depleting the precious natural and environmental resource base of the area. As tourism industry is growing rapidly, the availability of job and other life supporting activities attracts high number of populations gathering in these tourist destinations which causes deterioration of air and water quality, undesirable land



use changes and encroachment, generation of waste and other type of pollutions all of which contribute to the destruction of local resources.

Unrestricted development of tourism facilities such as accommodation, recreation etc involves mining of sand and other minerals, deforestation, extensive paving etc which may result to the destruction of ecosystem. In addition, construction of roads, railways and airports causes degradation of land and loss of wildlife habitats and deterioration of scenery.

Furthermore, massive presence of visitors and their activities such as anchoring, horse riding and trampling etc can cause physical impacts which lead to extinction of multiple species of the fauna, soil erosion, loss of vegetation and organic matters, decrease in air and water permeability etc. As a result, alteration of ecosystems by tourist's leisure activities can lead to the degradation of natural habitat and give rise to other serious problems related to the environment of the area.

II. ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

The condition are the most crucial factors for tourism. Climate change now-a-days is one of the most burning issues which tourism is facing globally because tourism is a climate sensitive sector. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) defined it as "a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods".

Although, the impact of tourism on global climate change is considerable but still tourism development involves activities such as movement of people, creation of facilities e.g., accommodation, recreation etc, which are strongly associated to climate change. Only the movement of people from their home to other destinations accounts about 50% of traffic (air, railways, and road) which is the main contributor of global emission of carbon dioxide (CO₂), sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and other greenhouse gases.

Thus, tourism is a significant contributor to the increasing concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. "Impacts of climate change include increases in global air and ocean temperatures, decreasing snow and ice cover, global sea-level rise, coral bleaching, water shortages and/or supply restrictions, changing rainfall patterns, greater dry season severity and higher summer temperatures, as well as increased frequency and severity of storms, cyclones, floods, fires, and droughts. Up to a third of the world's flora and fauna species could be lost due to climate change.

Future changes in temperatures and other key features of climate will manifest themselves differently across the regions of the world." Unplanned and unprecedented growth of tourism in J&K has caused negative impacts on local environment. Mass tourism beyond carrying capacity of the area has put intense pressure on existing resources and infrastructure such as increased pollution load, weather related risks, drinking water, accommodation facilities, forest, and land resources etc.

According to IMD (Indian Meteorological Department, ministry of earth sciences, Govt. of India), there is increase in an average temperature in J&K. Kashmir valley has shown rise of 1.45°C and Jammu region has shown a rise of 2.32°C over last two decades. Maximum temperature has increased by 0.50°C per year in Kashmir valley and 0.08°C in Jammu region. As a result, the snow fall has reduced over the year.

Furthermore, unrestricted construction and maintenance of tourism and recreational facilities involve clearance of vegetation and forests, extensive use of refrigerators, air conditioners etc which are responsible for the emission of ozone depleting substances (ODSs) such as CFCs (chlorofluorocarbon) further causing the depletion of protective ozone layer. Recent estimates shows that transport sector including airways, railways and roads generates the largest proportion, with 75% of all emissions and the accommodation sector accounts for approximately 20% of emission from tourism.

Jammu and Kashmir is facing significant impacts of severe climate change. Climate change seriously affecting human health, livelihood, natural ecosystem, flora fauna and scenic beauty of the study area. These impacts of climate change range from increase in extreme weather events, severe draughts, and flooding to elevated temperatures causing public health problems, agricultural shifts, resource degradation etc.

As stated in United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;) From 1880 to 2012, average global temperature increased by 0.85°C. To put into perspective, for each 1 degree of temperature increases, grain yields decline by about 5%. Maize, wheat, and other major crops have experienced the global level of 40 megatonnes per year between 1981 and



2002 due to a warmer climate.) Oceans have warmed, the amount of snow and ice have diminished, and sea level has risen.

From 1901 to 2010, the global average sea level rose by 19cm as oceans expanded due to warming and ice melted. The Arctic's Sea ice extent has shrunk in every successive decade since 1979, with 1.07 million km² of ice loss every decade.) Given current concentrations and on-going emissions of greenhouse gases, it is likely that by the end of this century, the increase in global temperature will exceed 1.5o C compared to 1850 to 1900 for all but scenario. The world's oceans will warm, and ice melt will continue. Average sea level rise is predicted as 24-30cm persist for many centuries even if emissions are stopped.) Global emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) have increased by almost 50 per cent since 1990.) Emission grew more quickly between 2000 and 2010 than in each of the three previous decades.) It is still possible, using a wide array of technological measures and changes in behaviour, to limit the increase in global mean temperature to two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.) Major institutional and technological change will give a better than even chance that global warming will not exceed this threshold.

First, the ministry of planning and human resources an environment should be responsible for policies, rules, and regulations in relation to the environment of these areas. In this context there should be a sound and careful Environmental Management and planning for the controlled development of tourism as well as recreational and accommodation facilities such as construction of hotels, restaurants, houseboats, parks, roads etc which may have potential impacts on the environment of the area. This can help in avoiding the deterioration of the fragile ecology of the state.

This can be done by educating tourists about impacts of their activities on the environment of the tourist destination and making them aware about how they can keep it as low as possible.

There is an equal need of educating the local population on why protecting the environment around them is essential to maintain tourism and assure they continue to benefit from it. As the awareness and knowledge of environment and climate change is lacking in the hosting community of J&K.

For policy makers and destination managers, the study highlights the need for stakeholders to play a more active role in making the residents aware about the importance of an environmental protection. Through collaboration with Meteorological Office the authorities should also organize awareness camps for the local people, which can help them to keep an eye on the tourism and recreational activities at these tourist destinations.

III. METHODOLOGY

Keeping in view the accessibility of the resources and possibility of the present research Paper, the author conducted his research work based on secondary source of data. Secondary data has been collected from the various journals, research articles, book thesis and internet. The approach of the study also includes the thoughts and writings of various authors in the stream of academic exhaustive studies for the present research paper.

and research fields. Thus, the author applied all assets available and conducted

3.1 Impact of Political Dispute on Tourism and its Economy

Impact of political dispute on the Economy of Jammu and Kashmir Terrorism imposes significant economic effects on societies and will not only lead to direct material damage, but also to long term effects on the local economy. The identification and the estimation of these economic effects of terrorism have received broad attention in economic literature and research during the last few decades. Primary economic impact of terrorism "refers to the effects arising from the immediate aftermath of a terrorist event." These effects include the physical destruction of urban objects, and the human casualties (injuries and losses of human life).

There is a direct relationship between the armed conflict and economy of the state. Armed conflict has led to decline in handicraft business, agricultural production, and tourism count, especially in the late 1980's (Mahapatra, 2007). Even basic infrastructure like power supply, roads, communication systems and drinking water remain poor because resources are diverted to counter-terrorism activities (Mahapatra, 2007).

Likewise calmculture is not possible anymore since Kashmir's forests have become the perfect hiding place for terrorists. Inevitably there is a clear connection between terrorism and armed conflict areincreasing unemployment as well. Statistics have shown that the employment rate declined from 44.3 percent in 1981 to 36.6 percent in 2001.



Considering that the government is the only employer (due to the lack of private investments), that fact is not surprising.

Another important cost of violence is the waste of human talent” and “loss of creativity that has stunted development and has forced people to think only of survival not of progress (Mahapatra, 2007). Quality of education has suffered dramatically since schools and universities are often closed or even come under fire because of terrorism and armed conflict related activities (Jarudi, 2002). What remains are thousands of low levels educated students with no hope for a job driving them to enter terror groups. Thousands of girls are qualified but staying at home because there is no hope of employment for them as well and if anybody is in the job but cannot live and enjoy their life because of uncertain encounters the mental health is impacted very drastically abuse of women and children their freedom is affected

Thousands of local boys turned to militant training across the border. The basic cause is not ideological or the jihad factor. Most went because they have nothing here. No future. No job. No hope. If they had hope, they would not go” (Jarudi, 2002).

This evolution gave the aggrieved party the opportunity to demonstrate their displeasure against the government, however, those who perceived a slight chance to find employment elsewhere and had sufficient funds to leave Kashmir migrated to distinct parts of India (Ahmad & Husain, 2011).

In fact, Jammu & Kashmir’s economic growth could not keep up with the national level (Ahmad & Husain, 2011) and can exhibit only 5.27 percent annual growth during the first three years of the tenth five-year plan in comparison to the national average of 6.6 percent (Finance & Planning Commission, 2007). Similarly, “in 2007, the per capita income of the state is only two-thirds of the national average in India”.

(Finance & Planning Commission, 2007).

The economic cost of the conflict cannot be confined to a particular sector of industry or investment prospect, but it had affected the important sources of livelihood of local people such as tourism, horticulture, and handicraft industries also (Ahmad & Husain, 2011).

Nevertheless, terrorism and violence are not the only cause for Jammu & Kashmir’s economic depression but “poor policy management, corruption and lack of infrastructure” as well (Mohapatra, 2007). So, in this study we will identify how much terrorism has impact on the economy of the state.

Impact on armed conflict on the tourism of Jammu and Kashmir Tourism which was thought to be the backbone of Jammu and Kashmir has been drastically affected by the evolution of the armed conflict. The state which was the favored situation of the tourists till ninety “s has been deserted of the tourists for an exceedingly long time.

Terrorism and armed conflict often cause cancellations and withdrawal of travel plans to certain destinations; though indicate the tourism industry as extremely indestructible (Chauhan & Khanna, 2009). The negative news by most of the international and national news channels makes it unthinkable to the people around the world to visit Jammu and Kashmir, because the way they present the news makes Jammu and Kashmir the terrorist paradise (Buckley and Klemm, 1993).

Further it is suggested that locals and foreigners are equally likely to be involved in a crime scenario which causes the crucial variable “fear of the unknown and the risk” (Chauhan & Khanna, 2009). The news channels and reports play an especially key role, the way they make situation worse in Jammu and Kashmir no one else has contributed to that. They make the dead bodies speculative in their news channels like they are showing some sort of miraculous objects not keeping in view the psychological effects they have on people

. Avoid “this intentional or unintentional damage to the travel business in Jammu & Kashmir, and to keep a positive image alive media and officers of the travel industry must cooperate and actively work together. In addition, the local tourism industry could try to implement common marketing strategies such as incentive airline tickets or hotel rate discounts to promote the destination and to limit the impact of militancy on this sector. Gain a deeper inside view into the special relationship between terrorism and tourism many studies proposed that tourists (and sometimes also important sights) might be the perfect victim for terrorism since they are sensed as representatives of their countries and therefore cause a much higher media coverage and international attention.

Consequently, the involvement of the concerned countries of origin increases pressure on the actual targeted government and the worldwide publishing of the militants” opinions make travellers the best channel for militants to get the messages and demands across. In this regard also the attack on the tourist is perceived as attack on the

government that is why tourists are sometimes attacked to show their anger against the government. In Jammu and Kashmir, many such incidents have also taken place where the people from the resistance have attacked the local and foreign tourists. So, in this study we will also try to identify the impact of armed conflict on the tourism of the state.

IV. CONCLUSION

In the second section of the study, we are trying to identify the impact of armed conflict on the tourism of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. We have first plotted a graph between the tourism count and number of fatalities due to armed conflict, and then we have identified the cause and relationship analysis between the two variables using linear regression. The following graph clearly shows a negative relationship between the two variables as with positive change to the number of conflicts it is drastically reducing the tourist count as we can clearly see from the graph. While we have identified the correlation between the two there were found to be negatively correlated. A negative correlation of -0.64 was found between the two variables which is extremely high value. As tourism has been found to be one of the most important sectors of Jammu and Kashmir economy, the decline in this sector has drastically affected the overall economy of the state.

Now to identify the extent to which the armed conflict has affected the overall tourism count a regression is being run between the two variables to identify the extent of the impact. $Y_2 = \alpha + \beta X + \mu$ eq. (2) Here: Y_2 = tourist count for different years X = number of fatalities due to armed conflict for different years α , β = parameters μ = error term When the regression was run between the two variables the results were found to be statistically significant at 1% level of significance.

The model has been evaluated for the different assumptions. The impact of armed conflict on the economy of the state will be highlighted from the following estimated regression equation using OLS regression model. The fitness of the model was calculated through R^2 and the value of R^2 was found to be 0.64 which means model explains 64% of the change in one variable with respect to the other. So, the final estimated regression model will be $Y_2 = 1096.076 + .232X + \mu$ the following model suggests that with every 1% change in the number of fatalities there is a negative change of .232%. This has also been shown by the graph clearly which shows a negative correlation between the two.

So, from these results we have found that tourism is very heavily affected by the armed conflict, terrorism water pollution air pollution and, we have quantified the impact of every unit increase and the overall conclusion is the impact of economy in Jammu and Kashmir people suffer in every situation whether it is any kind of impact unemployment increases every sector effects

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