

Preface

Tourism constitutes one of the major contemporary forces of spatial transformation modifying and defining landscape & culture of different parts of the world. Tourism industry and tourists are increasingly using, consuming and changing landscapes. With the advent of industrialization, the mass tourism gain momentum & also the social and economic transformations also can't be ignored. Tourism development might further used as a greatest tool in resource development and management. It is certainly the only non-polluted industry but mismanagements bring high level of pollutants which may degrade the further scope of development. Tourism has been considered as an industry of worldwide significance. It can be defined as a positive relationship between nature and human beings. The large foreign exchange earnings brought under developing countries to use its resource for tourism growth. In fact, for many countries, tourism is the largest commodity in international trade. This trade will continue until tourism became a great mass phenomenon.

Gujarat has not been a popular international attraction in the past due to its lower rank among other states of India. But now after declaration 2006 year as a tourism year & slogan "Atithi Devo Bhav" by Indian government there was marginal increase in international tourists. Gujarat also adopted same tourism policy and call upon Mr. Amitabh Bacchan as a Gujarat tourism brand Ambassador to boost tourism in the state. Gujarat is considered as a "Jewel of the West" because of its variety of natural and human resources. It has immense tourism potential and resources such as a great religious state, longest coastline, best hospitality, castles, great Rann, Step-wells, great Indian and Islamic cultural heritage sites, world's only surviving Wild Ass Sanctuary, Asiatic Lions, great destination for migratory birds and so many others.

Tourism in Gujarat, act as one of the largest foreign exchange earner after remittances provided by NRI's. Besides, it also contributes considerable amount of employment, improving standard of living of rural and urban population and helping in improvement of infrastructure.

In this present research work I have tried to analyze the role of geographical components in tourism development in the state. The aim is not only to increase our understanding of importance of growing this tourism industry in the state but also to understand its trend, pattern, impact & responsible factors for such growth. The focus has been given to comprehensive study of tourism in the state in geographical perspectives.

This research work organized into ten sections. The first chapter discusses the concept, definitions, nature, scope, objectives, hypothesis, methodology and significance of the study. The second chapter highlights about the geographical profile of the study area which includes physical & cultural aspects of the study area. The third chapter is highlights the relationship between geography and tourism and also throw some light on its applied part. The fourth chapter includes historical aspect of tourism in world, India and Gujarat. It also includes typology of tourism with special reference to Gujarat. The Fifth chapter includes the descriptive study of physical & cultural components of tourism in the study area. It also explains about a brief classification scheme specially related to Gujarat tourism. The seventh chapter includes about available tourism resources, services, policies and organizational facilities it holds and provided by the state. The seventh chapter highlights about Data analysis which is well equipped with graphs and maps. The eighth chapter includes status of tourism at the sample locations, which has been carried out by questionnaire, scheduled and personal interview methods. This chapter also highlights about the positive and negative impacts of tourism in the state. The ninth chapter includes about the problem and prospects of tourism in the state. The last chapter provides conclusion and is also concerned with all possible suggestions on the future development of tourism in the state.

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