

Poverty and Tourism: An Extensive Study on Assam

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Abstract

Poverty a social evil is very much rampant in Assam. It is found in length and breathe of her. The percentage of rural BPL population to rural population of Assam is 39.9%.The Assam has the huge untapped tourism resources along with agricultural resources, large and medium industries, agro-forestry, minerals, hydel power, handicrafts etc. The fund flow to Assam are from planning commission, NEC, DONER, Central Ministry, and externally aided projects by world bank, ADB, JICA, etc.

A research has been conducted to understand –

1. The problems of Assam
2. Scope of tourism in Assam to generate revenue and employment and to alleviate poverty.

Keywords: *Assam, Tourism resources, Employment.*

Introduction

Poverty is a condition of an individual deprived of fulfilling or attaining physiological necessities i.e. food , shelter, clothing, health and education. Poverty a multi-dimensional phenomenon is determined in term of income poverty which means lack of human capabilities such as education, mortality rate, life span, safe drinking etc.

Income=consumption+change in net worth is generically used as a measure of welfare in the developed countries but tends to be seriously understand in the less developed countries (poverty manual, All, JH Revision of augt 8,2005).

In India, a developing country with 125 millions of multi religious, multi-cultural, multilingual inhabitants. Poverty line is determined by planning commission based on poverty estimation methods of Dr. Tendulkar or C. Rangarajan committee in term of monthly per capita or monthly expenditure of family of five on basket of essential commodities. As par Dr. Tendulkar committee urban poverty line Rs.

5000 and rural 816 and per day per person 33 and 27 respectively. On other hand C Rangarajan committee estimation Rs. 7035 urban and Rs. 46.90 and 32 respectively. The most of the overseas counties it is determined based on purchasing power parity as well as nominal relative basis. On the other hand the tourism which is a fattest growing economic sector. The world tourism organization which is situated at Madrid, Spain defines tourism as tourism comprises the activities of a person travelling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one conservative year for leisure, business and other purposes and not related to the exercise of an activity remunerated from within tplace visited(UNWTO). The OCDE calculated that tourism contribute to about 4.1% to GDP, 5.9% of employment and 21.3% of service exports of the OCDE economic (A.D. Danial *et al.*). According to UNWTO's long term forecast report tourism towards 2030, it is expected that international tourists arrivals worldwide will increase by 3.3% a year between 2010 and 2030 eventually reach 1.8 billions by 2030 (A.D. Danial *et al.*, Journal of hospitality and tourism management)

Poverty and Assam:-

Assam is situated at the north eastern part of India has the population over 32069 with rural population 85.90% of total population. Assam is bounded to the north by Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh ,to the east by Nagaland and Manipur ,to the south by Mizoram and Tripura and to the west by Bangladesh and the states of Meghalaya and West Bengal .Geographical area of Assam is 78438 km square , Longitude 89°42'E to 96°E ,and 24°8'N to 38°2'N. Reasons for abysmal common Poverities in Assam are Low income or only one member earn in a family. Population growth reached to 32067(statistical year book, ministry of statistical and programme), illegal

immigrant are increasing in India, Shortage of skilled manpower, deforestation and Not sustainable utilization of natural resources .A total of 239 rhinos killed in Kaziranga National park only in 16 years (janambhuni.in), Physical and Financial assets are not satisfactory, lack of basic health, sanitation, education, housing shortage, the slum, illiterate adult at 287 millions. India ranked 74 on corruption index (India today news).

Tourism Resources in Assam:-

Kaziranga national park:

A world heritage site is famous for one horned Rhinoceroses. The rhino population of Assam is 2401 according to 2015 census, which is two third of the world great one horned rhinoceroses.

Manas national park A world heritage site Manas national park is a projected tiger reserve which started in 1973 by wwf . It is served as an elephant and biosphere reserved in Assam. Others remarkable wildlife reserve in Assam are Pabitara wildlife sanctuary, Dibru Saikhowa nation park, Nameri nation park etc.

Majuli:

The largest river island in Asia and second largest in the world, Majuli river Island is in river Brahmaputra in the state of Assam. Majuli is known for its monasteries, exquisitely beautiful pottery items and most of all the rare varieties of migratory birds that come to the island every year.

Tea plantationThe largest producer of tea in the world. Assam producer more than 400 millions of kgs of tea annually. It covers about 216200 hectares of land .Major tea estates in Assam are Ambika, Gogaidubi, jamirah , Amguri, Wiliamson tea estates,Tea estates of Tata group of companies, Talap, etc.

The major tourist spots are kamakhya temple, shankardev kalakhetra, Umananda temple and the seats of Ahom kingdom Rang ghar , Talatal ghar, karang ghar, beautiful hills , the mighty Brahmaputra river, waterways, handicraft, health resort and jatinga hill, haflong, Chundubi lake, Hajo meeting point of Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam, historical ruins ,ancient temples Silchar, Suwalkuchi silk industry, Digboi oil city, Bhutia fair at Darrang, famous Shiva temple Shibsagar, birth place of great Vaishnava saint sankardev etc.

The cultural diversity which made the place rich as tribe and non tribe people live in peace and harmony. Important tribes are khasis, Abhors, Angami, Ao, Bodo, mikirs etc. Fairs and festivals are Bihu, Ali Ai

lingo, Majuli festivals, Brahmaputra beach festivals, Dehing patkai festivals, Bohoggiyo bishnu, Baishagu, Ambubashi mela, Rangoli utsavetc. Now we realize the ranges of tourism resources available in Assam to alleviate poverty by sustainable development.

Findings

Scope of developing new trends of tourism:

A study has been conducted to understand the ranges of tourism resources and finding right avenues and fixing associated problems of her. In the preparation of questionnaire and field trip reveals many an important facts about the existing destination and the government intervention. The government of Assam plays an important role in the policy making and promotion of destination and also in invitation of associated stakeholders of tourism industry. Feedback from Tourism department and local residents indicated that there is many a scope of tourism development. Some of them are tribal and village tourism:

Scope of tribal and village tourism is huge to generate fund and employment and to make the tribes a sense of pride. Tribal community feels need to maintain and upgrade their cultural assets, to consult, discuss and to work together in solving the issues, problems ,needs of the community, to exchange knowledge and culture. To prove accommodation and food in the village. The cultural programs are organized for entertainment. The wildlife reserves need to develop, conserve and preserve for continuous use in future. A total of 115 rhinos killed in kaziranga national park only in 10 years. Adequate staffing, patrolling, providing mobility, during flood effective measure to mitigate its effect.

Mountains and hills....

The highest mountain peak of Assam Himalaya range is Namcha Barwa, Haflong hill, Garo hills, Maibang, Jantinga ,hamren, Umrangso, etc. The mountains and hills give us opportunity to develop adventure tourism in Assam. Trekking, mountaineering, hand gliding, paragliding, Para sailing, ballooning are the activities has great tourism potential.

The mighty Brahmaputra river is a favorable tourism destination for water sports tourism, river rafting, kayaking etc.

Tea tourism....

Tea tourism gives tourist a great experience and fun. Staying in old heritage banglow amidst acre of acres

of tea plantations, tea tasting tour, visiting local village, experiencing cultural bihu dance performance.

The economic impact of tourism related to foreign exchange earnings, employment generation, investment and business opportunities with infrastructure development. The tourism contribute to generate revenue by taxes and incomes from tourism business ,employment ,departure taxes, taxes and duties levied on goods and services supplied to tourists. The employment is generated directly through hotels, restaurants, nightclubs, taxis, tour operators, travel agency. According to WTO tourism supports some 7% of the world's workers. Indirect employment such as street vendors, informal guides, rickshaw, drivers etc. The tourism stimulates government to invest in the infrastructure improvement such as roads, water, sewage system, electricity etc.

Conclusion:-

It is the need of the hour to realize the scope of tourism resources available in Assam and finding the right avenues. Initiative of Government, Industry,

Non-government organization and international co-operation is immensely important. Removal of all pervasive corruption and new stringent policy formulation and fuller utilization .Focus on existing anti-corruption acts such as IPC,1860,prevention of corruption act ,RTI, CVC, prevention of money laundering act etc . Agricultural Reformation and food security, Industrialization, To boost safety and security strengthening the Law enforcement agencies, Police initiative and legal assistance. The due consideration to empower women and weaker sections of people. Educating people about rich natural and cultural heritage.

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